



EXCITED MANUSHI
Actor Manushi Chhillar is thrilled to meet her mother, who was treating Covid patients in Delhi **LEISURE P2**



HOSPITALS SWAMPED
Delhi's COVID-19 deaths rose by a record high Thursday and it also topped the infection chart **TWO STATES P7**



FATAL SHIPWRECK
At least 74 migrants died in a shipwreck off the Libyan coast Thursday, the United Nations said **INTERNATIONAL P10**

Diwali greetings
to all our readers, advertisers and well-wishers

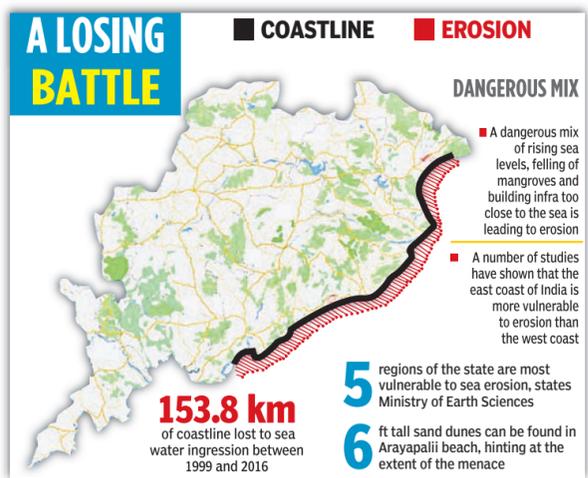
HOLIDAY NOTICE
As the offices of Orissa Post will remain closed November 14 (Saturday) for Diwali, there will be no edition of the paper Sunday.
—EDITOR

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Happy Diwali to all our netas who are all noise but no light

Sea erodes state's coast

MANISH KUMAR, OP
Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Odisha's coast, home to the largest-known nesting site of the Olive Ridley sea turtle and Asia's largest brackish water lagoon, is losing several metres of coastline every year due to artificial intrusion and climate change.
With several villages in the state either being completely engulfed by the sea or in the process, the fate of other coastal regions of the state hangs in balance. A number of coastal villages in Kendrapara, Ganjam and Puri are worst affected. Cut-off coastlines are now visible in many areas in these villages.
"Earlier, the sea was 500 metres away from the current coast. However, due to sea erosion, the coast continues to be engulfed by the sea. In the last six years, the situation has worsened. The government also tried to put some rocks along the coast but to no avail," said Mattu Trinath, a fisherman from Arayapalli village in Ganjam district.
In Arayapalli, the phenomenon is most visible and rampant. Large sand cuts made by the sea are clearly visible in the coast where 6-ft tall sand



dunes can be found, hinting at the extent of sea erosion in the area. In Podempatta area of the district, villagers were evacuated to a safer area by the government.
In Kendrapara district, several villages in Satabhaya were inundated by the sea and many of the villagers

change in sea pattern were cited for the menace.
A reply given by the Ministry of Earth Sciences stated that it has identified five areas in Odisha as sea erosion prone. These include Ganjam Port North in Ganjam, Sahadabedi in Jagatsinghpur, Pentha, Satabhaya and Gahirmata in Kendrapara district.
The ministry also informed the Parliament that under the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Programme, shoreline management plans are being prepared for five stretches including Gopalpur to Chilka and Paradip to Dhamra coast among others.
Climate expert Ranjan Panda from Water Initiatives said, "Construction of ports and associated activities complemented with climate change factors lead to sea erosion in areas like Kendrapara district which needed urgent government attention."
Meanwhile, the state government has attempted using geo tubes in areas like Pentha in Kendrapara and growing mangrove plants in coastal areas which are thought to be a lifeline for coastal areas as they prevent sea erosion.

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7 Pak troops killed as Army retaliates



India too lost three soldiers in the unprovoked ceasefire violation by Pakistan in a bid to push terrorists from launch pads

AGENCIES
Srinagar, Nov 13: Seven Pakistan Army soldiers were killed and a dozen were injured after Indian Army retaliated to Pakistan's unprovoked ceasefire violation along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.
The Indian Army released videos showing Pakistan Army positions being hit across the Line of Control Friday.
The army said in a statement, "Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation along the LoC spread across multiple sectors including Dawar, Keran, Uri and Naugam."
The force also said that Pakistan used mortars and other weapons. The shelling started at 11 a.m. and ended at 1 p.m. "Pakistan deliberately targeted civilian areas," the Indian Army stated.
Three Indian Army soldiers have been killed in action while three others have been injured.
heavy shelling and destroyed Pakistan Army bunkers, fuel dumps and launch pads across 200 km of the Line of Control.
Top sources said that inputs suggest that seven Pakistan Army soldiers, including two SSG Commandos, were killed in retaliatory action while 10 to 12 were injured. Indian Army resorted to

SHORT TAKES

Centre approves Amphan package

New Delhi: A High Level Committee (HLC) under the Chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah has approved additional Central assistance of ₹128.23 crore to Odisha under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). According to the ministry of Home Affairs, the Union government has approved central assistance of ₹4,381.88 crore to six states which were affected by cyclone/ floods and landslides during this year. The committee has approved ₹2,707.77 crore for West Bengal and ₹128.23 crore for Odisha for the devastation caused by cyclone Amphan. Similarly, for cyclone 'Nisarga' ₹268.59 crore has been approved for Maharashtra.

China's belated congratulations

Beijing: China Friday shed its initial hesitation and congratulated US President-elect Joe Biden and his deputy Kamala Harris for their victory in the 2020 US presidential election, saying Beijing respects the choice of the American people. "We have been following reactions on the US elections," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said. "We respect the American people's choice and extend congratulations to Biden and Harris and we understand that the result of the US presidential elections will be determined following the US laws," Wang said.

British-era prison manual revamped

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: The state government has finally released Odisha Model Jail Manual, revamping the British-era prison manual enacted in 1942 which hindered welfare measures for prison inmates.
The manual is based on the model released by the Bureau of Police Research and Development in 2016. Meanwhile, as many as 16 chapters of the existing jail manual have been retained in the new model jail manual that comprise a total 48 chapters.
The Prison administration has been advised to 'ensure that prisoner's right shall be respected.'
The manual has flexible provisions allowing the new prisoners to meet and communicate with their relatives and friends more frequently.
Similarly, the jail administrations have been instructed in the new model manual to ensure the separation of Civil Prisoners, Under-trials, Female Prisoners, Convicted Prisoners, Young Offenders, First offenders, Habitual Offenders, High Security Prisoners.
The new model has stressed upon the need for special care (prenatal and antenatal care) of the children born in the jail. The manual also prescribes Crèche and Nursery school facilities in the jails for children residing along with their mothers in the jails across the state.



The hospitals in the jails have been categorized into 'A' and 'B' according to the population of inmates. Provisions have been made with regards to the treatment of sick patients in jails. They will be treated outside the jails in the state and can be referred to hospitals outside the state in special cases.
Now, prisons across the state will have their "own mechanized laundry" for proper maintenance of prisoners.
The model prison manual instructs a plethora of welfare initiatives like supply of outside food and private clothing for prisoners, counseling facilities, psychotherapy, yoga and cultural activities, and improved canteen facilities.
The model manual stresses on the need for open air prisons and open colony facilities for prisoners. Moreover, the strength of guarding staff will be increased as per the new manual. Now, one guarding staff will be deployed for every six prisoners.

Minor raped, stoned to death

POST NEWS NETWORK
Dhenkanal, Nov 13: In yet another brutal incident of rape and murder of a minor, the body of a five-year-old girl was recovered from a forest near Kharkhari village under Kankadahada police limits in Dhenkanal district Friday.
Family members allege that some miscreants raped her and fearing disclosure of the incident, stoned her to death.
According to a source, the victim went missing Thursday evening. Friday, the victim's family was informed by some

villagers that the body of their daughter was lying in a forest. Hearing this, they rushed to the spot, identified the body and informed the police.
After receiving information about the incident, SDPO Suprasanna Mallick and Kankadahada police station IIC Ashish Kumar Jena reached the spot with a team and recovered the body for post-mortem.
On the basis of the report lodged by the victim's family members, the police registered a case and launched a probe. The villagers demanded immediate arrest of the accused involved.



No apology, no fine: Kamra

AGENCIES
New Delhi, Nov 13: Stand-up comic artist Kunal Kamra Friday refused to retract his controversial tweets against the Supreme Court or apologise for them, saying he believes they "speak for themselves".
Kamra's statement comes a day after Attorney General K K Venugopal consented to the initiation of criminal contempt proceedings against him for a series of tweets following the apex court giving interim bail to Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami.
"The tweets I recently put out have been found in contempt of court. All that I tweeted was from my view of the Supreme Court of India giving a partial decision in favour of a Prime Time Loudspeaker," he said in a statement

addressed to Venugopal and the judges on his Twitter page. "My view hasn't changed because the silence of the Supreme Court of India on matters of other's personal liberty cannot go uncriticised. I don't intend to retract my tweets or apologise for them. I believe they speak for themselves," he added.
Kamra, who was banned by several airlines after he heckled Goswami on an IndiGo flight earlier this year, said he enjoys a platform with a captive audience but a time slot before the Supreme Court is a scarce commodity and should



go to more pressing issues in front of the nation. He also referred to contempt proceedings against lawyer Prashant Bhushan, who had refused to apologise for his derogatory tweets and was held guilty of contempt earlier this year.
"I wish to volunteer having the time that would be allotted to the hearing of my contempt petition (20 hours at the very least, if Prashant Bhushan's hearing is anything to go by), to other matters and parties who have not been as lucky and privileged as I am to jump the queue," Kamra said.

State's anthem to find place in school syllabi

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: State anthem 'Bande Utkala Janani' will be part of the school curriculum for students of Std 9 and 10 of state-run schools. A notification in this regard was issued Friday after the proposal was approved by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.
As per the decision, the song penned by legendary poet Lakhmikanta Mohapatra will be part of the school curriculum. Earlier this year, the state government had accorded the state song status to 'Bande Utkala Janani'.
Responding to a call by the Chief Minister, Odia people across the globe had crooned 'Bande Utkala Janani' to honour Corona warriors at 5.30 pm May 30 this year. The song will strengthen patriotism among Odia students and continue to inspire them to move forward in life, Naveen said.
The song was first sung at the Utkal Sammilani's conference at Balasore in 1912, a few months after Rabindra Nath Tagore's Jana Gana Mana, now the national anthem, was sung. It is sung during various conferences of the Utkal Sammilani, the organisation that spearheaded the Odia movement.
Biju Patnaik had proposed in 1994 that the song should be played at the end of the Assembly session. In 2000, the Assembly Speaker Sarat Kar had ruled that the song should be adopted as the state song and advised the state government to initiate action in this regard.



MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	43443.00 ↑ 85.81
NIFTY	12720.00 ↑ 29.20
DOLLAR	74.90 ↓ ₹0.02
EURO	88.23 ↑ ₹0.03
GOLD	₹51,060 ↑ ₹460
SILVER	₹63,958 ↑ ₹1219

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	32.7°C	33.2°C
MIN	21.5°C	20.6°C
Humidity	95%	62%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

Rahul has nervous, unformed quality, writes Obama

SONIA'S BEAUTY, RAHUL'S APTITUDE & MANMOHAN'S INTEGRITY FIND MENTION IN OBAMA'S MEMOIR

AGENCIES
New York, Nov 13: Former US president Barack Obama says Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has a "nervous, unformed quality" about him like a student eager to impress the teacher but lacking aptitude and passion to "master the subject."
The New York Times reviewed Obama's memoir 'A Promised Land', in which among other issues, the first Black American President has talked about political leaders from around the world. On Gandhi, Obama says he has "a nervous, unformed quality about him, as if he were a student who'd done the coursework and was eager to impress the teacher



but deep down lacked either the aptitude or the passion to master the subject," according to The New York Times review.
Gandhi's mother and Congress

and Rahm Emanuel, but not the beauty of women, except for one or two instances, as in the case of Sonia Gandhi."
Obama in his book offered a more positive assessment of another Congress figure, former Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh, a mild-mannered economist whom Obama has also praised publicly.
Former US Secretary of Defence Bob Gates and former Indian PM Manmohan Singh both come across as having a kind of impassive integrity, the review states. It added that Russian President Vladimir Putin reminds Obama of the tough, street-smart ward bosses.
The former President also shared details about his marital life dur-

DIVISIONS RUN DEEP
■ For millions of Americans spooked by a Black man in the White House, Donald Trump promised an elixir for racial anxiety, Obama wrote
■ He also wrote that the divisions in America "run deep" and the departure of Trump will not be enough to bridge the divide
ing his stay in the White House. On Trump, Obama suggested that his election as the first African-American President of the US may have "triggered deep-seated panic, a sense that the natural order had been disrupted."

leisure



KYLIE GUSHES ABOUT HER SUPPORTIVE BEAU

Singer Kylie Minogue is all praise about her beau Paul Solomons and says he is very supportive and a great guy. Kylie praised Solomons after he rescued her. The two have been dating for two-and-a-half years.

PATRICK OPENS UP ON RETURNING TO GREY'S ANATOMY

Actor Patrick Dempsey joined back the hit medical drama *Grey's Anatomy* for a cameo. He says it was special and enjoyable. Dempsey's popular character Derek Shepherd, who died in an April 2015 episode, made a return in Season 17 of the show.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, a romantic link-up is about to be delivered at your doorstep, all wrapped in silver and tinsel! So, Ganesh hopes you are prepared. Don your best attire, check your breath and practice some sweet-talking.

TAURUS
It is highly unlikely that you will be emotional and sentimental today, predicts Ganesh. Adopt a laid-back attitude towards life to feel at ease. Public servants will have encouraging and affirmative results in their efforts. Your competency will be put to test at the work place.

GEMINI
Today is an important day to completely immerse yourself in your favourite activities, says Ganesh. But don't forget that loved ones come first as lack of warmth may affect family life. Show your family members that you care. New relationships are also on the anvil. It is an eventful and positive day for you.

CANCER
At work, your ability to forge great partnerships will see to the success of one of your ambitious projects. However, you need to be careful before signing the contract. It's always important to go through the finer details of a deal before closing it.

LEO
Reinvention and rejuvenation – these are the two words that shall dictate your philosophy for the day. Refurbishing oneself does not always have to be in accordance with something new; taking a look back can be equally enlightening.

VIRGO
Achievement and accomplishment will be the highlights of the day, notes Ganesh. You will be recognised for your devotion to work and determination to succeed at your workplace. Much awaited promotions may come and financial arrears may also reach your hands.

LIBRA
You will be very active today, especially when it comes to finishing tasks in office. Your thoughts will reach new heights and you will be able to motivate and stimulate others to perform. Your motto for the day is 'Arise, awake and sleep not till the goal is reached'.

SCORPIO
Your close friends and loved ones seem to be on the menu today, predicts Ganesh. Romantic brilliance will usher in happiness and favourable business prospects will be the icing on the cake. Your charm will peak and you will enjoy the attention you get out of it.

SAGITTARIUS
Be ready with your bags packed as you may decide to undertake an impromptu trip today. It could be a business trip or simply travel in pursuit of pleasure. Nostalgia will grip you as you run into an old childhood friend today. Sharpen your public relation skills, which will come in handy when you deal with strangers today, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Recognition and rewards are awaiting you at work, and unlike in most cases, colleagues won't be envious of your success. They will, in fact, provide the much-needed motivation for taking up new and challenging projects, says Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
Today will be about pleasure and pain! Plumbing, cleaning, grocery shopping, cooking... you can expect anything to weigh you down. Later, you can relax in a hot soak with candlelight, or unwind with a soothing aromatic massage.

PISCES
While you may have a wide circle of acquaintances, it is only a select few who you bless with your munificence. And that is precisely what you will be busy with, as a day filled with socialising and leisure-filled activities beckons, says Ganesh.



Radhika Madan poses on a jet ski

Mumbai: Actress Radhika Madan has turned to an old Hindi song featuring Tabu and Suniel Shetty for inspiration, while posting a quirky caption for her new Instagram picture.

In the image, Radhika is seen posing on a jet ski. As caption, Radhika wrote: "Main Ladki Po Po Po".

The words form the starting line of a song filmed on Tabu and Suniel Shetty in Priyadarshan's 2000 comedy hit, *Hera Pheri*. Radhika keeps entertaining fans with her captions as she keeps borrowing lines from film dialogues, songs and even memes.

In the past, she has used old Hindi songs such as *Kaun main haan tum (Ajnabee)*, *Oh oh jaane jaana (Pyaar Kiya Toh Darna Kya)* for captions in her posts.

The actress was last seen in *Angeezi Medium*, the last Bollywood release before the lockdown, and also the final film of the late Irrfan Khan.

She will next be seen in the upcoming romantic comedy *Shiddat*, which also stars Mohit Raina, Diana Madan and Sunny Kaushal, and is directed by Kunal Deshmukh of *Jannat* fame on a script by Shridhar Raghavan and Dheeraj Rattan.



'Got to meet mom after 8 months thanks to Diwali'

Mumbai: Former beauty queen and Bollywood newcomer Manushi Chhillar is thrilled to be home for Diwali this year, as she will finally get to meet her doctor mother Neelam Chhillar, who was in Delhi working through the Covid pandemic.

The Chhillar family will finally come together again this festive season as her mother has flown down to Mumbai for Diwali.

"It is definitely a super special Diwali for me and our family this year. Diwali is all about celebrating with your loved ones. My family is my biggest anchor and Diwali for me has always been about being grateful for the unconditional love that they shower on me. So, for me, this Diwali became all the more special because I finally got to meet my mother after eight months," said Manushi.

She added: "My mother was working in Delhi and then coronavirus hit our country and she had to stay in Delhi and work through the pandemic. We were on video calls every single day and missing each other terribly, but I respect her all the more because she chose to do her duty for the nation, her fellow citizens and I couldn't be prouder. She inspires me."

Manushi says she is happy for her father, doctor Mitra Basu Chhillar. "I'm super happy for my dad too, because I know he has missed his wife terribly! I'm thrilled and overwhelmed to meet her and be a complete family again after all these months. I have missed her hugs and pampering. I have missed her smile and her calming presence. I'm truly grateful to God for reuniting our family in Diwali. It's the best thing to have happened in 2020 for me," she said.



Gurmeet, Debina donate plasma for Covid treatment



Mumbai: Actor couple Gurmeet Choudhary and Debina Bonnerjee Friday donated plasma for

the treatment of Covid-19 patients. The actors were diagnosed with the novel coronavirus a few months ago and have since recovered.

Gurmeet took to his verified Instagram account Friday to share photographs from the hospital. He wrote: "I am donating plasma! For #covid_19 patients. That's dr. Ramesh. Nair hospital. Thanku @drgautambhansali1 for making everything possible. From healing to motivating, Nair hospital Mumbai Central."

In another post, the actor urged all Covid survivors to donate plasma for the purpose of treatment.

He wrote: "Urge everybody to come forward and donate plasma at these needing times. Critical

covid patients require plasma to recover. If you have recovered then extend a helping hand for others."

Talking about the same, Gurmeet shared: "When I was diagnosed with COVID, thanks to God's grace, we weren't in too bad shape, and my wife and I were lucky as we were both young and had good immunity. But for those unfortunate individuals who are gravely ill due to the virus, we want to help as much as we can. I have realised how intense and horrible this virus can be. I sincerely want to thank Dr. Gautam Bhansali to make this possible for us and help us get through this process smoothly. We hope that our plasma aids in the recovery of the needy and brings them back to good health."

Debina also shared photographs of her plasma donation on Instagram. The actress wrote: "The most amazing feeling in the world when you do something not for yourself but you suddenly get the strength to do it."

Varun shares throwback underwater video

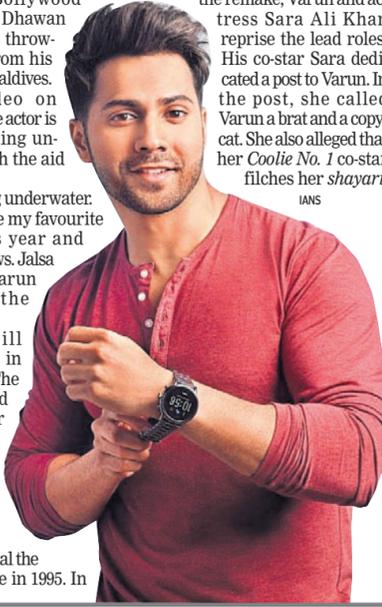
Mumbai: Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan has shared a throwback video from his vacation in Maldives.

In the video on Instagram, the actor is seen swimming underwater with the aid a sea scooter.

"#tbt being underwater. This has to be my favourite themes this year and favourite shows. Jalsakar babu," Varun captioned the image.

Varun will next be seen in *Coolie No. 1*. The film is directed by his father David Dhawan. The film is a remake of the Govinda-Karisma Kapoor original the director made in 1995. In

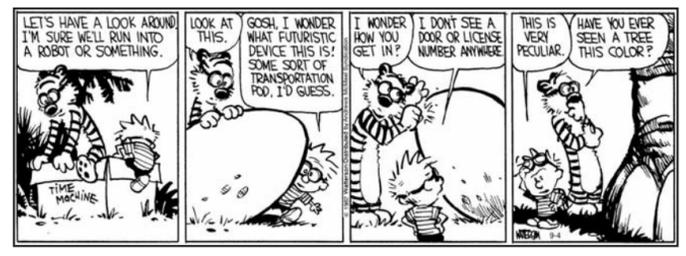
the remake, Varun and actress Sara Ali Khan reprise the lead roles. His co-star Sara dedicated a post to Varun. In the post, she called Varun a brat and a copycat. She also alleged that her *Coolie No. 1* co-star filches her *shayari!*



PEANUTS



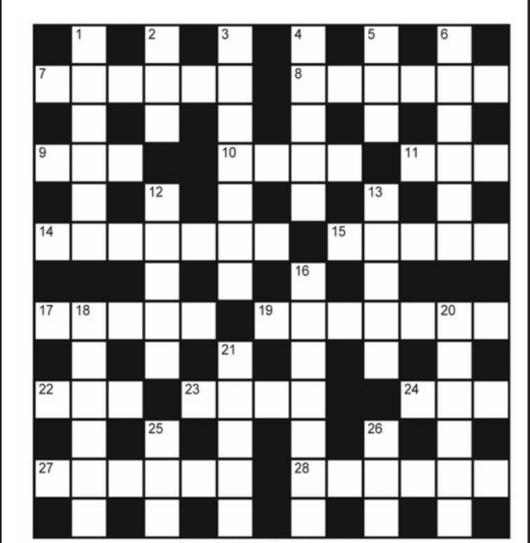
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



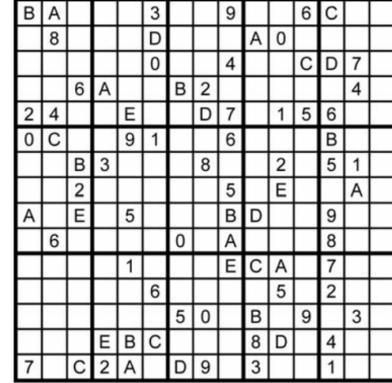
FUN post CROSSWORD



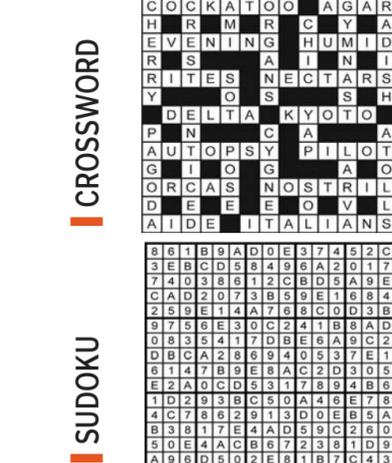
- Across
- 7 Core
 - 8 Beat
 - 9 Electricity source
 - 10 Defeat decisively
 - 11 Hotel amenity
 - 14 Flat
 - 15 African antelope
 - 17 Apples, e.g.
 - 19 Acrid
 - 22 Utmost degree
 - 23 Grunters
 - 24 Barbary beast
 - 27 Curved shapes
 - 28 Birds of prey
 - Down
 - 1 Sojourn
 - 2 Autonne preceder
 - 3 Black Sea republic
 - 4 East Indian pheasant
 - 5 Swindle
 - 6 Latin dance (3-3)
 - 12 Feasts
 - 13 Words of wisdom
 - 16 Chases
 - 18 Platful aquatic animals
 - 20 Youngster
 - 21 Trunk
 - 25 Timid
 - 26 Conceit

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

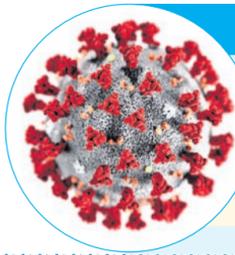


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



FITNESS MANTRA

People participate in a yoga camp on Ramachandi beach in Puri, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	5,32,95,113	3,73,37,774	13,02,455
India	87,28,795	81,15,580	1,28,668
Odisha	3,07,004	2,95,245	1,495

State creates database of 76L farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: The state government, as part of its 5T initiative, has prepared an online database of 76 lakh farmers which will help it in disbursement of various benefits to the farmers.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Friday, launched various online programmes of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment including the database of the farmers of the state. Naveen asked the officials concerned to complete verification of database within 100 days.

He said that it is a great effort to set up a database of farmers in Odisha. The government has also decided to provide identity cards to the registered farmers. This will allow farmers to reap the benefits of various schemes and services very soon.

The Chief Minister said that he wanted the farmers of the state to avail all government benefits at their doorstep without visiting various government offices frequently. "Today, the 5T initiatives have made

5T INITIATIVE

The Chief Minister asked the officials concerned to complete verification of database within 100 days

The government has decided to provide identity cards to the registered farmers

THE STEP WILL ALLOW FARMERS TO REAP THE BENEFITS OF VARIOUS SCHEMES AND SERVICES VERY SOON

it a success," he said.

The launching of Krushak Odisha, allotment of online licence to input dealers, online certificate system for OUAT students and Dakshata app for field-level agriculture staffers will directly connect

the farmers with the department, the Chief Minister said.

Stating that everyone should work together for the development of agriculture and farmers of the state, the CM said agriculture is the backbone of the state economy

and it has emerged as biggest hope during this Covid-19 pandemic.

He also congratulated the farming community as the state is expecting a bumper crop this year.

During the event, agriculture officials and farmers of Nuapada and Ganjam districts shared their experiences on the success of government schemes.

In 2014, crop information was provided to only 50,000 farmers. Now, about 10 lakh farmers are provided information on 15 crops.

On the occasion, Agriculture Minister Arun Sahoo said that under the direction of the Chief Minister, his department is continuing its efforts towards improvement of agriculture and farmers. The department is strictly adhering to the 5T initiative, he said.

Among others, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy, Development Commissioner SC Mohapatra, agriculture production commissioner RK Sharma, department secretary Sourav Garg and secretary to CM (6T) VK Pandian were participated in the programme.

Central nod to ₹128.23cr Amphan aid for Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 13: A High Level Committee (HLC) under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah has approved additional Central assistance of ₹128.23 crore to Odisha under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

According to the ministry of Home Affairs, the Union government has approved central assistance of ₹4,381.88 crore to six states which were affected by cyclone/ floods and landslides during this year.

The committee has approved ₹2,707.77 crore for West Bengal and ₹128.23 crore for Odisha for the devastation caused by cyclone Amphan.

Similarly, for cyclone 'Nisarga' ₹268.59 crore has been approved for Maharashtra while for floods and landslides during the southwest monsoon, ₹577.84 crore has been approved for Karnataka, ₹611.61 crore for Madhya Pradesh, and



File photo of the devastation caused by cyclone Amphan this year

₹87.84 crore for Sikkim.

The ministry said that in the aftermath of cyclone 'Amphan', Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited the affected states of West Bengal and Odisha May 22. As announced by the Prime Minister, financial assistance of ₹1,000 crore to West Bengal and ₹500 crore to Odisha were released in advance May 23 for immediate relief activities in these states. In addition, the Prime Minister had also announced ₹2 lakh ex-gratia for the next of kin of the dead and ₹50,000 for the injured, which was over and above the ex-gratia provided through the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and the NDRF.

In all six states, the Union government had deputed Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) immediately after the calamities, without waiting for the receipt of memorandum from the affected state governments.

PG entrance result declaration deferred again

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: The state Higher Education department has yet again deferred the date of declaration of Common PG Entrance Test (CPET)-2020 results.

As per the revised timeline issued by the department Friday, the merit list of students will be published November 21 instead of the earlier announced date November 16. Prior to this, it had been decided by the department to declare the result November 7. The candidates are directed to update their graduation/equivalent marks on Student Academic Management System (SAMS) portal by 11.45pm, November 17.

After the declaration of the results the universities and colleges will complete their admission processes by December 21.

As many as 62,942 out of 71,789, who registered for the test, had appeared for the entrance examination for a total of 14,700 PG seats. The examination was conducted with all Covid-19 protocols and separate (isolation) rooms were allotted to Covid-19 positive candidates or suspected cases.

The successful students will take admission in post-graduate (PG) seats in different universities and colleges in the state.

3 places record below 15° Celsius

Bhubaneswar: Mercury started falling in the state with three places recording minimum temperature of below 15 degrees Celsius. Lowest night temperature of 14 degrees Celsius was recorded at Daringibadi while it was 14.2 degrees C at Sonepur. Hilly town Koraput registered a minimum temperature of 14.6 degrees Celsius. Apart from these places, 16 degrees Celsius was recorded at Boudh, 16.5 degrees at Phulbani, 16.8 degrees at Bhawanipatna, 17 degrees at Rayagada, 18 degrees at Baripada, 18.3 degrees at Talcher and 18.5 degrees at Bolangir.

OHRC debars woman cop from duty for 2 yrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has directed the state government not to deploy Sandhyarani Jena, IIC of Patna police station in Keonjhar who had been beaten up an accused in a land dispute case, in any field duty for two years. The OHRC has also barred her from deployment at any police station for two years.

The OHRC has recommended the government to send Jena for special training on how to deal with accused.

The OHRC has recommended the government to send Jena for special training on how to deal with accused

"The commission finds Sandhyarani Jena guilty of custodial violence and therefore, she should not be given any field duty nor be posted at any PS for a period of two years," the

OHRC order reads.

The rights body had also awarded an interim compensation of Rs 10,000 to the victim, Chitta Ranjan Mohanta, alias Raju of Talasara village in Saharapada block in Keonjhar district May 19.

Notably, Jena was caught in a viral video beating and kicking Mohanta at the Patna police station a few months ago. She was later suspended by DGP Abhay when the video went viral after two months after the incident.

GANGSTER WANTED IN 22 CASES ARRESTED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Nov 13: Dreaded gangster Muna Laden Alias Sayed Muttaquid was arrested by the police while he, along with another associate, was demanding extortion from a man at gunpoint at a deserted place here, an officer said.

Muna Laden was arrested near Gourishankar Park under Dargha Bazar police station jurisdiction in the city Thursday night and a country-made pistol, six live bullets in a case and a mobile phone were seized from his possession, said Cuttack Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Prateek Singh.

The DCP said that the associate of the gangster, however, managed to escape from the spot before the arrival of the raiding party.

Laden was wanted in as



Muna Laden was arrested near Gourishankar Park under Dargha Bazar police station Thursday night. A country-made pistol, six live bullets and a mobile phone were seized from his possession. Muna Laden was involved in several cases of extortion, said the DCP.

many as 22 criminal cases registered against him in several police stations of the city. Detailing the criminal antecedents of the gangster, the DCP said that he was involved in several cases of extortion after forcing his way into controversial property deals for over 20

years now. "Operating as the right-hand man of mafia don Tito alias Sayed Usman Ali of Kendrapara district, Muna Laden was escaping from the police net as victims, in general, were fearing to give evidence against him," Singh said.

TCS to train teachers for online classes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: The state government Friday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Tata Consultancy Service (TCS) to impart online education to Class IX and X students of Adarsh Vidyalayas and Utkarsh Vidyalayas free of cost.

The online education programme will be implemented in 214 Adarsh Vidyalayas and 101 Utkarsh Vidyalayas of the state, said School & Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash.

Under the programme, the TCS will provide free online



The online education programme will be implemented in 214 Adarsh Vidyalayas and 101 Utkarsh Vidyalayas in the state

education to students in Adarsh and Utkarsh schools. The teachers of these schools will also be imparted training on digital teaching platforms, he said. After completion of the training, the teachers will take classes for

one/two hours every day. As the schools are closed due to Covid-19 pandemic, the classes are currently being held online through various mobile apps including WhatsApp along with TV and radio programmes.

Earlier, the state government had launched e-learning initiatives Madhu app in December 2019 and Diksha app in April 2020 to provide online teaching to the school kids.

As online classes fail to reach most students due to lack of mobile connectivity, educational programmes are being broadcast in DD Odia and All India Radio.

Bicycle gift for slum kids, peer leaders

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: As a token of appreciation and love on the eve of the Festival of Lights, the Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) gave away 20 bicycles to peer leaders (Pragati Sathis) and another five to underprivileged kids from slum areas in the city.

The BSCL gave away the bicycles under the 'Gift-a-bicycle' theme as part of the 'Cyclegiri' event Friday. The initiative aims at popularising cycling in the Temple city.

The BSCL gifted away the cycles to peer leaders of the Socially Smart Bhubaneswar Project for their dedicated service in creating awareness on Covid-19 among people residing under the jurisdiction of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC).



Civic officials giving away bicycles to kids

The BSCL gifted away the cycles to peer leaders of Socially Smart Bhubaneswar Project for their efforts in creating awareness on Covid-19

In the prevailing scenario, physical activities are considered as a major initiative for building immunity against virus infection. The cycle-centric activities by the city authorities have created a new craze among the citizens to maintain fitness and good health.

Senior officials of BSCL and BMC were present at the Friday's event at a Smart Park in Sahid Nagar area of the city.

On the other hand, five cycles were given away to slum children who want to have cycles passionately, but are unable to arrange them due to financial difficulties. The free bicycles came as a surprise gift for the kids on the eve of

Diwali festival, which is coinciding with the Children's Day. It is worth mentioning here that the BSCL is organising 'Cyclegiri' every Friday. The weekly event was launched following a cyclethon October 9.

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Identify potential sand mine sources: Chief Secy

Extraction and transportation of minor minerals would be tracked through i4MS software

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy has directed the Water Resources department to identify sand beds in major rivers like Mahanadi and Rushikulya for mining in a bid to meet the rising market demand.

Holding a high-level meeting in virtual mode Friday, Tripathy asked the Water Resources secretary Anu Garg to scientifically identify sand beds in major rivers like Mahanadi, Rushikulya, Subarnarekha, Baitarani and Brahmani keeping in view the uninterrupted flow of the water and other environmental issues. Garg was advised the officials to complete 1st phase of identification of sand beds in two months.

Five large stretches of river sand beds (four in Jajpur and one in Angul district) with area above 100 acre have so far been identified for sand mining.

Tripathy advised Additional Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment, Mona Sharma, to make State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority



FILE PHOTO

GROWING DEMAND

WATER RESOURCE DEPT WAS ASKED TO COMPLETE IDENTIFICATION OF SUCH SAND BANKS IN 2 MONTHS

THE DEPT WAS TOLD TO SCIENTIFICALLY IDENTIFY SAND BEDS IN MAJOR RIVERS LIKE MAHANADI, RUSHIKULYA, SUBARNAREKHA, BAITARANI AND BRAHMANI

REVENUE GENERATION FROM MINOR MINERAL SOURCES HAS INCREASED BY 124% IN FY 2019-20

(SEIAA) more efficient with necessary technical and manpower support. He asked her to expedite the issue environmental clearances within specified time period.

Revenue and Disaster Management secretary Bishnupada Sethi said, "Because of the extensive efforts in the current year, the total number of minor mineral

sources, as of today has reached 4,667 out of which 1,428 have already been put to operation."

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary directed the district Collectors to operationalise all potential sources by November-end, he said. While complimenting the department and field officials for their efforts, Tripathy directed them to evolve the strategy for optimising the sustainable use of the minor minerals.

He instructed the officials to focus on process reengineering for tracking the extraction and transportation of minor minerals through application of i4MS software.

Further, the Chief Secretary directed the officials to make district-wise demand-supply gap assessment for monitoring the availability of minor minerals in all the districts. The issues relating to the scope of exploration of minor minerals from royalty land was also discussed in the meeting.

The state has collected revenue of Rs 680 crore from minor mineral sources during last financial year 2019-20, which is 124 per cent more than the previous fiscal.

FESTIVE TIME



A stretch on Janpath in Bhubaneswar, Friday, witnesses a snarl owing to Dhanteras and Deepavali

OP PHOTO

SJTA to start survey on economic status of servitor families

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Nov 13: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) will carry out a survey on the socio-economic status of the families of the servitors of the 12th century shrine beginning November 23, a senior temple official said Friday.

Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies (NCDS), an inter-disciplinary social science research institute in Bhubaneswar, will carry out the survey. The questions as well as the report will be in Odia, Srimandir administrator (development) Ajay Kumar Jena said while attending a meeting at the temple office here on deciding the modalities of the survey, Thursday.

Jena said that as many as 25 teams will be constituted for the survey. Each team will have two teachers. The teams will visit the servitors' houses and collect the details for the purpose. The door-to-door survey will play a key role in facilitating several welfare schemes, including housing, scholarship and healthcare, to the servitor families.

"The servitor families will be asked questions like the number of members in the family, their mar-

ital status, educational qualification, health, profession and annual income. They [servitor families] would also be asked if they are receiving any assistance and scholarship meant for the children from the temple," Jena said, adding that the surveyors will undergo training before the survey starts.

According to sources, the temple administration has a list of around 2,200 servitor families. But many in the list are not actual servitors.

"The survey will help weed out those ineligible families. This apart, many new families will be added to the list. The survey will be completed in two months and the report will be out in the following month," a senior official who also attended the meeting said.

The survey is usually carried out once in three years, but it could

not be done in 2017 for reasons best known to the authorities. It was last conducted in 2014, said a source.

Among others, Srimandir administrator (rituals) Jitendra Kumar Sahu, temple managing committee members and senior NCDS officials attended the meeting.



The door-to-door survey will play a key role in facilitating several welfare schemes, including housing, scholarship and healthcare, to the servitor families

Four commercial courts on the cards

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: The state government has decided to set up four commercial courts at Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Berhampur and Sambalpur. On the recommendation of the Orissa High Court, the Law department has issued a notification in this regard, Friday. All these will be courts of civil judge (se-



nior division). As per the notification, the court at Cuttack Sadar will have jurisdiction over Cuttack,

Angul, Dhenkanal and Jajpur districts while the commercial court at Bhubaneswar will have jurisdiction over Khurda district.

Similarly, the commercial court to come up at Berhampur will have jurisdiction over Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal and Boudh. The commercial court at Sambalpur will have jurisdiction over Sambalpur, Bargarh, Jharsuguda and Deogarh.

ALL ABOUT SHELTER



Slum dwellers demonstrate in front of the RDC (Central Division) office in Cuttack opposing the eviction drive by the civic authorities, Friday

OP PHOTO

Prime accused in Puri Guna Singhari murder case held

Puri: After eight years of murder of a servitor of the Srimandir, police finally arrested the prime accused Madhab Khuntia and sent him to jail, Puri town police station sources said Friday. According to police sources, Khuntia of Hajuri lane under Puri town police limits including his aides had committed the murder of Guna Singhari alias Taluchha Bhagaban Mohapatra August 22, 2012. Singhari was murdered over political as well as business rivalry at around 7.30pm in front of Panchayat Jaga Ghar of Balisahi by means of firearms. "After vacation of the stay order and on the strength of a non-bailable warrant (NBW), he was arrested on 12.11.2020 and forwarded to court on the same day. Now he is in jail custody," a press note issued by the police said.

BAN ON 'PAYA SHRADHA' NEAR LINGARAJ

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: In view of restrictions imposed by the state government on large religious congregation amid apprehension of spread of Covid-19 virus, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Friday, imposed a ban on congregation of people on the day of Deepavali festival November 14 at Bindusagar lake and Singha Dwara of Lord Lingaraj temple to offer 'Paya Shradha' and Pinda Dana rituals.

Notably, a restriction on sale of firecrackers in the state is already in place till November 30.

ECoR TO RUN 4 MORE SPECIAL TRAINS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: East Coast Railway (ECoR) has decided to run four more special trains - Visakhapatnam-Rayagada-Visakhapatnam, Palasa-Visakhapatnam-Palasa, Palasa-Bhubaneswar-Palasa and Sambalpur-Rayagada-Sambalpur - under its jurisdiction.

Visakhapatnam-Rayagada Special from Visakhapatnam will leave at 4:50pm daily w.e.f. 15th November, 2020 and reach Rayagada at 9pm. In return direction, 08507 Rayagada-Visakhapatnam Special from Rayagada will leave at 5:15am daily w.e.f. 16th November, 2020 and reach Visakhapatnam at 9:25am. This train has 10 Second Class Seating

Coach and Two-Guard-cum-Luggage vans in its composition.

Palasa-Visakhapatnam Special from Palasa will leave at 5:25am daily w.e.f. 16th November 2020 and reach Visakhapatnam at 10am. In return direction, 08532 Visakhapatnam-Palasa Special from Visakhapatnam will leave at 6:35pm daily w.e.f. 15th November 2020 and will arrive at Palasa at 11:30pm. This train has 14 Second Class Seating Coach and Two Guard cum Luggage Vans in its composition.

Palasa-Bhubaneswar Special from Palasa will leave at 4pm daily w.e.f. 16th November 2020 and reach Bhubaneswar at 10:10am. In return direction, 08533 Bhubaneswar-Palasa Special from Bhubaneswar will

leave at 6:20pm daily w.e.f. 15th November 2020 and arrive at Palasa at 10:40pm. This train has 16 Second Class Reserved Seating Coach in its composition.

Sambalpur-Rayagada Special from Sambalpur will leave at 6:05am daily w.e.f. 15th November 2020 and reach at Rayagada at 12:40am. In the return direction, 08302 Rayagada-Sambalpur Special from Rayagada will leave at 2:05pm daily w.e.f. 15th



November, 2020 and arrive at Sambalpur at 10:20pm. This train has One Sleeper Class, Six Second Class Seating and Two Guard cum Luggage Vans in its composition. Meanwhile, due to less patronisation, it has been decided to withdraw the services of Bhubaneswar-Bangiriposi-Bhubaneswar, Puri-Barbil-Puri, Puri-Paradeep-Puri, Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam and Puri-Howrah-Puri weekly Special as per the following.

Reviewing the passenger profile management, it is seen that the above trains are running with extremely poor patronisation. In view of this, it has been decided to cancel the services of these five pairs of trains.

Man hurt in petrol pump blast shifted to AIIMS-New Delhi

Cuttack: A person, who had suffered critical injuries in the petrol pump explosion near the Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar October 7, has been shifted to AIIMS-New Delhi for further treatment. Ripu Daman, a 40-year-old man from Lucknow, had suffered 40 per cent burns and grievous injuries on his head and eyes. He had been admitted to SCB Medical College and Hospital here soon after the incident. "Initially, Daman had been admitted to the trauma care ICU but was later shifted to plastic surgery ward. His condition improved a lot here," said SCBMCH plastic surgery department chief Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak. Nayak further revealed that Daman requires keratoplasty for his eye injuries. However, SCBMCH does not have the advanced treatment facility, he said.

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: At least 1,018 more people were tested positive for Covid-19 in the state, raising the tally to 3,07,004 Friday, while 12 fresh fatalities pushed the death toll in Odisha to 1,495, a senior Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

Of the 1,018 new cases, 585 were reported from various quarantine centres and the rest detected during contact tracing. All 30 districts in the coastal state have recorded less than 100 cases.

Sundargarh recorded the maximum number of new cases at 94, followed by Mayurbhanj 86 and Khurda 83.

Taking to Twitter, the Health and Family Welfare department said, "Regret to inform the demise of twelve COVID19 positive patients while under treatment in hospitals."

Three deaths were reported from Sundargarh, two each from Khurda and Dhenkanal districts. One each succumbed to the infection in Angul, Kandhamal, Koraput, Puri

TREND IN ODISHA

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Over 51.71 lakh tests have been conducted in the state, including 48,246 Thursday

The state's positivity rate now stands at 5.94

and Sambalpur. The state's positivity rate now stands at 5.94, the official said.

As many as 53 Covid-19 patients have died due to comorbidities, the H&FW department official said.

Over 51.71 lakh tests have been conducted in the state, including 48,246 Thursday, added the official.

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Middlemen knock on farmers' doors

FARMERS OF KOKSARA APPREHEND PROCUREMENT DELAY, BUT EAGERLY WAIT FOR MANDI OPENING

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koksara/Sambalpur, Nov 13: Farmers have harvested their paddy and many have stocked it on their yards. However, they are unsure when procurement centres will open in Janhapnka area of Kalahandi district. 40 to 50 per cent of paddy has been harvested in the area.

At this crucial time, when farmers are apprehensive of delay in procurement, middlemen are knocking at their doors, a report said.

Reports said, the administration has decided to open mandis from November 15, but talks with millers are underway.

After harvesting paddy, farmers dry the crop on yards before selling them off. However, cloudy weather has added to their worries.

Due to sufficient rains, farmers in the area have expected a bumper harvest while the government will buy paddy through six mandis and sub-mandis in the block.

Farmers with irrigated land are allowed to sell 19 quintals of paddy per acre while it is 12 quintals of paddy for the farmers with non-irrigated land.



During the pandemic, small and marginal farmers are desperate to sell their stocks. Most of them have taken loans. Their daily expenses on paddy harvesting exercise are rising. However, they have no money to meet their expenses. They run short of patience to wait for mandis to open while middlemen are on the prowl to take advantage of the situation

Some have even started selling paddy for Rs 12,00 to Rs 13,00 per quintal as against the MSP of FAQ paddy which is Rs 1868 and that of Grade-A is Rs 1888 per quintal

Farmers in Sambalpur have demanded that the administration allow them to sell more paddy this khariff season

Another norm is that farmers have to get their tokens a week before procurement from respective cooperative societies from which they have taken loans.

Some farmers have got tokens through messages. Now, with paddy stocked on yards, they are waiting for opening of the mandis.

During the pandemic, small and marginal farmers are desperate to sell their stocks. Most of them have taken loans. Their daily expenses on paddy are rising. However, they

have no money to meet their expenses. They run short of patience to wait for mandis to open while middlemen are on the prowl to take advantage of the situation.

Some have even started selling paddy for Rs 12,00 to Rs 13,00 per quintal as against the MSP of FAQ paddy which is Rs 1868 and that of Grade-A is Rs 1888 per quintal.

Farmers demanded that the administration quicken the process of mandi opening.

Reports from Sambalpur said

scores of farmers are ready with paddy to sell as Bareipalli market yard is all set to open November 17. But the problem is that farmers have not yet got tokens. Farmers of Remada Sankrama, Gandamunda and Kainsi panchayats wait to sell their paddy.

Reports said, farmers expect a bumper crop in the area in the khariff season. Farmers have demanded that the administration allow them to sell more paddy this khariff season.

Bhadrak high on drug peddling, bootlegging

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Nov 13: Drug smuggling and bootlegging have been flourishing in Bhadrak district. Peddlers rake in moolah by hustling illegal liquor, hooch, brown sugar, opium, ganja and counterfeit foreign liquor. All such activities are being carried in dead of night while peddlers carry these illegal items in luxury cars so as to evade suspicion of the public and enforcement authorities.

On the other hand, the excise department here is reportedly struggling with staff crunch. Though raids are carried out, smuggling activities are yet to be curbed. Various quarters have alleged that police and excise officials in the district have become inactive against the bootleggers and drug traffickers.

On the other hand, special task force teams from Cuttack and Bhubaneswar have raided several times and caught drug peddlers and bootleggers.

Even liquor mafia is becoming



violent during raids. It may be noted here that liquor mafia had attacked an excise inspectors of Bhadrak and five other officials during a recent raid. This incident had raised many eyebrows.

In October, an STF team had raided Purunabazar area and arrested five ganja smugglers. Excise officials had also arrested two brown sugar traders, three people dealing in counterfeit chew-tobacco and two others manufacturing counterfeit tobacco.

Reports said, illegal liquor sale is thriving in some pockets of Bhndaripokhari, Bhdrak and Dhannagar blocks while counterfeit foreign liquor trade is rampant in parts of Chandbali and

Tihidi blocks. It was learnt that a racket allegedly manufactures counterfeit foreign liquor of branded companies in Puruna Balasore and Soro areas and supply them to rural pockets in Bhadrak.

Drug peddling is being remote controlled by mafia from Balasore. Liquor mafia carries out business in Kenduapada, Dandua, Sarua, Kaharapokhari, Andeipalli, Khanabadi, Alauti and Ambagadia.

Asked about it, Dhaneswar Barad, excise inspector, said raids are being carried out only after getting specific allegations. He also pointed out that they failed to intensify raids due to shortage of staff.

Teachers protest school closure

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Nov 13: Hundreds of junior teachers staged protests in front of the DEO office here Friday protesting closure of schools in the district. Scores of CT/BEEd students aspiring for jobs from various parts of the district also joined the protest.

They accused the government of having adopted an anti-teacher policy as hundreds of schools have been closed.

They demanded that the decision to close down schools should be revoked while private schools which are being run without no objection certificates (NOCs) should be closed. They submitted a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister and the school and education minister through district education officer Ranjan Kumar Giri.

"If our demands are not met, we will start hunger strike," warned Dhananjay Jena, president of the

Teachers demanded that the decision to close down schools should be revoked while private schools which are being run without no objection certificates (NOCs) should be closed

Kanishtha Sikhyak Sangh.

When asked about private schools running without NOCs, the DEO said these schools have been provided NOCs to as per government guidelines.

"CT and BEEd students aspiring for jobs should wait for the employment announcement of the government. They will get appointments in due process. There is no need to stage dharna in an undemocratic way in front of the DEC office," he observed.



Youth held for web-casting lewd video with girlfriend

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Nov 13: A married youth was arrested for allegedly making an intimate video with his girlfriend viral on social media, informed Kalahandi police Friday.

The accused was identified as Guptaeswar Behera, a resident of Paralakhemundi area in Gajapati district.

According to sources, the victim, a native of a village under Dharmagarh police limits in Kalahandi district, was staying at her uncle's house to pursue her

higher studies.

During her stay, she had developed intimacy with Behera. It was when she knew that he is married that she stopped going to him.

Behera got infuriated by this and with an intention to take revenge, he uploaded a video of them on social media.

After coming to know about it, the victim informed her family members and then lodged a complaint at Dharmagarh police station. Taking the case seriously, the police arrested Behera from Paralakhemundi.



The revenue administration in Ganjam is carrying out a door-step service programme Mo Gan Re tehsil. By organizing camps at villages, officials are redressing complaints related to lands. A similar camp was held at Podamari panchayat of Pattapur area Friday

Locals smell rat in MGNREGS work, seek probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Amrapalli, Nov 13: Locals have alleged irregularities in an MGNREGS project in Pitamahuli panchayat under Birmaharajpur block of Sonepur district. The villagers have drawn the attention of the BDO towards the issue.

In the complaint, villagers said a proposal for a village park near Duleswar Radhamohan High School was moved at Palli Sabha. The proposal had been passed with an esti-



mated cost of Rs 9.82 lakh. The project has not been taken up at the proposed site, but surprisingly an information plaque of

the same project has been set up near Chouhanpur Mata Matha. It was displayed in the plaque that the same amount of fund has been sanctioned in fiscal 2020-21.

Villagers wondered when funds have not been sanctioned for the project, how come the project can be executed at another place.

They have smelt a scam. They have demanded a high level probe into it. BDO Motilal Sulia was contacted by our correspondent over phone, but the former did not respond.

Berhampur lad recites 13 verses in 1 min

Bithal enters India Book of Records

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 13: A Class XI student from Berhampur in Ganjam district registered his name in the India Book of Records (IBR), Thursday, after reciting 13 verses of the Bhagavad Gita in one minute.

According to his family, the boy Bithal Bhardwaj was very keen



about Hindu scripture Bhagavad Gita since his childhood and regularly recites verses from the book.

One of his school teachers came to learn about Bithal's extraordinary talent and advised the boy to apply for India Book of Records. Following his teacher's advice, Bithal recorded his recitation and sent a video to IBR authorities.

Bithal was inspired from childhood by his father who has passed away. He now resides at Gajapati Nagar here with his family.

Bithal has now pinned his hopes on registering his name in the Guinness Book of World Records, his family said.

Birju all set to begin life afresh

PNN/AGENCIES

Sundargarh, Nov 13: Birju Kulu, a resident of Jangatoli village under Kutra block of Sundargarh district, who spent 20 years in a Pakistani prison, returned to his village Friday.

The whole village is cock-a-hoop after Birju's return. From Birju's disappearance and he finding himself behind bars in a Pakistani jail, the entire episode has all the ingredients for a blockbuster movie.

According to Birju's family, over 25 years ago when Birju went missing under mysterious circumstances, he was working in a hotel in Ranchi in Jharkhand.

A few days later, they came to know that Birju was arrested in Pakistan on charge of espionage.

When Birju went missing from the hotel he was apparently mentally unstable. He somehow reached Amritsar and from there, crossed the border and



I am very happy that I am back in my native place and I will live here for the rest of my life. I am trying to recognise my friends and other relatives whom I had left behind. And this is a great moment for me. I was with 20 persons in the cell. We were being given food regularly.

landed in Pakistan.

He was immediately arrested for entering Pakistan without documents. He was sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment. He spent the entire term at Lahore jail. Last October, Birju completed his term and he was handed over to Indian authorities at the border October 26. From there he was immediately taken to a hospital in Amritsar for a COVID-19 test. His sample came out positive for the virus infection.

Back in Jangatoli village, his family had given up all hopes of seeing Birju again. They said they were on cloud nine when they came to know about Birju's whereabouts from the district administration.

In Birju's family, none but his elder sister is alive. It was learnt that Birju's parents had died when he was in Pakistan. A district administration team had left for Amritsar to get Birju back to his village.

Culture officer takes stock of sculptural ruins in Suktel river

POST NEWS NETWORK

Loisingha, Nov 13: In the wake of media reports that stone sculptures were discovered from Suktel river near Gopalpur-Chelbahal village in Bolangir, the district culture officer visited the site Friday even as scores of people made a beeline to take a look at the sculptural ruins.

The district culture officer said he will apprise the state archeology department about the sculptural ruins for their protection and preservation.

The stone sculptures have delicate floral designs which have mesmerized the locals and culture lovers. It was believed that, royals of Patnanagr had set up sev-



eral Shaivite and Shakti peethas at different places between 8th and 12 centuries.

Elderly priests say, a temple was at this place at around 8th century. Friday noon, district culture officer Bijay Kumar Sathpathy visited the site. He added that an expert would be accompanied to this place to know about the sculptures.

However, a young archeologist observed that the sculptures were the top part of a temple belonging to rulers of Soma dynasty.

4 timber mafia arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boinda, Nov 13: Timber mafia has been on a looting spree in Handapa range under Kishorenagar block of Angul district. In the last three months, the mafia has cut down 780 valuable trees in Khedra forest, but the forest department had allegedly lowered its guard.

Local residents accused some unscrupulous forest officials of being in collusion with the mafia who routinely loot the forest. Some youths of Charkhaman village took up the issue with Angul

Collector Friday. Athagarh DFO took the complaint seriously and ordered a probe. Meanwhile, forest officials have arrested four people identified as Dinabandhu Sahu, Debraj Sahu, Subrat Sahu and Santosh Sahu of Ghuntulapasi.

It may be noted here that the forest department had planted hundreds of valuable trees in the forest. Locals said the forests have been losing its valuable trees every day while inaction by the forest department has encouraged the mafia to go on looting trees.

Government of Odisha No. O-554

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA

E-mail: eerrw_jharsuguda@yahoo.co.in, Tel.: 06645-271643

Bid Identification No. Online-EEJG-08 of 2020-21

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR ROAD WORK IN ODISHA

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

- Name of the Work : Road work as per DTCN available in the www.tendersorissa.gov.in
- Total No. of Work : 05 (Five) Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 4.42 lakh to 26.55 lakh
- Period of Completion : 01 (One) & 2 (Two) Calendar Months
- Period and Time of availability : Dt. 18.11.2020 at 11.00 A.M. to 27.11.2020 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Date and time of bid opening : Dt. 02.12.2020 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the : E.E., R.W. Division, Jharsuguda Officer Inviting Bid

(1) Other details can be seen from Detailed Notice Inviting Tenders, available in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the above website.

Sd./ Executive Engineer
R.W. Division, Jharsuguda
OIPR-25104/11/0008/2021

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA

STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH, Plot No.: 778, 1st Floor, Maharshi College Road, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

DEMAND NOTICE

Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

A notice is hereby given that the Borrower(s): M/s. Influx Security Services Pvt. Ltd. & its Directors have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to the below mentioned Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 on their last known addresses by Registered Post with A/D, but they have been returned undelivered/un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name & Address of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) A/c. No.	Details of Property/ies / Address of Secured Assets to be Enforced	Date of Demand Notice	Date of NPA	Amount Outstanding
Borrower: M/s. Influx Security Services Pvt. Ltd., At: Kalinga Nagar, Behind Telephone Exchange, Dura, P.O.: Berhampur-760010, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha. Directors: 1) Mr. Amarewar Mishra, 2) Mr. Nrusingha Prasad Mishra, 3) Mr. Ajaya Kumar Mishra / Guarantors: 1) Mrs. Pramila Mishra, 2) Mr. Nrusingha Prasad Mishra, 3) Mr. Amarewar Mishra, 4) Mrs. Sudeshna Rani Mishra, 5) Mr. Ajaya Kumar Mishra, All are At: Kalinga Nagar, Behind Telephone Exchange, Dura, P.O.: Berhampur-760010, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha / A/c. No.: 32385076892 (CC)	A) Hypothecation of Stocks / receivables. B) All the part and parcel of the property consisting of Land & Building at Mouza: Dura, Tahasil: Berhampur, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha. Directors: 1) Mr. Amarewar Mishra, 2) Mr. Nrusingha Prasad Mishra, 3) Mr. Ajaya Kumar Mishra / Guarantors: 1) Mrs. Pramila Mishra, 2) Mr. Nrusingha Prasad Mishra, 3) Mr. Amarewar Mishra, 4) Mrs. Sudeshna Rani Mishra, 5) Mr. Ajaya Kumar Mishra, All are At: Kalinga Nagar, Behind Telephone Exchange, Dura, P.O.: Berhampur-760010, Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha / A/c. No.: 32385076892 (CC)	29.09.2020	28.10.2019	₹1,04,54,262/- as on 28.09.2020 with further interest and incidental expenses, costs, charges etc.

The steps are being taken to substituted service of notice. The above Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of the demand notice under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) are also put on notice that in terms of sub-section 13 of section13, they shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets mentioned in this notice without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings, as it deems necessary under any other applicable provisions of Law. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 13.11.2020, Place: Bhubaneswar

Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

This is faithfulness, to admit and to manifest no other movements but only the movements prompted and guided by the Divine.



THE MOTHER

MHA seeking babus for J&K, Ladakh

More than a year after the change in the status of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, there is an acute shortage of IAS, IPS and other all-India service officers in the Union Territories. The situation is dire enough for the Ministry of Home Affairs to write to all cadre-controlling authorities to prepare a list of IAS, IPS and other officers who can be immediately sent on deputation to J&K and Ladakh.

And the ministry is trying to cast its net far and wide. According to sources, a missive from the MHA has been sent to the Railway Board chairman, Comptroller General of Accounts, Comptroller Auditor General of India, secretaries of the ministries of Defence, External Affairs, Corporate Affairs and I&B, chairpersons of the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, and the departments of commerce, telecom and posts!

As of now, sources say, two officers have shown willingness to serve in J&K on deputation. Both are Kashmiri-born officers, one an IAS officer from Assam-Meghalaya cadre and the other is an IRS officer. Not very encouraging, it seems.

After all, J&K has stipulated cadre strength of 137 IAS officers, out of whom only 58 are serving in the cadre, including nine who are on Central deputation. Similarly, the cadre strength of IPS officers is 147, but only 66 are currently serving in the cadre.

CIC PUTS A LID ON INFORMATION

Among the first things the Central Information Commission (CIC) has done after the appointment of Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha as Chief Information Commissioner is to allow the Central Secretariat to withhold records of the resignation of former Home Secretary Anil Goswami. Sinha, a former IFS officer and High Commissioner to the UK, was sworn in by President Ram Nath Kovind at Bimal Julka retired from the post in August.



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

The panel has reportedly based its judgment on a Delhi High Court order, according to which, file notings and deliberations of the Group of Officers or the authority cannot be disclosed. The CIC's order came in response to an RTI application filed by IPS officer Anurag Thakur who had sought to know from the Cabinet Secretariat the details of action taken on a complaint against Goswami, including communication exchanged between various authorities and file notings. Not getting a satisfactory response, Thakur appealed before the CIC. Goswami was forced to resign in February 2015 for allegedly trying to stall the arrest of a former Union minister in a case by the CBI.

MANIPUR INTRODUCES GOOD GOVERNANCE AWARD

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has introduced an award for good governance as an incentive for babus to do innovative and extraordinary work at the grassroots level. The initiative will reward government officials whose performance is of "a very high order" and whose work has benefitted a large number of citizens and stakeholders.

Sources say that the award will be presented every year to an individual officer or a team including administrative secretaries, deputy commissioners, and heads of departments and to any other official or department. A panel comprising of the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary Rajesh Kumar and other senior officials will select the winners who stand to win a cash prize of ₹1 lakh (individual category) and ₹2 lakh (group category). To become eligible, officials will have to successfully complete a challenging task or project that result in significant benefits to the public or in the reduction of time and costs, including implementation of Central or state government schemes.

The awards will be presented on Statehood Day, Republic Day or Independence Day every year.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian).
Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- “Magic is believing in yourself. If you can make that happen, you can make anything happen.” **JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE**
- “If something is important enough, even if the odds are stacked against you, you should still do it.” **ELON MUSK**
- “Don't be afraid to give up the good to go for the great.” **JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER**

WORDSWORTH

Beghilos

Grab the nearest digital calculator. Enter the number 50714938. Now look at the display upside down. With a little imagination, you may see the word beghilos. (The calculator, of course, has to have a standard seven-segment display.) Calculators vary slightly in the way they display numbers — some leave out the bottom bar on the 9, which turns the word into bebhilos. However, beghilos has become a rather rare slangy term for what is more formally known as calculator spelling. Nobody knows where it comes from or how old it is, though I've found an example in a Usenet posting dated 1994. Kids have been playing with the word-creating possibilities of calculators since they started to appear in the 1970s. It didn't take long to discover that 0.7734 upside down made hELLO. One of the earliest attested examples from this period is 5318008, which when turned over spells boobies. If your display is big enough, you can enter 53177187714, which makes hillbillies; mine has only ten digits so I get illbillies (sick goats?) and the longest word I can make is 378193771 (appropriately, illegible). The trick is known from other countries; for example in German 38317 spells Liebe. Readers added more. Julie Egan: "A nice example in Dutch is showing off your mathematical or memory skills by knowing the answer to the following sum: 6 x 2182189. The answer 13093134 when read in beghilos reads as heleboel which in Dutch means 'lots, a whole lot, an awful lot.'" Claude Baudoin: "In France in the early 1970s, students with calculators would say, 'Do you know Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's phone number? I do!' Giscard was at the time the finance minister. When the other puzzled student said 'No, what is it?' the first student would type 3771350 on his calculator and show it to the other. Then he would turn the calculator upside down, reading OSEILLE. Oseille in French means sorrel."

LOL

BUYING A BULL

A blonde and a redhead have a ranch. They have just lost their bull. The women need to buy another, but only have \$500. The redhead tells the blonde, "I will go to the market and see if I can find one for under that amount. If I can, I will send you a telegram." She goes to the market and finds one for \$499. Having only one dollar left, she goes to the

telegraph office and finds out that it costs one dollar per word. She is stumped on how to tell the blonde to bring the truck and trailer. Finally, she tells the telegraph operator to send the word "comfortable." Skeptical, the operator asks, "How will she know to come with the trailer from just that word?" The redhead replies, "She's a blonde so she reads slow — 'Come for ta bull.'"

CHALLENGES TO GLOBALISATION

FOCUS POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

In a recent article, Prof Reinhart of Kennedy Business School writes, "The pandemic has put the final nail in the coffin of globalisation." She refers to the shutting down of borders, discouragement of export of food and even health products and countries trying for self-reliance in a big way. Macron, the French President talks of independence of France in technology and industry. Joe Biden, the internationalist during his election campaign has promised to create a \$400 billion fund to promote 'Buy America'. India has also unleashed a number of initiatives to promote domestic industry through the 'Atmanirbharat' programme. Quite clearly the spirit of free trade is giving way to protectionism and hype of nationalism.

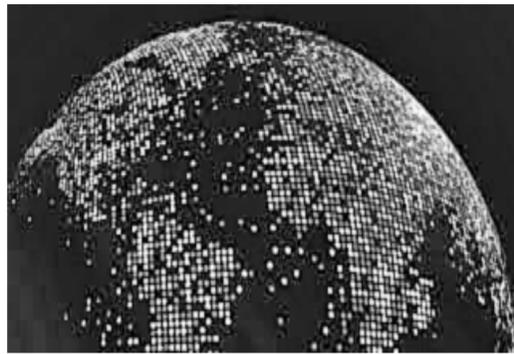


S N Misra

IN A RECENT ARTICLE, PROF REINHART OF KENNEDY BUSINESS SCHOOL WRITES, "THE PANDEMIC HAS PUT THE FINAL NAIL IN THE COFFIN OF GLOBALISATION" REFERRING TO THE SHUTTING DOWN OF BORDERS, SLOWING DOWN OF EXPORT OF FOOD AND EVEN HEALTH PRODUCTS

Lenin had wittily observed, "There are decades when nothing happens, and there are weeks when decades happen". We are going through such a time when history sped up. Fareed Zakaria, one of the ten global thinkers of the last decade, believes that such an epitaph of globalisation is unfounded. He brings out how export as percentage of global economy has gone up from 19% in 1990 to 30% in 2028. The FDI has gone up from \$240 billion in 1990 to \$2,700 billion in 2016. Most importantly the trade openness index (export and imports as percentage GDP) has gone up from 10% in 1945 to 55% in 2016 — thanks to global interconnectedness and massive growth of digital economy. He believes that deglobalisation goes against the spirit of comparative advantage theory of David Ricardo (1817), as per which country should specialize in commodities in which it has a comparative advantage. He gives the example of Levis Jeans which costs \$130. If it is produced in USA, it will cost around \$350. The trade war between the US and China has made globalisation a troubled terrain. Zakaria believes that there is so much of interconnectedness between the countries that sustained conflict would be wrenching, costly and hugely counterproductive for average citizens.

It would be interesting to foray into the history of globalisation and its chequered history. John Maynard Keynes referred to the period (1871-1914) as the golden age



It would be interesting to foray into the history of globalisation and its chequered history. John Maynard Keynes referred to the period (1871-1914) as the golden age of globalisation when countries based on gold standard and fixed exchange rate, traded in a world where transportation was cheap and travel passport free

of globalisation when countries based on gold standard and fixed exchange rate, traded in a world where transportation was cheap and travel passport free. After the three decades of uncertainty (1914-44) when the two world wars, hyperinflation and great depression of the 1930s intervened, the major powers of the world brought in sanity to the financial system by constituting IMF for exchange rate stability and World Bank for providing medium term loan to war ravaged Europe. The constitution of GATT in 1948 and WTO in 1995 have made trading of goods and services and protection of IPR, the major agenda for developed economies. The rise of multinational corporations has been a logical culmination of this process. Milton Friedman observes that through globalisation 'it has been possible to produce a product anywhere using resource from anywhere to be sold everywhere'. This has put an end to geography and death of distance. Thomas Friedman also brought out how the process of globalisation has been facilitated by Internet and flattened the world in terms of access to knowledge and information. To quote him "every colour of human rainbow can now partici-

pate in the global chatroom".

While globalisation has certainly improved the inter-connectedness between countries in terms of transfer of knowledge, technology and management practices, Paul Krugman has brought out how MNCs try to exploit cheap labour and lax environment control in developing economies like China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh by setting up manufacturing bases in these countries.

However, a balanced view would show that globalisation has ushered in larger market, cheaper products, modern management technology, increase job opportunity, improved wages and greater interdependence. On the other hand it has increased the power of the MNCs to exploit lack of environmental laws, cheap labour, influence local policy and promote contagion effect.

In the Indian context, the economic liberalisation of 1990 changed the policy thrust of India from import substitution to one of export promotion. This has encouraged trade openness and helped to foster growth in GDP from the Hindu Rate of 3.5% to about 7% since 2000. Special Economic Zones have fostered exports and policy patronage to the

IT has made them the mascot of India's growth story. However, with the recent policy announcement for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' has put the clock back, by increasing tariff and reserving product for local manufacture. The experience of India (1950-1980) has clearly revealed that protection has helped largely in perpetuation of inefficiency of domestic industries, poor quality affecting the interest of consumers.

In a recently released book "The Ages of Globalization": the noted economist Jeffrey Sachs brings out how global change is due to interplay of geography, technology and institutions. He terms the age, post 2000 as the digital age where the countries have acquired outstanding capacity of digital technology, computers, internet, AI, mobile telephony and Industry and Industry 4.0, where robotics, IOT, machine language is completely changing the face of production. USA is no longer the single hegemony, and the world has become multi polar, with China trying to move up the AI ladder in a massive manner. The digital age has ensured that percentage of people who were below \$1.9 a day has dwindled from 35.9% to around 10%. In contrast, India's record in terms of reducing percentage of people below poverty line is from 49% in 1990 to around 23.7% in 2018. In contrast China has a more edifying record as it has brought down the percentage below extreme poverty to around 3.8%.

Zachary Karabell wrote: It's easy to hate, convenient to target and impossible to stop the sweep of globalisation. For globalization to succeed in India, the major challenge of India would be how to improve the quality of human resources like quality education, skilling and health care, so that aspirational young Indians are globally employable. Openness of the world must be the rule and gates the exception. In 2018 Yuval Harari argued that advances in AI are heralding the rise of digital dictatorship. The digital divide needs to be compressed significantly to harness the full benefit of globalisation.

The author teaches Economics & Constitutional law

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Celebrate Diwali with introspection



Harish Barthwal

OUR REVERENCE FOR LIGHT EMANATES FROM OUR PRIMEVAL INSTINCT TO WORSHIP FIRE, ONE OF THE CARDINAL ELEMENTS

Come the eighth month Kartik of the Hindu calendar, the no-moon day is excited with illumination of homes, government buildings, workplaces and industrial houses in northern and other parts of the country. A few days later, similar lighting is fervently observed by the Sikhs. To Hindus in particular, Diwali or Deepavali (meaning the array of traditional earthen diya or lamp) is a time for giving a facelift to their residential and commercial premises, new personal and home purchases including vehicles, land and property. A diya is believed to ward off evil powers, augur well for inmates by advent of fortune. Our reverence for light emanates from our primeval instinct to worship fire, one of the cardinal elements. Many business houses begin their new financial year with Diwali. The festival is associated with ushering in of joyousness, mirth and prosperity and special worship of Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth.

No ceremonial function of any faith — birth or anniversary celebrations, inauguration of meeting, conference and meeting of all

descriptions including the scientific ones, laying foundation of residential, office, commercial or other premises is deemed accomplished without lighting the holy lamp.

Igniting the candles is integral to observance of religious ceremonies of most faiths. The Hindu lights oil lamp at the sanctum before the idols of Lakshmi and Ganesh at the auspicious moment at dusk and seek blessings for prosperity and well-being of self and the family. Muslims hold that the light present on this planet and in Jannat (Heaven) is a manifestation of the omniscient Allah Himself. Among Christians, the sanctuary lamp "keeping a flame burning perpetually" is always placed before the tabernacle. Holy biblical texts are read out in candle light since "Christ is the Light that enlightens all". Believing light to be a divine presence, Christians ignite newly constructed churches with flambeau followed by lighting in prayer halls. At funeral, each visitor extinguishes his/her candle implying that one day each of us has to surrender to God. Candle is also an integral part of worship among followers of

Buddhism and Judaism. To Parsis, fire symbolises propriety, to Jews constellations of light mean unswerving faith. Lamp or candle lighting is not confined to religious or cultural festivities.

A small candle dispels all darkness. Lighting and propitiating the fire are also supposed to ward off supernatural obstacles and usher in positive vibes. For worldly activities to go on, one has to consciously stay spirited and proceed towards light. The guiding principle prescribed in Hindu scriptures, 'Tamo ma jyotirgamay' (i.e. lead me from darkness to enlightenment) exhorts one to continuously dispel ignorance not only within but also among others, and stay awakened to lead a meaningful and fulfilling life.

In the flamboyancy to show off one's riches, some people are tempted to indulge in lavish spending on lights and fireworks that is not in consonance with divine wishes. The divine plan envisages that none should be deprived of the bounties of nature. Monopolising the extraneous for one's own use is sinful. By implication, whatever one has in excess

of one's needs, it must be distributed among the less fortunate ones.

How do we propitiate and appease God, say Goddess Lakshmi? Not certainly by bowing before Her — that is not the real intent, but ritualistic. We pay true regards by carrying out what the powers above want and mean. This can be accomplished in two ways: not squandering money on ostentations and ego satisfaction. By spending profusely in pomp, one not only pampers one's ego, but also tends to humiliate those who cannot afford it. Both of these are sinful.

Each of us is gifted with a divine element that is our true self. And that warrants extending love and whatever we have not only for our fellow beings but all living and non-living entities. The divine flame within each of us is indomitable, as Maya Angelou said: Nothing can dim the light that shines from within. We cannot seek enlightenment in the outside world through ostentation but by searching within. It is that inner light that has to be kept aflame.

The writer is a senior journalist

Congress in crisis

Sir, The lacklustre performance of the Congress in the Bihar Assembly election and the by-elections in different parts of India has exacerbated the crises that the party faces. The party had banked on different factors in different states to fare well in the elections. Lack of strong leadership in the party at different levels, organisational weaknesses, new political developments and reluctance of voters to place unconditional trust on the party contributed to its disappointing performance. In Bihar, the Congress failed to cash in on the anti-incumbency factor against the ruling NDA. It managed to win only 1 seat out of the 70 it contested. Contrary to the expectations of the party that electorate in MP would give a fitting reply to the BJP for toppling the Congress government, the latter cast their votes against the Congress. The party fared worse than that in UP. The inability of the Congress to make a comeback in the UP elections despite rise in number of crimes against women and human rights violations, points to the party's pathetic state. In Karnataka too, voters cast their votes in favour of the BJP disregarding the unethical toppling of the Congress government by the BJP. The high vote share difference between the BJP and the Congress in Gujarat is indicative of the fact that the party has alienated itself from people and the issues that affect them. Unless and till the party leadership realises the frailties that have affected the party and takes corrective measures, it will adversely affect the party's future prospects. Decline of the Congress is detrimental to democracy.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

Livelihood programmes needed

Sir, 'Give us jobs' is a louder outcry now as rhetoric like 'atmanirbhar' does not look catching up to the expectations of the youths. Even the Odisha government's economic package to provide jobs and income generating opportunities to the migrant workers and poor farmers does not seem to be working well. Undoubtedly the state has been hard hit by the return of lakhs of migrant labourers, many of whom are reluctant to leave the villages again. They are not willing to go back to the cities where they had worked earlier and, at the same time, they are worried about their uncertain future - uncertain about their income, health and social life. Joblessness is making them restless. Therefore, the Odisha government needs to implement its special livelihood programme announced effectively to provide jobs to jobless and funds to small enterprises.

Gourang Charan Parida, PURI

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



Delhi sees its highest Covid deaths, hospitals swamped

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 13: Delhi's COVID-19 deaths rose by a record high Thursday and it also reported the most number of infections in India, an increase attributed to the city's toxic air and a lack of physical distancing in public places around Diwali.

While daily case additions have come down significantly in the country as a whole since a mid-September peak, the capital city of 20 million people is going through its worst phase in the pandemic.

Delhi late Thursday reported 104 new deaths and 7,053 new infections. Data from the Union health ministry Friday showed that infections in the country rose by 44,789 in the past 24 hours, taking the total to 8.73 million, only behind the U.S. tally. India's deaths increased by 547 to 128,668. At a river-side crematorium in east Delhi located near a hospital, relatives of people who had succumbed to the disease waited as bodies burned on funeral pyres placed side by side.

Rajesh, a 38-year-old ambulance driver in a blue hazmat suit, said



There's a sudden increase in deaths. May be this is because of pollution, crowding

RAJESH I
AMBULANCE DRIVER

he and others had already ferried six bodies to the crematorium Friday, after carrying 14 Thursday. They had transported only three to four bodies last week.

"There's a sudden increase in deaths," said Rakesh, who gave only his first name. "May be this is because of pollution, crowding."

Many Delhi hospitals have already run out of intensive care beds and even normal COVID-19 beds are getting occupied fast.

The Delhi High Court Thursday ordered 33 of the city's private hospitals to reserve 80 per cent of their critical-care beds for coronavirus patients. The Union government

has asked Delhi to prepare resources to handle cases of up to 15,000 a day during the winter season, when pollution peaks in the city and respiratory issues jump.

The air is only likely to worsen on the weekend due to thousands of firecrackers ignited during Diwali. Its residents have already swarmed markets to buy gifts for family and friends.

Doctors say PM2.5 pollutants, fine particles found in high concentration in Delhi's air, can break the nasal passage barrier, weaken the inner lining of lungs and facilitate the spread of coronavirus infection.

FROTHING BACK IN YAMUNA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: Visuals of toxic froth floating on the surface of the Yamuna river near Kalindi Kunj in Delhi made their way back to social media over the past few days, with experts citing detergents as one of the major reasons behind the pollution.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has sealed two polluting units and ordered closure of 15 others which may have caused frothing in the Yamuna. The polluting units which were sealed included an automobile service station-cum-showroom in Patparganj industrial area and a jeans dyeing and washing unit in Lawrence Road industrial area which were found operating without effluent treatment plants.

Twenty-one units were inspected in Khayala redevelopment area. Closure directions were issued to 15 of them for operating without ETPs, the DPCC said.

A show-cause notice was issued to an automobile service and repair unit in Patparganj industrial area after ETP overflow was observed.

Majority of the detergents in the country don't have a certification by International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), which has capped the concentration of phosphates in the



WATER POLLUTION

Majority of the detergents in the country don't have a certification by International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), which has capped the concentration of phosphates in the chemical substance, an official of the Central Pollution Control Board

The primary reason behind the formation of the toxic foam was high phosphate content in the wastewater because of detergents used in dyeing industries, dhobi ghats and households

The wastewater containing high phosphate content reaches the river through untapped drains

(CPCB) said. The primary reason behind the

formation of the toxic foam was high phosphate content in the wastewater because of detergents used in dyeing industries, dhobi ghats and households, according to the official.

"A large number of unbranded detergents are also used in households and dyeing industries. The wastewater containing high phosphate content reaches the river through untapped drains," he said.

Pollution biggest reason behind nCoV spike: CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Friday said the COVID-19 situation in the national capital should come under control in seven to 10 days and that his government is taking several steps in this regard. Kejriwal also said that pollution is the "biggest" reason behind the spike in coronavirus cases in the city. "COVID-19 cases have been increasing for the last few days.

I am also concerned about it. We have been taking all appropriate measures to control it. We are considering taking more steps next week. I think the situation should come under control in 7 to 10 days and the cases should start decreasing," he said during a press conference. "Pollution is biggest reason behind the spike in COVID-

19 cases in Delhi. We had situation under control until October 20," the CM said. Citing a report, Kejriwal also said that the anti-stubble solution prepared by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, decomposed 70 to 95 per cent of crop residue in 24 villages in Delhi.

The Delhi government will submit the report along with a petition to Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region (NCR) and adjoining areas, and urge it to issue directions to all state government to implement it.



Maha politics: Fresh brawl erupts between MVA, BJP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 13: A fresh war of words have erupted between the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party with both sides threatening each other to 'take action', here Friday.

The latest round of verbal firings came in the wake of BJP state vice-president Kirit Somaiya's demands to probe around 30 alleged land deals between Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's family and certain other Shiv Sena leaders and the late architect Anvay M. Naik.

Momentarily losing his cool, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut virtually warned Somaiya to order investigations by any of the agencies it controls like ED and CBI, "or even go to the US' CIA, FBI, or Russian KGB, as well as the United Nations, before making such baseless allegations."

Terming the BJP leader's charges as 'frivolous', Raut said: "What is he talking about... Which 30 properties, show me even five. There was one transaction which was absolutely legal."

Referring to BJP as 'Shethji's party' with Somaiya as its 'Vyapari Pravakta', Raut said he talks as per the wishes of his bosses sitting in Delhi.

On the demands for probe by Somaiya, a visibly irritated Raut shot back: "Why only the ED... let there



The latest brawl flared up after Somaiya raked up the issue of certain land transactions between the late Anvay M. Naik and CM Uddhav Thackeray's wife Rashmi Thackeray, and Manisha Waikar, wife of senior Sena leader Ravindra Waikar

be a probe by CBI also... And why stop with ED and CBI only. Let them go to Interpol, CIA, FBI, KGB or

the United Nations." He said dismissively that this was the reason the BJP was "made to sit home for five years" by the people of Maharashtra.

"Rest assured, the MVA government will continue for five years. We will even ensure that BJP sits at home for 25 years," Raut vowed, daring the BJP to prove its allegations.

Reacting, Somaiya said: "If Thackeray has the courage, let him clarify the matter for the people of Maharashtra," and dared Raut to file a case against him and prove him wrong.

Congress state Spokesperson Sachin Sawant slammed Somaiya, accusing him of diverting the issue of Naik and his mother's double-suicide case through his statements. "What is the connection between

Naik's suicide and his land dealings? Somaiya is not at all concerned about justice to the Naik family.. How the Devendra Fadnavis government suppressed the probe because the accused is linked with BJP. BJP is anti-Maharashtra, it's clear now," Sawant said sharply.

The Congress leader added that a BJP MP Rajiv Chandrashekar is a partner in Republic TV and hence its Managing Director and Chief Editor Arnab Goswami is 'directly connected with BJP'.

The latest brawl flared up after Somaiya raked up the issue of certain land transactions between the late Naik and Thackeray's wife Rashmi Thackeray, and Manisha Waikar, the wife of senior Sena leader Ravindra Waikar, in 2014.

Later, Somaiya alleged that there are 30 land deals between the

If Thackeray (Uddhav) has the courage, let him clarify the matter for the people of Maharashtra

KIRIT SOMAIYA

Why only the ED... let there be a probe by CBI also... And why stop with ED and CBI only. Let them go to Interpol, CIA, FBI, KGB or the United Nations.

SANJAY RAUT

Thackerays and Naik though he did not specify if there were any irregularities in the deals.

The matter is politically sensitive as Naik's widow Akshata and daughter Adnya have petitioned the Bombay High Court seeking a reopening of the probe into the suicide case of Anvay Naik and his mother Kumud Naik May 5, 2018, in which one of the accused named in a suicide note is Goswami.

Raut reiterated that the MVA will ensure "justice to the family of a Marathi manoo and his mother" in the case.

"They (BJP) don't want a Marathi manoo secure justice but go to meet the accused in jail and try to shield a criminal," Raut said.

Groundwater levels go up in Maharashtra's drought-prone region



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aurangabad, Nov 13: Though farmers in Marathwada are facing crop losses due to excess rainfall this year, the above average downpour had one positive fallout - rise in groundwater levels in the drought-prone central Maharashtra region.

The region, where excess rainfall has replenished groundwater levels, consists of eight districts.

Aurangabad district has seen the highest increase of 5.13 metres in groundwater level compared to the last five years, an official said Friday.

According to a report of the Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Agriculture University based in Parbhani, the region normally receives average rainfall of 722.5 mm during the monsoon (from June 1 to September 30).

This year, the region has received 844.7 mm rainfall, which is 16.9 per cent more than the average, it said. Six of the eight districts in the region received excess rainfall this year.

Aurangabad, which gets 623.5 mm rainfall on an average, received 951.3 mm rainfall, which is 52 per

cent higher than average. The water table in the district has gone up by 5.13 metres - the highest in the region. A survey, covering 141 wells, was undertaken to check the change in groundwater level in Aurangabad, the official said.

The Groundwater Surveys and Development Agency (GSDA) of Aurangabad examined 875 wells across eight districts of Marathwada.

According to a report of the agency, besides Aurangabad, the increase in groundwater levels in other districts was as follows: Osmanabad 2.88 metres, Beed 2.16 metres, Jalna 2.06 metres, Parbhani 1.89 metres, Hingoli 1.40 metres, Nanded 1.79 metres and Latur 0.92 metres. "The key reason for the rise in underground water levels is excess rainfall. We measure underground water levels four to five times a year. The current exercise was undertaken after rainfall in the period between June 1 and September 30, 2020," GSDA Deputy Director Dr Megha Deshmukh told PTI. "We have 875 wells to calculate water levels across the region," Deshmukh added.

Red light? Then turn engine off, Delhi's motorists urged

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 13: Choking back exhaust fumes, 22-year-old Rihana Saif stands at a traffic signal in India's capital New Delhi, holding a sign mounted on a bamboo stick imploring motorists to turn their engines off.

The city has been facing one of its worst spells of air pollution in years, caused by a combination of traffic, factories, construction dust and the widespread burning of agricultural waste in neighbouring states.

Doctors and environmentalists also say the smog is exacerbating the health effects of a third wave of coronavirus infections.

"Sometimes it feels like my eyes are burning, standing in the pollution for so long," Saif said, barely audible over the roar of traffic.

Saif is one of more than two thousand people in the city's Civil Defence force, which supports the capital's frontline emergency services, deployed to the "red light on, vehicle off" scheme.

Paid a monthly salary of around \$300, they have also been deployed in coronavirus quarantine zones in recent months.

Introduced in October, the Delhi



Sometimes it feels like my eyes are burning, standing in the pollution for so long

RIHANA SAIF

government this week extended the initiative to the end of the month, with Saturday's Diwali festival likely to lead to a further surge in pollution.

Residents are expected to set off huge amounts of firecrackers, despite a ban on their sale in the region surrounding the capital.

Authorities have also experimented with "smog guns" that mist the air, in an attempt to tamp down clouds of toxic dust.

But pollution in some areas of the capital is still more than eight times the World Health Organization's permitted limit.

The Delhi government has said the traffic campaign is to raise awareness about pollution, and turning off engines is voluntary.

Many motorists leave their engines idling, shaking their heads in disbelief when asked if they think the scheme will help.

"It's a waste of public money," said 62-year-old N.S. Rathur, a thin rag covering his mouth as he waited on his motorcycle. "There's no difference at all."

Shiv Sena hits back at Amruta Fadnavis over 'Shav' remark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 13: The Shiv Sena Friday hit out at Amruta Fadnavis, wife of BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis, over her critical remarks against the party and said she should realise that every alphabet was important.

Thursday, Amruta Fadnavis took a jibe at the Uddhav Thackeray-led party over its poor performance in the just held Bihar assembly elections and called it "Shav (corpse) Sena".

Hitting back, the Sena, which heads the MVA government in Maharashtra, told her to realise the importance of alphabets in her own name.

"Don't let the alphabet 'A' in your name go into 'mruta' state (dead in Marathi). Realise the importance of 'A' in your name Amruta. Don't bring bad thoughts in your mind during the auspicious occasion of Diwali," Shiv Sena spokesperson Neelam Gorhe, who is also deputy chairperson in the Legislative Council, said in a statement here.

Gorhesaid, "You will not benefit by calling the Shiv Sena names."

"What is going on exactly? The Shiv Sena did kill its own colleague (Congress) in Bihar. No matter where they are taking Maharashtra, but thanks for putting Bihar at right place," Amruta Fadnavis, a banker, had tweeted.



Devendra Fadnavis, a former chief minister of Maharashtra, was the BJP's election in-charge in Bihar, where his party put up a stellar show.

The Sena had contested certain assembly seats in Bihar, but failed to open its account and most of its candidates lost their security deposit (getting votes less than EC-mandated threshold).

The Congress, which fought in alliance with the RJD, won only 19 of the 70 seats it contested in Bihar with many observers blaming its poor show for the opposition bloc's electoral loss.

The Sena and the Congress are part of the ruling coalition in Maharashtra.

of the day quote

I extend my warm greetings and good wishes to all my fellow citizens in India and abroad on the auspicious occasion of Diwali - the festival of lights



M. VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

Officials must ensure compliance of all necessary precautions during the festival season in view of COVID-19 pandemic



YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

Giving special status to Rajasthan under the National AYUSH Mission would help the state to take forward the mission of deemed university status to the National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur as it has the largest AYUSH basic infrastructure in the country



ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

SHORT TAKES

17 birds seized

Kolkata: Seventeen exotic birds have been seized by Border Security Force near Rangipota outpost and a Bangladeshi has been nabbed in this connection, a statement issued by the border guards said Friday. On hearing a commotion, a patrolling BSF team went to the spot near the outpost in Nadia district Thursday night and apprehended the man. The 17 birds, kept in three cages, were handed over to the forest department. The birds were from three rare species. There were two Toucans, five Aracari Toucans and the rest belonged to Poicephalus cryptoxanthus species, the statement said.

4 beaten to death

Asansol: Four people were allegedly beaten to death by a man at a liquor shop in West Bengal's Paschim Burdwan district, following which the police nabbed the accused, who is suspected to be mentally unstable, a senior officer said Friday. Three of the victims were sleeping inside the liquor shop in Shibpur area of Asansol, when the accused apparently attacked them with a stick in the dead of the night, beating them black and blue, he said.

Couple found dead

Chandigarh: A man, his wife and their one-and-half-year-old daughter were found dead at their rented house in Tohana town in Haryana's Fatehabad district, with police suspecting that he killed them before ending his life. The incident came to light Wednesday night, Station House Officer (SHO) of Police Station (City), Tohana, Inspector Surendra said Friday.

Racket busted

Chennai: Chennai Air Customs Friday said that they have busted a gold smuggling racket involving an airport housekeeping contract staff. In a statement issued, the Commissioner of Customs, Chennai International Airport said officials of air intelligence unit noticed a janitor going inside the toilet. When followed, the janitor Gnanasekar, employed by Service Master Clean Ltd (SMCL) was caught taking out two bundles from a waste bucket. "On cut opening the bundles three gold paste packets weighing 2 kg were recovered. On extraction 1.81 kg of gold valued at Rs 93.2 lakh was recovered and seized under Customs Act," the statement said.



The Mamata Banerjee-led party is distributing money in the Hills and the Dooras area to increase its influence and support base in the region

DILIP GHOSH | BJP LEADER

GOLDEN TEMPLE TO SEE SYMBOLIC FIREWORKS

The Golden Temple will be lighted up in festive spirit but fireworks would be symbolic to mark Diwali, officials said Friday



DECKS CLEARED FOR NEW GOVT IN BIHAR

The Governor accepted the resignation and asked Nitish Kumar to continue as the caretaker Chief Minister till the new NDA government is sworn in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Nov 13: Decks were cleared Friday for the formation of a new government in Bihar with Nitish Kumar, who is set to return as the Chief Minister, handing over to Governor Phagu Chauhan the resignation of his ministry and the recommendation to dissolve the state assembly, officials said.

The Governor accepted the resignation and asked Nitish Kumar to continue as the caretaker Chief Minister till the new NDA government is sworn in.

Earlier, leaders all the four constituents of the NDA, Kumar's JD(U), BJP, HAM and Vikasheel Insaan Party had met informally at 1, Anney Marg, the Chief Minister's official residence, where it was decided that all the newly-elected NDA MLAs will meet Sunday and formally elect Nitish Kumar as their leader.

"The meeting will start at 12:30 pm Sunday, November 15 where all further decisions will be taken," Kumar had said later. At the cabinet meeting, which lasted barely 10 minutes, the Chief Minister



thanked all his cabinet colleagues for their cooperation, said Rana Randhir, a BJP leader who held the cooperatives portfolio in the dissolved cabinet and has returned as the MLA from Madhubani.

Despite the BJP emerging as the largest party in the ruling alliance with 74 seats, 31 more than the JD(U), the top leadership of the saffron party, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has em-

phatically endorsed Kumar as the next Chief Minister.

He was declared the ruling coalition's chief ministerial candidate much before the election process had started. Informed sources also said issues discussed at the informal meeting of NDA leaders included the representation of each constituent in the new cabinet and election of the assembly Speaker. Speculation is rife that the BJP

might push for an EBC or a Dalit as a Deputy CM though it was not clear whether the insistence was on replacing veteran leader Sushil Kumar Modi, who has been holding the post for the most part since 2005, or replicating the experiment in adjoining Uttar Pradesh where two leaders share the post.

One of the names doing the rounds for the Deputy CM's post is that of Kameshwar Chaupal, a Dalit with deep roots in the Sangh who was famously chosen for laying the foundation stone at the Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya in the 1990s.

Supporters of Chaupal, a member of the legislative council, lent credence to speculations as they were noticed chanting slogans to the effect on the streets of the city. Meanwhile, the NDA which has three more MLAs than the magic figure of 122, received a shot in the arm when Independent legislator from Chakai Sumit Singh met the Chief Minister and extended support. Singh is the son of Narendra Singh, a former state minister and powerful Rajput leader from Jamui district.

'Sputnik V' ready for human clinical trial

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 13: The Russian 'Sputnik V' vaccine for Covid-19 has arrived in India following the nod to Pharma major Dr Reddy's Laboratories to conduct an adaptive phase 2/3 human clinical trial for the vaccine in the country.

In a video that surfaced on media, containers with logos of Dr Reddy's and Sputnik V being unloaded from a small truck was seen. Wednesday, Russia's National Research Centre for Epidemiology and Microbiology and the Russian Direct Investment Fund announced that the Sputnik V vaccine demonstrated high efficacy - 92 per cent.

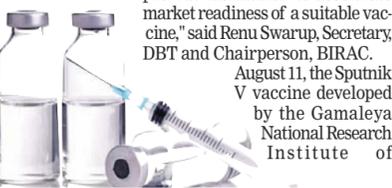
September 4, The Lancet, one of world's leading medical journals, published a research paper on the results of Phase I and Phase II clinical trials of the vaccine that showed no serious adverse events and effective immune response of those vaccinated.

Requests for more than 1.2 billion

doses of Sputnik V vaccine came from over 50 countries. The vaccine supplies for the global market will be produced by RDIF's international partners in India, Brazil, China, South Korea and other countries. Earlier this October, Dr Reddy's and Russia Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) received approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to conduct an adaptive phase 2/3 human clinical trial for the Sputnik V vaccine in India.

"The government is committed to fast-track clinical development of COVID vaccine candidates and provide facilitation to accelerate market readiness of a suitable vaccine," said Renu Swarup, Secretary, DBT and Chairperson, BIRAC.

August 11, the Sputnik V vaccine developed by the Gamaleya National Research Institute of



Epidemiology and Microbiology was registered by the Ministry of Health of Russia and became the world's first registered vaccine against Covid-19 based on the human adenoviral vector platform.

HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

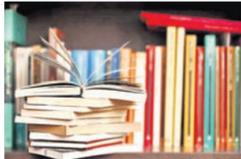
Tramcar library set to roll on Children's Day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 13: The wheels of a young readers' tramcar library, perhaps the world's first of its kind, is set to start rolling on Children's Day on Saturday here, giving free access to all children to read and learn on the move, an official said.

The West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC), which runs the country's only functional tramways, has teamed up with Apeejay Anand Children's Library to give the city's boys and girls the "Kolkata Young Readers' Tramcar", the official said Friday.

"The idea behind the Kolkata Young Readers' Tramcar is that all children should get access to read good books and what better than the Kolkata trams," WBTC managing director Rajanvir Singh Kapur said. Participating in the initiative, the Oxford Bookstores has curated a unique selection of titles and literature for various



young reading age groups for the tramcar library, its director Maina Bhagat said.

The tram would run on Shyambazar-Esplanade and Esplanade-Gariahat routes spanning north and south Kolkata and children up to 18 years would get a free ride on it, Kapur said. He said that people aged more than 18 years can also use the facility for normal AC tram fares.

Year-long activities for children onboard the tramcar, such as story-telling, dramatised readings, poetry sessions and book launches will be organised to captivate young minds, Bhagat said.

JKPCC joins Gupkar alliance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 13: The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Friday joined the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), an amalgam of several parties in the Union Territory seeking restoration of the erstwhile state's special status.

Two Congress leaders participated in a meeting of the alliance at PDP president Mehbooba Mufti's 'Fairview' residence at Gupkar here. Mufti is also the vice chairman of the alliance, led by National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah.

"We stand by the alliance," Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Monga said outside Mufti's residence. Asked whether there were any differences between the alliance partners, Monga said, "There is no disagreement and a healthy discussion took place."

After the meeting at Mufti's res-



idence, the PAGD leaders will meet again at NC headquarters Nawa-i-Subah later in the day. NC provincial president, Kashmir, Nasir Aslam Wani, said the Congress has assured it will be part of the alliance and part of the seat-sharing arrangement for the DDC elections.

"The Congress has joined the alliance. Their leader has spoken to (Farooq) Abdullah. Two senior leaders joined the meeting also. They have assured that they will be part of the alliance and part of the DDC elections (seat-sharing arrange-

ment) also," Wani said. He said the alliance "will try to complete the seat-sharing list today only".

The meeting was called to discuss the DDC elections and to finalise the list of candidates to contest in the rest of the eight-phased polls. "We discussed the DDC elections and are finalising the candidates. The meeting will reconvene at Nawa-i-Subah. This is not only about (seat) sharing or numbers, but a question of giving a message," NC leader and Member of Parliament from south Kashmir's Anantnag, Justice (ret'd) Hasnain Masoodi said.

Punjab rail blockade: Deadlock continues

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 13: A meeting between farmers' unions and the government to resolve the ongoing rail traffic disruption and blockade in Punjab ended inconclusively Friday, with both sides sticking to their ground.

According to sources, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Railway Minister Piyush Goyal held the meeting with representatives of various farmers' unions at Vigyan Bhawan here.

During the seven-hour-long crucial meeting, both sides heard each other's stand and tried to bring common ground for restoring rail services in Punjab, which is currently facing a blockade.

"The meeting remained inconclusive and the ministers after hearing our side said they would again meet shortly to resolve the issue," Bhartiya Kisan Manch president Jathedar Boota Singh Shadipur said after the meeting.

He said the farmers' unions wanted services of goods trains to resume as Punjab was suffering due to the blockade. Train services to the state remain suspended due to the farmers' agitation over the new farm laws.

However, the Centre was keen to start both passenger and goods trains to Punjab and end the blockade. The farmers' unions would meet again November 18 in Chandigarh to chalk out further strategy on the issue. Sources said both sides were firm on their respective stands on the new farm laws. The ministers and the government officials tried to convince the farmer leaders why these laws were important and how beneficial they were for the farming sector, the sources pointed out.

However, the farmers stuck to their stand that these legislations must be repealed and replaced with another set of laws framed with wider consultation with all stakeholders. The farmers also demanded a guarantee on the MSP front.

Arunachal resettling 190 tribal families

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Itanagar, Nov 13: The Arunachal Pradesh government is resettling around 190 displaced Chakma tribal families elsewhere and to acquire some land from neighbouring Assam to develop a Greenfield airport at Hollongi for which the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken a Rs 650 crore project, officials said Friday.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu visited the under construction airport site at Hollongi, near Arunachal Pradesh's capital Itanagar, and asked the engineers of the Gujarat-based firm, which is executing the project, and the state government

departments - PWD, Power, Public Health Engineering - to complete the project by August 2022.

The Chief Minister, who was accompanied by state's Civil Aviation Minister Nakap Nalo, told the officials, "This important airport project, foundation of which was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is our top-most priority. Earlier the completion target was November 2022, which has been prepone to August 2022."

As the airport site lies along the Assam-Arunachal boundary and some land has to be acquired also from the Assam territory, Khandu would soon have a talk with Sarbananda Sonowal.

FESTIVE BLOOM



Workers prepare garlands at the Ghazipur wholesale flower market on the eve of Diwali, in New Delhi, Friday

STIFF CHALLENGE

AIMIM's entry may unsettle TMC's sway over minorities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 13: With Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM announcing that it would contest Bengal polls, having bagged five seats in neighbouring Bihar, political arithmetic, in all likelihood, is set to witness a major change as TMC's sway over minority votes seems to be up for a stiff challenge.

The Mamata Banerjee-led party, which had been the sole beneficiary of minority votes since the defeat of the Left Front in 2011, however, tried to put up a brave face, arguing that Owaisi's influence on Muslims is limited to Hindi- and Urdu-speaking communities that make for just

six per cent of Muslim electorate in the state. Muslims comprise 30 per cent of West Bengal's voters. The state has the highest number of Muslim electorate in the country after Kashmir.

A deciding factor in nearly 100-110 seats in the 294-member Assembly, minorities especially the Muslims, till 2019, have acted as a bulwark of the TMC against its rivals, with most of them voting in favour of the party, considering it to be a "credible" force that can resist saffron surge.

With the entry of the AIMIM, equations are likely to change, prominent Muslim leaders said. Buoyed by the results of Bihar polls,



Owaisi had announced that the AIMIM would contest elections in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and other states.

Talking about the Telangana-based party's detailed plan for

Mission West Bengal, its national spokesperson Asim Waqar said Wednesday that the outfit has already set up units in 22 out of the 23 districts of the state.

"We will fight assembly polls in Bengal. We are preparing our strategy. We have registered our presence in 22 out of the 23 districts of the state. We think, as a political party, we can make deep inroads into the state," Waqar said.

The AIMIM's plan to enter Bengal was frowned upon by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at an anti-NRC rally in north Bengal in November last year, when she, without taking a name, launched a frontal assault on the party by asking Muslims

to be wary of "minority extremists" from Hyderabad.

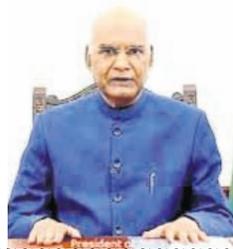
Owaisi - who is fast emerging as the leading Muslim voice in the country - was quick to hit back, stating that West Bengal's minorities have one of the worst human development indicators. According to the AIMIM, Owaisi has found Bengal to be a fertile ground for his expansion plans. The party has built a "good support base" in minority-dominated districts of Malda, Murshidabad, South Dinajpur, North Dinajpur, South 24 Parganas.

All five districts comprise more than sixty assembly seats. Incidentally, barring South 24

Parganas, the remaining four districts border Bihar, where the party won five seats, eating into the Muslim vote share of the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan.

According to AIMIM state leadership, the party first evinced interest in Bengal after the 2019 parliamentary polls. A rally was duly organised in Kolkata, which witnessed a huge attendance of Muslim youths.

"We sensed that Muslims are looking for an alternative and decided to build our base in the state. When we visited the districts, we received a favourable response. Now we have a strong base in several places," a state AIMIM leader said.



Diwali is also a festival of cleanliness, so let us honour Mother Nature by celebrating pollution-free, environment friendly and clean Diwali

RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT

MODERATE TO HEAVY SNOWFALL LIKELY IN J&K

Moderate to heavy snowfall is expected in Jammu and Kashmir in the next few days as per the local weather office



of the day quote

This Diwali, let us also light a Diya as a #Salute2Soldiers who fearlessly protect our nation. Words can't do justice to the sense of gratitude we have for our soldiers for their exemplary courage

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Trinamool has no political identity. If anyone is facing problem within Trinamool, the doors of Congress are open for him

ADHIR RAJAN CHOWDHURY | WBPCB PRESIDENT

With 70 per cent of cases concentrated in Mizoram capital Aizawl, the state is witnessing a rise in active cases

HARSH VARDHAN | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Scribe found dead in UP

Unnao (Uttar Pradesh): One more journalist in Uttar Pradesh has been found dead. His body was recovered from near a railway crossing in Unnao district. Identified as Suraj Pandey, the slain scribe's mother Laxmi Devi has accused a woman inspector Sunita Chaurasia, and constable Amar Singh among others for threatening her son and driving him to his death.

Truck overturns on tea stall

Jalpaiguri: A boulder-laden truck overturned on a tea stall in Moynaguri area of West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district around 8 am on Friday, reportedly burying several people who had gathered at the shop, police said. At least five to seven people might have been buried alive, when the ten-wheeler lost control and overturned, the sources said.

SCR zone diverts 5 trains

Secunderabad: The South Central Railway (SCR) zone has diverted five trains due to railway tracks doubling works. The diverted trains include Howrah - Secunderabad; Secunderabad - Howrah; Thiruvananthapuram - Secunderabad; Secunderabad - Thiruvananthapuram and Secunderabad - Guwahati.

Online lottery fraud busted

Noida (UP): A gang allegedly run by a Nigerian national that duped people on the pretext of an "international online lottery" has been busted and five of its Indian members arrested in Greater Noida Friday, police said.

WHO to set up traditional medicine centre in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: The World Health Organisation announced Friday that it will set up a Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India, with Prime Minister Narendra expressing confidence that just like the country has emerged as the 'pharmacy of the world', the WHO institution will become the centre for global wellness.

WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus made the announcement in a video message at an event in which Prime Minister Modi inaugurated two future-ready Ayurveda institutions in Jaipur and Jammagar via video conferencing on the occasion of the 5th Ayurveda Day.

The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jammagar (Gujarat) and the National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur (Rajasthan) are both premier institutions of Ayurveda in the country.

The Jammagar institute has been conferred the status of an Institution of National Importance



(INI) by an act of Parliament and the one at Jaipur has been designated an Institution Deemed to be University (De novo Category) by the University Grants Commission (UGC), according to the AYUSH ministry.

"I am pleased to announce that we have agreed to open a WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India to strengthen the evidence, research, training and awareness of traditional and complementary medicine," Ghebreyesus said.

"This new centre will support WHO's efforts to implement the WHO traditional medicine strategy 2014-2023 which aims to support countries in developing policies and action plans to strengthen the role of traditional medicine as part

of their journey to universal health coverage and a healthier, fairer and safer world," he said.

Modi said Ayurveda is India's heritage whose expansion entails the welfare of humanity and all Indians will be happy to see that the country's traditional knowledge is making other countries prosperous.

"It is a matter of pride for all Indians that the WHO has chosen India for establishing its Global Centre for Traditional Medicine. Now work will be done in this direction from India," Modi said.

"I would like to thank the WHO and particularly its Director General Tedros for giving this responsibility to India. I am confident that just like India has emerged as the pharmacy of the world, in the same manner this centre for traditional medicine will become the centre for global wellness," he said.

The Ministry of AYUSH, since 2016, has been observing 'Ayurveda Day' every year on the occasion of Dhanwantari Jayanti (Dhanteras).

Considering the prevailing situation of COVID-19, the 5th Ayurveda Day, 2020 is being observed largely on virtual platforms at national and international levels.

India, China close in on plan to end clash

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 13: Seeking to end a dangerous military standoff in the western Himalayas, India and China are formulating a plan that involves creating no-patrol zones, pulling back tanks and artillery, and using drones to verify the withdrawal, Indian officials say.

Tensions have run high since June, when at least 20 Indian soldiers were killed after being attacked by Chinese troops using rocks and clubs. Indian officials say the Chinese troops had intruded across the disputed border in a remote valley. China said the Indian soldiers' actions had been provocative.

Since then, the nuclear armed Asian neighbours have deployed tens of thousands of troops on the rugged frontier between India's Ladakh region and the Chinese-held Tibetan plateau, raising the risk of further confrontation even while looking for ways to de-escalate. After months of fitful progress, the two sides are discussing a staggered disengagement from the high-altitude desert where temperatures have dipped to 18 degrees below Celsius, three Indian government officials said.

"We have a firm plan for disengagement on the table, it is being internally discussed on both sides," said one of the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation. Under the plan that was shared during a meeting of top commanders last Friday, both sides will pull back from the contested Pangong Tso lake area and establish a buffer zone.



Chinese soldiers will dismantle defence structures on several hilly spurs overlooking the lake and pull back, the officials briefed on the discussions said. India, which has occupied heights on the lake's south bank, will also withdraw. Both sides will cease patrolling certain sections.

The 3,800-km long India-China border is undemarcated, and the two countries went to war in 1962. While there have been recurrent incidents since the years, troops from both sides have largely abided by a long-standing protocol to avoid firing weapons on the high altitude border, although some warning shots were fired in September.

Grand Deepotsav celebrations start in Ayodhya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ayodhya (UP), Nov 13: Deepotsav celebrations began Friday in the holy city of Ayodhya in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, a Diwali event which will also see the lighting of a record 5.51 lakh earthen lamps at dusk.

Soon after landing here, the Governor and the chief minister offered prayers to Lord Ram and later welcomed actors representing Lord Ram, Goddess Sita and Lakshman who descended on the Saryu bank in a 'pushpak viman' - a helicopter.

With a view to ensuring a global recognition and identity to Ayodhya, Adityanath has initiated a number of works in the temple town including Deepotsav being organised on the occasion of Diwali every year.

Since the formation of the Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh, many events have been organised, from Deepotsav to Ram Leela, which have earned a new identity to Ayodhya globally, a government spokesman said Friday.

Giving an account of the works in temple town, he said apart from setting up of Navya Ayodhya as the coordinated model of Vedic and modern city, the grandest and divine temple of Lord Ram, a statue of the Hindu deity, which would be the world's tallest, is set to leave an indelible impression on the people of the world. Some work is in progress and many are in the pipeline, the spokesman said.

SC allows firecrackers for two hrs in T'gana

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 13: In a relief for the Telangana Fireworks Dealers Association, the Supreme Court on Friday permitted the sale and bursting of firecrackers for two hours in Telangana. The top court said the directions of the National Green Tribunal should be complied to in letter and spirit.

The NGT, in its order November 9, said: "The cities/towns where air quality is 'moderate' or below, only green crackers be sold and the timings for use and bursting of crackers be restricted to two hours during festivals, like Diwali, Chatt, New Year/Christmas Eve etc., as may be specified by the concerned State."



A special vacation bench comprising Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Sanjiv Khanna modified the November 12, Telangana High Court order, which directed total ban on sale and bursting of firecrackers in the state.

The top court order came on an appeal filed by the Telangana Fireworks Dealers Association. "We are conscious of the fact that the respondent(s) are not represented today nor they have been served but in the peculiar situation and urgency involved, as aforesaid, the impugned order

stands modified to bring in line with the stated directions issued by the National Green Tribunal," said the bench.

The bench also issued notice to advocate P. Indra Prakash and others on whose plea the High Court passed the order. The bench will conduct further hearing on the matter on November 16.

The fireworks association was represented by senior advocate Salman Khurshid. After a hearing in the matter, the top court observed, "the order of the High Court stands modified and is brought in line with the directions issued by the National Green Tribunal by a comprehensive order of November 9, 2020."

The NGT in its order had imposed a total ban against sale or use of all kinds of fire crackers in the NCR from midnight of November, 09-10, to the midnight of November 30 - December 1, to be reviewed thereafter.

"Direction will also apply to all cities/towns in the country where the average of ambient air quality during November (as per available data of last year) fall under 'poor' and above category", added the tribunal. The top court prima facie agreed with fireworks association which challenged the validity of the High Court order, which was passed without hearing them. They contended that this order seriously affected their livelihood.

"For, no reason much less special reason is noted in the impugned order for departing therefrom. All concerned in the State of Telangana must comply with the stated directions of the NGT in its letter and spirit," said the top court.

MOCKERY OF SOCIAL DISTANCING



Passengers at a platform of Ballygunge Station after authorities resumed local train services with certain Covid-19 restrictions in Kolkata

Fresh woes for Arjun Rampal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 13: Hindi film industry actor Arjun Rampal's troubles mounted as the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) arrested his Australian friend Paul Bartel in a drug-related case investigation, official sources said here Friday.

Bartel was reportedly in regular contact with Agisialos Demetriades, an alleged drug peddler, arrested by NCB in October and the brother of Gabriella Demetriades, Rampal's live-in partner.



An architect living in Bandra, Bartel was questioned by NCB on Thursday and early Friday placed under arrest in the same case in which Hindi film industry actress Rhea Chakraborty and at least 20 others have been arrested in the past three months of NCB probe.

Since this afternoon, Rampal is being grilled by the NCB, his girlfriend Gabriella was questioned for more than 12 hours spread over Wednesday-Thursday, while Bartel was quizzed Thursday. Agisialos has been booked in another drug case after the probe revealed his connections with a Nigerian cocaine supplier, Omega Goodwin.

As curbs lift, nCoV gathers new steam worldwide

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 13: Seven of the 10 most affected countries currently have reported surge in cases in the past seven days with the US alone reporting over 1.4 lakh new cases a day.

The seven countries out of the 10 most affected currently where cases are rising include the US, Brazil, Italy, Poland, Spain, Russia and Germany, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

The three countries which have reported a downward trend are - India, France and the UK.

The rise in new cases in the US is particularly worrying as just in one week daily new cases shot up from about 1 lakh to about 1.45 lakh, breaking past records. There is now a clear upwards trend in new cases since the election day.

A total of 1,479 deaths from the



coronavirus were recorded nationwide in the US Wednesday, bringing the seven-day average death increase to 1,134, the highest since early August.

The death toll stands at more than 242,000, with the total case-load at 10.5 million in the country.

With 44,879 new coronavirus infections and 547 deaths in the past 24 hours, India's overall tally stood

at 87,28,795 Friday, as the death toll touched 1,28,688, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.

Currently, there are 4,84,547 active cases, whereas 81,15,580 patients have been cured and discharged so far.

The recovery rate stands at 92.97 per cent, and the fatality rate is 1.47 per cent, the Ministry said. Maharashtra continued to be the

In India, which has reported the highest number of Covid-19 cases so far after the US, the overall daily cases have gone down a bit, although this downward trend is not visible across all the states

worst-hit state with 1,736,329 cases till date. Delhi is grappling with a renewed surge as it confirmed the highest single-day fatalities on Thursday since the pandemic struck.

The city recorded as many as 104 deaths and 7,053 new infections. The other worst hits are Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.

France has also witnessed a slow-down in the number of new Covid-19 cases and a "fragile" downward trend of the viral circulation, official data revealed.

Since October 30, France has been placed in new nationwide confinement, effective until early December, which locked down 67 million inhabitants, who can go out only to work, buy essential items or for a health emergency.

All non-essential businesses such as restaurants, cafes, bars, cinemas and gyms are closed.

However, new case are rising in countries like Brazil, Italy, Poland, Spain, Russia and Germany.

Brazil currently accounts for the third highest number of Covid-19 cases in the world and the second highest fatalities. As of Friday, the country's case load and the death toll stood at 5,747,660 and 163,368.

The overall number of global coronavirus cases has topped 52.6 million, while the deaths have surged to 1,291,920, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

Green firecrackers to have QR coding system

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 13: Green firecrackers sold this Year would have a novel feature of quick response (QR) coding system to avoid manufacturing and sale of counterfeit products, the Karnataka government has said in its order.

The green firecrackers were introduced to check pollution during Deepavali. The other fireworks with harmful chemicals can affect the respiratory system and prove fatal if a person is infected by coronavirus.

According to the order, the green firecrackers packing can be identified through the distinct

green logo of CSIR- NEERI and PESO as well as a quick response (QR) coding system.

"The QR code is a novel feature incorporated on the firecrackers to avoid manufacture and sale of counterfeit products. The feature will assist in differentiating green firecrackers from the conventional ones," the order said.

The order of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change reads that green firecrackers do not contain harmful chemicals, thereby reducing air pollution due to firecrackers. Besides, these fireworks are less harmful than conventional firecrackers.



President Donald Trump's unsubstantiated claims of election fraud is one more step in delegitimising not just the incoming Biden administration, but democracy generally

'FLAGGED 3,00,000 POTENTIALLY MISLEADING US ELECTION TWEETS'

Twitter labeled 3,00,000 tweets related to the US presidential election as "potentially misleading" in the two weeks surrounding the vote, making up 0.2 percent of election-related posts, the company said



of the day quote

Something extremely bogus is going on. Was tested for covid four times today - two tests came back negative, two came back positive. Same machine, same test, same nurse. Rapid antigen test from BD

ELON MUSK | TELSIA INC CEO

Most years, we often think of this dispelling of darkness as a theoretical concept rather than something that is experienced and overcome. This year, Diwali's message has a special significance

SCOTT MORRISON | AUSTRALIA PRIME MINISTER

This is part of the SCO charter not to bring bilateral issues into the agenda (of the SCO) and we made it clear to all member states that it should be avoided for the sake of the progress of multilateral cooperation

ROMAN BABUSHKIN | RUSSIAN DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION

SHORT TAKES

7 US service members killed

Washington: The Pentagon has confirmed that seven US service members were killed in a helicopter crash in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. "We are saddened by the loss of six US and two partner nation service members in a helicopter crash in the Sinai Peninsula operating with the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO)," Xinhua news agency quoted Acting Secretary of Defence Christopher Miller as saying.

Typhoon leaves 39 dead

Manila: Thick mud and debris coated many villages around the Philippine capital Friday after a typhoon caused extensive flooding that sent people fleeing to their roofs and killed at least 39 people. Thousands of people have been rescued, though waters have mostly receded. The military was rescuing people in places where waters remained high. Amphibious assault vehicles usually used in counter-insurgency operations were deployed for the rescue work, military chief of staff General Gilbert Gapay said in an emergency meeting with disaster-response officials.

14 Burkina Faso soldiers killed

Ouagadougou: Fourteen soldiers were killed and others were injured in an extremist attack in Burkina Faso's Sahel region, the government said. A military convoy from the Tin-Akoff area, in Oudalan province was ambushed on Wednesday, government spokesman Remis Fulgence Dandjinou said. Three severely injured people were evacuated by plane to the capital, Ouagadougou and the military has been sent to the area to find the attackers, he said.

Suicide car bomb kills 2 in Kabul

Kabul: A suicide car bomb exploded at the western entry gate of the Afghan capital Friday killing at least two government security troops and wounding four others, an Afghan official said. Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Arian said the explosion targeted a government forces checkpoint near the gate. No one immediately claimed responsibility, though suspicion immediately fell on the Taliban.

US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

China finally congratulates Biden, Harris

CHINA INITIALLY HESITATED TO CONGRATULATE BIDEN, A DEMOCRAT, AFTER REPUBLICAN INCUMBENT PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP REFUSED TO CONCEDE

AGENCIES

Beijing, Nov 13: China Friday shed its initial hesitation and congratulated US President-elect Joe Biden and his deputy Kamala Harris for their victory in the 2020 US presidential election, saying Beijing respects the choice of the American people.

"We have been following reactions to the US elections from both within the US and the international community," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here when pointed out that more world leaders as well as United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres have congratulated 77-year-old Biden.

"We respect the American people's choice and we extend congratulations to Biden and Harris and we understand that the result of the US presidential elections will be determined following the US laws and procedures," Wang said.

China initially hesitated to congratulate Biden, a Democrat, after Republican incumbent President Donald Trump refused to concede.

On November 9, Wang had declined to congratulate Biden on his victory, saying the outcome of the



Biden cements victory

Washington: President-elect Joe Biden cemented his electoral victory by capturing the battleground state of Arizona late Thursday, but the transition to his administration remains in political stasis as President Donald Trump refuses to accept defeat. Biden was projected to win Arizona after more than a week of vote counting, Edison Research said. He becomes only the second Democratic presidential candidate in seven decades to win the traditionally Republican state. Biden's win in Arizona gives the Democrat 290 electoral votes in the state-by-state Electoral College that determines the winner, more than the 270 needed to claim victory. Biden is also winning the popular vote by more than 5.3 million votes, or 3.4 percentage points. With only a few states still counting votes, the electoral math is daunting for Trump, who has claimed without evidence that the election was marred by widespread fraud. In order to erase Biden's advantage, Trump, a Republican, would have to overtake the Democrat's lead in at least three of the competitive swing states.

American election should be determined by the country's laws and procedures.

He, however, was more forthcoming on the victory of Harris as the first woman Vice President-elect.

When reminded about Chinese President Xi Jinping's statement calling for greater gender equality in a recent UN conference on women and does China have any comment on Harris, Wang quoted a Chinese saying which states women hold

half of the sky. "In China, there is a saying that women hold half of the sky. China has been committed to realising gender equality and advancing women's development around the world," he said.

Trump's four years in power were the worst phase in China-US relations as the ruling Communist Party of China headed by President Xi struggled to deal with what China's officials say is the most elusive and unpredictable American

leader ever since the former US president Richard Nixon in 1972 established ties with the Communist nation.

During his tenure, Trump pushed aggressively on all aspects of US-China ties, including with his relentless trade war, challenging China's military hold on the disputed South China Sea, its constant threats to Taiwan and branding coronavirus as "China virus" after it emerged from Wuhan in December last year.

Suu Kyi's party returns to power in Myanmar

Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won enough seats in Parliament to return to power for a second five-year term

AGENCIES

Yangon, Nov 13: Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won enough seats in Parliament to return to power for a second five-year term, official results released by the election commission showed Friday.

The NLD won 346 seats in the combined lower and upper houses of the legislature, far above the 322 needed to secure a majority, the Union Election Commission announced on television and in social media, even many seats from Sunday's election have yet to be declared.

The military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party, the main opposition party, won 25 seats, and the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, representing the ethnic Shan minority, won 15 seats. The Shan, whose homeland is in eastern Myanmar, are the country's largest ethnic minority.

An unofficial count by Yway Mal, an independent vote counting service, gave the NLD 397 seats and the USDP 28, with 44 going to other parties.

Majority control of Parliament does not give the NLD full control of government. The army-drafted constitution of 2008 grants the mil-

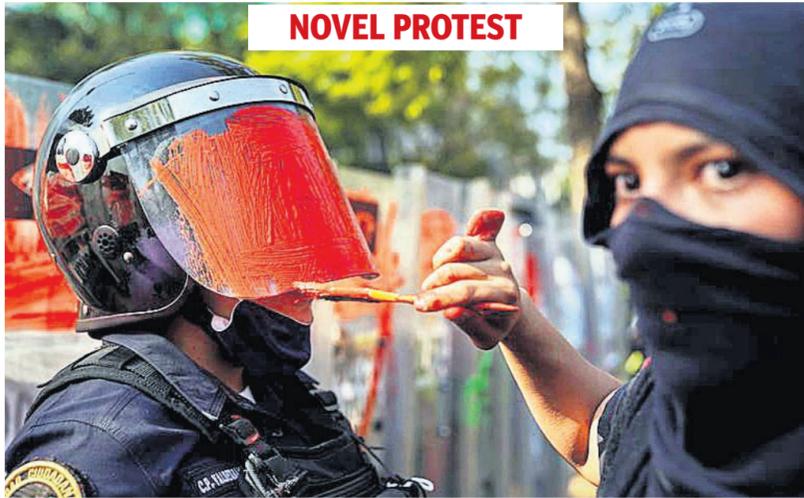
itary 25% of the total seats, enough to block constitutional changes. Several key ministerial positions are also reserved for military appointees. The USDP has called the election unfair and refused to accept the election results, but the election commission rejected its claim and its demand for a fresh vote.

Independent rights groups have criticised the disenfranchisement of the Muslim Rohingya ethnic minority and cancellation of the vote in certain areas.

The Union Election Commission cited the dangers of ongoing combat between government forces and ethnic minority guerrillas, but critics suggested certain areas were singled out for cancellation because they were certain to elect lawmakers from parties hostile to the current government.

One of the guerrilla groups, the Arakan Army, said Thursday it would extend a unilateral ceasefire to December 31 to allow by-elections to be held in areas of Rakhine province where voting had been cancelled.

It urged Myanmar's army and government to halt military actions and declare a ceasefire encompassing the whole country so voting could take place. The government has not done so.



NOVEL PROTEST

A member of a feminist collective paints the helmet of a riot police officer during a protest against gender and police violence in Mexico City

'Yorkshire Ripper' serial killer Peter Sutcliffe dies

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 13: The British serial killer known as the "Yorkshire Ripper", a man who instilled terror and fear across northern England in the 1970s, died Friday at a hospital there. He was 74.

Peter Sutcliffe, a former grave digger, was serving concurrent life sentences for killing 13 women in Yorkshire and northwest England between 1975 and 1980.

British media reported he had refused treatment after testing positive for COVID-19 and was suffering from a number of under-

lying health conditions. His death will be investigated by the coroner.

Sutcliffe's barbaric attacks on young women were compounded by the police incompetence that allowed him to evade arrest and continue killing. The manhunt for the Ripper was one of the biggest the country had ever known, with some 2.5 million hours spent trying to catch him. Documentaries have chronicled how stubborn UK investigators stuck to their theories, missing key leads, ignoring

contradictory evidence and wasting time in the hunt for the killer. Although he was interviewed nine times in the investigation, Sutcliffe was only caught after being found with a prostitute in his car.

He was arrested January 2, 1981, in the English city of Sheffield, and later confessed, although he denied it at his trial. He was convicted on May 22, 1981, at London's Central Criminal Court of 13 counts of murder and seven cases of attempted murder.



Is Trump mounting a coup - or just putting on a circus

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, Nov 13: Is President Donald Trump's unprecedented assault on the US election results a coup in progress - or mere political show?

In this golden age of conspiracy theories, few can agree.

Ostensibly, Trump is exercising his right to complain that the count showing Democrat Joe Biden with a solid if close win was wrong. "Rigged Election!" he tweeted in his latest broadside Thursday.

But the president is not making much sense.

Plenty of US elections have been as close as his November 3 loss - or closer - and no incumbent ever alleged that his victory was stolen or refused to concede. US elections just don't have those kinds of problems. More than a week after Election Day, not a single piece of

credible, significant evidence of fraud has been provided.

For some, Trump is finally showing his true authoritarian colours.

This is a president who openly admires the likes of President Vladimir Putin, the king of warping democratic institutions to award himself power. Now, the theory goes, he's following suit.

But what if Trump is more slipshod showman than Machiavellian mastermind?

If his team's embarrassing courtroom failures and a bizarre press conference by his fixer Rudy Giuliani at a Philadelphia gardening center called Four Seasons Total Landscaping are anything to go by, that may be the more logical answer.

The coup theory Still, when Trump

fired his relatively independent-minded defense secretary Mark Esper Monday, and then several other high-ranking officials, blood pressure lev-

els shot up among those already on edge.

"In the last 24 hours, the Secretary of Defense (SecDef), the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USD-P), and the Under Secretary

of Defense for Intell (OUSD-I) have been sacked.... Why?" tweeted Alexander Vindman, a retired army officer turned White House staffer who was fired after testifying against Trump during his 2019 impeachment. Alarm bells also went off when Trump's attorney general, Bill Barr, authorised federal prosecutors to join Trump's quest for election irregularities.

The Justice Department's chief election crimes official, Richard Pilger, resigned in protest. Barr is "permitting the department to be weaponized to try to overturn the results of this election," wrote former senior Pentagon lawyer Ryan Goodman and Andrew Weissmann, who was part of the special counsel's team investigating Trump's Russia links, in The Washington Post.

In the most extreme scenario, some warn of a coup within the

Electoral College. This is the mostly symbolic body comprised of representatives sent from each state to elect presidents on the basis of the popular vote.

What if Republican state legislatures managed to send hand-picked electors who would ignore the vote and choose Trump instead?

The doomsday scenario is being widely discussed in the media but appears far-fetched in real life.

"To begin with, even talk of doing so would trigger massive unrest and put legislators under unprecedented pressure," wrote Richard Hasen, a law professor at the University of California.

But given the high stakes, nerves are jangled.

And Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's odd comment Tuesday that the government is preparing for "a second Trump term" didn't help.



DONALD TRUMP OPENLY ADMIRES THE LIKES OF PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN, THE KING OF WARPING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS TO AWARD HIMSELF POWER

business

of the day quote

As a two-year-old startup, we've seen the transformative nature of AI, which drastically reduces food waste and helps farmers get better prices, and buyers get better quality with a predictable supply chain

PUNEET SETHI | FOUNDER, FARMPAL

We are pleased to announce the complete commissioning of the KMTL Transmission Asset. In line with our business plan, we will now swiftly proceed towards the divestment phase of KMTL

MANISH MOHNOT | MD & CEO, KPTL

It's been a long & fulfilling journey for HelpAge India and this recognition (receiving the '2020 UN Population Award' for outstanding service in the non-profit sector) by UN, has not only made us proud, but inspired and motivated us to continue doing what we know best, help those in need

KIRAN KARNIK | CHAIRPERSON, HELPAGE INDIA

SHORT TAKES

M&M to deliver 1K units of Thar

Mumbai: Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) will deliver 1,000 units of its all-new Thar SUV during Diwali festive period, the company said Friday. The latest version of the iconic SUV was launched October 2, in two trims AX and LX, with both petrol and diesel powertrain option, and is priced between ₹9.8 lakh and ₹13.75 lakh (ex-showroom). The company has commenced deliveries of Thar SUVs from November 1.

HGS to hire 3,200 people in H2 FY21

New Delhi: Hinduja Global Solutions (HGS), plans to hire about 3,200 people in the second half of the ongoing fiscal across various geographies including the UK, the US and India. The hiring plans come on the back of a strong deal pipeline that the company sees across various segments. "We expect to hire around 3,200 people in the second half of the year. Pipeline looks encouraging. For instance, in the UK, we had won a short-term project related to COVID-19 from one of the government departments," HGS Global CFO Srinivas Palakodeti said.

RBL Bank raises ₹1,566 cr

Mumbai: Small-sized private sector lender RBL Bank Friday said it has raised ₹1,566 crore in fresh capital through a preferential allotment of shares to a group of investors led by Baring Private Equity Asia. After the fund-raise, the bank intends to invest in newer products like affordable housing loans to strengthen its presence in the semi-urban and rural markets, it's MD and CEO Vishwajit Ahuja said.

OIL makes gas discovery

New Delhi: Oil India Ltd, the nation's second-largest state oil producer, on Friday said it has made a natural gas discovery at a well drilled in Tinsukia, Assam. "The discovery will open up new areas for further oil and gas exploration in Assam and would help in enhancing the gas production with future appraisal and development activities," the company said in a statement. Oil India Ltd said well Dinjan-1 in Tinsukia petroleum mining lease (PML) in the upper Assam basin struck hydrocarbons.

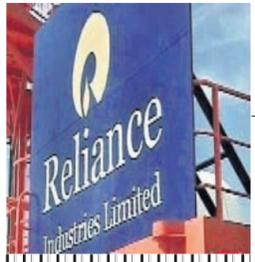


The improvement in the optimism level amongst businesses in the manufacturing sector emanates from the surge in demand as more economic activities were allowed under 'Unlock 4.0 and 5.0'

ARUN SINGH | GLOBAL CHIEF ECONOMIST, DUN & BRADSTREET

RIL TO INVEST \$50 MN

Reliance Industries has invested \$50 million in Breakthrough Energy Ventures, a climate change company owned by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates. In a filing to stock exchanges, Reliance said it will make the investment in tranches over the next 8 to 10 years



'GOLD WORTH ₹20,000 CRORE SOLD ON DHANTERAS'

Mumbai, Nov 13: The sale of gold this year on the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras has been 30 per cent more than the previous year. People bought gold worth a staggering ₹20,000 crore during the festival in 2020, according to the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). According to IBJA data, the sale of gold on Dhanteras across the country this year was about 40 tonnes, valued at approximately ₹20,000 crore.

IBJA's national secretary Surendra Mehta said that last year, gold sales were about ₹12,000 crore. The figure has risen to ₹20,000 crore this year. "Last year, about 30 tonnes of gold was sold. The sale has been about 40 tonnes this year,"

Mehta said. He said that while gold sales have increased by 30 to 35 per cent over the previous year, the price has increased by about 70 per cent.

Mehta said that this time the biggest reason for the increase in gold sales on Dhanteras has been the lack of jewellery sales over the last eight months, which led to pent up demand.

He said that during the lockdown, people could not buy gold jewellery because the market was closed. Now, with a wedding season ahead, people waited for the purchase of gold and silver on the occasion of Dhanteras.

Meanwhile, the gold price has come down a little after touching a high of ₹56,000 and owing to Corona, the price is likely to shoot up again, making people purchase gold at



this time. Mehta said that this year, Dhanteras was celebrated for two days in some parts of the country including Thursday, which gave

people more time to buy. According to the IBJA, the average price of gold of 24-carat purity (999 purity) on Friday was ₹50,849 per 10 grams (without GST).

Sales see tepid response from customers in state

Bhubaneswar: Due to strict restriction on public gathering for COVID-19, gold and silver sales in City witnessed a tepid response from customers on the occasion of Dhanteras, according to jewellers and industry experts. High price of the precious metals, compare to last year, is another factor for average sales on Dhanteras. Operation head of Arundhati Jewellers Nihar Ranjan said, "We may see around 40-50 impact on sale due Covid guidelines and high price of gold. We are following social distance regulation for which we can accommodate only 50 costumers at once. Others either waited at waiting hall or left the store." "Gold prices were ruling at ₹51,000 per 10 gram which is higher than last year. High price is another factor for average sale on this Dhanteras," Nihar added. Meanwhile, Kishore Wadia from Khimji Jewellers said that gold and silver sales saw good response from city consumers. "Many showed their interest to purchase precious metals not only for Dhanteras but for Wedding season as well. We saw good sales till evening on Dhanteras," Wadia said.

The average gold price of 22-carat purity (995 purity) was ₹50,645 per 10 grams. At 6:42 PM on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) Friday gold was trading at ₹50,925 per 10 grams, up 325 rupees from the last session.

Exports dip 5.12% in Oct, trade deficit narrows

TRADE DEFICIT IN OCTOBER NARROWED TO \$8.71 BILLION AS AGAINST \$11.75 BILLION IN THE CORRESPONDING MONTH A YEAR AGO

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 13: India's exports fell 5.12% to \$24.89 billion in October, after recording positive growth in September, on account of drop in shipments of petroleum products, gems and jewellery, leather and engineering goods, according to government data released Friday. Trade deficit in October narrowed to \$8.71 billion as against \$11.75 billion in the corresponding month a year ago.

Imports also fell 11.53% to \$33.6 billion (year-on-year) in October 2020. Major export commodities that recorded negative growth in October included petroleum products (52%), cashew (21.57%), gems and jewellery (21.27%), leather (16.67%), man-made yarn/fabrics/made-ups (12.8%), electronic goods (9.4%), coffee (9.2%), marine products (8%) and engineering goods (3.75%).

During April-October 2020, exports declined 19.02% to \$150.14 billion, while imports fell 36.28% to \$182.29 billion over the same period a year ago.

Oil imports dipped 38.52% to \$5.98 billion in October. During April-October, oil imports declined 49.5% to \$37.84 billion, the data showed. After contracting for six



straight months, India's exports had risen 5.99% to \$27.58 billion in September.

'Vegetable oil imports drop 13% in 2019-20'

India's vegetable oil imports fell 13% in the marketing year to October, a leading trade body said Friday, due to sluggish demand from hotels and restaurants which bore the brunt of the coronavirus pandemic.

India imported 13.5 million tonnes of vegetable oils in the 2019-20 oil year, the Solvent Extractors' Association said in a statement.

The country imported 1.27 million tonnes of vegetable oils in October this year, down from 1.48 million tonnes in the same month last year, it said. In 2019-20, India's palm oil imports fell 23.3% to 7.22 million tonnes, the data showed

Fuel demand posts 1st annual growth since February

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: India's fuel demand posted its first yearly increase since February as a spurt in diesel demand ahead of the festival season pushed consumption to pre-COVID-19 levels.

Total demand for petroleum products rose 2.5 per cent in October to reach 17.77 million tonnes as compared to 17.34 million tonnes a year back, according to provisional data published by the oil ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell.

While petrol had reached pre-COVID levels in September itself, diesel consumption returned to normal last month.

Diesel demand soared 7.4 per cent year-on-year to 6.5 million tonnes while petrol sales were up 4.5 per cent at 2.54 million tonnes.

The growth in diesel consumption is the highest in a year.

Fuel demand had snipped by 49 per cent in April after a nationwide lockdown, imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus, shut industries and took most vehicles off road. The 69-day nationwide lockdown was followed by local and state-level restrictions. Restrictions have eased only slowly and in phases, and localised restrictions in containment zones remain.

The onset of the festive season has fuelled a rise in consumption but public transport is not back to normal levels yet as schools and educational institutions continue to remain shut in most parts of the country.

Trump bans US investment in Chinese firms

AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 13: US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order banning Americans from investing in Chinese firms that are deemed to be supplying or supporting Beijing's military and security apparatus.

The order listed 31 companies Thursday it said China was using for the "increasing exploitation" of US investment capital to fund military and intelligence services, including the development and deployment of weapons of mass destruction.

US-China relations have deteriorated sharply during Trump's presidency, and this was the latest in a series of executive orders and regulatory actions that have targeted China's economic and military expansion.

Under his "America First" banner, Trump has portrayed China as the greatest threat to the United States and global democracy, pursued a trade war with it, harassed Chinese tech firms, and laid all the blame for the coronavirus pandemic at Beijing's door. Thursday's order prohibits US companies and individuals owning shares in any of the listed companies, which include major telecommunications, construction and technology firms such as China Mobile, China



US-China relations have deteriorated sharply during Trump's presidency, and this was the latest in a series of executive orders that have targetted China's economic expansion

Telecom, video surveillance firm Hikvision, and China Railway Construction Corp.

Current investors will have a year to divest from the Beijing-linked companies, according to the order. News of the move, which will come into effect January 11, reverberated on the stock market in Hong Kong Friday.

Hero opens electric bike showroom in City

PRESS NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Prayog Ventures Private Limited Friday opened Hero electric bike showroom at Palasuni. The company's Managing Director Mahendra Pradhan said that the age of electric bikes has arrived and it is expected to take over petrol bikes in near future. "Hero Electric offers state-of-the-art technology and design with good mileage for a comfortable ride at a nominal charging cost," Pradhan said. He also said that ladies and students have the con-



venience of non registrable bike as riders don't require any driving license (DL). "The citizens also prefer cost effectiveness as a personal mobility to protect the environment," the MD said. Odia film actress Anubha Sourya Sarangi and Hero Electric State Head Ranjeet Das were present at the inaugural ceremony.

BSNL, Airtel lose subscribers in state in Aug, Jio tops: TRAI

ODISHA IS AMONG ONLY THREE STATES IN THE COUNTRY WHERE JIO HAS SURPASSED 40% CUSTOMER MARKET SHARE IN THE TELECOM SECTOR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: State-owned telecom service provider Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) lost over 30,000 subscribers in the state during the month of August, as per the latest telecom subscriber data released by TRAI.

According to TRAI, BSNL lost around 30,130 subscribers in same month. In July, BSNL had 63,95,337 sub-

scribers but it dropped to 63,65,207 in one month. Similarly, private operator Airtel also lost around 9,781 subscribers in the same month, TRAI's report claims. Meanwhile, Reliance Jio and Vodafone-Idea added new subscribers in August, 2020. Jio has added over 1.9 lakh new users in August.

With this, Jio now has over 40.28% customer market share in Odisha with 1.34 crore mobile subscribers followed by Airtel with 32.2% mar-

ket share. Odisha is among only three states in the country where Jio has surpassed 40% customer market share in the telecom sector.

Vodafone-Idea witnessed marginal increase. It added around 27,680 new subscribers in same period. With this result, the total mobile subscriber base in Odisha now witnessed an increase of 1.78 lakh in August and reached 3.33 crores as on August 31, 2020.

e-Comm ops evolving with more online shopping

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 13: As more and more people are turning to e-commerce platforms for their shopping requirements amid the pandemic and social distancing norms, e-commerce operations also are evolving and turning more effective along with contactless features.

Ambrish Kumar, Founder of Zipaworld and Group CEO, AAA 2 Innovate Private Ltd said that the novate involved in the last mile delivery are also now seen equipped with no-contact delivery and delivery gadgets and applications making use of technology.

There is an increase in the number of kiosks, pick-up and drop-off points arranged during the pandemic to promote faceless and touchless transactions, he added.



"During the pandemic, the e-commerce segment has got a stimulative acceleration. There definitely has been a phenomenal shift of consumers from brick-and-mortar stores to online shopping during

the pandemic," Kumar said. Yuvraj Aman Singh, Founder and CEO of Rocking Deals noted that brands have seen a two-to-four-fold growth. He, however, was of the view that the growth could have

been 8 times in the absence of instability in the job market. "The refurbished segment is also rising as people are more cost-conscious and acceptance that refurbishes is majorly repacked goods is driving this segment forward," he said.

On the evolution on the tech front

Singh said that small businesses are integrating payment gateways on their websites and apps, which was not present earlier

"We are also looking to integrate chatbots so that we can handle customer queries efficiently. So, for us, it is about POS and customer engagement technology," he added.

Abhinav Girdhar, Founder of Appy Pie said that the smaller businesses in India, who were not so keen on going digital, have finally done so, because that is where all the customers are.

On the interface of e-commerce site and apps, he said: "The interface has to become simpler than ever because the consumer demographics have shifted drastically."

In terms of the payment gateways he said that UPI will continue lead the online transactions.



Honda delivers 1000 H'ness-CB350 in 20 days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Pvt. Ltd. (HMSI) today announced the completion of 1000 customer deliveries of H'ness-CB350 in a short span of just over 20 days since the deliveries commenced. The demand for the H'ness-CB350 is spreading fast across urban towns as well as to other tier I & II cities.

Making a grand entry in the mid-size 350-500cc motorcycle segment, Honda 2Wheeler India globally unveiled the brand new H'ness-CB350 in the month of September. Born with the CB DNA at its core, H'ness CB350 takes on-road sports riding to next level with nine new patent applications and five first-in-segment features. The H'ness-CB350 is available in two variants - DLX & DLX Pro and comes in three-colour options in each variant.

Adding more fervour to the festive buying, Honda 2Wheeler India with its partner ICICI Bank has introduced the biggest ever festival delight. H'ness-CB350 customers will now get an irresistible deal on retail finance. For a limited period, customers can now avail finance up to 100% of vehicle on-road price. The biggest motivation to buy your favourite H'ness-CB350 right now may simply be the best in segment rate of interest of 5.6%, nearly half of the prevailing market rates.

PUCOVSKI KEEPS HYPE AT BAY



REUTERS

Melbourne, Nov 13: Few young Australian cricketers have generated as much excitement as Will Pucovski in recent years but the shaggy-haired batsman is ignoring the hype as he bangs on the door for selection ahead of the Test series against India.

The 22-year-old was named among five uncapped players in a bumper 17-man test squad on Thursday after piling up 495 runs in two Sheffield Shield matches when

opening the batting for Victoria.

He will have another chance to impress selectors when he faces India's bowlers in a tour match in Sydney from December 6.

The Australia 'A' game has been seen as an unofficial 'bat-off' with incumbent opener Joe Burns, who has hit a lean patch for Queensland in recent Shield games.

But Pucovski has little interest in giving oxygen to the speculation and has switched off his social media accounts to be free of distractions. "I think it's a bit of a media buildup

to be honest, the big bat-off thing," he told reporters Friday. "I think all I can really control is how I go about it in my preparation and then obviously in the game so I feel like my batting's in a really good place. "I'm off a lot of social media, so that makes it a lot easier. You can't get tagged on Twitter and stuff if you don't have the app, so that's been a pretty easy one for me."

Australian cricket rarely fails to produce wunderkinds but experts have already marked Pucovski as a once-in-a-generation talent in the mould of Ricky Ponting or Steve Smith. "It would be ridiculous to say he's not ready," former Australia captain Ian Chappell told local broadcaster Nine Network. "What the hell is he going to prove by playing more Shield cricket?"

The pressure of playing test cricket on home soil is at an entirely different level, though, and selectors may be wary of throwing Pucovski into the cauldron of a hugely anticipated series against Virat Kohli's team.

The right-hander has a history of battling mental health issues and has taken time off from the game twice when on the cusp of test selection. Replacing Burns, whose solid opening partnership with David Warner helped Australia whitewash Pakistan and New Zealand in the last home summer, would also be a bitter pill for the incumbent.

"He's been amazing, hasn't he?" Australia coach Justin Langer told reporters of Pucovski Friday. "That said... we loved the combination of Joe Burns and David Warner. At this point, I'd say that will remain the same."

Pucovski has also struggled with a series of concussion injuries dating back to a serious head-knock suffered in school football. He believes the concussion problems may have contributed to his mental health struggles. "Obviously getting hit in the head a lot is not ideal from a physical or mental perspective," he said. "But I've done a lot of work in that space to try and make sure my process is in a really good place."

Kohli's absence 'to impact India'



REUTERS

Melbourne, Nov 13: Virat Kohli is one of the best players Justin Langer has ever seen and his absence from the last three tests in the upcoming series will be keenly felt, the Australia coach said Friday.

Kohli will head home after the series-opening test at Adelaide Oval to be with his wife ahead of the birth of their first child, robbing India of their captain and star batsman.

Langer said the impact on India would be like any team taking out their best player. "I've said this be-



I've said this before, he is probably the best player I've ever seen in my life for so many reasons. Are we happy he's not playing? It's like taking Dustin Martin out of Richmond, isn't it?

JUSTIN LANGER

own players to miss cricket to be present for the birth of their children if it came up.

Australia were beaten by India 2-1 the last time Kohli's side toured in 2018/19 and Langer said the hosts could ill-afford to breathe any easier without Kohli around.

"Of course it'll have an impact but we also know that India, they beat us last time, they're a very, very good team," he said.

"We cannot get complacent for a second with or without Virat. So we're going to have to be on our toes all summer and we're looking forward to that."

Kohli, though, will play in the short-form internationals on India's tour, which kicks off with a one-day international (ODI) series starting in Sydney November 27.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Maguire lifts England



LONDON: Harry Maguire (No.5 in pic), Jadon Sancho and Dominic Calvert-Lewin scored as England dominated Ireland in a 3-0 victory. The friendly at an empty Wembley Stadium Thursday allowed 17-year-old Borussia Dortmund midfielder Jude Bellingham to make his England debut as a second-half substitute. With Harry Kane rested, Maguire captained England for the first time — two months after being dropped from the squad over a legal case in Greece. The Manchester United defender headed in his second England goal — following one at the 2018 World Cup — when he met Harry Winks' cross in the 18th minute.

Prajnesh in quarters

CARY (USA): Fighting hard, Prajnesh Gunneswaran prevailed over tough nut Jack Sock in three sets to sail into the quarterfinals of the Atlantic Tire Championships, an ATP Challenger event, here. The fourth-seeded southpaw beat the former top 10 American 6-7(3-7), 6-2, 7-6(7-5) in a tight round two contest, which lasted almost three hours. The gritty Indian broke the serve of Sock, who reached a career-high singles ranking of eight in 2017 but is now placed 253, thrice and dropped his own serve only once in the slugfest. Prajnesh, ranked 146, next faces Brazilian qualifier Thomaz Bellucci for a place in the semifinals of the USD 52,080 hard court tournament.



Neymar ruled out



Tuchel last week said it would be 'impossible' for Neymar to play for Brazil as he recovered from the injury, but Brazil coach Tite insisted that the striker travel. Neymar had already been ruled out of Friday's game against Venezuela. Brazil team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar said Neymar's recovery after four days of training was not enough. Brazil had already lost five players for the two matches, including injured midfielders Philippe Coutinho and Fabinho, and defender Rodrigo Caio. Defenders Eder Militao and Gabriel Menino were ruled out after contracting COVID-19.

Sao Paulo: Neymar has been ruled out of Brazil's World Cup qualifier against Uruguay next week because of a groin injury he sustained playing for Paris Saint-Germain in a Champions League game. Brazil's football confederation Thursday confirmed Neymar will not play in the South American qualifying match Tuesday in Montevideo. PSG coach Thomas Tuchel last week said it would be 'impossible' for Neymar to play for Brazil as he recovered from the injury, but Brazil coach Tite insisted that the striker travel. Neymar had already been ruled out of Friday's game against Venezuela. Brazil team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar said Neymar's recovery after four days of training was not enough. Brazil had already lost five players for the two matches, including injured midfielders Philippe Coutinho and Fabinho, and defender Rodrigo Caio. Defenders Eder Militao and Gabriel Menino were ruled out after contracting COVID-19.

Argentina held 1-1 in qualifying



Lionel Messi is surrounded by Paraguay players during their World Cup Qualifying match

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sao Paulo, Nov 13: Lionel Messi had a goal disallowed and another denied as Argentina were held to a 1-1 draw in South American World Cup qualifying.

The draw at La Bombonera stadium puts Argentina on the top of the standings with seven points from three matches, but Brazil — on six — could move ahead with a home win over ninth-placed Venezuela Friday. Paraguay are in fourth position with five points.

Argentina's fourth match in qualifying will be Tuesday, when Paraguay hosts Bolivia and Ecuador is at home to Colombia.

In Thursday's opening match, 10th-place Bolivia conceded a late penalty to lose 3-2 at home to Ecuador. The Ecuadorians are now

in 3rd place with six points in three games.

The top four teams will automatically qualify for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. The fifth-place team will go into an inter-continental playoff.

Paraguay once more gave Argentina trouble, opening the scoring in the 21st minute via Angel Romero's penalty. Argentina equalised in the 41st after Giovanni Lo Celso took a corner and found Nicolas Gonzalez free in the box to head it home.

Messi appeared to give Argentina a lead in the 57th minute, but a video reviewed decision by Brazilian referee Raphael Claus found a foul for Paraguay 27 seconds earlier when the ball was still in Argentina's half.

Messi nearly scored from a free-

kick 14 minutes later, but Paraguayan goalkeeper Antony Silva made the save of the match in the top left corner.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni had to be creative for the match. Messi started with pain in his left ankle, and defender Nicolas Tagliafico had to be replaced by Gonzalez, who usually plays as a striker at Stuttgart.

Scaloni also lost midfielder Exequiel Palacios to injury after only 30 minutes, but his replacement Lo Celso ended as one of the best on the pitch — though not enough to secure Argentina a home victory.

Angel Di Maria, who was initially expected to start, entered in the second half but was unable to produce a goal for Argentina's much-needed home win.

Casey takes early lead in Augusta

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Augusta, Nov 13: No spectators, no roars. Paul Casey still had no problem finding enough energy from the sheer mystique of the Masters in an opening round that was delayed seven months by a pandemic and then nearly three hours by thunderstorms.

It carried him to a 7-under 65, matching his lowest score at Augusta National and giving him a two-shot lead among those fortunate enough to get in 18 holes before it was too dark to continue.

The autumn Masters brought a different course, for sure, some of that courtesy of the weather. The downpour that began about 30 minutes after Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player hit their ceremonial tee shots, coupled with a November

tournament with some Bermuda grass that still hasn't gone dormant, left Augusta National soft and vulnerable to low scores and far less punishment.

Defending champion Tiger Woods even got into the act. A notorious slow starter despite his five green jackets, he played his first bogey-free round at any major in 11 years and matched his low start at the Masters with a 68.

The biggest crowd — about 100 people in this case — was two groups ahead of Woods watching Bryson DeChambeau smash shots into trees and one shot into the azaleas bushes behind the 13th green.

He was lucky to find it because his provisional shot went into the creek. He still made double bogey, though he managed to scratch out a 70.



DEFENDING WORLD CHAMPION HAMILTON FINISHES 15TH Max fastest in 1st practice

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Istanbul, Nov 13: Red Bull driver Max Verstappen posted the fastest time Friday in the first practice session for the Turkish Grand Prix as drivers struggled on a slippery track not used in Formula One (F1) since 2011.

The Istanbul Park circuit has been resurfaced with new asphalt and is very low on grip. Cool conditions made it even more awkward and drivers were very cautious as they lapped about 10 seconds slower than expected. "It's like driving on ice," Verstappen said.

The Dutchman was 0.24 seconds faster than teammate Alexander Albon and 0.43 ahead of Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc, who slid into a bollard at the pit lane entrance early in the session.

Championship leader Lewis Hamilton was down in 15th place, but



the Mercedes driver took no risks. Teammate Valtteri Bottas briefly lost control moments from the end but finished without trouble.

Hamilton is looking to secure his seventh F1 title and equal Michael Schumacher's record. He only needs to finish ahead of Bottas Sunday.



IPL is ready for expansion: Dravid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: Former India captain Rahul Dravid strongly believes that IPL is 'ready for expansion' in terms of number of teams without compromising on the quality as well as quantity of talent available in the country.

There are talks that the 2021 IPL will be featuring nine teams instead of eight and will go up to 10 teams by 2023, which has always been the BCCI's long-term plan.

The views of Dravid, who is now the director of National Cricket Academy (NCA), were echoed by Rajasthan Royals co-owner Manoj Badale, who felt that a nine-team IPL in 2021 is 'definitely possible'.

Dravid said that if there are more teams, all the talented players could be fitted in and there won't be a drop in quality.

"So I believe we are ready as there are lot of new names and faces in terms of talent perspective," Dravid



said during the virtual launch of Badale's book 'A New Innings', which he co-authored with former English cricketer Simon Hughes.

Badale, as a stakeholder in the IPL, welcomed the idea of expansion and also spoke about various aspects that needs to be factored in. "BCCI needs to take a decision and they will take a call on what would be the exact approach. Making a nine-team league in 2021 is defi-

nately possible but as a consequence, you will have to have more afternoon games and maintain quality of the competition," said Badale, a British citizen of Indian origin.

Dravid said it is because of IPL that someone like Rahul Tewatia from Haryana has been able to showcase his skills to a global audience.

"Earlier, you only depended on your state association to select you for Ranji Trophy. Now, from a state

like Haryana which produces so many quality spinners like Yuzvendra Chahal, Amit Mishra and Jayant Yadav, Tewatia would have had limited opportunities. So it's no longer limited to state associations," said Dravid.

He spoke about the heady feeling of playing international cricket without actually playing one, which the IPL provides.

"As coaches, we can help the young players in their journeys but what helps them grow is experience. Look at Devdutt Padikkal who is batting alongside Virat Kohli or can learn from AB de Villiers."

Another aspect in which the IPL has helped young players is the availability of worthwhile data to improve their game.

The last decade (2011-2020), according to Dravid, has been India's best in terms of white ball cricket and the IPL has contributed with its appropriate tagline 'talent meets opportunity'.