



COOL CUSTOMER

Actor Deepika Padukone has taken sportingly the memes posted by the netizens on her Diwali look

LEISURE P2



DELHI BREATHES EASY

Latest surge of infections in Delhi, that has swamped its ICU wards and killed many, has passed its peak

TWO STATES P7



AMERICANS EMBRACE

The 2020 election helped prove how broadly accepted marijuana has become throughout the US

INTERNATIONAL P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I always knew your capabilities, dear. But party took such a long time to realise that you are good for nothing.

SHORT TAKES

Trump backtracks

Washington: President Donald Trump Sunday briefly acknowledged losing the US election in a morning Twitter post but then backtracked, saying he concedes "nothing" and vowing to keep up a court fight that election-law experts say is unlikely to succeed. President-elect Joe Biden focused on the coronavirus pandemic, setting meetings with vaccine developers as the crisis intensifies. P10

Nitish takes oath

Patna: A 14-member council of ministers, headed by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, was Monday sworn in here by Governor Phagu Chauhan. Those who were administered oath of office included two deputy chief minister designate Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi, both from the BJP which bagged a lion's share of seven berths. Since the post of a deputy CM is not a constitutional one, the two took oath as ministers and their posts would be notified by the cabinet in due course. P7

Collector shifted

Bhubaneswar: A day after Malkangiri Collector Manish Agarwal was booked in a murder case, the state government Monday shifted the bureaucrat to its planning and convergence department. Yedulla Vijay, an IAS officer of 2014 batch, has replaced Agarwal. Agarwal has been made the deputy secretary in the planning and convergence department, it said. Police Sunday registered a murder case against Agarwal and three others, following a directive from Malkangiri SDJM in connection with the death of his PA last December. Meanwhile, Panda's wife has moved OHRC seeking transfer of all the four cops involved in the case.

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	32.1°C	33.4°C
TEMP. MIN	20.3°C	19.6°C
Humidity	89%	72%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

MODERNA'S COVID SHOT 94.5 PER CENT EFFECTIVE

AGENCIES

Massachusetts, Nov 16: Moderna Inc said Monday its experimental vaccine was 94.5% effective in preventing COVID-19 based on interim data from a late-stage clinical trial, becoming the second US company in a week to report results that far exceed expectations.

Together with Pfizer Inc's vaccine, also shown to be more than 90% effective, and pending more safety data and regulatory review, the United States could have two vaccines authorized for emergency use in December with as many as 60 million doses of vaccine available by the year's end.

Next year, the US government could have access to more than 1 billion doses just from the two vaccine makers, more than needed for the country's 330 million residents.

The vaccines, both built using new technology known as messenger RNA or mRNA, represent powerful new tools to fight a pandemic that has infected 54 million people worldwide and killed 1.3 million. The news also comes at a time when COVID-19 cases are soaring, hitting new records in the United States and pushing some European countries back into lockdowns.

"We are going to have a vaccine that can stop COVID-19," Moderna President Stephen Hoge said in a telephone interview. Moderna's interim analysis was based on 95 infections among trial participants who received either a placebo or the vaccine. Of those, only five infections occurred in those who received the vaccine, which is administered in two shots 28 days apart.

A key advantage of Moderna's vaccine is that it does not need ultra-cold storage like Pfizer's, making it easier to distribute. Moderna expects it to be



stable at standard refrigerator temperatures of 2 to 8 degrees Celsius (36 to 48°F) for 30 days and it can be stored for up to 6 months at -20 degrees Celsius.

Pfizer's vaccine must be shipped and stored at minus 70 degrees Celsius, the sort of temperature typical of an Antarctic winter. At standard refrigerator temperatures, it can be stored for up to five days.

The data from Moderna's 30,000 participant-strong trial also showed the vaccine prevented cases of severe COVID-19, a question that still remains with the Pfizer vaccine. Of the 95 cases in Moderna's trial, 11 were severe and all 11 occurred among volunteers who got the placebo.

Moderna, part of the U.S. government's Operation Warp Speed program, expects to produce around 20 million doses of the vaccine for the United States this year, millions of which the company has already made, and is ready to ship if it receives FDA authorization.

"Assuming we get an emergency use authorization, we'll be ready to ship through Warp Speed almost in hours,"

ADVANTAGE US

- A key advantage of Moderna's vaccine is that it does not need ultra-cold storage like Pfizer's, making it easier to distribute
- Pfizer's vaccine must be shipped and stored at minus 70 degrees Celsius, the sort of temperature typical of an Antarctic winter
- The US could have two vaccines for emergency use in December with 60 million doses of vaccine available by the year-end

Hoge said. "So it could start being distributed instantly." The 95 cases of COVID-19 included several key groups who are at increased risk for severe disease, including 15

cases in adults aged 65 and older and 20 in participants from racially diverse groups.

Most side effects were mild to moderate. A significant proportion of volunteers, however, experienced more severe aches and pains after taking the second dose, including about 10% who had fatigue severe enough to interfere with daily activities while another 9% had severe body aches. Most of these complaints were generally short-lived, the company said.

Moderna's data provide further validation of the promising but previously unproven mRNA platform, which turns the human body into a vaccine factory by coaxing cells to make certain virus proteins that the immune system sees as a threat and mounts a response against.

Moderna expects to have enough safety data required for US authorization in the next week or so and the company expects to file for emergency use authorization in the coming weeks.

The United States has the world's highest known number of COVID-19 cases and deaths with more than 11 million infections and nearly 250,000 deaths.

The Trump Administration has primarily relied on development of vaccines and treatments as its response to the pandemic. Moderna has received nearly \$1 billion in research and development funding from the U.S. government and has a \$1.5 billion deal for 100 million doses. The U.S. government also has an option for another 400 million doses.

The company hopes to have between 500 million and 1 billion doses in 2021, split between its U.S. and international manufacturing sites and dependent in part on demand.

1800 266 266 1 (tollfree)

Rights body goes headless yet again

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has once again become headless with the retirement of Justice Bimal Prasad Das November 14. Das held the post of chairperson for a period of 14 months.

The government had appointed Das as the chairperson of the OHRC's three-member panel in 2019 after the Orissa High Court directed it to fill up all vacant posts including chairperson. The post remained vacant for more than seven years after the retirement of Justice RK Patra in 2012.

The government is yet to issue a notification for the appointment of an acting chairperson from among the two members till the announcement of a regular chairperson. The government is said to be indifferent towards the functioning of the OHRC as several posts in the rights body have been lying vacant. Justice Raghuraj Das earlier worked as the acting chairperson from May 16 to September 4, 2019. A full panel can only take

up matters of human rights abuse related incidents suo motu. Similarly, the commission with a three-member panel can also deal with important policy matters like recommending suggestions to bring changes in any government regulation and also pay visit to jails, detention centres and custodies for check up. A total of 14,887 cases have been pending with the OHRC till October 31. Meanwhile, more than 400 new applications were lodged with the commission in October alone. Citizens from far off places in the state come to the OHRC with a hope to get justice. Human rights activist Biswapriya Kanungo said, "The government's approach towards the protection and promotion of human rights of people has not been encouraging. A three-member panel is required to deal with the huge load of pending cases at the commission." "The government did not appoint a new chief before time. No hearing could take place in the absence of a chairperson or acting chairperson," Pradipta Nayak, another rights activist, said.

State to boost home stay at select ecotourism sites

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: With an aim to attract more tourists to the state, the government has decided to promote home stay facilities at various nature trails and eco-tourist spots.

This was decided at a high-level meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy here Monday. Tourism secretary Vishal Dev outlined the issues for discussion.

"Nature trail and experiential tourism is a current fad, and Odisha has much to offer in this sector," Tripathy said, adding the tourism department will develop such facilities in remote areas where there is no hotel or lodging facilities. Home stay facility would be supported from 2021-22 for a period of 10 years. In the first phase, the facility

will be promoted at places like Diamond Triangle Buddhist Circuit (Ratnagiri- Udayagiri- Lalitgiri); Onkadelli in Koraput district; Khola, Gupti, Dangmala, Bhitarkanika in Kendrapara; Daringibadi, Belghar in Kandhamal; Simlipal, Pithabata, Jashipur in Mayurbhanj; Tikarpada and Satakosia in Angul; Magalajodi & Chilika in Khurda and Dhodrokusum and Zeropint in Bargarh.

The government will give promotional assistance to home stay providers. It was decided that around 80 home stay providers at these places would be incentivised each year with financial support.

Each home stay unit will have 1-6 rooms (up to 12 beds) for guests. The lettable rooms must be located on the premises where the owner or his family members normally reside.

The owner or his family member should be directly involved in providing hospitality to the guests. A room should be at least 120 sq ft size for twin sharing with attached bathroom and toilet. The provider will ensure proper fan and air cooler arrangement, kitchen, power back, pest control and first aid facilities.

Tripthy sought details to be worked out for providing onetime financial support to the owners for proper furnishing and addition of amenities.

The tourism department was directed to ensure quality hospitality, hygiene and safety of tourists at home stay facilities. Such facilities should be linked to global online travel aggregators such as AIRBNB, OYO, MakeMyTrip, among others and on boarded to their respective sites.

GOD'S ABODE



People warm themselves near a bonfire during snowfall at Kedarnath Dham in Uttarakhand. The portals of the shrine were closed for the winter season from Monday. PFI PHOTO

No open Chhat rituals SC mulls discouraging filing of Article 32 petitions

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: The state government Monday banned celebration of Chhat Puja in public anticipating spread of Covid-19 infections in the state. Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy issued an order to this effect.

As such congregations have large potential for spread of Covid-19 infections, the state government has directed in public interest to prohibit the celebration of Chhat Puja including mass bathing at river banks/ghats, Tripathy said in the order. The celebration of Chhat Puja including mass bathing at river banks has been prohibited November 20 and November 21.

The government advised people to perform the rituals at home adhering to the Covid-19 safety proto-



cols such as physical distancing, use of face masks and hand washing. "Any person found violating this order shall be punished under the provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and other relevant laws," warned the government.

The state government has so far prohibited mass celebration of various festivals and pujas including Ganesh Puja, Dussehra, Laxmi Puja and Kali Puja. Besides, sale and use of fire crackers was also banned during this Diwali.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 16: In a very significant order, Chief Justice of India SA Bobde Monday said the apex court will discourage filing of Article 32 petitions. The observation is fraught with implications given that various state governments in the country have thrown behind bars many social activists and journalists who are looking to the SC for redressal.

Article 32 of the Indian Constitution enshrines the provision whereby individual may seek redress for the violation of their fundamental rights, constitutional weapons, known as 'writs' for the enforcement of such rights.

"We are trying to discourage (Article) 32 petition (writ petitions

under Article 32 are directly filed before the top court). This is not a comment on the merits at all," said a bench of Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

"Issue notice returnable on November 20. In the meantime, as prayed for, the petitioner (KUWJ)

NATIONAL PRESS DAY

is allowed to serve the standing counsel for the respondents/state (UP)," the bench said in the order. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the journalists' body, sought bail for the scribe saying that there was nothing against the journalist in the FIR lodged at Mathura by Uttar Pradesh police.

The FIR has been filed under various provisions of the IPC and



AMBEDKAR called Article 32 as the most important article of the Constitution - 'an Article without which this constitution would be a nullity. Because it is the soul of the Constitution and also the very heart of it.'

ALL ABOUT ARTICLE 32

ARTICLE 32 of the Indian Constitution gives the right to individuals to move to the Supreme Court to seek justice when they feel that their right has been "unduly deprived". ... And unless there is some Constitutional amendment, the rights guaranteed by this Article cannot be suspended

ARTICLE 32 is called the heart and soul of the constitution because it gives rights to people to move Supreme court directly for enforcement of their fundamental rights

the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against four people having alleged links with the Popular Front of India, or PFI. PFI had been accused in

the past of funding protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act across the country earlier this year. During the hearing, Sibal said, "the FIR does not name him

(Kappan). No offences alleged. He has been in jail since October 5." When the top court said that the journalists' body should not have directly come to the top court, Sibal responded by saying, "Your lordships have done this under 32 (Article 32 petitions)." "We are quite aware about our powers under (Article) 32. We find there is a spate of Article 32 petitions," the bench said Earlier, the top court had said it would hear the plea after four weeks and in the meantime, the journalists' body could approach the Allahabad high court for the relief. Journalist Siddique Kappan was arrested on October 5 while he was on his way to Hathras, home to the young Dalit woman who died after being alleged lygang-raped by four upper-caste men.

leisure



THE CROWN SHOOT WILL BE 'HARD ACT TO FOLLOW': OLIVIA

Oscar winning-actress Olivia Colman feels it will be hard for her to top the experience of shooting for the web-series *The Crown*. "We really were having the time of our lives, and that group of people will be a very hard act to follow," Colman said, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

THE KISSING BOOTH 3 TO RELEASE IN SUMMER 2021

The Kissing Booth 3 will arrive in the summer of 2021, shared lead actress Joey King. King, who won Comedy Movie Star of the year at the 2020 People's Choice Awards, shared the news during her acceptance speech, reports *ew.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You feel positive about imbibing the ideas of spirituality today. This will make you open to the idea of accepting the responsibility for old mistakes, and it includes your relations with people in your neighbourhood. This will pave the way for your success in the future, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
You are not likely to take anything lying down today, says Ganesh. If you find anyone plotting and planning against you, you will not be too polite in dealing with them. Violent outbursts could make you lose the grace and dignity you are known for.

GEMINI
You are likely to throw a small treat for your relatives. Though the rest of the day will be spent cleaning the utensils and putting the place in order, you will manage to get some time for your friends, maybe by arranging a slumber party. A day full of partying and post-party cleaning, except for the evening yoga classes.

CANCER
You will feel self-satisfaction. Your simplicity will impress people. You may visit a religious spot to set up rapport with God. A beautiful and inspiring day, says Ganesh.

LEO
Self-belief and self-confidence are the two wheels of the bike on which you shall ride to success, says Ganesh. Add to that self-assurance, and you have a turbo boost that makes you unstoppable. Your dedication and devotion to your task is something that mystifies everyone at the workplace.

VIRGO
The day will transform from being the usual bore to an exciting evening, predicts Ganesh. Afternoon may hit a snag, though, with stress rising alarmingly. But, come sunset and all that will evaporate as you enjoy the warm, loving company of loved ones, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
Ganesh says higher officials at work will shower you with appreciation and praise for your efforts. You may even be able to get a promotion or a pay rise today. There may be intensive arguments with your enemies. New relationships will get a chance to blossom today.

SCORPIO
Although appearances are deceptive, they are probably the best with which to judge something or someone. Don't get stuck in the rat race, and make a mark for yourself. In the evening, you will probably take extra care to be a show-stopper, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
You may plan a romantic outing with your beloved today. Professionally, you may don the robes of a generous winner and a graceful loser. But expect nothing more, says Ganesh, as you may find yourself disappointed.

CAPRICORN
You will carve a niche in the area of your interest and will be recognised for your hard work, says Ganesh. For the enterprising lot, long-standing disputes with rivals will come to an end, and you will not only learn to take criticisms in your stride but will also respect your opponents' opinions. They, on the other hand, will realise that you have an edge over them in terms of strategy and resources.

AQUARIUS
Finally, you realise the importance of thumping others' backs. Your colleagues welcome your appreciation and are thereafter motivated to do their best. You will find even more ways to create a harmonious environment at work.

PISCES
A nice, smooth day is in the offing. You will meet some people today who will turn out to be reliable and trustworthy in the long run. No conflicts ought to arise to trip you, and you will probably end up rounding off the day basking in the affection of your near and dear ones, says Ganesh.

Rashmi Rocket twist to Taapsee Pannu's life

Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu has a great sense of humour. She gave a hilarious *Rashmi Rocket* twist to her life, noting how she runs from one location to another.

Taapsee posted a picture on Instagram. In the image, she is seen running hurriedly dressed in athleisure.

"Running from one location to another. Pune -> Lonavala -> Mumbai #RashmiRocket," she wrote alongside the image.

Directed by Akarsh Khurana, *Rashmi Rocket* is about a runner from the Rann of Kutch who fights for her identity and becomes an athlete.

Taapsee recently shared that the upcoming sports drama will be one of many firsts for her. She posted a picture on Instagram where she is seen on a racing track, all set to run.

"Get set.....#RashmiRocket This one is going to be one of many firsts!" she wrote.

set.....#RashmiRocket This one is going to be one of many firsts!" she wrote.



Shekhar Kapur starts prep with Emma Thompson for next

Mumbai: Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur has started preparing for his upcoming cross-cultural rom-com featuring Hollywood star Emma Thompson.

Titled *What's Love Got To Do With It?*, the film deals with love and marriage and is set in London and South Asia.

"First rehearsals with the amazing actor Emma Thompson today. So looking forward to working with her in my next movie," Kapur tweeted Monday. The film also stars Lily James and Shazad Latif, and will be written and produced by Jemima Khan. Kapur, the man behind cinematic gems like *Masoom*, *Mr. India* and *Bandit Queen*, got Hollywood fame with his successful film *Elizabeth*, starring Cate Blanchett. The films won Kapur international acclaim including the prestigious BAFTA Award and Oscar nominations. The FTII president also directed a segment of the 2008 anthology, *New York, I Love You*. Apart from direction, he had a stint as an actor in Hindi films like *Toote Khilone* (1978), *Falak* (1988), *Gawahi* (1989) and the TV series *Udaan* (1989-1991), among other works.

Deepika's thumbs up to memes on her Diwali look

Mumbai: Social media has reacted in a jocular way to the Diwali look of star couple Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh, and the actress has taken it sportingly.

Taking to Instagram Stories Monday, the actress posted a meme comparing her and Ranveer Singh's Diwali look to 'gajar ka halwa' and 'motichoor ladoo' respectively.

The collage has two photos. One of these features gajar ka halwa and motichoor ladoo. In the other, Deepika poses in a red sari while Ranveer is seen in an orange kurta.

"Sure.. Why not?!" Deepika wrote alongside the photos and tagged Ranveer. Hours before, the actress shared another meme comparing her look to kaju katli. She posted it on Instagram and asked her fans to 'check it out'.

The couple will be seen in '83, which is expected to release soon after being delayed due to the pandemic.

Four Indian female poets you must read

She doesn't give much importance to the style and form but to the theme, imagery, flow and the presentation, says poet Neelam Saxena Chandra who has 32 anthologies to her credit

As more and more female poets publish their works as collections and anthologies, it enriches modern literature with just as many voices and expressions of human emotions.

Here are four Indian poetesses and their popular works one needs to discover:

Neelam Saxena Chandra: *The Stitched Heart*

The Stitched Heart is a collection of fifty poems written by Limca Book of Records Holder, Neelam Saxena Chandra that will help you grow to be tougher.

"In the earlier days, much emphasis was laid upon parameters such as rhyme and syllables. However, the present era poetry is tending to

move towards free verse. However, as a poet having published 32 poetry books, I don't give much importance to the style and form. What is more important to me is the central theme, the imagery, the flow and the manner in which the poet presents his/her views," says the poet.

Shambhavi Singh: *Thera-poetic Bliss*

Every human being has an innate desire to be heard and to be understood. But who will listen, when everyone is going through the same thing?

Shambhavi Singh's *Thera-poetic Bliss* is a beautiful journey of self discovery, the one that will listen to you as you read it and the one that will speak to you as your soul resonates with the blissful silence. Each

poem in this book is a continuation of the previous one, and yet, it is independent of what it resonates, woven like delicate threads of silk into a luscious fabric of hope.

Manisha Yadav: *Dariya-e-Ehsaas*

Dariya-e-Ehsaas in English means Emotions of a River. This book is for semi Hindi literate reader, one who understands and can speak Hindi fluently, but cannot read with ease. That's the second good thing about the book. "All the poems are published in Hindi as well as English fonts so that any poetry lover can also taste the fragrance of poetic charm. This is an amalgamation of heart touching poems. One after the other, the poems grip you in emo-

tions," says the poet.

Akanksha Agrawal: *The Secret In My Blood*

This is a lattice of emotions expressed by a woman through her being that is analogous to life. It touches upon the tumultuous journey from a girl to a woman. The poetry renders a vignette that illustrates yearnings, the joy and ecstasy of passion and love. The poems depict the fervour and rhapsody between a man and woman with vivid characterisation.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

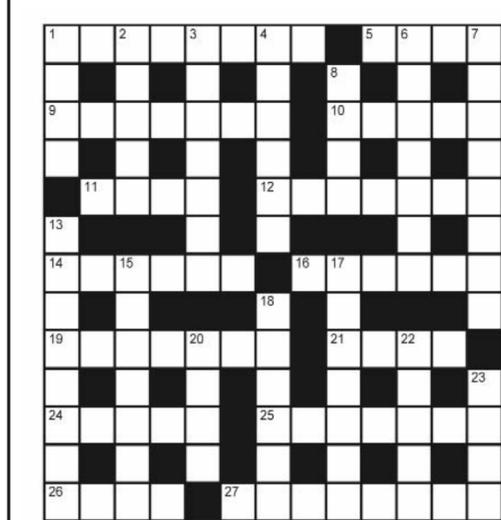


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Actor's hope
 - 5 Charges
 - 9 Disembodied spirit
 - 10 Model wood
 - 11 Sweet Spanish dessert
 - 12 Greek mountain peak
 - 14 Ireland's ___ Bay
 - 16 Cave
 - 19 Farm vehicle
 - 21 Trot or canter
 - 24 Kind of ray
 - 25 Liqueur
 - 26 Carnival attraction
 - 27 Heaven, in Norse myth
 - 4 Send for
 - 6 Oval
 - 7 Last hurrah (4,4)
 - 8 Follow orders
 - 13 Kitchen gadget (3,5)
 - 15 Discovered
 - 17 Torment
 - 18 Naval unit
 - 20 Dabbling duck
 - 22 Utopian
 - 23 Old Icelandic literary work
- Down**
- 1 Heidi's home
 - 2 Oyster's prize
 - 3 Lobster part

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

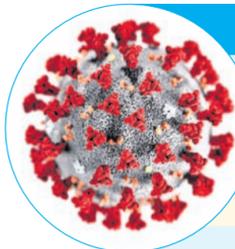
7	C	B	1	D	A	4	9	3	2	E	8	0	5
1	6	5	E	4	B	0	7	2	8	9	C	3	D
D	8	E	A	2	5	3	6	C	4	0	7	1	9
0	4	A	7	9	3	D	B	8	1	5	6	E	2
3	2	9	C	8	0	E	5	1	D	B	A	4	7
6	5	8	0	B	1	4	D	E	9	7	2	C	A
E	0	4	5	7	2	9	3	A	6	C	D	B	8
2	9	3	C	8	0	E	5	1	D	B	A	4	7
C	A	7	8	E	4	1	2	0	5	3	B	D	6
B	D	1	3	A	9	6	7	0	4	8	5	2	E
4	E	0	D	C	7	1	3	2	9	A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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



FITNESS MATTERS

H&UD Minister Pratap Jena tries some workouts at the newly-inaugurated fitness centre—Momentum— at Golden Arcade in Cuttack's Cantonment Road, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	5,50,09,415	3,82,62,048	13,27,195
India	87,28,585	81,13,814	1,28,709
Odisha	3,09,408	2,97,862	1,543

Prevent entry of Ch'garh paddy, DMs told

GOVT HAS PROCURED AROUND 46,600 TONNE PADDY TILL MONDAY, SAYS FS&CW MINISTER RP SWAIN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: The state government, Monday, asked the Collectors of eight bordering districts to take steps for prevention of unauthorised entry of paddy from Chhattisgarh to Odisha.

Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare (FS&CW) Additional Secretary Bijay Kumar Prusty has written to the Collectors of Bargarh, Sambalpur, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Nabarangpur in this regard. "There is a possibility that some unscrupulous traders/persons will try to push paddy procured from Chhattisgarh into procurement system in your districts. Ensure that unauthorised paddy sourced from the neighboring state does not enter the premises of procuring societies/groups in your district," Prusty wrote to the Collectors of the districts concerned.

The procurement of paddy for Kharif crop has started in these eight districts from the second week of November. Paddy will be procured from registered farmers as per

KHARIF PROCUREMENT



THE FS&CW DEPT HAS ASKED THE COLLECTORS OF EIGHT DISTRICTS TO ENSURE THAT UNAUTHORISED PADDY SOURCED FROM THE NEIGHBORING STATE DOES NOT ENTER THE PREMISES OF PROCURING SOCIETIES/GROUPS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS

DISTRICT LEVEL SQUADS AND SUB-DIVISIONAL SQUADS WILL BE FORMED AND THE UNITS WILL CONDUCT PERIODIC CHECKS IN THE FIELD TO KEEP AN EYE ON UNSCRUPULOUS TRADERS BRINGING PADDY FROM NEIGHBOURING CHHATTISGARH

THE COLLECTORS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE TRADERS, MILLERS AND PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, IF ANY SUCH ACTIVITY COMES TO THE FORE

tokens issued in their favour. District level squads and sub-divisional squads will be formed and the units will conduct periodic

checks in the field to keep an eye on unscrupulous traders bringing paddy from neighbouring Chhattisgarh.

If any such activity comes to the fore, the Collectors have been asked to take action against the traders, millers and persons engaged in the illegal activities.

The government has instructed the district Collectors to ensure that paddy procured by authorised societies/groups is only from genuine registered farmers and the benefit of MSP (minimum support price) for the paddy does not go to unauthorised entities under any circumstances.

Earlier in the day, FS&CW Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain said the paddy procurement is going on smoothly and there is no issue. "Those farmers who have registered themselves are being issued tokens in alphabetical order. There is no flaw in the system. Every farmer will get a chance to sell his/her paddy like last year," he said.

This year, expecting a bumper crop, the state government has enhanced the paddy procurement target to 71 lakh metric tonne. Around 46,600 tonnes of paddy have been already procured till Monday.

Govt causing devastation, not development: Cong

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: Several workers of Congress party, Monday, staged protests in front of the Governor's House here against the government's move to sell out Ekamra Kanan farmland and change its original usage pattern.

Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Niranjan Patnaik said the state government is causing devastation in the name of development. The blatant example is diversion of Ekamra Kanan farmland for construction of high-rise buildings, he said, adding, "The farm land is having thousands of big and medicinal trees and local people are using it for various purposes and functions." This comes after the state government asked the Horticulture department to surrender the land to the General Administration (GA) department.

Congress legislator Suresh Routray accused the state government of trying to divert the valuable land, filled with several thousands of trees of different species for some other works.

EKAMRA KANAN LAND ROW



Orissa POST has also highlighted the state government's plan to sell out Ekamra Kanan land for construction of high-rise building by destroying the green cover there. "Ekamra Kanan is spread over 32 acres of land. There are around 30,000 trees. If the trees are cut and sold in the market it may fetch upto ₹40 crore. The site is known for various medicinal plants and is also home to several birds. Mango, banana and several other species of plants are there," Routray said. "We strongly oppose the move. The Congress party is totally against

the trade of the land with rich biodiversity. This protest is just a trailer, if the government does not roll back the decision, we will start protest at Naveen Niwas and quarters of senior officers," the Congress leader warned.

He also said that the government had been roping in several government units to capture the land and do business of the areas by playing with the actual nature of such properties. "We plan to launch massive protests against the decision of the government to interfere with the land," he added.

NATIONAL PRESS DAY

Vigilant & free press key to vibrant democracy: CM



A screenshot of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's tweet

National Press Day is observed November 16 every year to commemorate the establishment of Press Council of India in 1966

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday greeted journalists on the occasion of National Press Day, and urged everyone to take a pledge to make the fourth pillar of democracy free, fair and independent.

Patnaik also said that a vigilant and free press was the key to an informed society and vibrant democracy. Taking to Twitter, the CM said, "Warm greetings to journalists and media persons on #NationalPressDay. A vigilant and free press is the key to an informed society and vibrant democracy. Let us pledge to make the fourth pillar free, fair and independent to speak the truth (sic)."

Among others, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and state

Congress chief Niranjan Patnaik also extended their wishes to scribes. Pradhan said a free press is critical for strengthening democratic roots.

"Let us continue to stand for free, fair and unbiased journalism to empower our citizens and also for a better society (sic)," the Union Minister tweeted.

The Congress leader called upon all journalists to 'hold high the torch of truth'.

"Warm wishes to all my brothers & sisters of the media fraternity on #NationalPressDay. Hold high the torch of freedom and truth, because that is what shall steer the nation through these dark and difficult times," he wrote on the microblogging site.

National Press Day is observed November 16 every year to commemorate the establishment of Press Council of India in 1966.

LORD'S WARRIOR ATTIRE



Preparations for the Nagarjuna Besha, warrior attire, of Lord Jagannath and Balabhadra in full swing in Puri, Monday. Nagarjuna Besha, which was last observed November 16, 1994, commemorates the killing of Sahashrjuna by Parsuram

Actor Amlan's wife confirms it was a mishap in Mahanadi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 16: In a video message posted on her social media page, Monday, Odia film actor Amlan Das's wife Bhumika requested people not to spread rumours against her husband and family. She also confirmed the mishap, in which she fell into the River Mahanadi Sunday evening, to be inadvertent. She had observed fasting and hence was feeling very weak.

The actor's wife had been to Madhusudhan bridge on the river in Cuttack city along with her husband to immerse holy items after the puja was over.

"As my head was reeling owing to weakness and I was wearing high-heel shoes, my foot slipped. As a result of which, I fell into the river," Bhumika clarified in the video message.

"I request everyone not to spread rumours against my husband and family," Bhumika added.

Notably, Bhumika was saved by alert locals. The couple had arrived at CDA Phase II police station after fall of night following the incident and had clarified on the mishap. Police had shifted Bhumika to a local hospital and her condition is stated to be stable. Amlan is the son of veteran Odia actor Mihir Das. The duo had got married in February this year.

Revoke decision to close 10,000 schools: OPF

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: Odisha Parents Federation (OPF), Monday, wrote a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Samir Ranjan Dash demanding closure of illegal private schools in the state and also demanded withdrawal of a notification on closure of more than 10,000 government schools.

The S&ME department had March 11, 2020 directed district education officers (DEOs) to close 5,177 government-run schools with below 40 students and 6,340 schools with below 20 students. OPF chairman Basudev Bhatt said that the closure of government primary and upper primary schools in the names of rationalisation and merger of schools in the state without taking steps for increase students in such a huge number of government schools is a wrong decision.

He said the decision may infringe upon the educational rights of lakhs of children in the state.

The federation also objected to the decision of Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA) which has published an advertisement for opening of new private schools for academic session 2021-22 and issue of COR in favour of private schools for the year 2020-21 to 2024-25.

BPUT STUDENTS DEMAND OFFLINE FINAL SEMESTER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: Students of Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT) here gheraoed the residence of Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Premananda Nayak Monday demanding conduct of their final semester examination in offline mode.

According to the students, the department had conducted their final semester examination via online mode in the month of August. However, several students could not appear for the examination due to some reasons.

The department had then announced that there would be an offline examination for the students who had been unable to appear for the exams via the online mode. But the same has not been held as yet, leaving the students under tremendous stress. The students are unable to take admission in institutions for further



BPUT students meet Skill Development & Technical Education Minister Premananda Nayak at his residence in Bhubaneswar, Monday

studies even if they have secured good ranks in Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE), they said adding that they are also demanding postponement of OJEE counselling date.

Minister Nayak held a discussion with the agitating students and gave them a patient hearing. After hearing out the students, he assured them that their problems would be addressed within a week.

1-year-old girl critical as phone explodes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Nov 16: In an untoward incident late Sunday night, a one-year-old girl suffered burn injuries after a mobile phone exploded on the bed where she was sleeping in Koraput.

The infant was admitted to Laxmipur community health centre (CHC), Rohit Nachika of Bilangsil village under Laxmipur block in Koraput district had bought a mobile phone for ₹1,500 a year ago. He had put the mobile phone on charging at night.

After the cellphone's battery was fully charged, he disconnected the device from the charging unit and kept the phone on the bed where his wife and one-year-old girl were sleeping. However, around 1am the mobile phone suddenly exploded and severely injured the infant. The baby's face has been burnt. In absence of public transport at midnight, Rohit rushed the baby to Laxmipur CHC Monday on a motorcycle.

Brown sugar worth ₹25L seized, peddler arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: The Commissionerate Police Monday seized 254 grams of brown sugar and arrested the peddler during a raid at Kalinga Nagar under Khandagiri police limits here.

Police sources revealed that the market value of the seized contraband would be over ₹25 lakh. The cops identified the accused as Muna Sethi, son of late Rabi Sethi of Madhupur village under Daspalla police limits in Nayagarh district. He was staying in Kalinga Nagar area on a rented accommodation here and was engaged in peddling of brown sugar for a long time.

Sources claimed that Sethi used to supply the contraband to local peddlers who pay him after selling the drugs to the customers. The investigating officers found the names of various areas of the city written on the drug packets seized from his possession. Acting on a tip-off, a team of



Khandagiri police conducted a raid on his house and seized the contraband. The cops also seized a country-made rifle, a Maruti Suzuki Dzire car, a gold chain, 2 motorcycles, three mobile phones and ₹12,420 in cash from his possession. Police later arrested the accused by registering a case (641/20) under various sections of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) and Arms Act. The accused has 12 criminal cases pending against him at several police stations including Khandagiri and Nayapalli police stations here.

With 749 fresh cases, virus caseload at 3.9L

16 NEW FATALITIES PUSH ODISHA'S CORONAVIRUS TOLL TO 1,543

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: At least 749 more people tested positive for Covid-19 in state, taking the tally to 3,09,408 Monday, while 16 fresh fatalities pushed the toll in Odisha to 1,543, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

Of the 749 cases, 437 were reported from quarantine centres, and the remaining detected during contact tracing.

Khurda recorded the maximum number of new cases at 88, followed by Mayurbhanj at 78 and Sundargarh at 55.

Taking to Twitter, the H&FW department said, "Regret to inform the demise of Sixteen #COVID19 positive patients while under treatment in hospitals."

Five deaths were registered in Sundargarh, followed by three in Bargarh and two in Jharsuguda. One each succumbed to the infection in Deogarh, Khurda, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Puri and Sambalpur.

The positivity rate in the state stands at 5.84.

As many as 53 other Covid-19 patients have died in the state due to comorbidities, according to the official.

Over 52.94 lakh sample tests have been conducted in the state, including 35,051 Sunday, the official



IN A NUTSHELL

KHURDA RECORDED THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF NEW CASES AT 88, FOLLOWED BY MAYURBHANJ AT 78 AND SUNDARGARH AT 55

FIVE DEATHS WERE REGISTERED IN SUNDARGARH, FOLLOWED BY THREE IN BARGARH AND TWO IN JHARSUGUDA. ONE EACH SUCCEEDED TO THE INFECTION IN DEOGARH, KHURDA, MAYURBHANJ, NAYAGARH, PURI AND SAMBALPUR

The positivity rate in the state stands at 5.84

OVER 52.94 LAKH SAMPLE TESTS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN THE STATE, INCLUDING 35,051 SUNDAY

added. Meanwhile, 52 persons in the Capital city tested positive for the viral infection, taking the caseload in Bhubaneswar to 30,179, according to Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC).

The civic body tool to the Twitter to inform that as many as 74 per-

sons who had earlier tested positive for Covid-19 recovered in the last 24 hours, taking the total recoveries to 29,294.

Bhubaneswar has so far seen 197 persons succumbing to the disease. The Capital city has 667 active cases of Covid-19.

Live insect found in mouth wash bottle

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: In a bizarre incident, a live insect was found afloat in a sealed mouth wash bottle purchased by a patient from the medicine store inside the SCB medical college and hospital in Cuttack.

The patient also accused the medicine shop owner charging more than the maximum retail price written on the bottle.

According to sources, a lady patient identified as Bandana Chowdhry Monday purchased the mouth wash bottle (HBL-4378) manufactured by RECH Elist Farma. Upon return, she was shocked to notice the live insect inside the bottle. She also came to know that the shop owner has charged her ₹109 for the mouth wash bottle while the actual MRP of the product is ₹100 which is clear violation of guidelines.

She demanded stringent action against the shop owner for charging more than the MRP rate. She urged the state government to black list the company for the negligence.

Police team to visit Faridabad today

Bhubaneswar: A team of Commissionerate Police is likely to visit Faridabad in Haryana Tuesday to interrogate the officials of Surya Shakti Vessels private limited, the company engaged in the maintenance work at the petrol pump at Raj Bhawa where a severe blast occurred October 7. The blast had left two dead.

FOCUS: CHILD SAFETY



Cuttack Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani inaugurates a booklet on 'child safety' through a virtual meet to mark the Child Rights Week, Monday

Two held in Jobra murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 16: In a major crackdown, Cuttack Police late Sunday night arrested two criminals in connection with the sensational 2019 Jobra murder case. With the arrest of the two persons, the total number of arrests has increased to five in the case.

Notably, a criminal Tapan Nayak was murdered in Jobra area of Cuttack in June 2019.

The accused brothers have been identified as Haridutta Singh alias Hapun and Debidutta Singh alias Kadua. The accused duo has more than ten cases pending against

their name.

DCP Prateek Singh informed, "A fight ensued between Tapan Nayak and another group, of which the two brothers were a part of, following a dispute over a fishing land at Jobra. Later, Haridutta and Debidutta along with their associates murdered Tapan with a knife. While a complaint was lodged against six persons in connection with the case, three were earlier arrested by the police".

Tapan Nayak was a resident of Matia Mangala Sahi in Jobra area of Cuttack. As he was a criminal by profession, he had enmity with other gangs of the silver

city for which Biswaranjan Mohanty alias Happy and his associates, including Hapun and Kadua stabbed Tapan with a knife in the night of June 9. He succumbed to his injuries the very next day during treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH).

The two brothers- Hapun and Kadua escaped from Cuttack after committing the crime. They had returned to Cuttack just few months back. They were arrested after police received multiple complaints against them for their involvement in several extortion cases recently.

'Shivling' appears in village on 'Amavasya' night

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Nov 16: A Shivling and a statue were discovered at Baladia Pada of Goramati village under Goramati panchayat in Bhadrak block Saturday night.

As the news spread, hundreds of people from nearby areas were seen making a beeline at the spot to catch a glimpse of the Shivling. "Yesterday was amavasya or new moon day. A Shivling and a statue discovered on such an auspicious day means nothing but the blessing of the lord," said some villagers.

As the news spread, hundreds of people from nearby areas were seen making a beeline at the spot to catch a glimpse of the Shivling

They said a tractor was engaged to level the soil of Baladiapada ground as a children's park will come up there.

It was when the tractor driver was leveling the soil Saturday night, the driver felt the blades of the leveler attached to the tractor hit a rock-like object under the ground.

The tractor driver and the owner inspected the particular place and dug it up. To their utter dismay, they stumbled upon a Shivling and a statue. They immediately informed the sarpanch and villagers who came running to the spot and found it to be true.

Weak embankment triggers flood threat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 16: Fear of flood gripped the residents of Barimunde village under Niali block of Cuttack district after a weak embankment of a nearby canal caved in Sunday night. The village was water-logged due to incessant flood water.

Sources said, a 15-foot wide breach

has developed in the embankment of Kakatpur branch canal late Sunday night. Following this canal water entered into the nearby Barimunde village.

Floods are an annual affair for the people of this village due to absence of measures to avoid the weak embankment. Locals have been demanding temporary measures like

stone-packing of the embankment to check the rainwater from overflowing the river banks and entering villages. The village remains water-logged for several days during rain. Even after repeated demands, the embankment work has not been completed before monsoon.

Due to the flood water, the ponds in the village have been over flooded

affecting farming in the village. Efforts were on by the Water Resources Department to drain out the water using pump sets when this report came.

The locals alleged that though they had earlier apprised the department about the weak embankment, no action was taken in this regard.

Biz conclave throws light on supply chain

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: X-Ops, the Operations Committee of XIMB, hosted their flagship event and annual business conclave, 'Ashwamedh 2020' here recently. The theme of the conclave was 'Emerging Technologies and the Future of Supply Chain'.

Speaking on the occasion, professor Arun Kumar Paul, moderator for the conclave, introduced the speakers to various committees XIMB has to offer and acclimatizing the students to the basic concept of Supply Chain Management and how rapidly it has been changing in reaction to the dynamic environment.

Priyaranjan Kumar, Chief Operating Officer, Iconic Fashion India, served as the first speaker for the day. He discussed regarding how supply chain management is like playing a game of football wherein each player has to efficiently play their part in order to avoid hiccups.

He further pointed out that the D2C channel had been existent for a while but it is much stronger in this day and age.

Umesh Joshi, Associate Director, Perfetti Van Melle, discussed about his learnings from the various industries he has been associated

with and proceeded with explaining the rapid shift in the use of technology for supply chain optimization due to the unprecedented surge in demand brought about by the pandemic. He further walked the students through the emerging technologies such as IoT, autonomous road transportations, and CSR, that are necessary for demand forecasting and meeting the evolving consumer expectations.

Amith Raman, Chief Operating Officer, Inker Robotics, elaborated on the future of supply chain using robotics and how in about 10 years 50% of the jobs would be converted to automation yet only 5% would be eliminated. According to him, humans would have to work in tandem and co-exist with the technological changes. Raman also stressed on the importance of right data and how it's imperative to collect the right one before adapting latest technology.

During the Question Answer session, students asked insightful, inquisitive questions to the various speakers. X-Ops' annual magazine, 'Ashwamedh' was also launched.

The event came to an end with Alok Kumar Hota, the Student Coordinator of X-Ops, proposing the vote of thanks.

RAZING DOWN



An excavator deployed by the civic bodies razes a structure on Capital Hospital premises in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Seminar on mental health

Bhubaneswar: SAI International School conducted an online youth conference with 11 countries here recently. They chose a topic of importance and talked about the issues to bring about a change in the minds of the people and how they feel about it. The topic this year was A Step Forward: A Global Conversation on Mental Health. This year, due to the pandemic, SAI International conducted it online where youth from all across the globe were invited to be a part of this year's cause. Round Square schools from South Asia and the Gulf, Europe and Mediterranean, Middle East, Africa and Australia and East Asia with a participation of more than 500 students from 23 Schools of 11 countries, including Australia, Oman, UAE, Pakistan, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Japan, UK and India participated.

Film artistes divided over censorship of OTT content

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: The Union government had recently ordered that all online news portals and content providers like Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Hotstar and others be brought under the purview of the information and broadcasting ministry.

It is fair to say that creative minds have not welcomed the move. As it is the first step towards censoring online content, filmmakers are of the view that it will lead to gagging of their creative freedom. However, some are also of the opinion that in recent times, various OTT platforms have streamed mediocre and profane content which led to the Centre's move.

Throwing light on the scenario, Joyeeta Roy, an industry expert, said, "Until now, OTT platforms were not under any regulation. However, due to the pandemic, these platforms are booming and are increasingly more in demand. This necessitates governmental regulations as more and more people are going to watch it for entertainment."

Meanwhile, city-based filmmaker Amartya Bhattacharya, who has worked on multiple movies screened in OTT platforms, said, "I am completely against censorship of any kind. The censorship trend will destroy the multidimensional fabric of this nation. Besides, no one is ever forced to view any content on any platform."



Talking about the quality of content in OTT platforms, producer Swastik Choudhury said, "OTTs give viewers access to some wonderful stuff from other countries and

across languages. But in recent times, it has transformed from being a place for artistic content to a near mainstream content provider. In a way, once they have made their

base, most OTTs have shunned good content for commercial entertainments."

"Originally, OTT platforms were created purely for private entertainment. It has captivated a sizable population, though it is relatively new in India," said vice president, Aao TV, Siddhartha Mohapatra.

"Keeping OTT platforms under standard regulation will standardise content keeping Indian culture in mind. It is too early to anticipate anything as the guidelines are yet to be formulated, but certainly there will be space for variety of contents including adult ones," he said.

Actress Sindura Rout, who debuted in OTT platforms with a Hindi web series, said, "There

should be filters in these platforms as people under 18 years of age also watch it. Filmmakers who slip adult content into these programmes to increase viewership will stick to their concept and be matured while filming."

Similar views were shared by actor Partha Sarthi Ray who said it was important to put a break to some extremely bad quality pornographic content in such platforms.

Filmmaker Akshay Parija said, "Censorship isn't about censoring just bold content or language. It also means banning content that could affect people negatively. I don't think the Centre has the intention to disrupt the entertainment scene and creative aspects of the OTT platforms."

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The plight of Rasulpur's 10K groundnut farmers

DECREASED PRODUCTION, FALL IN THE CROP'S PRICE AND REDUCED GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES TO THE FARMERS DEAL A DEADLY BLOW TO THE GROUNDNUT FARMERS OF RASULPUR

POST NEWS NETWORK

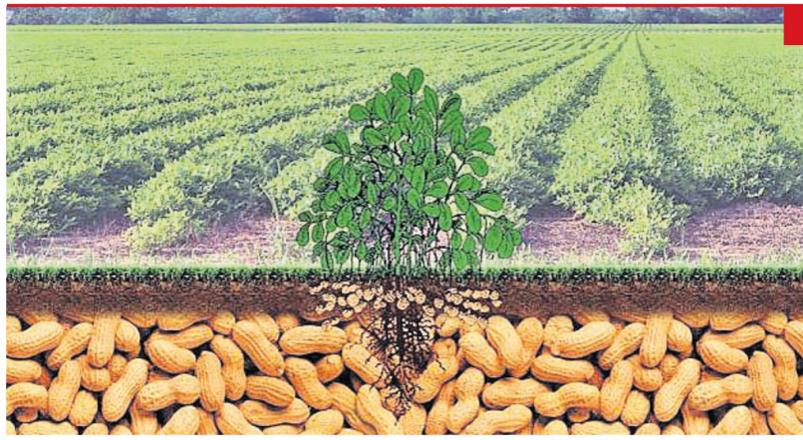
Rasulpur, Nov 16: Over 10,000 farmers under this block in Jajpur district have been allegedly deprived of getting groundnut seeds from the state government, a report said.

Rasulpur is a leading block in Jajpur district where agriculture is the mainstay for majority of the residents. The farmers here cultivate a range of crops right from paddy to cash crops like groundnuts and vegetable crops.

The Agriculture department has taken a decision to cultivate groundnuts on large patches of land instead in individual farmlands of farmers. This has become a practice and groundnut cultivation has been carried out in a similar manner for the last few years.

However, the new practice has hit the farmers as the Agriculture department has stopped giving subsidies and incentives to all the farmers. The new practice has benefited only a handful of farmers while depriving the rest of the lot. Observers claimed that the government policy will deal a heavy blow to cultivation of agriculture and other crops and demanded a review of the policy.

This has sparked resentment among the farmers as they demanded equal treatment to all the farmers and not to differentiate among them. Observers have de-



Pic taken from WRAL.com

manded to deposit the money towards the subsidies for the Rabi and Kharif crop season in their bank accounts which they will spend on buying seeds, pesticides and other materials from the market.

Reports from the block agriculture office said the groundnut cultivation this year is done on less amount of land in comparison to previous years. In previous years, groundnut cultivation was carried out on an average of 6,000 hectare of land out of 10,000 hectare of farmlands in the block.

This year the department has planned for groundnut cultivation on 3,750 hectare of land due to decline in production, drastic fall in groundnut price during harvest and reduced government incentives to the farmers. The block has over 30,000 farmers out of which 40 per cent of them are into groundnut cultivation.

However, only 250 farmers among them will be able to get government benefits, an official of the agriculture department said. The department has also planned to provide financial assistance to only

15 per cent of the farmland carrying out groundnut cultivation.

The financial assistance will not come for free to the farmers as the former will have to invest 40 per cent of the expenses needed for cultivation. As per plan, groundnut cultivation will be carried out on 250 hectare of farmlands under the block. The cultivation requires 225 kg of groundnut seeds per hectare of farmland. The Agriculture department will provide 150 kg of seeds while the rest of 75 kg of seeds will have to be borne by the farmers.

IN NUMBERS

- Of the block's 30K farmers, 40 pc of them are into groundnut cultivation
- Only 250 farmers among them will be able to receive govt benefits
- The Agri dept plans to provide financial assistance to only 15 pc of the farmland carrying out groundnut cultivation
- The financial assistance will not come for free to the farmers as they will have to invest 40 pc of the expenses needed for cultivation
- The cultivation requires 225 kg of groundnut seeds per hectare of farmland
- The Agri dept will provide 150 kg of seeds while the rest will have to be borne by the farmers

Accordingly, the block has received 2,250 quintal of seeds for the cultivation which is being distributed by the village agriculture officials. The farmers will get the pesticides when the cultivation will reach the halfway mark. What is surprising is that the farmers will not receive any compensation from the government if they face crop loss due to natural calamities.

When contacted, Bhagyadhar Sahu, assistant agriculture officer, said, "There will be good harvest if the climate favours the farmers."

Kalahandi Farmers' Info Centre lying incomplete



The construction company will take two to three months more to complete the building work. RAJKISHORE SAHOO | DEPARTMENTAL ENGINEER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kesinga, Nov 16: Sans maintenance, the Farmers' Information and Advisory Centre (FIAC) at Kesinga block in Kalahandi district has been lying in a dilapidated condition. The centre has been lying unused for years now.

According to sources, in a bid to impart training and grass root level information regarding farming and new technology to the farmers, the Odisha government, started construction of a Farmers' Information and Advisory Centre (FIAC) at Kesinga.

But, for some reason the building has been lying half-constructed for over four years and now resembles a haunted house. Under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, the state government started the construction work in 2016-17 financial year. Even though four years have passed by the construction company is yet to complete the work. Locals alleged that the con-

struction company had been using low quality materials in the construction work. They also alleged that the contractor has used less quantity of cement during the foundation construction work.

The state government had decided to construct the FIAC, in a bid to facilitate the block farmers with training centre, laboratory and cold store. However, due to careless attitude of the agricultural department officers, the half-constructed FIAC has given no benefit to the farmers of the block.

As there are no cold storage houses in the block, the farmers are facing problems to store their produce due to which they are forced to sell their produce at a very less price to the middlemen.

When asked departmental engineer Rajkishore Sahoo, said, "The construction company will take two to three months more to complete the building work."

Jumbo herds from Jharkhand reach Nilagiri, villagers jittery

ONE OF THE HERDS HAS 42 ELEPHANTS INCLUDING FIVE TUSKERS AND SEVEN CALVES, FROM DALMA SANCTUARY IN JHARKHAND

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Nov 16: A herd of wild elephants from Jharkhand has arrived in Nilagiri area in Balasure district, triggering fear and apprehension among the residents.

According to forest officials, the herd, comprising of 42 elephants including five tuskers and seven calves, has come from Dalma sanctuary in Jharkhand.

Entering through Mayurbhanj, the herd has now camped in Gopalpur reserve forest crossing Durgadevi, Sonnadi, Pundal, Kathapal, Patna and Ayodhya-Gopalpur road under Nilagiri range. The pachyderms have destroyed



paddy crops on vast stretches on their way. In a bid to avoid man-elephant conflicts and resultant loss from both sides, following the di-

rection of Balasure DFO Biswaraj Panda, a team comprising of Nilagiri ranger Manuar Khan, several forester guards and Sabuja Vahini is keeping a close watch on the movement of the herd.

As if this herd was not enough, another herd is said to be heading towards Nilagiri. Apprehending danger, the people living in forested areas are spending sleepless nights.

When contacted, ranger Khan said as another herd of jumbos is heading towards Nilagiri they are yet to decide as to what steps to be taken. "We will take steps after getting a clear picture of the second herd's movement," he added.

BOOSTING TOURISM



Shreemayee Sweta Snigdha Mishra, chairperson of Odisha Tourism Development Corporation and Bolangir Collector Chanchal Rana lay the foundation stone of a new district tourist office in Bolangir, Monday. A bus service from Bolangir to Harishankar shrine was also launched on the occasion (inset) OP PHOTO

Vehicle lifting gang nabbed in Balasure

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, Nov 16: Personnel of Industrial police station in Balasure district here busted a vehicle lifting gang by arresting five robbers Sunday in this connection.

As many as 15 bikes, one car and an SUV were also seized from their possession.

The five robbers have many cases pending against them at different police stations of Bhubaneswar, Jajpur and Puri.

The culprits would move in a car in different districts and would steal them whenever they found them unattended, said Industrial police station IIC Minati Biswal.

1 DEAD, 1 INJURED AS BIKE FALLS OFF BRIDGE IN GANJAM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 16: One person was killed and another was injured as a bike fell from Badanadi bridge at Naugaon village in Bhanjanagar of Ganjam district, Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as Gourishankar Swain. However, the identity of the critically injured was to be ascertained. According to a source, Gourishankar Swain of Patulisahi village in Bhanjanagar and another person were travelling to Naugaon village by crossing Badanadi bridge. Swain lost his control over the bike midway and the bike plunged 20 feet down from the bridge. While Swain died on the spot, the other person sustained critical injuries. Locals rescued the injured person and sent him to a nearby hospital.

Police reached the spot and an investigation had been started regarding the incident.

Lecturer, serving in 2 colleges, faces music

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Nov 16: A lecturer was in soup for allegedly using unfair means to get appointed as a lecturer in two colleges in Jajpur district.

After not getting any satisfactory answer to the show-cause notice issued to Sudhir Kumar Rout, History lecturer and Principal-in-charge of Abhimanyu Samanta Singhara Degree College at Balia in Jajpur district, the Regional Director of Education (RDE), Bhubaneswar, has taken action against him.

The RDE vide in his letter no-7255/29/10/2020, has directed the grant-in-aid Rout is hitherto receiving be withdrawn.

Rout had been a lecturer at Abhimanyu Samanta Singhara Degree College at Balia since 1992. In the meantime, he started serv-

ing as a lecturer at Mukta Devi Sanskrit College at Sahaspur from July 12, 1997. Before his craftiness was caught, he was also serving at Mukta Devi Sanskrit College as Principal in-charge.

In this connection, local people had submitted a memorandum to Bari MLA Sunanda Das. According to the memorandum, the management committee of Mukta Devi Sanskrit College had given appointment to Rout as a lecturer vide its letter no-3/12/7/1997 after it was passed at its fifth meeting. He had joined his duty at the Sanskrit college July 17, 1997.

MLA Das had brought the concerned minister's attention through her diary no.-368/21/1/2020. Later, deputy director, Higher Education Department, Hrushikesh Mohanty vide in his letter no-6284/10/2/2020 had directed for an investigation into the allegation.

Locals gherao police station over death of 20-yr-old man

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Nov 16: Tension prevailed at Pahadotli village under Kutra police station in Sundargarh district Monday after the locals gheraoed the police station over the 'mysterious' death of a youth.

After preliminary investigation, the youth was identified as Pabin Patil (20) from Maharashtra. Even though police had informed Pabin's family regarding his demise, nobody from his family came to the police station to claim the body.

Notably, the body of Pabin was found hanging from a tree at Pahadotli village under Kutra block, November 5. On being informed, the Kutra police reached the site and sent the body for post-mortem.

With no witness and family members to claim the body, police cremated it in presence of the magis-



Villagers gherao the police station

trate after 72 hours. However, residents of Pahadotli village, who were acquainted with Pabin, suspected foul play and demanded a fair probe in the matter to understand whether it was a case of murder or suicide.

"If it was a suicide case then police should identify under what cir-

cumstances the youth had taken such an extreme step," a villager demanded.

Submitting a memorandum to the police, the villagers demanded the cops to ascertain the facts relating to his death. Under pressure, police reopened the case after the cremation and assured of proper investigation following which the villagers called off the strike.

Man surrenders after clubbing brother to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kuanrunda, Nov 16: A man clubbed his elder brother to death at Harpali village of Puturikhaman panchayat under the police limits in Sundargarh district Sunday night.

The accused, identified as Bandhana Lakra (30) of Haripal village, surrendered before the police Monday. Sukhu Lakra (40), the deceased, was unmarried and his younger brother Bandhana was a married man. Sunday night, they entered into a verbal duel over some particular reason. Thereafter Sukhu, who was in an inebriated state, attacked Bandhana and his wife. At this, Bandhan lost his cool.

Youth drowns, 2 missing while bathing in Budhabalanga river

THE INCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN FIVE ENGINEERING STUDENTS VISITED THE RIVER GHAT IN KATHASANGADA VILLAGE FOR PICNIC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Nov 16: A youth got drowned while two others went missing while bathing in Budhabalanga river during a picnic in this district, Monday. The deceased was identified as Ankit Pati, 21, from Kadamsahi under Nilagiri NAC limits. Two of his friends had a providential escape. The incident occurred when five

engineering students visited the river ghat in Kathasangada village for picnic. Ankit and four of his classmates had initially planned their picnic at Chandipur but changed their mind and visited the river ghat this morning. They started cooking at the river ghat and went to take bath in the river. They were bathing when Ankit, his friends Kanhu Charan Mishra, 20, and Piyush Pratyush Nayak,

20, accidentally fell into deep water and slipped further into it. Their two other friends raised an alarm after failing to trace them.

Locals launched a search operation and also informed the fire personnel. They struggled for some time and fished out the body of Ankit while the two others remained untraceable.

A team of NDRF personnel also launched a rescue operation.

Man killed over sorcery practice in Keonjhar dist

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jhumpura, Nov 16: A man was killed in an organised attack by four villagers over suspected witchcraft practice and sorcery at Munda Sahi hamlet in Kankadajodi ghat under this block in tribal dominated Keonjhar district, Sunday night.

The deceased was identified as Sukalal Munda, 45, in the hamlet. Police registered a case and started an investigation after his widow Chabiri Munda lodged a complaint in Jhumpura police station. Sources said murder of people over suspected witchcraft practice and sorcery have become a frequent occurrence due to superstition and lack of awareness among the people. Police seized the body and sent it for post-mortem to Champua hospital.

UTKAL GRAMEEN BANK
HEAD OFFICE, BOLANGIR, ODISHA, PIN:767001

TENDER NOTICE Dt.12.11.2020

Utkal Grameen Bank invites sealed quotations from interested vendors for printing and supply of Wall Date Calendars for 2021. The last date for application is 21.11.2020 till 2 pm The details are available at the website www.utkalgrameenbank.co.in

General Manager-I

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, R.W.S.S. DIVISION, SONEPUR
Telephone No. 06654-220259, e-mail: dwsn_snpr@nic.in

Govt. of Odisha 'e'-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 02/2020-21

No. O-572: The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Sonepur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage bid through e-Procurement in double cover system according to norm of e-Procurement system in Online mode for the work "Const. of OHT, Const. of Pump Chamber, SV Chamber, laying of PVC/HDPE/G.I. Pipe, Compound Wall including Maintenance of the project in different blocks under Subarnapur District.

- Nature of Work : Different PWS Schemes of Sonepur District.
- Total No. of Work : 8 Nos.
- Tender Paper Cost : Rs.6000/- to Rs.10000/-
- Value of Work : Rs.32.84 lakhs to Rs.67.25 lakhs
- Class of Contractor : 'C', 'B' & 'A'
- Period of Completion : 300 days (Refer DTCN available in the website tendersorissa.gov.in)

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of Opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Executive Engineer, RWSS Division, Sonepur	Notification No. 02 of 2020-21	Dt. 18.11.20 11.00 A.M.	02.12.20 upto 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 01.12.20 upto 5.00 P.M.	03.12.20 at 12.00 hours	To be announced later

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RWSS Division, Sonepur
OIPR-25037/11/0002/2021

If in work you meet with some difficulties, look sincerely into yourself and there you will discover their origin.



THE MOTHER

Chinese Chequers

The formation of the world's biggest free trade bloc - the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) - by 15 Asia-Pacific economies, minus India, on 15 November comes close on the heels of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit (SCO) last week. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had, in that online summit, belligerently spelt out India's stand in the backdrop of the faceoff with China in Ladakh. He stated that India will not accept anyone's territorial interference in the name of facilitating trade and commerce. PM Modi, in his predictable style, had refrained from spelling out China's name even at SCO.

Chinese President Xi Jinping didn't directly respond to Modi's veiled reference to his country's territorial ambition, but asserted "history has proven and will continue to prove that good-neighbourliness will prevail over a bigger-than-thy-neighbour approach, mutually beneficial cooperation will replace zero-sum game and multilateralism will beat unilateralism."

As if to din his message into India's ears, Xi quoted a Chinese proverb - "Men of insight see the trend, while men of wisdom ride it" and then China went on to pilot Sunday's RCEP deal signed on the sidelines of an online Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit. The 10-nation ASEAN leaders grappled with the problem of tackling plans for a post-pandemic economic recovery in a region where rivalry between the USA and China is rising.

Leaders of the RCEP countries, in a symbolic move, took turns standing behind their trade ministers who, one by one, signed copies of the agreement. The Prime Minister of Vietnam, Nguyen Xuan Phuc, said: "RCEP will soon be ratified by the signatory countries and take effect, contributing to the post-pandemic economic recovery."

The China-backed initiative of forming the world's largest economic bloc is a significant development as it accounts for over 30 per cent of the world's economy (\$142 trillion) and reaches 2.2 billion consumers. It is intended to cement China's position more firmly as an economic partner with Southeast Asia, Japan and Korea and putting the world's second largest economy in a better position to shape the region's trade rules. It will also be noteworthy how India fares in this scheme of things with Donald Trump ousted from power. The Modi government publicly leaned on Trump a good deal which may prove detrimental to India's future.

In another significant diplomatic posturing, Xi in his SCO summit deliberately mentioned his country's controversial Belt and Road Initiative. This project has become a thorn in India's flesh, complicating further Indo-Pak-Chinese relations. Xi said: "We should forge greater synergy of the Belt and Road Initiative with national development strategies as well as regional co-operation initiatives such as the Eurasian Economic Union. We should enhance connectivity and further integrate our industrial, supply and value chains for unimpeded economic circulation in the region, facilitate re-opening of economic activities through the 'fast track' that steps up mobility of people and the 'green lane' that quickens the flow of goods, foster an open, fair and non-discriminatory business environment for each other's companies, and expand mutual investment among us."

Earlier, Modi had stated at the summit: "India believes that to enhance connectivity it is important that we move forward while respecting one another's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Modi and Xi shared the virtual platform for the first time since hostility broke out between India and China over the Ladakh incident. Modi's statement is also a veiled reference to China's backing of the massive 3,000-km-long infrastructure project - China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which connects Kashgar in western China with Gwadar port in Pakistan and passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. India has, from the outset, protested China's CPEC push as the corridor passes through PoK.

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla's veiled warning at the recent programme in London that the world should guard against the real intent of China's Belt and Road Initiative was a response to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's announcement that his government would give Gilgit-Baltistan region 'provisional provincial status.' The new arrangement of the Pakistan government has serious strategic, economic and geopolitical ramifications with China emerging as the author of a new global order. China's silence on Imran Khan's announcement is in sharp contrast to the shrill noise it made when the Indian government redrew the contours of the state of Jammu and Kashmir after abrogation of Article 370. This is not simply to back its ally, but also to ensure that the construction of the CPEC across the Gilgit-Baltistan region picks up its rhythm after being halted for some time. Gilgit-Baltistan is the northernmost territory administered by Pakistan, providing the country's only territorial frontier - a land route - with China, where it meets the Xinjiang Autonomous Region.

These events and utterances demonstrate an utter failure of India's diplomatic thrusts of the recent past. For example, the Malabar military exercise held last month under the QUAD banner compromising India, USA, Japan and Australia now stands without three legs. On one hand, Japan and Australia have become signatories of RCEP and will obviously avoid any anti China military posturing in the future. On the other, the change in the US administration will also change the new government's attitude towards India. The direct support of PM Modi to outgoing President Donald Trump during his election campaign would, most likely, prove to be an expensive diplomatic debacle that India will be forced to suffer through for a long time to come.

WISDOM CORNER

- The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall. -RALPH WALDO EMERSON
- There is an immeasurable distance between late and too late. -OG MANDINO
- Many are stubborn in pursuit of the path they have chosen, few in pursuit of the goal. -FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

WORDSWORTH

VEGETATE

It's not often that lexicographers can say of a recently created word that it's already defunct (they mark it historical, but that's what they mean). This rare situation has arisen with this word vegetate, which has had a good run in the corridors and debating chambers of the European Union, but has finally been laid to rest. Some European countries greatly dislike British milk chocolate, in their view a bastard concoction that ought not to stand alongside the glories of the product from Belgium and France (the Swiss make chocolate, of course, but they're not in the EU). British chocolate makers not only put more milk in it, but add up to 5 per cent vegetable fat to the cocoa butter. When Britain joined the European Union in 1973, it secured an opt-out from the Cocoa and Chocolate Products Directive that prohibited such practices. But ever since, it has been very difficult to sell British chocolate in Europe. As part of their fight against accepting it, European chocolatiers argued that British chocolate didn't deserve even to be called by that name. Various alternatives were put forward, such as industrial chocolate, vegetable fat milk chocolate or a German word that roughly translates as fat glazed. But a suggestion from France in the mid 1980s, the word vegetate, became the term preferred by the continental campaigners. To cut a long story short, the debate went on for more than two decades, until the European Commission eventually ruled on the matter of chocolate harmonisation as part of its review of the Directive. The European Parliament ratified the revised Directive, which says our home-grown product may be sold throughout Europe, provided that the presence of vegetable fat is shown on the label and it's tagged as family milk chocolate. Problem finally solved, after 27 years and a lot of bureaucratic wrangling. And vegetate is no more. It is an ex-word.

FOCUS PANDEMIC

VACCINE APARTHEID

The American pharmaceutical company Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech have announced that the COVID-19 vaccine they are jointly developing was more than 90 per cent effective in early clinical trials. The news raised hopes around the world that life may soon return to pre-pandemic normal.

Those hopes may not last long. The announcement also sent governments scrambling to lay claim to vaccine doses, apparently realising a bleak prediction: wealthy countries and individuals will monopolise early doses of any effective vaccine.

The COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX) - led by the World Health Organisation, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance - was established precisely to prevent this outcome. The COVAX Facility aims to accelerate COVID-19 vaccine development, secure doses for all countries, and distribute those doses fairly, beginning with the highest-risk groups. In other words, the facility was created partly to prevent hoarding by rich-country governments.

So far, more than 180 countries, representing nearly two-thirds of the world's population, have joined. This includes 94 higher-income countries, all of which have made legally binding commitments. All will have access to the vaccines in the COVAX list, and pay for their doses individually. The 92 lower-income countries that are parties to the facility will receive their doses free of charge.

The COVAX plan would have the vaccine distributed in two phases. In the first phase, all participating countries would receive doses proportionate to their populations. It would begin with enough vaccines to immunise the 3 per cent of their population at highest risk, especially frontline workers in health and social care. Additional doses would then be delivered, until immunisation cov-



Within days of its announcement, Pfizer had sold more than 80 per cent of the vaccine doses it will be able to produce by the end of next year to governments representing only 14 per cent of the global population. In other words, if this is the first safe and effective vaccine to get to market, the vast majority of the world's population will have almost no access to it

ers 20 per cent of each country's population - beginning with others most in danger from COVID-19, such as the elderly and those with co-morbidities.

In the second phase, vaccines would be delivered to specific countries based on how quickly the virus is spreading; whether other pathogens (like measles) are also spreading; and how vulnerable the country's health infrastructure is to being overwhelmed. Given the constraints at work - the BioNTech-Pfizer vaccine, for example, must be administered in two doses three weeks apart, and only 1.35 billion doses, at most, will be produced by the end of next year - it is difficult to imagine a fairer system. And yet there are major barriers to the system's implementation. First and foremost, while China finally joined COVAX in early October, the United States has not.

Of course, given his 'America First' approach, US President Donald Trump surprised no one by refusing to join. There is, however, reason to hope that President-elect Joe Biden will be more receptive.

After all, Biden plans to re-join many international agreements from which Trump withdrew, and has already established a COVID-19 task force. Seth Berkley, the head of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is set to hold talks with Biden's team.

Meanwhile, China has been working aggressively and largely independently to develop and test its own vaccine. At least four candidates are currently undergoing Phase-3 trials. Though none are yet proven, Chinese officials have reportedly attempted to inoculate tens of thousands of people - possibly many more - outside the traditional testing process.

But there is another problem: COVAX participants are still competing to secure bilateral deals with pharmaceutical companies, as there is no rule against it. The United Kingdom, for example, has reserved 40 million doses of the BioNTech-Pfizer vaccine. Several other European governments have also placed orders, or are negotiating deals.

Moreover, the European Union has finalised a deal for up to 300 million doses. The US, with its popu-

lation of 328 million, has ordered 100 million doses, with the rights to acquire 500 million more - a target so high that it smacks of an attempt to corner the market. Brazil - another COVAX participant - is also in talks with Pfizer, as are many others. Within days of its announcement, Pfizer had sold more than 80 per cent of the vaccine doses it will be able to produce by the end of next year to governments representing only 14 per cent of the global population. In other words, if this is the first safe and effective vaccine to get to market, the vast majority of the world's population will have almost no access to it.

Many other vaccine candidates - there are currently over 200, around 50 of which are in the clinical-trial phase - are also spoken for. Rich-country governments have already cut deals for privileged access to vaccines being developed by Moderna (which has also reported promising results from clinical trials), Johnson & Johnson, and AstraZeneca, among others. Should these candidates make it through the approval process. Obviously, low-income countries do not have this option.

Because a pandemic can be overcome only when it is overcome everywhere, embracing an every-country-for-itself approach would seem irrational. And yet, as the unseemly competition for vaccine doses indicates, that is exactly what many countries have done. Unless we change course, global health apartheid will become increasingly entrenched and drive inequality to new heights. And the pandemic will still be with us. We will have merely added new problems to the one we didn't solve.

The writer is Executive Secretary of International Development Economics Associates and a member of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM POLITICS

Populism not dead, but can be defeated

Before he was US president, Donald Trump built a reality-television persona on the catchphrase, "You're fired." Now, the American people have fired him. And Trump's defeat has also dealt a devastating blow to nationalist populists in Europe and elsewhere. Might it prove lethal?

The swamps that breed populist nationalism have not been drained. Too many people remain frustrated over their perceived (or anticipated) loss of economic and social status, and feel disregarded or maligned by establishment politicians. Wage stagnation, deindustrialisation, and economic injustice continue to be serious challenges. Many are convinced that immigration and cultural change pose a threat to their safety and way of life. The COVID-19 crisis has compounded these anxieties.

The persistence of these fears and frustrations was reflected in the US election results. Though President-elect Joe Biden won over five million more votes than Trump - a 3.4 percentage-point lead - more than 72 million Americans still cast their votes for the outgoing president.

Nonetheless, Biden has demonstrated that populism can be defeated - and not just with more populism. Far from employing populists' tactics, endorsing their world-views, or pandering to their prejudices, Biden built a broad electoral coalition around a promise of pos-

itive change, sober moderation, and competent governance. This holds a crucial lesson for center-left and center-right political parties in Europe, which have at times succumbed to the populist temptation - such as by echoing their socially conservative, anti-immigrant views - to try to win votes.

Trump's loss also amounts to a warning for other far-right populists, such as Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. Earlier this year, Orbán proclaimed, "We used to think that Europe was our future; today we know that we are the future of Europe." But with Trump's defeat, his words ring hollow. Even if these leaders remain popular for now - in Bolsonaro's case, thanks to generous COVID-19 handouts to citizens - the rise or persistence of far-right populism is hardly inexorable.

Beyond shattering this self-serving narrative of inevitability, Trump's loss discredits his deeply flawed policies, thereby reducing their attractiveness to others. Over the past four years, Trump has pursued an approach that unabashedly purports to put 'America first,' trampling on trade treaties and misusing sanctions to try to give US businesses and workers an edge.

In this context, it seemed almost naive for others, including European governments, to pursue multilateral, cooperative open-market so-

lutions. As mainstream politicians leaned toward protectionism, the extreme economic nationalism espoused by the likes of France's National Rally (formerly the National Front) - whose leaders favor putting "France and French people first" - seemed increasingly reasonable. Moreover, as I explain in my new book, Them and Us: How Immigrants and Locals Can Thrive Together, Trump's xenophobic rhetoric and encouragement of nativist sentiment opened the way for harsh immigration policies at home and abroad.

Biden will set a very different example, which is likely to strengthen internationalists and weaken nationalists in Europe. To be sure, the president-elect - like Democrats more broadly - is not pushing for unfettered free trade and immigration. But he does recognise the foreign-policy benefits of trade cooperation with America's European allies, and he has pledged to reverse some of the Trump administration's most controversial immigration policies within days of taking office, as well as to reshape America's immigration system over the longer term. Biden will also scrap Trump's approach to climate change, beginning by rejoining the Paris climate agreement on the first day of his presidency.

With Trump gone, populist politicians will not only enjoy less domestic legitimacy; governments

will face a higher international price for nationalist stances. Trump was a powerful ally for Europe's nationalist governments, especially in Hungary and Poland. When Poland's ruling Law and Justice party picked fights with Germany and challenged EU policies on asylum, judicial independence, and much else, it felt confident that, even if its European partners turned on it, Trump would protect it from the likes of Vladimir Putin's revanchist Russia. With Biden in the White House, the Polish government will feel more pressure to be constructive.

The same goes for British PM Boris Johnson. Trump championed Brexit as an expression of sovereignty and encouraged Johnson to take a tough line with the EU, dangling the prospect of a bilateral trade deal as a prize. Biden is no fan of Brexit - or, one might guess, of Johnson, whose racist slight about President Barack Obama's 'part-Kenyan' ancestry during the referendum campaign Biden is unlikely to have forgotten. So, populist nationalism is not dead. But it can be defeated - and Trump's fall is likely to make that easier. Are Europeans up to the task?

The writer is a former economic adviser to the president of the European Commission.

PROJECT SYNDICATE



Philippe Legrain

WITH TRUMP GONE, POPULIST POLITICIANS WILL NOT ONLY ENJOY LESS DOMESTIC LEGITIMACY; GOVERNMENTS WILL FACE A HIGHER INTERNATIONAL PRICE FOR NATIONALIST STANCES

Age on Tejashwi's side

Sir, Tejashwi Yadav deserves encomiums that have come his way. With father Lalu Prasad Yadav in jail, the 31-year-old Tejashwi had his task cut out in the Bihar Assembly elections. The run for the money the Mahagathbandhan gave the NDA in the elections is to an extent due to his popularity. Tejashwi's shortcoming was his acute paucity of long term planning, and he has to work on that. In Bihar, Tejashwi was not known to be a 24-hour politician before the beginning of the election campaign. Not knowing to 'mix' with people was a drawback that the leader seemed to have rectified during the rallies. Nitish Kumar is unlikely to lord for long unless a miracle happens. The BJP has no great leader on the ground; no one appears to be on the horizon. Tejashwi has age on his side; he has his people. 2025, of course, will be his acid test. But his role as a leader of the opposition will be widely dissected by the people. Power comes and goes; it is crucial to remain in the good books of the people. That done there may be no stopping Tejashwi in Bihar politics.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA (MAHARASHTRA)

Live telecast Nagarjuna Besha

Sir, For over eight months, devotees have been waiting restlessly for the Srimandir in Puri to reopen. There have been sporadic protests organised in Puri, both by sevayats and devotees demanding to reopen the temple. After the Maharashtra government recently ordered the reopening of places of worship strictly adhering to Covid protocols, now the demand to reopen Srimandir in view of the Nagarjuna Besha which is scheduled to be held this month, grows stronger. Undoubtedly Nagarjuna Besha is a unique besha of the deities. This time it is happening after a gap of 27 years. But the question remains, should the temple be opened during a pandemic? Srimandir cannot be compared with other places of worship as far as the rituals and crowding by devotees are concerned. The last Nagarjuna Besha had an ugly experience when some devotees died due to stampede inside the temple. Therefore, the temple should not be opened at least for now. We should not forget that the virus still exists in our midst. Even though there is a decline in Covid cases in Puri we can ill afford to be complacent. But can't we explore the possibility of live telecasting the Nagarjuna Besha?

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, Russalgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

For Nitish, politics is the art of the possible

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Nov 16: "Politics is the art of the possible," German statesman Otto Von Bismarck once famously said. And who understands it better than Nitish Kumar, the modern-day craftsman of realpolitik, who has survived many a headwind to secure a fourth straight term as the Bihar chief minister despite his party finishing a poor third in the 243-member Assembly.

Unlike Lalu Prasad and Ram Vilas Paswan, his co-travellers during the movement led by Jayaprakash Narayan, electoral success eluded Kumar for long.

He got the first taste of victory, after three successive defeats, in the 1985 assembly polls when he won from Harnaut as a candidate of the Lok Dal.

Four years later he entered Lok Sabha from Barh even as fellow MP from Saran Lalu shifted to Bihar, taking over as CM.

The next decade-and-a-half saw Prasad's rise as one of the most powerful but controversial figures of his time who ruled the state by proxy, getting his demure homemaker wife Rabri Devi elected as his successor, when a chargesheet in fodder scam caused him to step down as the CM.

During the same period, Kumar burnt his bridges with Prasad, floated the Samata Party, and built his own political edifice brick by brick. The Samata Party joined forces with the BJP and Kumar made a mark for himself as an outstanding parliamentarian and was reckoned among the competent ministers in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee cabinet.

After a rift between Sharad Yadav, the then Janata Dal president, and Lalu Prasad, the latter broke away and formed the RJD. The Samata Party merged with Sharad Yadav's Janata Dal while continuing its alliance with the BJP.

After the NDA lost power in 2004, a victory in Bihar held out the



Union Home Minister Amit Shah greets Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar after the oath-taking ceremony at Raj Bhawan in Patna, Monday.

promise of a degree of redemption for the BJP-led alliance.

Attempts to wrest power from the RJD-Congress combine, then in power at the Centre as well, after the NDA fell short of majority in the assembly polls of February, 2005, were stymied by Governor Buta Singh's controversial move to dissolve the assembly, without it having even been constituted, in the face of alleged horse trading. This, however, proved a blessing in disguise for Kumar who was projected as the CM candidate in the elections that took place nine months later and the JD(U)-BJP combine got a comfortable majority, bringing the so-called "Lalu era" to an end.

Kumar's first five years as CM

are recalled with admiration even by critics, marked as these were by vast improvement in law and order, though the new dispensation had no dearth of people with criminal background among its rank and file.

The period, however, also saw the end of "Atal-Advani era" in the BJP and Kumar, who could not fathom the potential of his then Gujarat counterpart Narendra Modi, locked horns with him over the post-Godhra riots.

Plaudits his secular ideology, Kumar succeeded in preventing Modi, seen as a polarising figure, from campaigning for the BJP in Bihar in the 2009 Lok Sabha polls and the assembly elections a year later, something that still riles

Hindutva hardliners.

He ultimately snapped his party's 17-year-old ties with the BJP in 2013 when Modi was anointed the BJP's campaign committee chief for the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

After parting ways with the BJP, he won a trust vote with the support of the Congress, but stepped down in 2014, owing moral responsibility for the JD(U)'s drubbing in the Lok Sabha elections, when the party returned with a dismal tally of just two.

In less than a year, he was back as CM, elbowing out his rebellious protégé Jitan Ram Manjhi with ample support from the RJD and the Congress, and came to be seen nationally as a potential challenger to

OPPORTUNISM OR SAGACITY

Nitish's unusual knack for spotting friends has got him where it has despite the drastic slump in the electoral fortune of his party

The most atypical of politicians owing their rise to post-Mandal politics, Nitish stood out for his ability to address the governance deficit, unlike a majority of the breed reared in the socialist stable, but was often accused of pursuing politics of opportunism

Call it political opportunism or sagacity, his moves, in effect, prevented the Hindutva forces from holding sway over Bihar, where a section of the BJP feels mortified over not having its own chief minister till date despite enjoying a near hegemonic status nationally

Modi.

The Grand Alliance that came into being with the JD (U), Congress and RJD coming together, won the 2017 assembly polls handsomely but came apart in just two years, after Kumar insisted that Lalu's son and deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav, whose name had cropped up in a money laundering case related to the time when RJD supremo was the railway minister, 'come clear' on the issue.

He abruptly resigned as the chief minister as the RJD refused to budge, only to be back in office in less than 24 hours with BJP's support. Those who saw a "secular alternative" in Kumar felt let down and cried betrayal of "public mandate".

Nitish, though enfeebled by electoral reverses, is back in the hot seat, belying the prophets of doom.

BIHAR CM GETS TWO DEPUTIES

Both Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi are from the BJP, which bagged a lion's share of seven berths in the 14-member council of ministers



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Nov 16: A 14-member council of ministers, headed by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, was Monday sworn in here by Governor Phagu Chauhan.

Those who were administered oath of office included two Deputy Chief Minister designates Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi both from the BJP which bagged a lion's share of seven berths.

Since the post of a Deputy CM is not a constitutional one, the two took oath as ministers and their posts would be notified by the cabinet in due course.

The two sat alongside Kumar on the podium which confirms their elevated position in the cabinet. Five ministers were from the JD(U), which is headed by Kumar, while one each was from smaller allies Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP). JD(U) ministers included old hands like Bijendra Prasad Yadav, Ashok Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Chaudhary besides new faces Mewa Lal Chaudhary and Sheela Kumari Mandal.

Other than the two Deputy CM designates, those from the BJP included Mangal Pandey who held the health portfolio in the previous government besides Amarendra

Pratap Singh, Rampriti Paswan, Jibesh Kumar and Ram Surat Rai.

HAM MLC Santosh Kumar Suman, whose father Jitan Ram Manjhi is a former Chief Minister and the national president of the party, also took oath besides Mukesh Sahni, the founder of VIP who formerly worked as a set designer in the film industry. A political greenhorn, Sahni could not tame his exuberance and shared a screenshot of the communication he had received from Raj Bhawan on his Twitter handle much before the ceremony, attended among others by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda, commenced.

Rampriti Paswan, who is the MLA from Rajnagar in Madhubani, and Jibesh Kumar who represents Jale in Darbhanga, took oath in their native Maithili language.

Among the two Deputy CM designates, Prasad is a fourth term MLA who is getting inducted into the council of ministers for the first time. Renu Devi, who is a former national vice president of the BJP and a four-term MLA from Bettiah, has previously served as a member of the council of ministers headed by Nitish Kumar in 2010.

Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, a close aide of the Chief Minister, was the Speaker of the previous assembly.

DELHI'S THIRD COVID WAVE HAS PEAKED, SAYS MINISTER

The national capital has seen a surge in coronavirus infections this month, what authorities have called a third wave that has killed more than 600 people in the past week, even as cases in other parts of the country have declined



Health Minister Satyendar Jain says the peak is gone and cases will slowly come down now.

picked up as authorities relax restrictions after a harsh lockdown was imposed across the country in late March to slow down the spread of the virus.

The hardest-hit state of Maharashtra reopened places of worship on Monday with instructions to maintain social distancing and people trickled in wearing masks.

In Delhi, Jain said that there was "no chance" of another lockdown, even as authorities prepared hundreds of additional intensive care beds and ramped up capacity to conduct more than 100,000 tests a day.

"We are analysing the data daily and keeping a watch on the positivity," Jain said. Delhi has been carrying out an average of 55,000 tests a day.

The city's positivity rate - the percentage of people who test positive of all those tested - has declined since early November. But it rose again on Sunday, when fewer people were tested owing to a major festival on the weekend, possibly skewing the findings, an official said.

Economic activity has slowly

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 16: Day after Diwali a surprise shower, cool surface wind and relatively less stubble burning activity in the vicinity of the national capital brought down Delhi's air quality index from 525 to 273 within 24 hours.

Delhiites relaxed a bit as they could comparatively breathe better Monday after consistently battling the severe level of air quality which persisted over a week.

The Central Pollution Control Board of India recorded a significant improvement of the ambient air quality from 525 Sunday to 273 Monday.

As per the Ministry of Earth Science officials, surface winds which are blowing in northeasterly direction (not favourable for stubble-burning smog from entering Delhi), besides scattered rainfall in Delhi and surrounding region have washed out some of the pollutants, bringing down the AQI reading.

The System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) recorded the overall AQI of the national capital at 319. The CPCB notified the overall air quality of Delhi in the upper end of



"Poor" category while the SAFAR monitored it in the lower end of the "Very Poor category".

An AQI between 0-50 is marked "good", 51-100 is "satisfactory", 101-200 is "moderate", 201-300 is "poor", 301-400 is "very poor" and 401-500 is considered "severe". The AQI beyond 500 is termed as an emergency situation and calls for equivalent measures.

The morning after Diwali celebration, a thick blanket of noxious smog enveloped the national capi-

tal and shot up the pollution in the city to "emergency" level Sunday where the hourly average concentrations of PM 2.5, a deadly pollutant, touched more than 1000ug/m3.

While SAFAR mentioned Delhi's AQI in Very Poor, it stated that the AQI is likely to improve further during the day and settle at the POOR category.

The overall air quality of Delhi is in the lower end of the Very Poor category today morning as forecasted. AQI is likely to improve fur-

ther during the day and reach the POOR category. Surface winds are northeasterly direction and energetic, very favorable for pollutant dispersion. Scattered rainfall in Delhi and observed surrounding regions has washed out some of the pollutants," the ministry said.

Drastic reduction in the stubble fire counts with sufficient potential estimated from SAFAR-multi-satellite products are significantly reduced and are around 282. Stubble burning share in PM2.5 in Delhi's air is almost negligible and estimated as 1 per cent for today," the officials added.

The officials further added that the boundary layer wind direction is northeasterly which is not favourable for fire-related transport. However, a change in boundary layer wind direction is forecasted by Tuesday afternoon, but since the fire-related emissions have reduced, a significant impact of such incidents on the air quality is not expected.

For Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the ministry forecast the AQI to marginally deteriorate and stay in the "Very Poor category".

Number of non-Covid ICU beds shrinking

Experts have cautioned that rising air pollution, winter season will aggravate complications of persons with respiratory illnesses, and it is a double whammy for them as they stand at risk of contracting COVID-19 too



air quality in the city has led to complications in people with respiratory illnesses.

The online 'Corona Dashboard' of the Delhi government showed that around 4 pm, out of 1,588 non-COVID-19 ICU beds, only 422 were vacant.

At Max hospital, Patparganj; Batra hospital; Fortis hospital, Shalimar Bagh; and Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, all non-COVID-19 ICU beds were occupied, as per the data.

Their numbers were fast reducing in government facilities too, including AIIMS where out of 86

such beds, only 19 were vacant.

At Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (39 out of 108 such beds); Apollo Hospital (11 out of 81); BLK Hospital (36 out of 94); Max hospital, East-West Block (7 out of 32); BSA Hospital (2 out of 12); DDU Hospital (8 out of 43), were empty, according to the data at 4 pm.

The number of COVID-19 ICU beds have already filled up at many hospitals in Delhi and their count is shrinking at other facilities too.

Delhi has witnessed a spurt in coronavirus cases since October 28 when the daily rise breached the 5,000-mark for the first time and it crossed the 8,000-mark Wednesday.

Thursday, 104 deaths, the highest in over five months, were recorded in the city. Experts have cautioned that rising air pollution, winter season will aggravate complications of persons with respiratory illnesses, and it is a double whammy for them as they stand at risk of contracting COVID-19 too.

FOR A CAUSE



Civil Defence volunteers hold a placard while taking part in the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign, started by the Delhi government to tackle air pollution, in New Delhi, Monday.



Relentless efforts by India helped in keeping the spotlight on cross-border terrorism it faced and the world is gradually becoming aware of the global nature of international terror

HARYANA GOVERNOR COVID POSITIVE

Haryana Governor Satyadev Narayan Arya has tested positive for Covid-19 and has been admitted to the Fortis Hospital



of the day quote

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration will spell the doom for the Congress not only in Jammu and Kashmir, but across the country



Mamata Banerjee often says that we (BJP) are trying to turn Bengal into Gujarat. I say that we will certainly do so and turn it into a developed state. Our men and women don't have to go there for work. We will ensure employment opportunities are available here



Most of the problems related to distribution of assets between UP and Uttarakhand have been sorted out and a few that may be remaining will also be resolved amicably soon



SHORT TAKES

Couple killed

Gumla: An elderly couple was beaten to death when they protested drinking of liquor in public by some people in Jharkhand's Gumla district, police said Monday. The couple - Saini Gop (70) and Phulo Devi (65) - was beaten to death near Satpara Ghatta village under the jurisdiction of Gumla Nagar Police station Sunday evening, the police said. Superintendent of Police HP Janardhanan said that some people were drinking alcohol near the village. A dispute arose and they were beaten to death. An FIR has been registered against five people in this regard and police is conducting raids to arrest the accused, he said.

Baby kidnapped

Indore: A woman claiming to be a nurse has allegedly kidnapped a newborn boy from the government-run Maharaja Yeshwantrao Hospital (MYH) here in Madhya Pradesh, police said Monday. The CCTV footage shows an unidentified woman walking into the hospital ward on Sunday evening and taking away the newborn after telling his mother that his pulse was slowing down and he needs to be medically examined, said Sanyogitaganj police station in-charge Rajiv Tripathi. The boy was born around 5 am Sunday and was kidnapped around 6 pm the same day, he said.

Two injured

Imphal: Two persons were injured when a bomb exploded in the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) complex here Monday, a police officer said. A 40-year-old man and his wife who had come to the hospital for treatment were injured in the blast that occurred at around 9.30 am, near a sentry post in the RIMS complex, the officer said. The condition of the injured couple is not serious, he said.

Man arrested

Ayodhya (UP): Police in this Uttar Pradesh district arrested a man Monday for allegedly duping people by posing as an Army officer and promising to get them recruited into the force. The accused, Sonu Lal (26), a Lucknow University graduate and a former NCC cadet, used to work as a salesman in a garment store in Maharashtra's Pune till 2017, the police said. He has cheated more than 10 youngsters of a total of around ₹7 lakh by posing as an Indian Army captain and promising to get them recruited into the force, they added.

BJP questions Cong for its support to Gupkar alliance

Addressing a press conference, senior BJP leader and law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad cited a number of pro-people central laws that have been brought in force in the Union Territory following the 2019 repeal of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, and asked if the Congress supports their annulment by bringing back Article 370

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: The BJP Monday hit out at its rival parties in Jammu and Kashmir, saying their stand on a number of issues, including the demand for restoration of Article 370, is the same as that of countries like Pakistan, and asked the Congress if it agrees with the "anti-national" views of the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party over its support to them.

Addressing a press conference, senior BJP leader and Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad cited a number of pro-people central laws that have been brought in force in the Union Territory following the 2019 repeal of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, and asked if the Congress supports their annulment by bringing back Article 370.



"I want to ask Sonia Gandhi (Congress president) and Rahul Gandhi, do they want restoration of Article 370? Please tell the nation categorically and clearly does the Congress support annulment of pro-people laws?" Prasad asked, attacking the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, an amalgamation of various Jammu and

Kashmir parties whose demands have drawn some support from the Congress.

He noted the "anti-national" views of National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, who had favoured China's support for Article 370's restoration, and PDP's Mehbooba Mufti, who had said she would not raise the national flag if the separate flag of Jammu and Kashmir is not restored, and sought to know the Congress' stand over them.

Prasad said women were earlier deprived of property rights in the Union Territory if they married outside and anti-corruption laws, reservation for the disadvantaged sections of society and various other "humanist" central laws were not implemented in the region and accused the Gupkar alliance of working to push Jammu

and Kashmir towards "narrow conservatism".

"If a Muslim or Hindu girl from Jammu or Kashmir married a boy from outside, then she would have no right in the property of her father. We have changed it and restored her right to property," he said. The alliance of about 10 regional parties has demanded restoration of Article 370, a demand supported by some senior Congress leaders, including P Chidambaram.

Earlier, while targeting the Congress over its ties with the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra also had a go at its leader Rahul Gandhi over comments of the likes of former US President Barack Obama to RJD leader Shivanand Tiwari and Congress' Kapil Sibal.

'Militants may disrupt DDC polls'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 16: There is a possibility of militants trying to disrupt the upcoming District Development Council (DDC) polls in Jammu and Kashmir as continuous attempts are being made by elements across the border to create trouble in the Union Territory, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh said here Monday.

The first phase of the polls will take place November 28. "There is a need to be more vigilant and cautious in view of the possibility of terrorists attempting to disrupt the democratic process in J&K. Continuous attempts are being made by elements across the border to create trouble here," Singh said.

He was addressing a meeting to review security plans and preparedness in central Kashmir for the upcoming DDC elections and by-elections for Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies (ULB). R R Bhatnagar, Advisor to the J&K Lt Governor, was present in the meeting.

The DGP directed the officers to devise the security plans and deputise personnel as per the requirement and emphasised the need for making effective use of drones to monitor the situation in and around polling stations.

Complimenting the J&K Police personnel, security forces and intelligence agencies for achieving the highest degree of synergy and coordination in handling the internal security situation in J&K, Singh said the forces need to continue the coordinated efforts to accomplish this important task efficiently and peacefully.

The DGP also stressed on having efficient arrangements for the mobility and accommodation of the forces deployed for elections and asked the officers to keep a vigil on the ground situation and ensure that people would exercise their franchise freely.

SC judge recuses from hearing plea



Andhra CM YS Jaganmohan Reddy

New Delhi, Nov 16: Supreme Court judge, Justice U.U. Lalit, Monday recused himself from hearing a plea seeking action against Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, YS. Jaganmohan Reddy, who wrote a letter to Chief Justice S.A. Bobde raising various allegations against the apex court's second senior-most judge Justice N.V. Ramana.

As the plea came up for hearing before a bench headed by him and comprising Justices Vineet Saran and Ravindra Bhat, Justice Lalit, at the very outset, said: "As a lawyer, I had represented these parties in litigation. I cannot take up this matter."

He said that the matter should be listed at the earliest before any other judge, as per the decision of the Chief Justice. The bench was scheduled to hear three petitions seeking inquiry and action against the Chief Minister for his "scandalising" remarks against Justice Ramana.

Two advocates -- G.S. Mani, Pradeep Kumar Yadav and Sunil Kumar Singh -- and NGO Anti-Corruption Council of India Trust, in their pleas, have contended that allegations levelled against Justice Ramana are baseless and cited Reddy is facing over 20 criminal cases.

The pleas alleged that Reddy not only wrote a letter to the Chief Justice levelling allegations against the judiciary, but also held a press conference where false statements were made.

October 6, Reddy, in an unprecedented move, had written to the Chief Justice alleging that the Andhra Pradesh High Court was being used to "destabilise and topple his democratically-elected government".

Singh, in his petition, has asked the top court to issue a show cause to Reddy after his government's official made public a letter written by Reddy to the Chief Justice. He had contended that due to Reddy's conduct, the faith of public at large is shaken and the Chief Minister's conduct is nothing but an attempt to destabilise the duly established democratic setup of our country.

Attorney General K.K. Venugopal had already twice turned down request for his consent for filing a criminal contempt case against Reddy for writing a letter to the Chief Justice against Justice Ramana.

BOND OF LOVE



Women perform rituals for their brothers on the occasion of 'Bhai Dooj' in Patna, Monday

PTI PHOTO

Next Parliament session likely in 2021

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 16: With soaring COVID figures in Delhi that forced CM Arvind Kejriwal to rush to seek the Centre's help for additional ICU beds and more doctors, the government is "actively considering" not convening Parliament's Winter Session this year.

Senior government sources privy to deliberations say that the next Parliament's session is going to take place in the last week of January, 2021. However, there are de-



liberations taking place about whether to merge the Winter and Budget sessions together and have a relatively long session or go straight to the Winter Session.

"Nothing has been finalised yet. But the worry over the Covid situation in the national capital remains. All the more so, given the current spate

of cases which are much more than in September when the government was forced to cut short the session even when cases in Delhi were far less," a top government source said.

The rule says the government has to convene a Parliament session within six months of the last-held Parliamentary session. In that respect, the government has no compulsion to convene a session immediately.

There have been no deliberations about any Parliament session between Lok Sabha Speaker

Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Speaker Venkaiah Naidu so far. The government says it is mindful of more than two dozen members of Parliament being tested positive at the outset and later during the last session. A sitting Minister of State -- Suresh Angadi too was tested positive and subsequently succumbed. Government sources say, it is also mindful of instances of panic among members after one of the Rajya Sabha speakers was tested positive after having taken part in discussion in the House.

Haryana Cong leader booked for cow slaughter

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Nov 16: A case of cow slaughter has been filed against former Haryana Minister and Congress leader Nirmal Singh in Saharanpur district, police said.

Singh is accused of shooting three cows at a farmhouse, which led to the death of one of them. The complaint was filed against Singh at the Behat Kotwali police station.

The incident took place three days ago, after which several Hindu organisations hit the streets to protest against the Congress leader. The police initially refused to register a case on the ground that the



incident took place in Haryana.

However, several Hindu organisations staged a demonstration and conveyed their vigorous opposition to the incident to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The case was finally registered in Saharanpur district in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday night,

but police officials did not say if the case would be transferred to Haryana.

According to the complaint lodged by the Hindu activists, including the owner Maandeen, Singh owns a farmhouse located on the Haryana-Uttar Pradesh border. It has been alleged in the complaint that on the day of the incident, "three cows accidentally strayed into Singh's farmhouse to drink water. Singh was present at the time. The victim claims that Singh had shot bullets at the cows, killing one of them. Two of them are still missing".

The reports claimed that the farmhouse of former Minister Nirmal Singh is prone to disputes.

16 booked for 'defamatory' content

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: The CBI has booked 16 individuals for allegedly posting defamatory content against judges of the Supreme Court and the Andhra Pradesh High Court on social media, officials said Monday.

The case was earlier being probed by the Andhra Pradesh CID. The Andhra Pradesh High Court had directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe the case and submit a report to it in a sealed cover within eight weeks. The next hearing of the case is on December 14.

Taking cognizance of the alleged defamatory posts, the high court had directed the CBI to probe the role of prominent persons in the south-

ern state, who were intentionally targeting the Supreme Court and high court judges.

"...The postings were made to bring hatred, contempt, incite disaffection and ill-will against the High Court and Hon'ble judges," the court had noted.

The bench comprising justices Rakesh Kumar and J Uma Devi had passed the order after a series of allegedly derogatory posts were made on social media platforms against judges and the judiciary, following some court verdicts that went against the state government.

On the directions of the high court, its registrar general got a complaint lodged with the CID, giving names and related evidence, but the state police wing reportedly booked only nine people.

Seven killed in road mishap

Shimla: Seven labourers from Bihar were killed and one was injured when a vehicle rolled into a rivulet in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district, police said Monday. The victims were coming from Ludhiana city in Punjab. The accident occurred around 3 a.m. Superintendent of Police Shalini Agnihotri said that six died on the spot, while one succumbed to his injuries in the hospital. The driver of the vehicle was also injured and was undergoing treatment in the Zonal Hospital in Mandi town, some 175 km from here. President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed their grief and conveyed their condolences to the bereaved family members.

It is the duty of media to publish news, comments: Kerala HC

AGENCIES

Kochi, Nov 16: Quashing a defamation case against Malayala Manorama (Philip Mathew and Ors. v. State of Kerala and Anr.) recently, the Kerala High Court made some relevant remarks on the freedom of media in relation to the offence of criminal defamation.

A single bench of Justice P Somarajan highlighted that it was the duty of the press to publish all news and comment on the same to enlighten society.

The judge went on to highlight that such commentary was "squarely under the first exception attached to Section 499 IPC when

done bona fide in "public interest". The First Exception to Section 499 of the Code makes "an imputation of truth for public good" a defence to criminal defamation.

He added, "The fourth estate is not expected to shy away from the matters governing public importance, but it is their solemn duty to serve the society with the news item with its pros and cons so as to bring the society more functional and vigilant."

Even if some material published is contemptuous, it could not attract Section 499 of the Indian Penal Code, the court stated.

The content will attract offence only if it is published without good faith on a matter that does not con-



cern public interest or public good, the judge declared.

"The first proviso to Section 499 IPC has got a wide canvass in a democratic system and right to publish a news item with its necessary

comments and views though sometimes contemptuous, cannot be defeated unless malafides writ large on its face and not concerning with a matter of public interest or public good. The contemptuous nature

of news item, if it is connected with imputation of truth, which requires publication for the public good will not attract the offence and there shall not be any misunderstanding with respect to the requirement to attract Section 499 IPC with the first exception therein."

The case came up following a defamation complaint registered against Malayalam daily Malayala Manorama in 2016. The vernacular daily had carried a story on a Vigilance Inquiry Report against the complainant and others. Their grievance was that they were described as accused persons even before a case was registered against them.

Pursuant to the complaint of

defamation, cognizance was taken by a Magistrate and process issued under Section 204 of the CrPc.

Aggrieved, Manorama's Managing Editor, Chief Editor, and its Printer and Publisher moved the High Court seeking to quash the proceedings. When disposing of the matter, Justice Somarajan observed that the news report "was a true version of the report submitted by the Vigilance against the de facto complainant and three others."

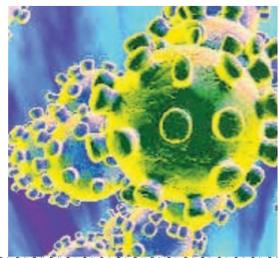
Finding the defamation complaint to have been intended to defeat the solemn function vested with the fourth estate, the judge deemed it an abuse of process of law and quashed the same.



Media persons have been among the frontline corona warriors. Through PCI, I convey my appreciation to such media persons
RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT

nCoV CASES SPURT DURING DIWALI

A sudden spike in new COVID-19 Cases during Diwali festivities has put a strain on hospitals in Gujarat which is witnessing a rise in patient occupancy, prompting the state government to announce creation of more facilities to handle the situation, officials said



of the day quote

Congratulations to Nitish Kumar for taking oath as BJP-nominated Chief Minister. With a tired and politically belittled leader as CM, #Bihar should brace for few more years of lacklustre governance
PRASHANT KISHOR | POLL STRATEGIST

I am confident that by the end of the year, by December 31 or soon thereafter, we will be back to pre-COVID levels
HARDEEP SINGH PURI | CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

Congress has seen various crises including (in) 1969, 1977, 1989 and later in the 1996, but every-time we came out stronger due to our ideology, programs, policies and firm belief in party leadership
ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

RELIGIOUS PLACES REOPEN IN MAHA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 16: With prayers on their lips and devotion in hearts, people in Maharashtra visited places of religious worship which reopened Monday after remaining shut for nearly eight months due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown, marking further easing of restrictions in the state.

The state government has put in place strict COVID-19 protocols for devotees to ensure there was no spread in the infection when temple and other places of worship are thrown open for members of the general public.

Wearing of face masks and maintaining social distancing at shrines have been made mandatory. Places of religious worship were shut nationwide in late March due to the coronavirus outbreak and the subsequent lockdown.

Devotees were seen visiting the famous Siddhivinayak temple and the Haji Ali Dargah in Mumbai, and some other prominent religious places in the state. The reopening of the places of worship coincided with Diwali Padwa (Marathi New Year), an important festival in the state, and 'bhai dooj' which were celebrated on Monday. Early in the morning, devotees were seen visiting

PRAYERS AMID PANDEMIC



Devotees offer prayers at Siddhivinayak temple after it was reopened PTI PHOTO

Lord Vitthal's temple at Pandharpur in Solapur district, Saibaba's shrine in Shirdi, Goddess Tulja Bhavani's temple in Osmanabad and the Siddhivinayak temple and the Haji Ali Dargah in Mumbai. The renowned Grishneshwar Temple at Ellora in Maharashtra's Aurangabad district also saw a stream of devotees.

The Grishneshwar temple trust's chairperson, Shashank Topre, said all COVID-19 norms, including social distancing and wearing of masks, were being followed strictly and devotees not adhering to them were being turned back. The Siddhivinayak Temple Trust's chairman, Aadesh Bandekar, on Sunday said only 1,000 devotees will be al-

lowed inside the temple every day in staggered time slots to be booked through a mobile phone application. Talking to PTI over the phone on Monday, Bandekar said, "We have received good response today.. We are letting in 100 people per hour (to ensure physical distancing). Body temperatures and QR codes of devotees are being checked."

"The temples access barrier is being opened only if a devotee is wearing mask. A proper system is being followed, he said. The temple trust will review the situation after two days and may allow more devotees to have darshan of Lord Ganesh based on the assessment, Bandekar

PM to attend virtual BRICS summit today

The BRICS is known as an influential bloc that represents over 3.6 billion people, or half of the world's population

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend a virtual summit of the influential grouping BRICS Tuesday which will focus on cooperation in counter-terrorism, trade, health, energy and ways to offset impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and Russian President Vladimir Putin are scheduled to attend the 12th summit of the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) grouping.

The BRICS summit is taking place at a time two of the bloc's members, India and China, are locked in a bitter border standoff in eastern Ladakh for over six months. Both Modi and Xi had come face-to-face virtually at the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) November 10.

"At the invitation of President Putin, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be attending the 12th BRICS Summit hosted by Russia,



under the theme 'Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth' on November 17," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement. The BRICS countries have a combined GDP of USD 16.6 trillion.

The MEA said the leaders would be discussing intra-BRICS cooperation and key issues in the global context, including the reform of the multilateral system, measures to mitigate the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, cooperation in counter-terrorism, trade, health, energy and people-to-people

"India will be taking over the chair of the BRICS, which would be the third BRICS Presidency for India since its inception (after 2012 and 2016) and will host the 13th BRICS summit in 2021," the MEA said.

SHORT TAKES

Two killed, nine hurt in clashes

Jaipur: Two people died and nine others were injured during a clash between two groups in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district Monday, police said. The deceased have been identified as 34-year-old Rohitash Jataw and 60-year-old Asharfi Devi, they said. Jataw was shot dead during the violence, police said, adding that the cause of death of Devi is yet to be ascertained. The clash broke out between groups led by Asu Mev and Kundan Jataw, they said.

Ten trapped in snowfall rescued

Jammu: Security forces have rescued 10 people, including two women and a child, after they were trapped in heavy snowfall at high altitude Sinthan pass in Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesperson said. The rescue operation was carried out late Sunday night after information was received about a group of civilians stranded at Sinthan pass that connects Kishtwar district of Jammu region with Kashmir's Anantnag, he said.

Senior Raj minister passes away

Jaipur: Rajasthan Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Master Bhanwar Lal Meghwal, who was suffering from brain hemorrhage, died in a hospital in Gurgaon Monday. He was 72. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot condoled the death of Meghwal, who was a five-time MLA.

Man shoots wife

Bangalore: A man in his 40s killed his wife over an alleged family dispute Monday. Later he tried hanging himself to death, police said. The incident took place in Basaveshwarangar area. According to the police, the victim was identified as Sumitra, and her husband Kalappa. The couple hail from Kodagu district. Prima facie investigation revealed that Kalappa used to quarrel with his wife regularly even over minor issues.

Youth lynched

Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh): A 23-year-old man was beaten to death allegedly by four men in Bahraich district for relieving in public. The incident took place in Khairi Dikoli village late Sunday following which three people were detained.

2nd phase of Malabar exercise to kick off today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: The Indian Navy's Vikramaditya carrier battle group, the Nimitz strike group of the US Navy and several frontline warships from the Australian and Japanese navies will carry out a four-day high-intensity war game in the Northern Arabian Sea from Tuesday as part of the second phase of the Malabar exercise.

This exercise will involve coordinated operations of increasing complexity among the navies of the four countries which are part of the Quad or Quadrilateral Coalition, officials said.

The first phase of the Malabar exercise took place in the Bay of Bengal from November 3 to 6 and featured a number of complex drills including anti-submarine and anti-air warfare operations.

The mega exercise is taking place at a time India and China are locked in an over six-month-long bitter border standoff in eastern Ladakh that has majorly strained the ties between the two countries.

"The second phase of exercise Malabar will be conducted in the Northern Arabian Sea from November 17 to 20," the Navy said in a statement, adding it will witness operations centered around the Vikramaditya carrier battle group and Nimitz carrier strike group. It said the exercise "highlights en-

hanced convergence of views amongst the four vibrant democracies on maritime issues, and showcases their commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific and a rules-based international order".

The participation of the US strike group led by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Nimitz in the exercise will significantly enhance its overall impact, said an official on the condition of anonymity.

The USS Nimitz is the world's largest warship. A carrier battle group or carrier strike group is a mega naval fleet comprising an aircraft carrier, accompanied by a large number of destroyers, frigates and other ships.

In the exercise, the Nimitz will be accompanied by cruiser Princeton and destroyer Sterett in addition to P8A maritime reconnaissance aircraft. The Royal Australian Navy will be represented by frigate Ballarat along with its integral helicopter.

"The two carriers, along with other ships, submarines and aircraft of the participating navies, would be engaged in high-intensity naval operations over four days," the Indian Navy said.

It said the exercise will include cross-deck flying operations and advanced air defence exercises by MIG 29K fighters of Vikramaditya and F-18 fighters and E2C Hawkeye from Nimitz.



LOVE BIRDS



A pair of Painted storks at the Alipore Zoo, in Kolkata

PTI PHOTO

BHARAT BIOTECH'S VACCINE ENTERS PHASE-3 TRIALS

The company is also working on another vaccine for COVID-19 which would be in the form of nasal drops and can be ready by next year: Chairman and Managing Director

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Nov 16: Covid-19 vaccine, Covaxin, Being developed by Bharat Biotech is now undergoing phase-3 trials, Krishna Ella, Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Biotech said Monday.

Speaking virtually at a programme organised by the Indian School of Business, Ella said the company is also working on another vaccine for COVID-19 which would be in the form of nasal drops and can be ready by next year. "We partnered with ICMR for COVID-19 vaccine as we speak it entered the phase 3 trials," he said. Bharat Biotech is the only vaccine company in the world which has BSL3 production facility



(Biosafety level 3), he said.

Covaxin is being developed by Bharat Biotech, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - National Institute of Virology (NIV). Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) Chairman and Managing Director Krishna Ella said the company's

Bio-Safety Level 3 (BSL-3) facility currently has limited capacity but hoped to reach one billion (100 crore) doses by next year.

"We have partnered with ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) for Covaxin and as we speak, we are entering phase III trials but I am not happy because it is a two-dose injectable vaccine. If we have to vaccinate 1.3 billion population with two dose vaccine, we need 2.6 billion (260 crore) syringes and needles," he said.

"We are working on another vaccine, a single dose nasal drop. We have experience of making Rotavirus and Polio nasal drop vaccines. We can scale up to 1 billion doses and my feeling is that by next year we will reach there," he said.

'There is no better future without health for all'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: The COVID-19 pandemic has made the world aware of the consequences of ignoring strengthening of health systems, Union minister Harsh Vardhan Monday said, as he pitched for boosting global partnerships to reinvigorate interest and investment in public health.

Vardhan, who chaired the 147th session of the WHO Executive Board through video conference, stressed on constant engagement with each Member State, their interface with each other as well as all stakeholders for reinforcing reforms and accelerating progress toward the sustainable development goals and universal health coverage.

Stating that 2020 has been the year of collaborative action, he said the mankind was already fighting overwhelming challenges of poverty,



hunger, inequality, climate change, pollution and disease and now the pandemic has shaken people to the core. "There is no better future without health for all. A lesson we knew; and a lesson that we have now relearned," he said.

He said that the WHO believes in the principle that the enjoyment

of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition. "We, therefore, commit to work with the Member States; the organisation and the global community of partners for the ef-

icient, effective and responsive discharge of public health obligations.

"The pandemic has made humanity acutely aware of the consequences of ignoring health systems strengthening and preparedness. In such times of global crisis, risk management and mitigation both would require further strengthening of global partnerships to reinvigorate interest and investment in global public health," Vardhan said. The Union health minister said that constant engagement with each Member State, their interface with each other as well as all stakeholders will reinforce reforms and help accelerate progress toward the sustainable development goals and universal health coverage with the most productive, efficient and targeted utilisation of resources. "We have seen successes in all the regional flagship priority areas

through collaborative action. We will continue to contribute to regional and global public health issues through advocacy, technical collaboration, research, innovations, digital health and partnerships aimed at improving the accessibility and affordability of health services and high-quality essential medicines and products," he further said.

The World Health Organisation and its Member States across the globe are committed to harnessing this opportunity to build back health systems that are more resilient, and which can meet everyone's health needs, Vardhan said. "Let me mention that from the beginning of the outbreak, all Member States have acted with speed, scale and solidarity to control and suppress the spread of COVID-19 and empower individuals and communities to stay safe, healthy and well," he said.

70-yr-old back home after years in Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kanpur (UP), Nov 16: Back home after years in a Pakistani jail on espionage charges, 70-year-old Shamsuddin could not hold back his tears.

"On reaching home, after embracing his family members, he cried a lot in immense happiness and said he made a big mistake by going to Pakistan," said Circle Officer (Seesamau) Tirpurari Pandey. Shamsuddin reached his home in the city's Kanghi-Mohal here on Sunday morning, where his family and people welcomed him with garlands. He told reporters that migrants are not treated well in Pakistan and Indians are taken as "enemies".

Shamsuddin had moved to Pakistan with an acquaintance in 1992 on getting a 90-day visit visa and then settled there after getting the country's citizenship in 1994.

In 2012, the Pakistan government arrested him on charges of espionage and locked him up at a jail in Karachi.

Shamsuddin reached India through the Attari-Wagah border October 26 and served the required quarantine period in Amritsar amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

Heavy snowfall in J&K, U'khand



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: Several high-altitude areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand received heavy snowfall Monday that affected normal life and forced closure of the key Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

In Kashmir, authorities issued an avalanche warning for four districts as the higher reaches of the Union Territory received moderate to heavy snowfall. The avalanche warning has been issued in Kupwara, Bandipora and Baramulla districts of north Kashmir, and Ganderbal district in central Kashmir, officials said.

Upper Himalayan areas in Uttarakhand received the season's first heavy snowfall, intensifying cold conditions across the state. Snowfall began at all places in the upper Himalayan areas including Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri, Yamunotri, Auli and Harsil Sunday night and continued till Monday morning, wrapping them in thick, white sheets of snow, according to officials.

international



I'm not a big fan of Facebook. I don't know what they have been doing but I know they've been part of the problem, all along
NANCY PELOSI | SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

UK EXPECTS TO ROLL OUT PFIZER'S COVID VACCINE BEFORE X'MAS

Britain expects to start rolling out the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine just before Christmas if it is declared safe and effective, Health Minister Matt Hancock said Monday



of the day quote

I think it's very important for leaders in the Republican Party to explain to our voters that Trump has lost the election and that his claims of election fraud are baseless
JOHN BOLTON | FORMER US NSA

We are confident that our products do not, and are not, exported with signs of Covid on them given our status as essentially being Covid-free
JACINDA ARDERN | NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER

The world cannot put all its eggs in one basket and neglect the many other tools at our disposal that... are effective for bringing this virus under control
TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS | WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I concede nothing: Trump's U-turn after accepting defeat

TRUMP, PURSUING LONG-SHOT LITIGATION TO CONTEST ELECTION RESULTS IN SEVERAL STATES, MADE CONFLICTING COMMENTS ON TWITTER



A supporter of President Donald Trump faces a counter protester in Washington

AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 16: President Donald Trump Sunday briefly acknowledged losing the US election in a morning Twitter post but then backtracked, saying he concedes "nothing" and vowing to keep up a court fight that election-law experts say is unlikely to succeed. President-elect Joe Biden focused on the coronavirus pandemic, setting meetings with vaccine developers as the crisis intensifies. The number of US coronavirus cases passed 11 million Sunday, a million more new cases than a week ago and the fastest increase since the pandemic began. Biden defeated Trump in the November 3 election by the same 306-232 margin in the state-by-state Electoral College that Trump proclaimed a "landslide" when he won it in 2016. The Democratic former vice president also won the national popular vote by at least 5.5 million votes, or 3.6 percentage points, with some ballots still being counted. Trump, pursuing long-shot litigation to contest election results in several states, made conflicting

comments on Twitter. He initially appeared to admit for the first time publicly that Biden won, then reversed course. Trump also repeated unfounded claims of widespread voter fraud. "He won because the Election was Rigged," Trump wrote, not referring to Biden by name, adding a list of complaints about vote counting. About 90 minutes later, Trump wrote: "He only won in the eyes of the FAKE NEWS MEDIA. I concede NOTHING!" After golfing at a club he owns in Virginia, Trump said on Twitter he would soon file "big cases showing the unconstitutionality of the 2020 Election." Trump's campaign has filed lawsuits seeking to overturn the results in multiple states, without success. Legal experts have said the Trump litigation stands little chance of altering the election's outcome, and election officials of both parties have said there is no evidence of major irregularities. "Donald Trump's Twitter feed doesn't make Joe Biden President or not President. The American people did that," Ron Klain, Biden's

It is time for Trump to concede: Obama

WASHINGTON: It's time for US President Donald Trump to concede to President-elect Joe Biden, as there is no scenario to reverse the outcome of the election, his predecessor Barack Obama has said. "Absolutely," Obama told 60 Minutes of the CBS News in an interview aired Sunday when asked if in his view, it is time for Trump to concede. "Well, I mean, I think it was time for him to concede probably - the day after the election - or at the latest, two days after the election. When you look at the numbers objectively, Joe Biden will have won handsily. There is no scenario in which any of those states would turn the other way, and certainly not enough to reverse the outcome of the election," Obama said. Asserting that a president is a public servant, Obama said that they are temporary occupants of the office, by design.

choice as White House chief of staff, said on NBC's "Meet the Press." More than a week after Biden was declared the victor by major news organisations based on state-by-state vote counts, the General Services Administration still has not recognised him as president-elect, preventing his team from gaining access to government office space and funding normally afforded to an incoming administration to ensure a smooth transition. Without explicitly mentioning the transition, Trump praised the GSA administrator he appointed, Emily Murphy, writing on Twitter: "Great job Emily!"

TERRORISM

China silent on Pak allegations against India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Nov 16: China Monday evaded a direct response to Pakistan's allegations that India was behind some of the terror attacks in that country, as Beijing put the onus of providing effective security for the \$60 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on Islamabad. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that "China opposes all forms of terrorism and calls on the international community, especially regional countries, to cooperate in fighting terrorism and safeguard collective security." The CPEC connecting China's Xinjiang province to Pakistan's strategic Gwadar port in Balochistan is an "important pioneering project of the Belt and Road (BRI) initiative," Zhao said in response to a question on Pakistan's claims that India was behind some of the terror attacks in that country, including causing disruption to the CPEC projects. India Sunday mounted a hard-hitting attack on Pakistan for accusing it of involvement in some of the terror strikes in that country and said the so-called claims of "proof" are figments of imagination. External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said Pakistan's "desperate attempt" will find few takers as the international community is aware of its tactics, and proof of Islamabad's terror sponsorship has been admitted by none other than its "own leadership". "This is yet another futile anti-India propaganda exercise. The so-called claims of "proof" against India enjoy no credibility, are fabricated and represent figments of imagination," Srivastava said in response to media queries on the allegations.

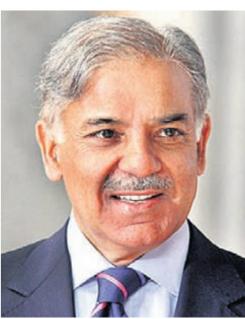
SUGAR SCAM

Shahbaz Sharif, others charged in money laundering case

Pakistan's top investigative body has registered an FIR against top Opposition leader, Prime Minister Imran Khan's friend and three others in a multi-billion sugar scam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, Nov 16: Pakistan's top investigative body has registered an FIR against top Opposition leader Shahbaz Sharif, Prime Minister Imran Khan's friend, and three others in a multi-billion sugar scam. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) registered the case Sunday against Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) President Shahbaz Sharif, his sons - Hamza and Suleman, Prime Minister Imran Khan's friend Jahangir Tareen and his son Ali Tareen under money laundering, forgery, criminal breach of trust and cheating of public shareholders. Ali Tareen and his son are accused of defrauding and laundering ₹4.35 billion in the case, while Shahbaz Sharif and his sons are facing similar charges amounting to ₹25 billion. The complaint comes days after the Lahore High Court struck down a case filed by the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) with the FIA against Tareen's JDW Sugar Mills and Farooq Pulp Mills and Shahbaz Sharif's Al-Arabia Sugar Mills on the basis of "procedural unfairness and for being a dictated exercise". The FIA said the court in fact has empowered it to go against those involved in the sugar scam without any discrimination. Sharif Shahbaz and his son Hamza are in Kot Lakhpat jail in Lahore on judicial remand in another case of money laundering instituted by the country's anti-graft body, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), while his younger son Suleman is in London and has already been declared an absconder



Shahbaz Sharif

by a local court in the NAB's money laundering case. Tareen and his son have recently returned from London. Ali is the owner of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise "Multan Sultan". The FIA has not made an arrest in this case so far. The forensic audit report of the sugar inquiry commission, which was made public in May last, had exposed over ₹150 billion fraud in production, sale and export of the commodity every year by sugar barons including Tareen and a brother of sitting federal minister Khusro Bakhtiar. The report revealed how "sugar cartel" in the country, comprising 88 mills, in collaboration with some government departments, including Sugar Advisory Board, and others committed fraud in the procurement of cane, manufacturing of sugar, sale in the local market, export subsidy and billions of rupees in tax evasion. The government has directed relevant authorities to launch a massive crackdown against sugar barons.

SHORT TAKES

6-magnitude quake jolts Philippines

Manila: An earthquake measuring 6 on the Richter scale jolted the Philippines' Surigao Del Sur province Monday; authorities confirmed The Philippine Institute of Seismology and Volcanology (Phivolcs) said the offshore quake, which struck at 6.37 a.m., hit at a depth of 33 km, 29 km southeast of the town of San Agustin. It said the quake, which was tectonic in origin, will trigger aftershocks and that damages are expected. There were no immediate reports of any damages or injuries.

7 dead in Hong Kong building fire

Hong Kong: Seven people were killed and several others were injured when a blaze tore through an apartment in Hong Kong Sunday, the deadliest fire to hit the finance hub in nearly a decade. The Government Information Service said 17 victims were taken to hospital after the fire broke out in Jordan district shortly after 8:30pm (1230 GMT). Seven died while seven others were listed as being in critical condition. The South China Morning Post said the fire was the worst since a 2011 blaze that killed nine people.

Hasina, Modi virtual summit in Dec

Dhaka: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi will hold a summit meeting virtually in the third week of December, possibly December 16-17, a Bangladesh Foreign Ministry official said Saturday. Bangladesh has also invited Modi to visit March 26 to jointly celebrate its Independence Day. There are indications from both sides that he will visit Bangladesh in person if the Covid-19 situation improves, the senior official, who was speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Clashes underway in Afghan dist

Kabul: Heavy clashes between Afghan security forces and the Taliban was underway Monday in Kunduz province's Dasht-e-Archi district, officials said. The clashes erupted Sunday night after the Taliban attacked security outposts in Dasht-e-Archi. TOLQ News quoted a provincial government spokesman as saying, Muradi said "reinforcements have been sent to the province to support security forces in the district". "So far, eight Taliban members have been killed and 13 more were wounded. The security forces are trying to push back the Taliban attack," he added.

Belgian racing pigeon 'New Kim' sold for record \$1.9mn



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PIPA chairman Nikolaas Gyselbrecht told this news agency "I didn't think we could reach that amount." The buyer, who was not named, "will probably want to breed her", he added. New Kim won the 2018 crown as "Ace Pigeon Grand National Middle Distance" in competitions held at Chateauroux and Argenton-sur-Creuse in France. Top European birds have won global fame in recent years and particularly in China where pigeon racing can generate huge winnings. Wealthy buyers from the Gulf and Asia have forced up prices for champion birds for their instinctive ability to fly as many as hundreds of kilometres and still find their way back home. Pigeon fancying is rooted in Belgian and Dutch life with the tradition spreading over to northern France.

Brussels, Nov 16: An unidentified Chinese buyer Sunday paid a world record 1.6 million euros (\$1.9 million) for a female homing pigeon called New Kim, online auctioneers Pigeon Paradise (PIPA) said. The sale beat the 1.25 million euros paid for male pigeon Armando last year, according to PIPA. New Kim, a well-bred two-year-old from a renowned Antwerp loft, was put up for auction at just 200 euros. "I believe it's a world record, there has never been an officially documented sale at such a price,"

WHAT A RIDE



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, with the Crew Dragon capsule, is launched carrying four astronauts on the first operational NASA commercial crew mission at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida

REUTERS PHOTO

Americans across party lines, regions embrace marijuana

THE 2020 ELECTION HELPED PROVE HOW BROADLY ACCEPTED MARIJUANA HAS BECOME THROUGHOUT THE US

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Helena, Nov 16: Bill Stocker could be considered the archetype of a conservative voter: He's a retired Marine and former police officer who voted for President Donald Trump. But he's also among the majority of South Dakota voters who broadly legalised marijuana this month. Stocker, 61, said enforcing marijuana laws gets in the way of pursuing other drug crimes and called warnings about the ills of marijuana "a bunch of baloney" that even people in a Republican stronghold like South Dakota no longer believe. South Dakota's values of "personal responsibility and freedom" won out, said Stocker, who lives in Sioux Falls. The 2020 election helped prove how broadly accepted marijuana has become throughout the



United States, with measures to legalise recreational pot also breezing to victory in progressive New Jersey, moderate Arizona and conservative Montana. Fifteen states have now broadly legalised it, while 36 states allow medical marijuana. Voters in Mississippi overwhelmingly approved medical marijuana this month, giving the drug another foothold in the South. A Gallup Poll released November

9 indicated that 68% of Americans favour legalising marijuana - double the approval rate in 2003. That wide margin was evident in the election, with marijuana measures passing with strong bipartisan support. In South Dakota and Montana - where Republicans swept to victory in the key races - recreational marijuana passed with at least 16 percentage points more support than Democratic President-elect Joe

Biden received. South Dakota also approved medical pot, which outpolled Biden by 34 percentage points. "We've waged a war against this plant for a century and by any reasonable metric, that war has been an abject failure," said Matthew Schweich, deputy director of the Marijuana Policy Project, which favors legalisation. "All it's done is incarcerate millions of Americans, it has perpetuated racism in this country, and perhaps the worst injustice of all is that it's deprived us of medical marijuana research." Marijuana is still illegal at the federal level, hurting veterans who can't be prescribed medical pot at Veterans Affairs clinics, he said. They "come home with chronic pain and we're pushing them to opioids," Schweich said. "That's

crazy. That's unpatriotic and it's a disgrace." Support for legalisation was around 25 per cent in 1992 when then-presidential candidate Bill Clinton tried to avoid answering questions about whether he had used marijuana before finally saying in a television interview that he had experimented with the drug, didn't like it and "didn't inhale." In early 2019, Kamala Harris - now the Vice President-elect - was asked about her prior marijuana use during a radio interview and acknowledged: "I did inhale." Brendan Johnson, a former US attorney in South Dakota who supported the state's marijuana initiatives, said the campaign focused on the fact that in recent years 10 per cent of arrests in the state were for marijuana, and most were small amounts.

BLASPHEMOUS CARTOONS

Hundreds lay partial siege to Islamabad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Nov 16: Hundreds of activists of an extremist religious group Monday laid partial siege to the national capital to denounce the publication of blasphemous cartoons in a French magazine and force the government to expel the French ambassador. Tehreek-i-Labaik Pakistan (TLP) of firebrand cleric Khadim Hussain Rizvi organised the protest march on the Murree Road of the garrison city of Rawalpindi Sunday. Riot police had to resort to tear-gas shelling against the stone-pelted TLP protesters who succeeded to reach the Faizabad interchange connecting Rawalpindi and Islamabad, where they launched their sit-in. Though Rizvi did not join them at the sit-in but his representatives were leading the protestors who refused to move away until the basic demand to send back the French envoy was fulfilled. The TLP first came to limelight in 2017 when it protested against some changes in the oath of elected representatives and organised about a three-week long sit-in at Faizabad, paralyzing life in Islamabad. The TLP lifted the siege when then Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government fired its law minister. Then Opposition leader Imran Khan had supported the TLP demand as he was trying to topple the PML-N government. However, now he faces a similar dilemma, showing that extremists are a threat to everyone, sources said. Like in the past, the Islamabad administration reacted by sealing the Red Zone, having important offices, and blocked all roads leading to the diplomatic enclave, housing foreign missions.



The way the country gave a tremendous support to the local economy on Diwali and other festivals, it indeed gives a new energy and we have to maintain this
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

BPCL GETS 3-4 BIDS, RELIANCE SKIPS

The government Monday received 'multiple' bids for buying out its stake in India's second-biggest fuel retailer BPCL but Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries as well as supermajors Saudi Aramco, BP and Total did not make a bid



of the day quote

India has one of the fastest growing technology and telecom markets in the world and Verizon strongly believes that India has a key role to play in the global economy and future of technology and innovation



ROBERT LE BUSQUE | MD, APAC, VERIZON BUSINESS GROUP

Amazon has nurtured the ecosystem well by encouraging a wide choice of apps (skills) to be developed giving users a lot of engaging content for using the device which has made Echo devices very popular



FAISSAL KAWOOSA | FOUNDER & CHIEF ANALYST, TECHARC

Before the COVID-19-catalysed lockdown in March, our research indicated that Indian cities were to see new supply of around 54 new malls in 2020 spread over nearly 22.2 million square feet area



ANUJ KEJRIWAL | CEO & MD, ANAROCK RETAIL

SHORT TAKES

Magma Fincorp eyes 25% growth

Mumbai: Affordable housing-focused Magma Housing Finance is targeting to sell at least 25% more loans in the second half of this fiscal as its business has almost returned to pre-lockdown levels. The fourth largest affordable housing-only player, which is a fully-owned subsidiary of non-banking player Magma Fincorp, has grown 23% in the September quarter. "We expect H2 loan sales to be clocking around 25% growth and closing the current fiscal with a loan book of ₹4,200 crore from ₹3,554 crore as of Q2," Manish Jaiswal, the firm's MD and CEO said.

FinMin invites bids from firms

New Delhi: The finance ministry Monday invited bids from actuarial firms for arriving at the embedded value of LIC ahead of its stake sale. The government plans to sell minority stake in the insurance behemoth and list it on the bourses. It has already appointed Deloitte and SBI Caps as pre-IPO transaction advisors. In the bid notice, the DIPAM said LIC needs to develop an Indian Embedded Value reporting framework for necessary disclosures for the proposed IPO.

Khadi India outlet crosses 1cr-mark

New Delhi: The flagship Khadi India outlet here has crossed single-day sales figure of ₹1 crore four times since October 2 this year, the government said Monday. "In just 40 days since October 2 this year, Khadi's single-day sales figure has crossed ₹1 crore mark for 4 times at the flagship Khadi India outlet at Connaught Place in New Delhi," the MSME ministry said. November 13, the total sales at this outlet stood at ₹1.11 crore, the highest single-day sale figure recorded this year.

L&T emerges lowest bidder

New Delhi: Engineering and construction giant Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has emerged as the lowest bidder for a ₹3,200 crore project to build a road bridge over the Brahmaputra river, according to an NHIDCL official. It will be one of the longest road bridges over a river in the country and on completion will connect two eastern states - Assam and Meghalaya.

WPI inflation peaks 8-month high in Oct



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: The wholesale price-based inflation rose to an eight-month high of 1.48% in October, as manufactured products turned costlier, with experts saying that the RBI will keep interest rates on hold in its policy review next month. The WPI inflation was at 1.32% in September and 0% in October last year. This is the highest level of wholesale price index-based (WPI) inflation since February, when it was at 2.26%. While food article prices softened in October, manufactured items witnessed hardening of prices, according to the data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry. Food inflation in October stood at 6.37%, as against 8.17% in the pre-

vious month. The rate of price rise in vegetables and potato remained high at 25.23% and 107.70%, respectively, during the month. Inflation in manufactured products category stood at 2.12% in October, as against 1.61% in September. Fuel and power basket witnessed softening to (-)10.95 per cent in October. The retail inflation, based on consumer price index, was at six-year high of 7.61 per cent in October, data released last week showed. ICRA Principal Economist Aditi Nayar said core inflation spiked to 1.7 per cent in October 2020 from 1 per cent in September, and the core index has been hardening since August. "In our view, the core inflation will continue to record a steady uptick in month-on-month

terms over the next few months, with the strengthening of the economic recovery, while food prices will remain dominated by the trend displayed by vegetables. The MPC (Monetary Policy Committee) is likely to stay on hold in at least December 2020, if not in February 2021 as well," Nayar said. India Ratings and Research Chief Economist DK Pant said the increase in core inflation suggests improvement in demand conditions after lifting of COVID-19 lockdown. "However, it will be too early to term this as a general recovery, a large part of this is due to festival related demand," Pant said. "Rising retail food inflation and declined wholesale food inflation is a nightmare for policy makers," Pant added.

WHILE FOOD ARTICLE PRICES SOFTENED IN OCTOBER, MANUFACTURED ITEMS WITNESSED HARDENING OF PRICES

FOOD INFLATION IN OCTOBER STOOD AT 6.37%, AS AGAINST 8.17% IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH

INFLATION IN MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS CATEGORY STOOD AT 2.12% IN OCTOBER, AS AGAINST 1.61% IN SEPTEMBER

MCL extracts 110L tonne coal in Oct

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: A leading coal producer Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) produced 110.87 lakh tonne (L.Te.) of coal in month of October, 2020, says MCL's monthly report data. According to the data, MCL produced 110.87 lakh tonne of coal against the target of 156 lakh tonne in same month of current fiscal. The CIL subsidiary has produced around 76.54 lakh tonne of coal in corresponding month of previous fiscal. The company produced maximum quantities in opencast mining than underground. Data says MCL produced about 110.81 lakh tonne in opencast mining and 0.41 in underground. MCL had set target to produce 144 lakh tonne from opencast mining. The company has been failing to

meet their monthly coal production target since the first month of current financial year. So far, MCL has produced around 749.47 lakh tonne as against 881.68 lakh tonne of coal in seven months. The company's target is to produce 173 million tonne of coal during current fiscal in Odisha. According to sources the company expected to extract around 5 lakh tonne of coal per day and 15 MT coal in a month. According to the media report, the coal producer has also set a target of producing 263 million tonne of coal by 2023-24. Currently, MCL has 48 coal blocks having mineable resources of 29,100 MT, which can meet the requirement of thermal coal for another 100 years. There are also another 22 miscellaneous projects in pipeline that includes washeries, coal gasification and solar power.



'EPS pensioners can submit life certificates on app'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: Retirement fund body EPFO has provided multiple options for submission of Digital Life Certificate (DLC) by over 67 lakh pensioners, enabling them to continue drawing their social security benefits, the labour ministry said. All pensioners under EPS-95 (Employees Pension Scheme-1995) are required to submit Jeevan Pramaan Patra (JPP) / Digital Life Certificate (DLC) each year to continue drawing pension. In the current scenario of COVID-19, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has facilitated multiple options for EPS-95 pensioners to submit their DLC close to their home or at their doorstep, the ministry said in a statement. JPPs submitted through all these modes/agencies are equally valid, it added. In addition to the 135 regional offices and 117 district offices of the EPFO, EPS-95 pensioners can now submit DLC at pension disbursing bank branch and nearest post offices. The DLC can also be submitted at nation-wide network of over 3.65 lakh Common Services Centres (CSCs). EPS-95 pensioners can also submit DLC using the UMANG app.

Milestone of great significance: China on RCEP Agreement

AGENCIES

Beijing, Nov 16: China Monday termed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement to create the world's biggest free trade bloc as a "milestone of great significance", while studies showed that the deal is more of a strategic significance to Beijing providing marginal economic impact. Fifteen Asia-Pacific nations, including China, Sunday signed the agreement. India, one of the leading consumer-driven markets in the region, pulled out of talks last year, concerned that the elimination of tariffs would open its markets to a flood of imports that could harm local producers. A declaration by the countries which have signed the RCEP agreement said that they can start negotiations with India for joining the pact once New Delhi submits a written request stating its intention for the same. Analysts say that without India, the agreement would not have much relevance as it cannot provide a big market combining India and China, the most populous countries in the world. "After 8 years of negotiations, the RCEP was officially signed," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media



FIFTEEN APAC NATIONS, INCLUDING CHINA, SUNDAY SIGNED THE AGREEMENT. INDIA, ONE OF THE LEADING CONSUMER-DRIVEN MARKETS IN THE REGION, PULLED OUT OF TALKS LAST YEAR

was officially set and up. It's a milestone of great significance," he said. As COVID-19 continues to spread, unilateralism, protectionism are rising, he said, adding that the signing of the RCEP will be a strong boost to regional and global economic recovery. "This shows strong support of all sides to multilateralism and free-trade, strong support to open and collective free trade regime. This is a show of support for collective efforts against common challenges," he said. Meanwhile, studies show the benefits RCEP will not outweigh the negative impact of the long-running US trade war on China's economy even though it will make China's market much more integrated with the rest of Asia.

10 things to look out for in 'Motor Insurance Policy'

There are people who give their car a nick name, call it their most "prized" possession, adorn it with accessories and keep it spick and span. As vehicle owners, most of us are guilty of doing this, aren't we? But as much as we take care of our cars, do we also invest time in securing it with a good insurance cover? India is one of the countries that tops the charts when it comes to road accidents. Since our cars can cause considerable damage to property and cause significant human injury in the event of a mishap, it is required by law to insure it for third party liability. But this third party cover wouldn't pay for the damages caused to our vehicle in case of a mishap. For this we need to avail an 'own-damages cover' that pays us up for the loss suffered in terms of repair costs. Now that we know that a motor insurance policy is important for the financial well-being of our car and any damages that it may lead us

into, how do we go about selecting the right insurance policy? The below 10 point comprehensive checklist will help us become a pro at choosing the right coverage for our cars: **IDV:** The insured declared value (IDV) refers to the current market value of the car. It is the maximum amount we can claim in case of the theft or total loss of the vehicle. IDV is arrived at by deducting the depreciation of the vehicle from the manufacturer's listed selling price. **Coverage:** This has two parts. A mandatory Third party cover, which protects us against any liability to third party in the wake of a loss. The second, and optional "Own Damage" part of the car insurance takes care of the financial losses we have to bear in case an accident, theft, fire, explosion, riots, strikes or act of terrorism and natural calamities. **Add-Ons:** This is like asking for extra cheese, upon paying some extra money. These add-on covers provide us with added benefits.

Like an engine protector add on provides for claims in case of engine damage due to water ingress, a Zero Dep ensures that depreciation isn't applied to claims at least in the first 3-5 years. **Understanding Exclusions:** It is both our right and duty to understand our motor insurance policy, especially the exclusions i.e. what is covered, and what is outside the scope of the policy. In case we have any doubts, we can seek clarifications with the insurance company/intermediary before the policy purchase. **Network of the insurer:** It is an important factor to check that whether the insurer of our choice has extensive tie ups with garages and service centres especially in the city of our resi-

dence. This comes in handy in case of a claim scenario. **Ease of Claiming:** In order to get you easy and fast claims settlements, insurers these days are leveraging technology that brings claims settlement to our doorstep through apps. With these facilities, we just have to upload photos and videos of the vehicle damage, and the claims are settled by digital money transfers to our accounts within minutes. Checking if our insurer offers these facilities saves us a lot of time in a claim like scenario. **Brand Value of Policy:** Like we place faith and trust in the brand of our car, we should have a similar trust in the policy that protects it. A good brand will ensure value for money by ensuring a great coverage, timely support and easy claims assistance. Hence, instead of going for the cheapest policy, we must check if the brand issuing our policy is a trusted insurance company, has a good claim paying ability with a grievance ratio. **Deductible:** With this provision in a motor insurance policy, we agree that at the time of claim, we will bear a certain claim amount up to a pre-agreed limit from our own pocket. As is customary there is a

compulsory deductible of ₹1000/- on cars of cubic capacity (CC) of 1500 or below, or ₹2000/- for cars with a higher CC. **Ease of Renewing:** Since motor insurance is an annual contract, it is crucial to ensure that the vehicle remains insured at all times. These days, renewing is convenient and we can do it through the insurer's website or mobile app, agents, dealers or bank partners of insurers. We must check how proactive is the chosen insurer when it comes to renewing the policy. **NCB:** Timely renewals help us to keep our No Claim Bonus (NCB) intact. NCB is a discount, given by an insurer to a policyholder for making no claims during the policy term. It can be accumulated over years and the discount ranges from 20% to 50% on the own damage premium as per the number of claim free years.

(The writer is the Business Head of Motor at Bajaj Allianz General Insurance)



ADITYA SHARMA

'VICTORIES DON'T COME EASY'

Pujara backs Indian bowlers despite considering Smith, Warner's presence makes Australia stronger than last time around



You can't win matches on your own. Yes, you can perform exceptionally well but you need support from other players to win. In the end, you need 20 wickets to win a Test and wasn't just my performance, even other batters supported at some stage or the other

CHETESHWAR PUJARA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: David Warner and Steve Smith's presence does make Australia stronger but Cheteshwar Pujara has full faith in India's 'remarkable' bowlers, who, he feels, possess the wherewithal to script a repeat of the historic 2018-19 Test series victory.

Pujara's 500-plus runs with three top-notch hundreds formed the cornerstone of a 2-1 series win back then, India's first in Australia in 71 years. However, Smith and Warner didn't play in that series due to their ball-tampering bans.

"It (Australian batting line-up) will be a little stronger than what it was in 2018-19 but then victories don't come easy. If you want to win away from home, you need to work hard," India's No.3 told this agency in an exclusive interview before he embarked on the tour of Australia.

Pujara believes that India's fast bowling trio of Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami can again work up some magic like in 2018-19, posing a lot of discomfort for the home batting line-up. The upcoming Tests are scheduled to start December 17.

"No doubt Smith, Warner and Marnus Labuschagne are great players. But the good part about our current crop of bowlers is that most of them play in the same series and our bowling unit will also not be very different to what it was in 2018-19."

For India's fast bowlers, it's like a 'been there, done that' situation. "They know how to be successful in

Australia as they have enjoyed success there in the past. They have their game-plans in place and if we can execute them well, they are capable of getting Smith, Warner and Labuschagne out quickly. If we can do what we have done in the past, I am sure we have every chance of winning the series again."

The opening Test in Adelaide is a day-night game and batting against the pink kookaburra during the twilight session will pose its own set of challenges, said the man who is nearing 6000 Test runs (5840 in 77 games) with 18 hundreds in his kitty.

"It will be a different challenge altogether playing with pink ball as pace and bounce also changes. We will be playing with pink kookaburra in Australia (against Bangladesh, it was Pink SG Test). It will be slightly different."

He believes that overcoming the challenges of playing their first overseas D/N Test will have to happen collectively.

"As a team and as individuals, one has to understand and accept and get used to it (pink ball and lights) as early as possible. There will be a bit of difference with pink ball. The twi-

light period is more challenging than other periods but as you play more and practice more, you get

used to it. It does take a little while..." An astute student of the game, Pujara is known to work on with his

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Nov 16: After competing on the slow UAE tracks for nearly two months during the IPL, India's star studded batting line-up is gearing up for the lively Australian pitches with the traditional tennis ball training Monday.

In-form KL Rahul spent considerable time in perfecting his pull-shots with deliveries hurled from 18

Rahul hones his pull shot with tennis ball training

father Arvind Pujara, who is also his one and only coach. He has plans in place but won't like to divulge much.

"The technical aspect is something that I can't discuss. I prefer not talking about it. It's a strategic thing which can't be divulged."

"Even during the last tour, my preparation was good, I am confident that I am able to repeat the same preparation before this series also. I always try and add a few more things in my game, which will help me get better," he said.

The 32-year-old is confident that history will repeat itself in Australia this time. "You can't win matches on your own. Yes, you can perform exceptionally well but you need support from other players to win. Even the bowling unit was remarkable during the last series."

"In the end, you need 20 wickets to win a Test and wasn't just my performance, even other batters supported at some stage or the other. It was the team's success. When the Indian team succeeds, it is always a moment of pride," he recollected.

Pujara has practised for a good two months at his academy in Rajkot under the watchful eyes of his father. Does it bother that before leaving for Australia, he didn't get enough match practice?

"Look, this is a situation that has impacted millions of lives and people have lost lives. In normal circumstances, we would have played domestic cricket and gone to Australia but everyone needs to think about safety and security."

"As far as I am concerned, I am happy if I am able to practice, do my fitness, running sessions and move my body well, which I did," he concluded.

yards during Monday's net session. There was nothing unusual in such session as players train like this when they gear up to compete on tracks where there is steep bounce on offer.

In a video posted on twitter by the BCCI, Rahul's senior teammate Ravichandran Ashwin was seen using a tennis racquet and serving the stand-in white ball vice-captain with tennis balls aimed

Cummins confused over ODI, T20 series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Nov 16: Australia pace spearhead Pat Cummins Monday said he is yet to take a call on whether to play in the limited-overs series against India beginning November 27 even though he is feeling fresh after spending three months inside bio-secure bubbles.

Cummins, who returned last week from the UAE where he turned up for Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL, has been hopping between bio-secure bubbles since touching down in England in late August but he allayed fears of fatigue.

"(I) haven't made a final decision on that yet. (It's) unprecedented times with so many people spending a large portion of time in these bubbles so we're going to keep all the conversations open, chat about that a bit closer to when we all get together," Cummins said when asked about resting ahead of the Test series.

"There's always cricket on, so we'll make sure we're all open about that, having those conversations," said the 27-year-old during a video conference as reported by 'cricket.com.au'.

Cummins has been named in both the white and red-ball squads as vice-captain. The limited-overs series is to be held in Sydney and Canberra ahead of the four-match Test series, beginning in Adelaide December 17.

"I wouldn't be surprised if there's times throughout the summer where some players might just need a little rest knowing not only how busy this next couple of months is but also a tour of South Africa (February-March) and a few away tours next year," said Cummins, who has taken 143 wickets from 30 Tests.

The right-arter was in bio-bubbles in Southampton and Manchester on Australia's white-ball tour of the UK before flying to the UAE for the IPL, where he has with his franchise KKR.



He is now in Sydney spending 14 days quarantining and will join the squad November 27, the day of the opening ODI at the SCG.

Despite enduring bio-bubbles for three months now, Cummins said he felt it is a 'pretty good place'. "One of the benefits of being in a bubble in the UAE was we didn't spend much time travelling. A normal IPL we're on a flight every second day, different city, so I think sometimes that can be as draining as the playing part."

Cummins also said he won't be going out there to intimidate the Indians but if he manages to have the effect, it would be a bonus.

at his rib cage. Rahul was trying to keep the pull shot down, an art his skipper Viat Kohli has mastered over the years, rolling his wrists.

There is a basic purpose of practising against tennis balls. From a shorter distance, the ball travels faster and it helps in making the reflexes quick. Therefore when the leather ball is used, any batsman will get a fraction of a second

more from the 22 yards. During the '80s and '90s before a tour of Australia or West Indies, the specialist batsmen were known to bat against wet tennis balls from 16 or 18 yards on cement wickets to get adjusted to the bounce.

Team's senior speedster Mohammed Shami posted a video on his personal twitter handle, where he was seen bowling with the pink kookaburra ball.

ATP Finals: Thiem, Nadal advance

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 16: Dominic Thiem made sure this year's ATP Finals didn't begin the same way last year's ended. Thiem outlasted Stefanos Tsitsipas in a rematch of the 2019 final, beating the defending champion 7-6(7-5), 4-6, 6-3 Sunday in the opening singles match of the tournament inside a largely empty O2 Arena.

In the late match, Rafa Nadal had a much easier time against newcomer Andrey Rublev, beating the Russian 6-3, 6-4 in just one hour, 17 minutes.

Nadal is looking to cap a season in which he earned his record-equalling 20th Grand Slam title and 1,000th match win on tour by capturing his first trophy at the ATP Finals. He has qualified for the season-ending event for a record 16 straight years but lost in the final twice and missed six editions because of injuries.

Thiem, who won his first major at this year's US Open, broke Tsitsipas



for a 2-0 lead in the third set with a drop shot at the net and converted his second match point when Tsitsipas sent a forehand wide.

Tsitsipas beat Thiem in a third-set tie-breaker in last year's final to clinch the biggest title of his career. But he let the first-set tie-breaker slip away this time, after leading 4-1 and 5-3. Facing set point, the Greek failed to put away a fairly simple overhead at the net before sending a lob long to hand Thiem the lead.

Tsitsipas broke for a 2-1 lead in the second set before leveling the match. He had a chance to break back at 3-1 in the third. Thiem eventually held serve after a game that went to six deuces, and was never troubled the rest of the way.

Nadal steered the evening match in his direction from the start, losing just five points on his serve in the first set. He broke for a 4-2 lead when Rublev sent a shot long, and the Russian then slammed his racket

into the ground in frustration. Rublev entered the tournament as one of the hottest players on tour, having won five titles this season, but looked unsettled against Nadal and continuously gesticulated and shouted to himself between points.

This is the 12th and last year that the ATP Finals is played at the O2 Arena before moving to Turin, Italy, next year. Because of the coronavirus pandemic there are no fans inside the 20,000-capacity venue this time — meaning the normally raucous atmosphere has been replaced by an eerie silence interrupted only by muted applause from the players' boxes between points.

There are also no line judges, as the tournament is using electronic line calling for the first time. The system means players can no longer challenge whether a ball was in or out as those calls get made automatically. However, they can request a video review for other disputed situations, such as double bounces.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leuven (Belgium), Nov 16: Dries Mertens scored a superb free-kick as a resilient Belgium ended England's hopes of reaching the Nations League finals with a 2-0 win.

With one round of games left, Belgium have a five-point lead over third-place England in the top tier's Group 2 but has not yet secured qualification.

Top-ranked Belgium will host second-place Denmark Wednesday with a place in the finals next year at stake. A draw will be enough for Belgium, who lead Denmark by two points.

Held without fans because of coronavirus restrictions, the match got off to a promising start with both teams determined to play with intensity. England pressed high throughout and enjoyed long spells of domination but lacked efficiency in the final third. Belgium, in contrast, defended well and had that finishing touch.

Belgium took the lead in the 10th minute after captain Jan Vertonghen made the most of a loose pass from Eric Dier to recover the ball and ignite a quick move. Romelu Lukaku set up Youri Tielemans, whose low shot from the edge of the box took a deflection, hit the post and ended in the back of the net.

Harry Kane, making his 50th appearance for England, was dangerous throughout. He came close two minutes after England had conceded but his goal-bound header was cleared off the line by Lukaku.

Mertens made it 2-0 with his 21st international goal. After Kevin De Bruyne won a free-kick close to the area in the 23rd minute, Mertens expertly curled his kick above the English wall — which mostly failed to jump — and lodged the ball into the left corner.

With a 2-0 lead, the hosts then let the opposition have the ball as England pushed hard to pull one back but could not find a cutting edge. England continued to apply pres-

Belgium end England hopes



Belgium's scorers Youri Tielemans (L) and Dries Mertens in a jolly mood after the latter's goal against England, Sunday

sure in the second half and still wasted chances, notably from set-pieces. Despite enjoying posses-

sion and winning nearly all the duels in midfield, England remained ineffective.

Dustin wins Augusta Masters

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Augusta (US), Nov 16: Nothing ever comes easily for Dustin Johnson in the majors, except for slipping into that Masters green jacket.

Johnson overcame a jittery start that conjured memories of past majors he failed to finish off. He turned that into a command performance, making sure this one-of-a-kind Masters with no fans also had no drama. Not even close.

Johnson tapped in for par on the 18th for a 4-under 68 to finish at 20-under 268, breaking by two shots the record set by Tiger Woods in 1997 and matched by Jordan Spieth in 2015.

His five-shot victory was the largest at the Masters since Woods won by 12 in his record-breaking win



in 1997. All that was missing were the roars for any of his pivotal putts early and his birdie putts on the back nine that put it away

Cameron Smith and Sungjae Im each shot 69 and were the only ones who really had a chance. Smith got quite the consolation. He became the first player in Masters history to post all four rounds in the 60s, and all it got him was a silver medal.

Johnson became the 12th Masters champion to never trail after any round, and his closing 68 broke another record held by Woods — it was his 11th consecutive sub-par round at Augusta National.

No one had a better finish than defending champion Woods, but only after the five-time Masters champion posted the highest score of his career — three balls in Rae's Creek for a 10 on the par-3 12th hole. He finished with five birdies over the last six holes to salvage a 76.

Prajnesh loses ATP Challenger final to Kudla

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cary (US), Nov 16: Indian Davis Cupper Prajnesh Gunneswaran squandered initial advantage to lose to Denis Kudla of USA in three sets in the final of the Atlantic Tire Championships here.

The fourth seeded Indian lost 6-3, 3-6, 0-6 in the men's singles summit clash of the ATP Challenger event in one hour 33 minutes, Sunday. Prajnesh, ranked 146th, started on a bright note, putting up a dominant display to take the opening set of the USD 52,080 hard court tournament, before conceding the match.