



GOING GLOBAL

Singer Neeti Mohan has rendered voice for the character Poppy in Hollywood film *Trolls World Tour*

LEISURE P2



₹154CR SRIMANDIR BUDGET

Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee approves a balanced budget of ₹154 cr for Srimandir

DOWNTOWN P3



MATTER OF CONCERN

The world should react with the same urgency to climate change as to the coronavirus crisis, said the Red Cross

INTERNATIONAL P10

CENTRAL AID HALVED

The Centre was expected to remit ₹17,359 cr under various schemes to the state during this fiscal, but ended up sending just ₹8,524 cr which works out to less than 50 per cent of the promised funds

BISWA BHUSAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Tall claims by Union ministers and senior BJP leaders that the Modi government has allocated higher amounts of money to Odisha have proved to be eyewash as the Centre has squeezed its funds flow to the state under various Central Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

As per an estimate by the state finance department, the Centre has not released nearly 50 per cent of the amounts anticipated for the financial year 2020-21.

The state government expected to receive ₹17,359 crore under various CSS during this financial year out of which it has so far received only ₹8,524 crore which works out to less than 50 per cent.

The state agriculture and farmers' Empowerment department had estimated to receive ₹874.73 crore central assistance. But, it has received only ₹125.90 crore till now. The Centre was supposed to allocate ₹131.69 crore to the state fisheries and animal resources development, but it is yet to get ₹88.59 crore. Similarly, the forest & environment, housing & urban development, higher education and school & mass education departments are yet to receive ₹74.74 crore, ₹679.19 crore, ₹129.96 crore and ₹1496.82 crore respectively.

The rural development department expected to receive ₹1,500

| NAME OF THE CENTRAL SPONSORED SCHEME                   | AMOUNT EXPECTED | AMOUNT RECEIVED |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana                         | ₹270 cr         | 0               |
| Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikash Yojana                      | ₹60.26 cr       | 0               |
| Human Resource in Health and Medical Education         | ₹240 cr         | ₹96.46 cr       |
| Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana                             | ₹388.32 cr      | ₹7.73 cr        |
| Urban Poverty Alleviation Mission for 100 Smart Cities | ₹100 cr         | 0               |
| Rashtriya Uchhrtar Sikhsya Abhiyan                     | ₹135 cr         | ₹5.04 cr        |
| MGNREGA  | ₹1397.14 cr     | ₹925.55 cr      |
| National Rural Drinking Water Programme                | ₹1200 cr        | ₹406.08 cr      |
| Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Rural)                          | ₹300 cr         | ₹58.92 cr       |
| Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Urban)                          | ₹180 cr         | 0               |
| PMGSY  | ₹1500 cr        | ₹11.58 cr       |
| Development of SC                                      | ₹346.31 cr      | ₹47.26 cr       |
| Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana                      | ₹64.20 cr       | 0               |
| Integrated Child Development Scheme                    | ₹1291.03 cr     | ₹569.69 cr      |

crore under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). However, the department has received just ₹11.58 crore which is way insufficient to meet its administrative expenditure. The state which remained in top position in implementation of the PMGSY scheme may miss it this year.

The allocation to run crucial schemes under the SC & ST development department has also been squeezed by the Centre. The department has got only ₹239.98 crore against its requirement of ₹1,092.75 crore.

The Centre has not released a single pie under various schemes in-

roduced by Prime Minister Modi. They included the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), the Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana (RKVY), the Rastriya Pashudhan Vikash Yojana (RPVY), the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Urban) and Poshan.

Besides, the Centre has not provided GST compensation to the state in view of the prevalence of Covid-19. All these factors put impact on the state economy. However, due to mining activities, the state government is able to manage it till now. The state government has asked the departments to put pressure on the line ministries to get the balance amount released during



next few months left in the current financial year.

Not only for this year, the central fund flow to the state is likely to come down in next one or two years as well. Considering the reduction in central assistance and truncated receipts from its own revenue sources, the estimated shortfall in revenue during the current year would be in the order of 20-25 per cent.

The state government may have to depend upon higher borrowing during the current year to finance higher spending on the management of the pandemic.

However, there is an increased inflow to some departments such as health and family welfare and skill development and technical education. While the health department received Rs 32.43 crore more than its allocated Rs 1,179.27 crore, the skill development and technical education received an additional allocation of Rs 0.70 crore.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No, sir. These are not from fancy dress competitions. It is our beloved leader.

JE held for sexually abusing 50 UP kids

NEW DELHI: The CBI arrested a junior engineer of Uttar Pradesh irrigation department for alleged sexual exploitation of children for last 10 years and selling videos and photographs of nefarious acts on dark net to other paedophiles across the globe, officials said Tuesday. He is alleged to have victimised about 50 children in the age group of 5-16 years in the districts of Chitrakoot, Banda and Hamirpur, they said. He was arrested from Banda and is likely to be produced before the competent court soon. During searches, the CBI has recovered eight mobile phones, cash around eight lakh, sex toys and laptop.

| MARKET WATCH |          |           |
|--------------|----------|-----------|
| INDEX        |          | VARIATION |
| SENSEX       | 43952.71 | ▲ 314.73  |
| NIFTY        | 12874.20 | ▲ 93.90   |
| DOLLAR       | 74.92    | ▼ ₹0.27   |
| EURO         | 88.38    | ▲ ₹0.30   |
| GOLD         | ₹50,844  | ▲ ₹14     |
| SILVER       | ₹63,360  | ▼ ₹331    |

| WEATHER  |                   |        |
|----------|-------------------|--------|
|          | BHUB              | CTK    |
| TEMP     | 33.7°C            | 33.6°C |
| MAX      | 33.7°C            | 33.6°C |
| MIN      | 21.4°C            | 20.5°C |
| Humidity | 94%               | 80%    |
| Rainfall | Nil               | Nil    |
| Forecast | Partly cloudy Sky |        |

Free smartphones for all households in Maoist hotbed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 17: Striving to transform the Naxal hotbed in the 'cut-off area' of Malkangiri district into one of the developed places of the state, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday said smartphones will be provided free of cost to all households in the region.

He also called upon Left-wing extremists (LWE) to shun violence, return to the mainstream and become part of developmental activities taking place in the 'cut-off area', encircled by water on three sides and another connecting to dense forests in Andhra Pradesh.

"The 'cut-off area' of Malkangiri always remains in my heart, and I will try my best to make it one of the developed areas in the state," Patnaik said. There are 52 revenue villages in the area, now renamed as 'Swabhimnan Anchal' after the chief minister inaugurated the Gurupriya bridge connecting the region with the mainland. Patnaik also interacted with the people of the area through video-conferencing.

He said the initiative will improve connectivity in the region and help students, and that four mobile phone towers have already been installed in the area, while another three with 4G network will be operational soon.

"A package of ₹100 crore under SETU (Socio-Economic Transformation and Upliftment) programme for development of the area was announced in July 2018 during inauguration of the Gurupriya bridge. The amount has been increased to ₹250 crore," Patnaik said.

Work for 3311 KV sub-stations will be completed soon, he said, adding, ₹100 crore will be spent for construction of concrete roads in all the villages and seven bridges in the area.

A mega pipe water supply project at the cost of ₹20 crore has also been initiated, while work for 250 tube wells is complete. ₹32 crore will be spent for 43 LI projects and 419 cluster deep borewells.

Create a body to regulate TV channels: SC to Centre

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 17: The Supreme Court Tuesday asked the government to create a statutory regime to regulate TV channels in the country as the current self-regulation by TV channels wasn't good enough.

"What is shown on TV channels is of great consequences for the country... Create a mechanism under the law if there is none at present," the Bench told Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta after he submitted that there was no regime for content regulation of electronic media. The top court said the government should inform as to what steps have been taken on the issue under the Cable Television Network Act (CTNA).

"First you did not file a proper affidavit and then you filed an affidavit which did not deal with the two important questions. This way it cannot be done Mr Mehta," a bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta. "Mr Mehta, we are not satisfied with your reply. We wanted you to tell as to what actions you have taken under

**What is shown on TV channels is of great consequences for the country... Create a mechanism under the law if there is none at present**

**We want to know as to what is the mechanism to deal with these contents on television. If there is no regulatory mechanism then you create one. Regulation cannot be left to organisation like NBSA (News Broadcasters Standards Authority)**

the Cable TV Network Act," said the bench, also comprising Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

The top court said the Centre, in its affidavit, has not dealt with the aspect of applicability of the CTNA and the legal regime concerning this. "We want to know as to what is the mechanism to deal with these contents on television. If there is no regulatory mechanism then you create one. Regulation cannot be left to organisation like NBSA (News Broadcasters Standards Authority)," the bench said.

The bench, which was hearing the

pleas filed by Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind and others alleging that a section of the media was spreading communal hatred over Tablighi Jamaat congregation during the onset of pandemic, asked the Centre to file a fresh affidavit dealing with mechanism to regulate electronic media under the CTNA.

Mehta told the bench that several actions have been taken under the Act. "You have to tell us how you have acted under Cable TV Act in some prior incident," the bench sought to know and questioned Mehta as to why the Centre has not created a body to regulate these things.

'Spent childhood listening to Ramayana, M'bharata'

MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE OF A GROUP OF PAKISTANI AND INDIAN COLLEGE FRIENDS WHO'D TAUGHT ME TO COOK DAL AND KEEMA AND TURNED ME ON TO BOLLYWOOD MOVIES, WRITES THE US'S FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT IN HIS BOOK

AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 17: Former US President Barack Obama said he has always held a special place for India due to his childhood years spent in Indonesia listening to the epic Hindu tales of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

"Maybe it was its (India's) sheer size, with one-sixth of the world's population, an estimated two thousand distinct ethnic groups, and more than seven hundred languages spoken," Obama writes on his fascination of India in his latest book "A Promised Land".

Obama says he had never been to India before his Presidential visit in 2010, but the country had "al-

ways held a special place in my imagination".

"Maybe it was because I'd spent a part of my childhood in Indonesia listening to the epic Hindu tales of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, or because of my interest in Eastern religions, or because of a group of Pakistani and Indian college friends who'd taught me to cook dal and keema and turned me on to Bollywood movies," Obama writes.

In the book that hit the stands globally Tuesday, America's first Black president described the various options of killing bin Laden once it became increasingly clear that the elusive al Qaeda chief was living in a safe hideout on the outskirts of a Pakistani military can-

tonment in Abbottabad.

"Based on what I'd heard, I decided we had enough information to begin developing options for an attack on the compound. While the CIA team continued to work on identifying the Pacer, I asked Tom Donilon and John Brennan to explore what a raid would look like," Obama writes in his memoir.

The need for secrecy added to the challenge; if even the slightest hint of our lead on bin Laden leaked, we knew our opportunity would be lost. As a result, only a handful of people across the entire federal government were read into the planning phase of the operation, he said. "A Promised Land" is the first of two planned volumes.



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COVID-19 VACCINE

Decoding shot effectiveness



AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 17: What does COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness mean? It refers to the likelihood that a coronavirus shot will work in people.

Two vaccine makers have said that preliminary results from their late-stage studies suggest their experimental vaccines are strongly protective. Moderna this week said its vaccine appears nearly 95 per cent effective. This comes on the heels of Pfizer's announcement that its shot appeared similarly effective. Those numbers raised hopes around the world that vaccines could help put an end to the pandemic sometime next year if they continue to show that they prevent disease and are safe.

Effectiveness numbers will change as the vaccine studies continue since the early calculations were based on fewer than 100 COVID-19 cases in each study. But early results provide strong signals that the vaccine could prevent a majority of disease when large groups of people are vaccinated.

US health officials said a coronavirus vaccine would need to be at least 50 per

■ mRNA (messenger RNA) vaccine that works on previously unproven technology can be very promising in the fight against the pandemic despite the challenges

■ mRNA vaccines trick the body into producing some of the viral proteins itself. They work by using mRNA, which is the molecule that essentially puts DNA instructions into action

cent effective before they would consider approving it for use. There was concern that coronavirus vaccines might be only as effective as flu vaccines, which have ranged from 20 per cent to 60 per cent effective in recent years. The broad, early effectiveness figures don't tell the whole story. Scientists also need to understand how well the vaccine protects people in different age groups and demographic categories.

For both vaccines, the interim results were based on people who had COVID-19 symptoms that prompted a virus test. That means we don't know yet whether someone who's vaccinated might still get infected – even if they show no symptoms – and spread the virus.

DIP IN NEW COVID CASES

NEW DELHI: With 29,163 new coronavirus infections Tuesday, India recorded its lowest daily surge since July 14, when 28,498 cases were added, before it spiralled out of control in August-September. With 449 more fatalities in the past 24 hours, India toll stood at 1,30,519, as the overall tally reached 88,74,290, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare data showed. Currently, there are 4,53,401 active cases, whereas 82,90,370 patients have been discharged so far. Meanwhile, Odisha's COVID-19 tally increased by 644 Tuesday with the total count of infections going up to 3,10,052. 17 fatalities were reported Tuesday.



# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

### ARIES

You may be impetuous today, which may lead to unforeseen results. You may be in a hurry and complete work which has been pending for a long time. You will find the time to make long-term plans. Ganesha says you will rectify your past mistakes.

### TAURUS

You have a hectic day ahead, says Ganesha. You will be immersed in your work all day long and will love doing so. A lot will get done by the end of the day. Make sure you do not stretch your neck or take unnecessary risks. That will be bad for business. Stick to basics. Do not be innovative or speculative. Be prepared for new challenges that are due to come up shortly.

### GEMINI

A day of conflicting emotions awaits you. Your personal and professional life will both be important. Hence you will experience anxious moments as you try to balance the demands made by both. However, the good news is you will succeed in your attempts and will do justice to all your duties, says Ganesha.

### CANCER

Ganesha says that this is good day to buy new house or car. It is likely that you shift to a new house shortly. So be prepared for a ceremony like housewarming. You will achieve tranquil mind through yoga and meditation. It will radiate a new energy, enthusiasm and optimism in you.

### LEO

You will exercise your will today and will be in the mood to soar like a free bird today. You will not be in the mood to listen to anyone. Work related travel will be beneficial. Guard against ego clashes in personal relationships, says Ganesha.

### VIRGO

Today you will find yourself delving deep into your inner self. You will reap a lot of monetary rewards, and will be generous in spending it on your near and dear ones. Ganesha says that you may make up for the pressures at work by entertaining yourself with material pleasures. You will seek the company of someone with whom you can have an intimate chat.

### LIBRA

Ganesha says that you shall be immersed in successfully completing all your remaining work today. Whatever work you undertake today you shall be able to do it to your best capability and successfully and your work ability will be praiseworthy. Ganesha showers his blessings on you.

### SCORPIO

You may deviate a little from mundane chores and take up creative activities like cooking and gardening. Today, according to Ganesha, you wish to do smart work and not just hard work. Family joys and pleasures will replace work satisfaction.

### SAGITTARIUS

Amid chaos and confusion, don't forget the direction and destination, advises Ganesha. You may be running short of time today and may not find a single moment in peace. Taking a break at this point of time won't be a crime, go for it.

### CAPRICORN

You regret spending hefty amount of money on branded items and luxuries, but you'll see a ray of hope today, feels Ganesha. Your bank account is strengthened by some heavy cash flow, and needless to say, it will give you a great relief. Now, you'll understand the value of money and curb on your urge to spend lavishly. Your work place will make you feel more comfortable.

### AQUARIUS

Do you wish to have a new car or any other property? Make the bookings today, as it is favourable day to make such purchases. You will prioritise your needs and consider available finances so that you can have your dream car or house. In the evening, you will find solace in temple or any other religious places, says Ganesha.

### PISCES

Sometimes you are so kind and charitable that you sacrifice your own well-being and happiness for the sake of others. This streak within you may emerge as you engage in a selfless deed. You will have a strong desire to do something for your family and your home. At work or business you will achieve your goals without any opposition, blesses Ganesha.

## NAOMI OPENS UP ABOUT MOM'S RESPONSIBILITY

Actress Naomi Watts says self-care is an important part of her life, which helps her become the best version of a mother to her kids. The actress, a mother to Kai (11) and Sasha(13), opened up about aching the job as a mom, and lockdown life, reports *people.com*.

## RIFT WITH MANAGER MAKES SWIFT RE-RECORD HER OLDER MUSIC

Grammy award-winning singer Taylor Swift has started re-record her older music following a rift with her manager Scooter Braun. The latter had sold 100 percent of her music, videos and album art to Shamrock Holdings, a private equity company.



## 'Art must be given the respect it deserves'

*Masterpieces like da Vinci's Mona Lisa are protected with multi-layered security abroad while visitors in India are allowed to click selfies with artefacts, laments Dhenkanal-born sculptor Adwaita Charan Gadananayak, Director General of National Gallery of Modern Art*

**NEW DELHI:** After going virtual for past several months, National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) here has now been reopened for visitors, who seem only too happy to be reconnecting with Indian master artists after months of the gallery being closed.

"Even in the lockdown, we were experimenting with going digital. Art adds colour to life, and is extremely important to stay connected to. In our virtual 'art addas', we saw that we can connect to national and international artists also, not just those in Delhi. It is easier to connect virtually," said NGMA's director general Adwaita Charan Gadananayak.

The gallery, located at a stone's throw from Delhi's tourist hotspot India Gate, has a vast permanent collection of Indian modern and contemporary art, saw close to 300-400 visitors every day, before COVID-19, said Gadananayak. On the first day after the reopening, the figure plummeted to 150, and even more on the second day, he informed, adding that it is mostly the young generation coming out and the real numbers will be known after the festivities.

A successful artist himself, and the mind behind the

National Police Memorial in the national capital, Gadananayak, says that it is frustrating and stressful for artists to not venture out into the real world for inspiration and fresh ideas.

"Due to the COVID-induced lockdown, artists could only stay in their studios. At NGMA, we try to connect to all Delhi-based and far-off artists to hear about their art and plans," he shared.



Adwaita Charan Gadananayak

NGMA in Mumbai and Bengaluru have also opened up, and are yet to see a decent number of visitors, said the NGMA head. Gadananayak also spoke about some structural changes

on, soon. "People try to connect with the art, they try to come close to it and click selfies. We want that art must be given the respect it deserves. Abroad, masterpieces like da Vinci's Mona Lisa are highlighted like a diamond. There are many layers of security and a different style of display.

"Here, we have such great artists like Raja Ravi Verma, Nandalal Bose, Rabindranath Tagore, M.F. Husain, Amrita Sher-gill and more. We want to display them properly. When we give them respect, the public will also respect them like that," he signed off.

AGENCIES



A file photo of National Gallery of Modern Art

## Manipur now home to SUSHMITA



**MUMBAI:** Actress Sushmita Sen feels beautiful in a pink Manipuri traditional outfit. She says the Northeast state is her home now.

In her latest photo, Sushmita poses in a phanek with a full-sleeve blouse and phoe. She tweeted the photo and wrote: "#drapedingrace Thank you Robert Naorem for gracing me with your design & love!! Manipur is home now!!! How beautiful I feel!! #manipur #traditionallattire #innaphi #phanek #drapedinlove and #belonging I love you guys!!"

Her fans loved the look too.

"You make every dress that you wear something much more beautiful and graceful than it is," a user commented.

"Omg you looking so pretty in traditional saree looking radiant perfect outfit," another user wrote.

This comes days after actress Itziar Ituno Martinez of the hit Spanish series Money Heist crooned *Chunari chunari*, which was pictured in Salman Khan and Sushmita in the 1999 superhit, *Biwi No. 1*.

IANS

## Saifeena's family time in Dharamshala

**MUMBAI:** Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan is enjoying timeout with husband Saif Ali Khan and son Taimur in Dharamshala, and Tuesday posted a glimpse of the family vacation on her Instagram handle.

The actress shared two photographs from her walk around the hill station with Taimur riding piggyback on his father.

"Always looking ahead," Kareena wrote with the images, and gave picture credit to actor Arjun Kapoor.

"Joining your entourage... @rohanshrestha job under threat," Arjun commented on the post.



In one image, Taimur wears a red jacket while Saif is seen in casual denims and T-shirt as they trek down the hills. In a black and white image, the family walks towards a landmark with their backs towards the camera.

Kareena, who is expecting her second child, travelled to Dharamshala before Diwali to join Saif, who is shooting for *Bhoot Police* in the hill station.

IANS



## Neeti's musical touch to Trolls World Tour

**MUMBAI:** Singer Neeti Mohan has given a musical touch to the Hollywood film, *Trolls World Tour*, as it gears up for big screen outing in India. The film will be released in India in English and Hindi

November 19, and Neeti has sung three songs for the Hindi dubbed version of the popular animated musical comedy.

Neeti has rendered voice for the character of Poppy that have been sung by Anna Kendrick in the English version.

"Poppy sends across the message that every girl is a queen. Poppy is a free-spirited soul who is a 'go getter' and the character inspires it's audiences to a great extent," Neeti said.

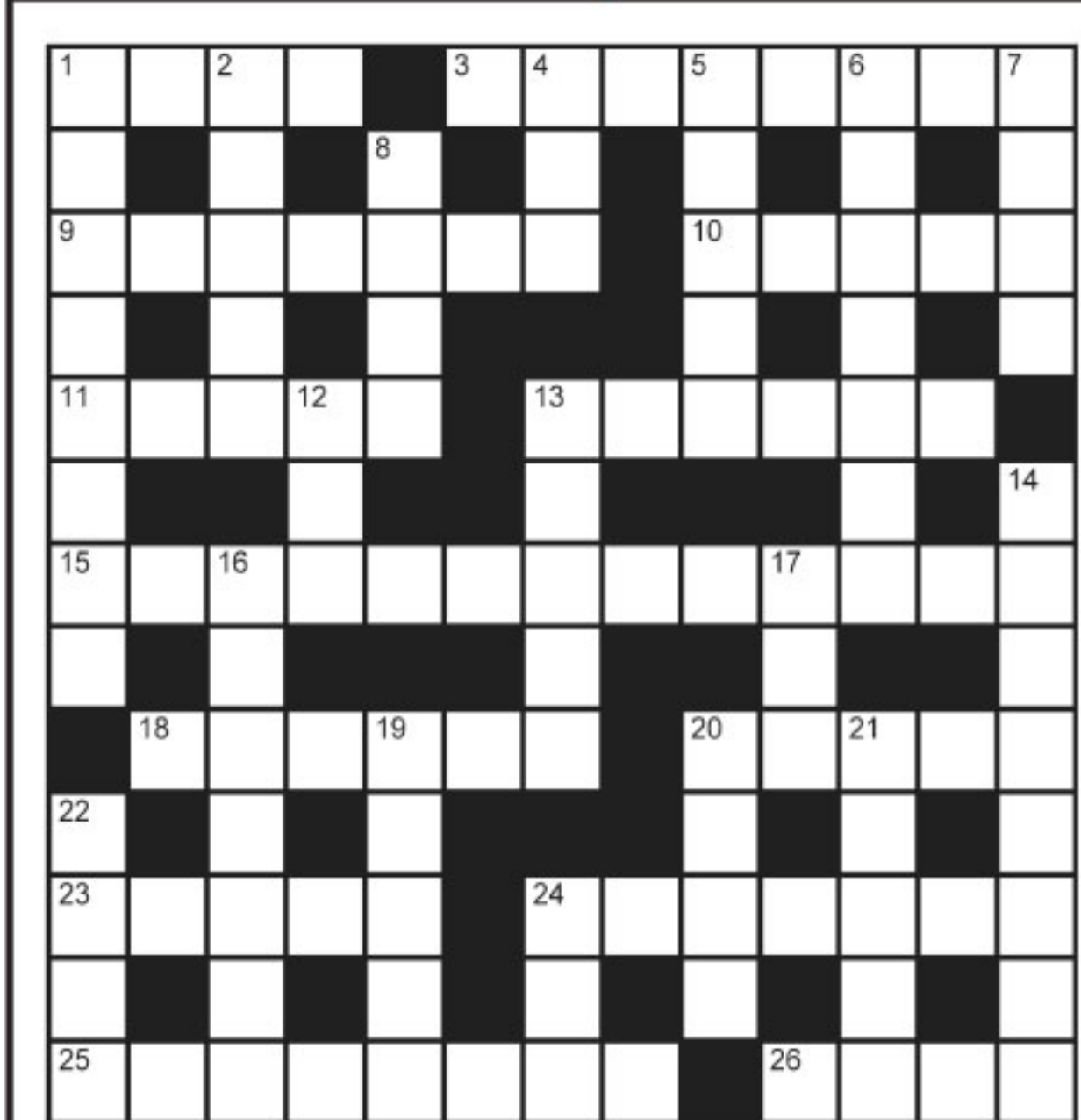
*Trolls World Tour* is directed by Walt Dohrn, with co-direction by David P. Smith. The sequel of the 2016 release, *Trolls*, follows two trolls who discover that there are six troll tribes representing the musical genres pop, funk, classical, techno, country, and rock.

IANS



## FUN post

### CROSSWORD



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#### Across

- Chowder morsel
- Pre-dinner drink
- Steamed
- Swagger
- Gown fabric
- Gambler
- Klutzy (8-5)
- No longer in style (3-3)
- Monster
- Top dog
- Dreamlike

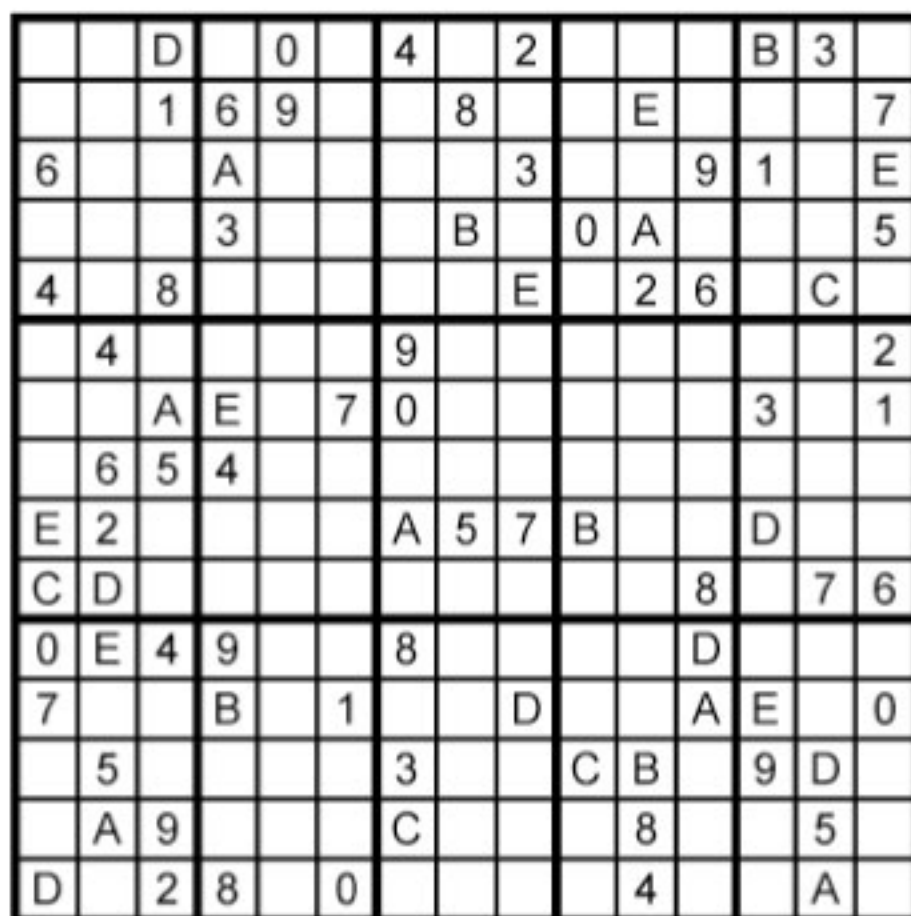
- Hostile face-off
- Bad day for Caesar

#### Down

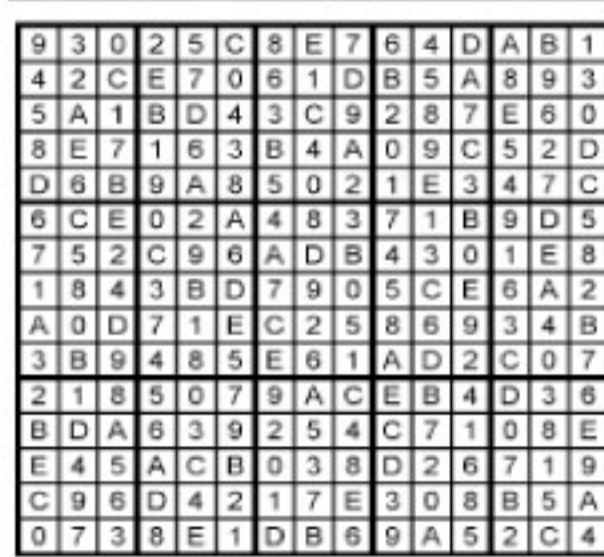
- Drivel
- Heavenly host?
- Herd of seals
- Pine product
- Uboat weapon
- Destiny
- Mold-ripened cheese
- Luau souvenir
- Burgundy grape
- Exhortations (3,5)
- Music of the West Indies
- Future fish
- Stockpile
- Tree covering
- Out in front
- Pool exercise
- Boar's mate

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW







# 644 fresh cases push state's Covid-19 tally past 3.10L

ODISHA'S NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DEATH TOLL MOUNTS TO 1,560 WITH 17 MORE FATALITIES IN 24 HOURS



**ODISHA**  
**TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES**  
**3,10,052**

**ACTIVE 9,280**  
**RECOVERED 2,99,159**  
**DEATHS 1,560**

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 17:** State's Covid-19 tally mounted to 3,10,052 after 644 people tested positive for the virus, while 17 more fatalities pushed Odisha's coronavirus death toll to 1,560, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said, Tuesday.

Of the fresh cases detected from all the 30 districts, 371 were reported from different quarantine centres and the remaining 273 were local contact cases, said the official.

Khurda registered the highest number of 73 new cases, followed by Sundargarh 62 and Mayurbhanj 59.

The deaths were reported from Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Jagatsinghpur and Subarnapur districts.

The positivity rate of Odisha stands at 5.82 per cent

form the demise of seventeen COVID-19 positive patients while under treatment in hospitals."

The deaths were reported from Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Jagatsinghpur and Subarnapur districts.

## STATE OF AFFAIRS

A total of 53 other Covid-19 patients have also succumbed to the virus due to comorbidities, the official said.

Khurda district alone has accounted for 269 deaths followed by Ganjam at 233 and Cuttack at 125. Twenty seven other districts have reported less than 100 fatalities.

The state has thus far conducted over 53.30 lakh sample tests, including 36,212 Monday.

The positivity rate stands at 5.82 per cent, the H&FW department added.

## CMC issues new norms to avert 2nd wave

**Cuttack:** In a bid to save the Millennium City from the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic, the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) has issued fresh guidelines regarding conduct of marriage and funeral ceremonies in the city.

The latest guidelines said that only 100 people will be allowed for any kind of marriage-related functions in the city. However, there will be a complete ban on marriage processions (barat), the notification read.

On the other hand, CMC allowed only 50 persons to attend a funeral ceremony. The new guideline will come into effect from November 25. The city people have been asked to follow the guideline till further orders, CMC tweeted.

Meanwhile, the civic body held preparatory meeting on spreading awareness about the viral infection among the residents through rallies involving ASHAs and ANMs, sources said.

## REGULATIONS FOR WEDDING AND FUNERAL

- Permission for functions to be obtained from local police station/ local authority (CMC in this case) mandatorily.
- Marriage procession of any kind is strictly prohibited.
- Persons with SARI/ILI like symptoms shall not be allowed to the venue.
- Other vulnerable groups such as old age persons, pregnant women or children below 10 years of age or person with other co-morbidities are also advised not to attend these functions.
- The host of the function shall ensure thermal screening of all participants at the entrance of the venue.
- Physical distancing of at least 6-ft to be maintained by the participants during the function.
- Participants shall mandatorily use face masks during the function except during eating.
- Spitting inside the hall and chewing paan/gutkha etc are strictly prohibited.
- The host of the function shall ensure adequate provision of hand sanitisation/hand washing at the venue.
- Sitting and dining arrangement shall be done to make at least 6-ft distance between individuals.
- During the function, a maximum of 50 per cent of the hall capacity will be allowed for usage in a closed space subject to the ceiling limit of the relevant function.
- In open space, appropriate number of persons is allowed subject to the maintenance of prescribed physical distance and total ceiling of participants.
- The host and the hall owner shall be liable for penal action in case of any violation. Individual participants will also be liable for violation of norms as specified above.

# Covid screening for MLAs, others begins



Swabs being collected from Speaker SN Patro and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 17:** COVID-19 screening for legislators, employees, security staff and journalists began Tuesday, days ahead of the starting of the Winter Session of the Assembly here.

Special kiosks were created on the premises where paramedical staff was present to conduct the RT-PCR testing of legislators and others. Several MLAs like Bikram Keshari Arukha, Atanu Sabyasachi and others went for the testing during the first day of the testing sessions.

This comes after the announcement of the Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro to conduct testing of the legislators and others ahead

of the session to ensure the pandemic does not spread during the Session. The services of BMC and others were also taken for the testing of the MLAs.

"Keeping in mind the threat from COVID-19, it was decided that all the MLAs and other members entering into the Assembly premises during the Winter Session of the House would undergo RT-PCR test to screen the viral disease. The exercise to test the legislators started today and will go on till November 19. The session will start from November 20," Arukh, Parliamentary Affairs Minister told reporters. During the last session, several MLAs and others tested positive for the disease.

# Leopard skin seized in City; man arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 17:** A leopard skin was seized from the possession of a person who was arrested from a place near Baramunda in Bhubaneswar Monday, officials said Tuesday.

Officials of Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Crime Branch identified the accused as Prasant Kumar Naik, son of Baidyanath Naik of Radanga village under Kuliposi police limits in Mayurbhanj district. He works as a driver with SOA University.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of STF

officials conducted a raid at a place near the Baramunda Kali Temple in the capital city.

They were tipped off that a person was to sell a leopard skin somewhere near the Kali Temple. They zeroed in on Naik due to his abnormal behaviour.

Following a search, they found a leopard skin kept in his motorcycle dickey.

The accused was arrested after he could not produce any valid authority in support of his possession of the hide. He was produced in the court of SDJM, Bhubaneswar Tuesday. A case under Sections 379

and 411 of the IPC and 51 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act has been registered in this connection. The leopard hide will be sent to the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for chemical examination.

Sources claimed that Naik revealed the name of another driver from Phulbani involved in the racket and he played the role of a mediator only.

He also informed the sleuths that he was scheduled to hand over the hide to one Ajit Kumar Das who is businessman.

The hides are being sold between Rs 3 to 5 lakh.



Congress leaders, including Barabati-Cuttack MLA Mohammed Moquim, demonstrate near the Cuttack Collector's office demanding an infra boost for Radhanath Institute of Advanced Studies in Education in the Silver City, Tuesday

# National Press Day observed in Capital

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 17:** State-level National Press Day was observed by Information & Public Relations (I&PR) department here recently through a webinar on the theme of 'Role of Media during Covid-19 & its impact on Media.'

Raghuvaran Das, Minister, I&PR, Water Resources inaugurated the webinar and said that media plays a pivotal role in our democracy as it is the voice of people. Since the outbreak of Covid, media has been playing a crucial role in disseminating information to prevent the spread of infection.

Krupasindhu Mishra, director, I&PR, gave the introductory address and coordinated the webinar. Lenin Mohanty, editor, 'Utakal Prasang' and 'Odisha Review' appreciated the role of media during Covid in spreading awareness among the public and expressed his gratitude. Pradeep Choudhury from Press Information Bureau and senior journalists participated in the webinar and presented their valuable opinions regarding the role of media and its responsibilities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Niranjan Sethi, Director (Technical), I&PR department proposed the vote of thanks.

# INT'L CHILDREN'S WEEK LAUNCHED

**Bhubaneswar:** Rajya Sabha MP Sajeet Kumar under his office's Global Development Dialogue (GDD) forum has launched a weeklong celebration of International Children's Week with a webinar series on Children and SDGs. The inaugural webinar deliberated upon the communication perspectives of Children & SDGs. Rudra Prasanna Rath, State Communication Consultant, UNICEF Odisha and Manoj Tripathy, Child Rights Expert joined the webinar and the session was moderated by Kamala Kanta Dash, assistant professor of public policy from Sri Sri University.

# Outfit protests Rlys privatisation

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 17:** A demonstration was held in front of East Coast Railway Headquarters here Tuesday by Bhubaneswar Chapter of Rail Gharoikaran Birodhi Jana Abhiyan, Odisha against the decision of privatisation and corporatisation of Indian Railways.

A memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister of India was also submitted to the General Manager. Convener Santosh Kumar Rath

said, "It is well known that Indian Railways is the largest central govt. public sector enterprise in our country and the lifeline of Indian economy. It is also the most dependable medium of transportation and communication for almost all sections of people as well as goods throughout the country."

The infrastructure for Indian Railways has been built up by the hard earned money of the common people of this country. But following the policy of privatisation

and corporatization, the central government has decided to handover the railway properties to the corporate houses by deciding to run 151 private passenger trains on 109 routes, he added.

The decision will push Indian Railways into loss and crisis. As a result there will be fare hike, retrenchment, reduction in salary and other social benefits of employees. Gradually, the railway services will be out of reach of common people, said co-convenor Niranjan Mohanty.

# ITI STUDENTS FLAG CONCERNS OVER ONLINE EXAMINATIONS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 17:** State Private ITI Association Tuesday showed its displeasure regarding online examination pattern for ITI students.

In a press meet here, association president Arun Kumar Nayak said that ITI students are generally from poor background.

"Appearing for online exams is not easy for them. We had earlier

shared our concern with Union skill development and Entrepreneurship minister Mahendra Nath Pandey October 29 and demanded that the exams should be conducted in OMR sheets." The association also expressed its displeasure over non-payment of full scholarship money to SC & ST ITI students since 2014 even after the High Court directed the state government and central government to pay the money.

# CLASSIFIED

## AFFIDAVIT

I, Dr. Kanti Prava Pati here by notify that, through an affidavit before the Notary, Bhubaneswar, I restored my parental surname 'PATI' instead of husband's surname 'Satapathy'. Henceforth, I shall be known as 'Kanti Prava Pati' for all purposes.

By an affidavit I, Bhabagrahi Nath declare that in my son Subhadeep Sharma's School record my name was registered as Bhabagrahi Nathsharma according to his old Birth Certificate but my name has changed Bhabagrahi Nath according to his new Birth Certificate. Henceforth, Bhabagrahi Nath and Bhabagrahi Nathsharma is same person.

## CIVIC WOES



BJP activists take to the streets demanding renovation of Kapileswar main road at Sundarpada in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

# Digital expo throws light on Gandhiji's life

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 17:** Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar, a constituent unit of National Council of Science Museums, India under the Union Ministry of Culture, organised a special digital exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi at the science centre here, Tuesday.

The exhibition was inaugurated by the principal of Regional Institute of Education, Bhubaneswar, Prakash Chandra Agarwal.

The digital exhibition has got 10 electronic units having magnificent touch-sensitive, high-definition interactive thin, ultra light and transparent large size monitors.

All these digital exhibits display the following contents and philosophy in storytelling format depicting invaluable belongings of Mahatma such as Chashma - understanding the mind of Mahatma, Charkha - spinning the destiny of India, Ghadi - timeline of Mahatma, Lathi - an epitome of strength, struggle and perseverance, pen - thoughts of Mahatma.

Gandhi's slippers bore testimonies to his travels as well as the evolution of his political ideas. The



## VIRTUAL INTERACTION

The digital expo has got 10 electronic units having magnificent touch-sensitive, high-definition interactive thin, ultra-light and transparent large size monitors

The exhibition showcases religious and social ideas adopted and developed by Mahatma Gandhi which are collectively known as Gandhian philosophy

The exhibition is going to engage the new generation to explore insights of Gandhiji's vision through digital interaction

pair of slippers symbolises the indelible imprints that he left across the world among others.

The exhibition showcases religious and social ideas adopted and developed by Mahatma Gandhi

which are collectively known as Gandhian philosophy.

The exhibition brings unknown facts about Gandhiji's writing skills. Every word that was ever expressed through him was pow-

erful. Through his writings, one can understand the currents of thoughts that shaped the politics of Indian subcontinent and South Africa in the first half of the 20th Century. Gandhi wrote voluminously; but he was not a literary artist, he was a journalist of genius. His writing style was bold and direct. The exhibition also throws light on how Gandhiji was influenced by people around the world. It also tells about how world leaders such as Martin Luther King and Barack Obama drew inspirations from his philosophy.

On the occasion, Agarwal said, "It is our duty to bring inherent vision of Gandhi to future generations and this exhibition will be helpful in this regard."

The exhibition is going to engage the new generation to explore insights of Gandhiji's vision through digital interaction. Digitally-enabled technology based exhibits like multiuser smart surfaces, virtual holographic display and transparent display will surely win the hearts and minds of the youths.

The exhibition is a collaborative effort of the Union Culture Ministry, Vigyan Prasara and National Council of Science Museums.

**FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS**

**Acharya Vihar-DayalAgency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar. C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.**



# Suna pays the price for mining

THE RIVER IS LIFELINE FOR JODA RESIDENTS BUT CONTINUES GETTING SHALLOWER WITH DEPOSITS OF MINERAL WASTE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Joda, Nov 17:** Mining of minerals has been leaving ill impacts on creeks, streams, ponds and rivers in Joda mining circle of Keonjhar. Sadly, some of these water sources are almost on the verge of losing their existence. And, Suna river is the worst affected by rampant mining, a report said.

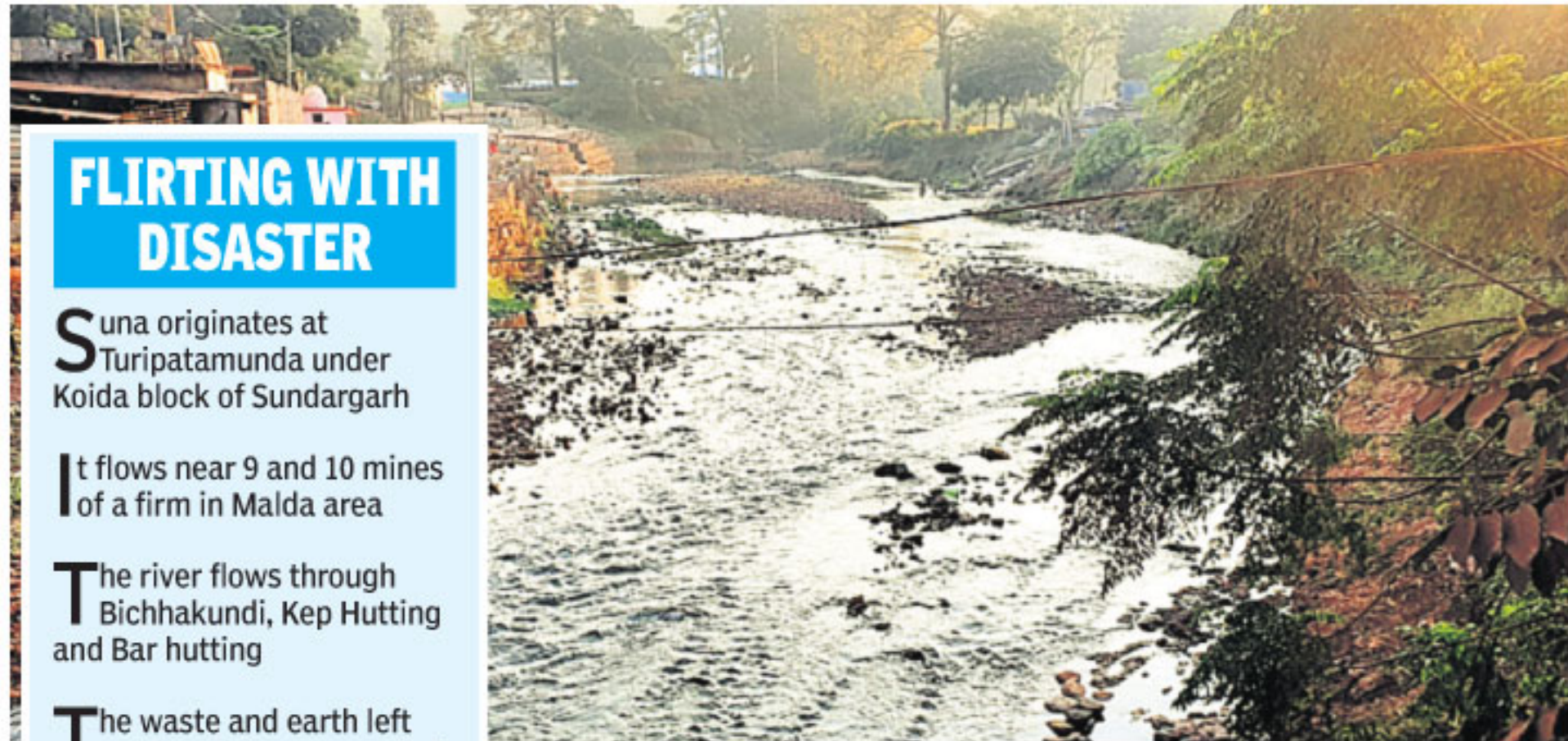
According to the report, Suna river is said to be the lifeline of Joda area. Over years, its bed is getting shallower with gradual deposits of mineral waste from mining firms.

On the other hand, the state government has been focusing on mining in order to increase revenue, but it is allegedly forgetting the fact that rampant mining has been leaving bad impacts on other natural resources like water and water bodies.

Suna river originates at Turipatamunda under Koida block of Sundargarh district and it flows near 9 and 10 mines of a firm in Malda area. The river flows through Bichhakundi, Kep Hutting and Bar hutting.

It was alleged that waste and earth left out by mining are carried by rainwater into the river, thus reducing its depth. As the river depth is becoming shallower, water flow in the river has been gradually decreasing over years.

Unsafe mining has been a bane



## FLIRTING WITH DISASTER

Suna originates at Turipatamunda under Koida block of Sundargarh

It flows near 9 and 10 mines of a firm in Malda area

The river flows through Bichhakundi, Kep Hutting and Bar hutting

The waste and earth left out by mining are carried by rainwater into the river, thus reducing its depth

If Suna river's depth is not restored, it will impact the Kanpur major irrigation project, the second biggest dam project in the state

The backwater of Kanpur dam may lead to man-made flood in Suna river in future

for the creeks and other rivers in the area too. Some quarters observed that no focus is being given on protective measures for mining activities so that waste does not flow

into the rivers and creeks.

Former Champua MLA Jitu Patnaik has expressed concern over reducing depth of the Suna river. "I have put forth a proposal of ₹4 crore for renovation of Suna river, but it was not executed later. To protect the river, there is need to prevent inflow of mining waste and earth from various mines along its banks."

"The riverbed is to be dredged to its natural depth so that its water flow will be retained. People of Joda town will not face water crisis in future," Patnaik said.

As for sorry state of Suna river, Niranjana Bohidar, the president of the Joda Bikash Parishad, said

about 70 per cent of the people in Joda town depend on Suna's water for their daily needs. "All need to come out for protection of the river, whose depth is becoming shallower and its water flow has shrunk due to inflow of mining waste and earth," he added.

He also pointed out if Suna river's depth is not restored, it will impact the Kanpur major irrigation project, the second biggest dam project in the state.

The backwater of Kanpur dam will create man-made flood in Suna river in future. In view of this, the government needs to dredge its bed so as to save it from becoming extinct, he added.

# The tale of a paralysed 'Maoist'

Is he a Maoist? While the cops say yes, his brother says no. He is a 65-yr-old and battling for life for the last two and half years after being afflicted with paralysis. Meet Binod Naik. Sorry! You can't meet him as he is an undertrial who has been lodged in Sambalpur Circle Jail for the past four years



Manoranjan Naik, brother of Binod Naik

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Nov 17:** An undertrial in Sambalpur jail, arrested on charges of his involvement in Maoist activities, has been battling for his life for the last two and half years after being afflicted with paralysis, a report said.

The undertrial identified as Binod Naik, 65, is passing through untold sufferings after being afflicted with the disease, relatives said. His family members have applied for his bail but the hearing on his bail application is getting delayed due to delay in judicial proceedings.

Concerned over his health condition, his brother Manoranjan Naik has submitted a memorandum to the district administration addressed to the Chief Minister. In the memorandum Manoranjan has prayed to the Chief Minister to shift his brother to a private hospital

or to their home for better treatment. Manoranjan, a retired teacher by profession is a native of Marangbahal village under Jujumura block in Sambalpur district.

Manoranjan claimed that his brother has no link with any Maoist outfits. However, police arrested him and some innocent and poor youths on false charges as the ultras had their presence in their area for a brief period, he added. Many of them have been acquitted by the court for want of evidence while Binod is still languishing in jail due to delay in hearing of his bail plea, he said.

According to the memorandum, Binod has been lodged in Sambalpur Circle Jail as an undertrial for the last four years after being arrested by police in 2016 on false charges of his involvement in Maoist activities. Manoranjan claimed Binod has

no direct or indirect involvement with Maoist outfits but police has falsely implicated him by registering several false cases in his name. Binod was serving as an undertrial in the jail but things went from bad to worse when he was afflicted with paralysis for the last two and half years. He is passing through untold sufferings and battling with his life every moment, his brother lamented.

The prisoners co-habiting with him in the jail are helping him in every possible way by feeding him food. They are also helping him change his clothes. In such a condition, his family members need to be at his side and take care of him, the memorandum read. Manoranjan demanded to fix an early date for hearing of Binod's bail plea and allow them to take him home and provide him treatment.

Reports said the district witnessed a surge in Maoist activities in 2003 when the ultras tried to rope in the locals with them by conducting meetings in various villages. They promised that they will only bring development in their areas and asked the residents to sever all ties with the administration and police.

Later, they tried to make their presence felt by unleashing a series of offensives in the areas. This led to a serious face-off between the security forces and ultras, and several Maoists including police personnel were killed during the encounters. However, things started changing as now Sambalpur district has been declared free of Maoists.

# Farmers are unhappy despite a bumper paddy harvest, why?

Farmers' organisations are bracing up for agitations over the slow issuance of tokens and tardy pace of procurement

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Padmapur/ Sambalpur, Nov 17:** Western Odisha has seen bumper paddy produce this year, but farmers are sore over unavailability of tokens for procurement. Those who have harvested paddy but not received tokens have to face problems in disposing off their produce in Bargarh and Sambalpur districts.

Reports said some farmers' organisations are bracing up for agitations over the slow issuance of tokens and tardy pace of procurement.

"Such policy of the government in procuring paddy has only favoured traders to buy paddy at low prices from needy farmers," fumed Byomkesh, general secretary of the Sambalpur Zilla Krushak Sangathan.

It was alleged that tokens are being issued to farmers in an arbitrary manner. If tokens are not issued for days together, how we will sell off our paddy, farmers rued. Notably, paddy procurement started in Sambalpur November 12.



Such policy of the government in procuring paddy has only favoured traders to buy paddy at low prices from needy farmers

BYOMKESH I GENERAL SECRETARY, SAMBALPUR ZILLA KRUSHAK SANGATHAN

Reports from Padmapur in Bargarh said that there has been no improvement in paddy procurement process in the district. Farmers alleged that as procurement has been caught in tardy pace from the beginning, they have to face problems.

Mandis have opened in Padmapur subdivision of Bargarh since November 9. It was alleged that though a week has passed, paddy procurement has not begun till date.

The administration has announced 70 procurement centres including 53 primary agricultural cooperative societies in six blocks.

But token distribution is in mess. They are being issued slowly. Besides, fixing limits on paddy sale in irrigated and non-irrigated areas has become a problem for the farmers.

Assistant civil supplies officer Shambhu Prasad Haripal said that token problem will be sorted out in four days and farmers can sell their paddy on dates fixed.

## BIZ TIME



As winter has set in across the state, a trader is busy selling blankets on roadside in Berhampur, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

# Mob vandalises Bheden PS in Bargarh district

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bargarh/Bheden, Nov 17:** Locals and police clashed on the premises of Bheden police station in Bargarh district Tuesday afternoon over a murder case. Notably, Jitu Nayak of Burda village was found dead under mysterious circumstances in July.

Two platoons of police were deployed in the village while Bargarh SDPO Deepak Gochhayat was present at the site.

Demanding arrest of the accused in the Jitu's death case, the angry people gathered at the police station, but its gate was closed. This led to tension among locals who barged into the premises and hurled stones at police personnel. A police van was damaged. Police in retaliatory action resorted to baton charge on the mob.

The situation was brought under



Two platoons of police are deployed in the village while Bargarh SDPO Deepak Gochhayat takes stock of the situation

OP PHOTO

control after police resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the agitators at the police station.

It may be noted here that body of Jitu Naik was recovered July 18 in the village. The family members of Jitu suspected foul play and took up the

issue with local police and later Bargarh SP. They demanded immediate arrest of the accused.

They alleged that even though four months have passed since the incident no arrest had been made. SP Padmini Sahu had visited the crime scene.

# 3 dead, 15 hurt as bus overturns in Rayagada

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada, Nov 17:** Around three persons were killed and more than 15 were injured after the bus they were travelling in overturned near Hajariadanga in Bissamcuttack area of Rayagada district Monday night.

The persons killed were the driver, helper of the bus and a passenger.

According to sources, the ill-fated bus was heading from Laxminipur in Koraput to Cuttack carrying more than 20 passengers. It was when the driver was negotiating the Hajariadanga curve that he lost his control on the wheels leading to the bus turning turtle and rolling down a roadside farmland. It was about 10.30 pm when the mishap occurred.

On being informed, police and fire personnel immediately reached the spot and rescued the passengers trapped under the mangled bus.

## EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. eT-M-BBS-PC-LPG-123-2020

Name of the Work: SAFETY MAINTENANCE INCLUDING REPLACEMENT OF VARIOUS FITTINGS AGAINST DAMAGE / DEFECT / THEFT AND ROUND TRIP SAFE TO RUN CERTIFICATION OF PANTRY CARS OF BHUBANESWAR COACHING DEPOT FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.

Advised Value: ₹7,01,998.64, EMD: ₹14,000.00, Cost of Tender Document: ₹2,360.00, Completion Period of the work: 24 Months.

Bidding Start Date: 12.11.2020, Date and time of closing of tender: At 1530 hrs of 26.11.2020

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete details of the tender document is available at <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Khurda Road PR-354/L/20-21

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, L.I. DIVISION, CUTTACK

E-mail: [eeolic\\_cct@yahoo.in](mailto:eeolic_cct@yahoo.in), Ph. No. 0671-2955600

Bid Identification No.16 / 2020-21, OLIC (CTC) / Dt. 11.11.2020

No. CAD-771: The Executive Engineer, L.I. Division, Cuttack, At: Pratapanagari, P.O.: Telengapentha, Via: Phulanakhara, Dist: Cuttack invites Percentage Rate bids in online mode for "New & Revival of Lift Irrigation Projects" along with energisation on Turnkey basis, from reputed contractors/firms having valid PWD license of required class and valid HT license issued by E.L.B.O., Odisha. Proof of registrations, experience from appropriate authorities are to be uploaded along with the bid/bids as per DTCN.

1. Numbers of Package 21 Numbers
2. Estimated Cost Tender Cost Rs. 16.55 lakh to Rs. 21.78 lakh
3. Tender Cost As per DTCN
4. Class of Contractor As per DTCN
5. Date & time of publication Dt. 16.11.2020 from 11.00 hrs
6. Date & time of closing Dt. 25.11.2020 at 17.00hrs
7. Date & time of opening of bid Dt. 26.11.2020 at 11.00 A.M
8. The bidders have to participate in online bidding only.

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in). Addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender, if any, can be seen in the said website.

Sd./- Executive Engineer OIPR-32238/11/0011/2021

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, BOUDH

Letter No. 1355

Date: 10.11.2020

## GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA 'e' PROCUREMENT NOTICE

No. A-293 Bid Identification No. Online 05/BMID/2020-21

Name of work: Construction of M.I.Ps under Critical Grant & Drainage work of Boudh N.A.C. under DIP Scheme for 2020-21

No. of Works: 03 (Three) Nos.

Estimated Cost: Approximately from Rs.63.40 lakhs to Rs.88.5 lakhs

Tender Paper Cost: Referred to DTCN

Period of Completion: Referred to DTCN

Availability and receipt of bid documents through Online: From 20.11.2020 at 11.00 A.M. to 03.12.2020 upto 05.00 P.M. in website ([www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in))

Date of opening of bid document: On Dtd.07.12.2020 at 11.00 A.M. onwards

Date of Lottery (If required): On Dtd.15.12.2020 at 11.00 A.M.

Digital Signature Certificate of Bidder: The bidder must possess Compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class - II or Class - III <http://dowr.orissa.gov.in>

The Details Tender Call Notice can also be seen in the DOWR website

Name and Address of the OIT: Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Boudh, At: Malisahi, P.O. - Boudh, Dist - Boudh, PIN - 762014, E-mail ID: [bmidbhd@gmail.com](mailto:bmidbhd@gmail.com)

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

Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Boudh OIPR-32279/11/0003/2021

# Girl won't let go father easily for 'stealing' MDM money

THIS 11-YEAR-OLD GIRL WALKED OVER 10 KM TO KENDRAPARA COLLECTOR SAMARTH VERMA TO LODGE COMPLAINT. MEET SUSHREE SANGEETA SETHI

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, Nov 17:** An 11-year-old girl in this district walked for over 10 km to the district Collectorate here and lodged a complaint with the Kendrapara Collector against her father for allegedly taking away mid-day meal (MDM) money and rice sanctioned to her, a report said Tuesday.

Sushree Sangeeta Sethi (11), a student of Class-VI in Dumuka Primary School under Marshaghai block in the district, met Collector Samarth Verma and lodged a complaint accusing her father Ramesh Chandra Sethi of forcibly taking the MDM money and rice sanctioned to her. She walked for over 10 km on foot and reached the Collectorate in the district headquarters town.



Sushree Sangeeta Sethi submits her complaint

OP PHOTO

Sangeeta stated in her complaint that following her mother's death two years back, her father remarried last year. Since then, she has been

subjected to neglect by her father and Sangeeta has been staying at her uncle's house as her father and step-mother refused to take care of her.

## The Collector received the complaint and directed the district education officer to conduct a probe

She stated that her school has remained closed due to Covid pandemic but the government is giving 150 grams of rice and ₹8.10 paise per day towards MDM to the students. The money is deposited in the bank accounts of students and their guardians once a month besides providing rice to them. Sangeeta was deprived of the same as she lacks a bank account and the money is deposited into her father's account.

She alleged that when she asks for the money, Ramesh refuses to part with it and also takes her quota

of rice from school. Kendrapara Collector Samarth Verma received the complaint and directed the district education officer (DEO) to conduct a probe and take necessary action in this regard.


When contacted, DEO Sanjib Singh said as per the Collector's order he conducted a probe into the charges and directed the school managing committee to deposit the money in the girl's account and provide rice to her.

He clarified that the girl's father had many times tried to usurp the money and rice but the school authorities have refused to give him. The MDM money will be deposited in the student's account and steps will be taken to refund the money taken by her father to the girl. The school headmaster has been directed to provide rice only to the students.



“

A thought is an arrow shot at the truth; it can hit a point, but not cover the whole target. But the archer is too well satisfied with his success to ask anything farther.



SRI AUROBINDO

# OBAMA LAND

Sometimes timing plays a decisive role in shaping one's life and future. A move a little earlier or a little delayed may make or mar one's life. This, by hindsight, seems to be true about the US President-elect Joe Biden. As raving reviews with excerpts from former US President Barack Obama's latest book, A Promised Land, are appearing in the media worldwide, here comes a startling revelation by Obama that might have dashed to the ground Biden's hope of becoming President had the book been published before the first vote was cast.

For, in the book, Obama graphically describes the moments when he ordered the raid on Osama Bin Laden hiding in Pakistan. He made the final decision alone in the Treaty Room at the White House, with a basketball game on in the background. The book confirms that Joe Biden advised against the raid. Had the book been out during the run-up to the US Presidential election, the disclosure would undoubtedly have hurt Biden's prospect. But, the fact that it has been published after the electoral fate of both Biden and Donald Trump is known, this revelation is being construed differently. The Guardian remarked: "Now the fact offers some assurance of Biden's relatively sober approach in wielding US military power."

Biden's moderation while dealing with Laden is also in keeping with his political convictions that have been guiding his political career performing the balancing act trying to build bridges between his own party leaders and his opponents, the Republicans. The US SEAL's strike at Laden's hideout at Abbottabad, Pakistan could have been interpreted differently had the US electorate learnt about it from Obama's book just before the Presidential election.

In the preface, Obama writes he set out to tell the tale of his presidency in 500 pages and finish it within a year. But, an additional three years and 200 pages later, he was able to map only some of his Presidential journey. The book takes readers from his childhood to the May, 2011 killing of Osama, filling the pages with frank disclosures and pen pictures of events and prominent political leaders he met across the world. One more volume is planned that will encompass the second term of his presidency. It's not the portraiture of the characters of politicians across the world that forms the core of the narrative. Behind the chronology of the Obama years, the inherited economic crisis, the fight over affordable healthcare and repositioning the USA in global scheme of things, lurks the theme of racist resentment and hate-mongering that marked Trump's presidency. This is most relevant in post-Trump life in the USA when, as the President-elect has already said, his task would be to 'heal' the festering wounds of divisive politics practised by Trump.

All the same, Obama's thumbnail sketches of political personalities are both damning and glowingly appreciative. Vladimir Putin is compared to a party boss from the dark age of Chicago machine politics, "except with nukes and a UN security council veto." David Cameron is delineated as urbane and confident, though imbued with "the easy confidence of someone who'd never been pressed too hard by life." He humorously describes Hu Jintao's propensity to read out from written texts all the time making him wonder whether it would have been a better idea to collect his speeches rather than wasting time in meeting him.

Obama's panegyrics of Manmohan Singh and dismissive remarks about Rahul Gandhi are as candid as his concern about the BJP's brand of politics that prompted him to observe whether impulses like violence, greed, corruption, nationalism and racism are 'too strong' for any democracy to permanently contain. On Manmohan Singh he writes: "The Prime Minister said in uncertain times the call of religious and ethnic solidarity can be intoxicating. And it's not so hard for politicians to exploit that, in India or anywhere else."

Most autobiography writers have this advantage of holding on to a holier than thou attitude when discussing others whom they might have met in the passing and very casually: Obama's book, which hit the stands yesterday, Tuesday may turn out to be the same. And it may be noted that India and its politicians have a very small mention overall in the book.

## Old habits die hard

Union Home Minister Amit Shah branding the political leaders of Jammu and Kashmir 'Gupkar gang' has raised quite a few eyebrows. In a string of tweets, Shah said the Gupkar alliance, a coalition of political parties in J&K, is a 'global gathbandhan against national interest.'

Though Shah's comments drew sharp reactions from Kashmir politicians and several others, one is left to wonder should the Home Minister be using terms like Gupkar gang?

For BJP this has become a new normal. The cringe-worthy pejorative political catchphrases like 'tukde tukde' gang, 'urban Naxal' and 'love Jihad' have helped the party to whip up a hyper-nationalist narrative it wants to drill in to divert the attention from real issues of unemployment, economic crisis and terrible diplomatic faux pas that have dangerously isolated India on the global stage.

It's no wonder that political discourse has sunk to a new low in recent years with Indian politicians from across the spectrum making sometimes abusive and disparaging comments against their rivals. Mark Twain had once said, "The difference between the almost-right word and the right word is really a large matter — it's the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning." Forget almost-right words, political leaders in the country have become masters of using all the wrong words, and the trend has deteriorated the standard of public discourse.

It behoves all to maintain a certain amount of decency and decorum in political discourse when it comes to criticizing opponents. Name calling and comments have become the new normal and are so normal to hear such remarks from politicians that it hardly causes a stir among people anymore. Use of unsavory language and poor rhetoric against political opponents goes against the basic tenet of democracy.

### WISDOM CORNER

- “

Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers.
- ALFRED LORD TENNYSON
- “

The highest result of education is tolerance.
- HELEN KELLER
- “

He who is contented is rich.
- LAO TZU

### WORDSWORTH

#### ■ Vection

An everyday example of vection is sitting in a stationary train at a platform and seeing another alongside start to move; this may give the impression that you're moving in the opposite direction: a visual stimulus has fooled you. Vection can have unfortunate side-effects, because a conflict between what your eyes are seeing and what the motion sensors in your ears are telling your brain is a classic cause of motion sickness. Designers of video games want to enhance players' feeling of being part of the action by making it seem that they are moving within the scene. But the small size of most displays and the risk of motion sickness have constrained them. A combination of new types of wrap-around visual displays and motion sensors such as treadmills is now changing that because they can couple the movements of players with what they are seeing. As a result, vection has become common as a term of art within the field. Vection derives from the Latin verb vehēre, to carry or convey, which also appears in compound verbs such as convection as well as in vector, the mathematical term for a quantity with direction as well as size.

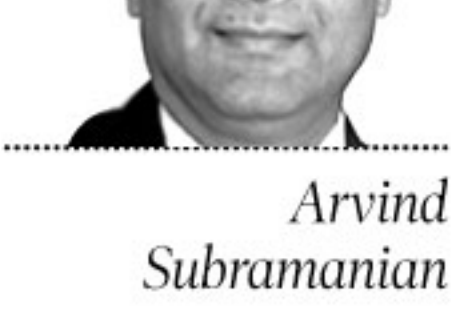
FOCUS

GLOBAL TRADE

# BIDEN'S CHINA DILEMMA



After Donald Trump, and considering China's increasing assertiveness, Asian countries might go along with or even secretly hope the US and Europe reset relations with China



**BIDEN'S DILEMMA IS THAT CHINA HAS BECOME TOO DEVIANT TO COOPERATE WITH FULLY, TOO BIG TO CONTAIN OR IGNORE, AND TOO CONNECTED TO DECOUPLE FROM**

Once US President-elect Joe Biden's administration has made the relatively easy decisions to rejoin the Paris climate agreement, remain in the World Health Organisation, and attempt to reboot the World Trade Organisation, it will confront three key foreign-policy issues. In order of importance, they are China, China, and China.

Biden's dilemma is that China has become too deviant to cooperate with fully, too big to contain or ignore, and too connected to decouple from. So, what principles should govern America's economic engagement with it?

Two decades ago, the United States and the rest of the world bet that China, as it became richer, would open up economically and politically, while remaining benign in its international conduct. Under the resulting implicit contract, embodied in China's 2001 WTO accession agreement, the world promised to guarantee market access for Chinese exports; in return, China would make its economy more open and transparent, and play by international rules.

But China has changed since then, and not only by becoming much richer and a much larger trader. Under President Xi Jinping, an authoritarian in the mold of Mao Zedong, China has repudiated Deng Xiaoping's three guiding tenets: collective leadership in domestic politics, steady economic opening and reliance on market forces, and quiet cooperation with the world. Instead, Xi's repressive regime is fashioning a new brand of inward-oriented, state-dominated capitalism. And it poses a threat to many of its neighbours, including Taiwan, Australia, India, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Japan.

In other words, the world has lost its China wager: Even where China has adhered to the letter of the contract — concerning currency and intellectual-property, for example — it has violated the spirit. The Biden administration and the rest of the world are thus entitled to renegotiate the deal.

America and others have no right to obstruct China's economic rise, because its 1.4 billion citizens are entitled to pursue prosperity and security. Likewise, China is entitled to choose its development model, with its own balance between the state and the market. Subject to these caveats,

however, America can — and should — revise the decades-old contract to account for changed realities. The more China plays by the rules, the more such a revision would benefit developing countries that can trade with it. For starters, China is no longer a poor country, but its status as a developing country entitles it to favourable treatment under global trade rules. This status must be revoked.

Second, China departed from the spirit of the original contract through beggar-thy-neighbour exchange-rate policies (especially from 2004 to 2010) that artificially preserved its economic competitiveness. That problem went away for a while, but is beginning to resurface. The world must respond by codifying and enforcing rules on exchange-rate manipulation. And where the line between state and commercial entities is blurred — as it is in China — the definition of 'excessive' intervention should be widened to include foreign-exchange purchases by state-owned banks as well as those by the central bank.

Third, the 2001 WTO accession agreement imposed obligations on China concerning its state-owned enterprises (SOEs). But, with the Chinese state playing a much larger direct and indirect economic role under Xi, these rules have to be adapted, tightened, and made more justiciable. Regarding Chinese investment abroad, for example, the world should treat skeptically China's claim that the government is distinct from SOEs because the latter are run on commercial principles. The burden of proof should be on China to prove this.

As for inward foreign invest-

ment, the basic aim should be to ensure a far more level playing field. The new rules should therefore cover not only explicit state policies but also the actions of SOEs, as well as more of China's government procurement policies and practices.

But Biden must first persuade China to agree to renegotiate the contract. Immediately removing all of President Donald Trump's unilateral tariffs on Chinese imports could help. The Biden administration could also lend quick support to the WTO, by approving the choice of the body's new director-general and restoring its Appellate Body. And the US could signal its willingness to join China-led international financial institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and to end the West's monopoly of the leadership of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Beyond improving the atmospherics, Biden must consider his tactical options: unilateral, multilateral, and regional. In theory, he could go even further down the unilateral road than Trump by threatening China with a return to the pre-WTO arrangement under which its market access would be reviewed annually by a fickle, more protectionist Congress.

But, as Chad Bown of the Peterson Institute for International Economics has demonstrated, even the more limited Trump strategy has failed, because the world has become too dependent on China to embrace restrictive trade actions against it. Moreover, success would be enormously costly: the global trading system's integrity would be decimated,

wrecking a half-century of international efforts.

Biden also has the multilateral option of renegotiating with China as part of an effort to revive the WTO, which has been languishing largely because of Trump's hostility to it. The problem is that China — as a WTO member with significant clout — would have to agree to any changes.

The Biden administration must therefore consider the regional route that Trump abandoned when he withdrew the US from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in 2017. Rejoining its successor, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), would enable the US to integrate more deeply with the rest of Asia and possibly also with Europe, thereby reducing its dependence on China while inflicting de facto exclusion costs on it. This strategy has major advantages. It would create a trading area that would complement, rather than undermine, the international trading system. And such a move would not be subject to a Chinese veto; in fact, it would likely force China to the negotiating table, because it would not want to be kept out of such a large market. But joining the CPTPP would not be painless: it would require the US to countenance more trade opening, which the current domestic mood might not allow.

The recent signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, a pan-Asian free-trade agreement including China, might seem to signal a different approach than that proposed here. But Asian countries have fewer options relative to China: They are more dependent on and integrated with it, and Trump's 2017 rejection of the TPP left them without an anchor for managing economic relations with China. After Trump, and considering China's increasing assertiveness, Asian countries might go along with or even secretly hope the US and Europe reset relations with China.

In any event, Biden should have no illusions: China is too important to ignore, but the challenge it presents defies easy solutions. America and the world should brace themselves for the long haul.

*The writer, a former Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Ashoka University.*

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### IN JEST THIS

## The power of celebrity endorsements



**IF YOU'RE A POPULAR ACTOR IN INDIA, THE LIST OF PRODUCTS YOU'VE ENDORSED IS PROBABLY LONGER THAN THE LIST OF MOVIES YOU'VE APPEARED IN**

One of the perks of being a celebrity is that you can make lots of money by being a brand ambassador and endorsing products, companies and organisations. If you're a popular actor in India, the list of products you've endorsed is probably longer than the list of movies you've appeared in. If you're a popular cricketer, it's quite likely that more people have seen you in advertisements than matches.

It doesn't matter whether you actually use the products you endorse — as long as you can convince your fans that you do. And it's fairly easy to convince fans. One minute, you're on TV saying that you drink Boost for energy, the next minute you're raving about Coke, and a minute later you're sipping the mango drink Frooti.

As a result, your fans are making their own concoctions, pouring equal amounts of Boost, Coke and Frooti in a blender. And before long, they're wondering if you've

endorsed Gelusil or Digene.

Akshay Kumar, one of the top brand ambassadors in India, has put his name behind a variety of brands, including GoQii, Honda, Nirma, Policy Bazaar, Livguard Energy, Kajaria Tiles, Harpic, PC Jeweller, Lever Ayush, Revital H, Relaxo Footwears, Prince Pipes — and if I keep going, I will run out of space in this newspaper. But Akshay's fans may still have questions, such as: What brand of curry powder does Akshay recommend? Which carpet cleaner works best on pet stains? What ointment should I use on my rash?

If I sound cynical about celebrity endorsements, it's because I know that most celebrities aren't choosy about which products they endorse. Even a male actor will be eager to tell women which bra can give them a boost, as long as his bank account also gets a boost. He might even tell them to drink lots of Boost.

In fairness to celebrities, I'm sure some of them are sincere

about the products they endorse. They wouldn't intentionally put their names behind bad products. We should also give them credit for promoting charities and other worthwhile causes. Deepika Padukone, for example, is a brand ambassador for the Indian Psychiatric Society, promoting mental health on a pro bono basis. ('Pro bono' is a legal term that means no fee is charged. It should not be confused with 'Pro Bono,' which means that all payments go to the Irish singer Bono.)

While celebrities often use their social media accounts to promote products and enrich themselves, they occasionally exploit their huge followings to benefit the underprivileged. That's what actor Randeep Hooda did recently when he urged his 830,000 followers on Twitter to 'show some love' to Revana Siddappa, an elderly man who was selling plants in front of a shopping center in Bangalore, while holding an um-

brella for shade.

Members of Changemakers of Kanakapura Road, an organisation representing residents of the area, soon came to the man's assistance. They provided him with a table, chair, fixed umbrella, sign advertising his medicinal plants, and more plants to sell. The only thing they didn't do was include this message on the sign: "Randeep Hooda wants you to show me some love."

Another elderly vendor got a social media boost from singer Diljit Dosanjh. He shared a short video of a 70-year-old widow who works hard to cook and sell dal, sabzi, parathas and other food at her roadside stall at Phagwara Gate market in Jalandhar, Punjab. Tweeting his 'respect' for the woman, Dosanjh asked his followers to visit her stall. I'm not sure how many people bought her food, but perhaps she needs to erect a sign that says, "Diljit Dosanjh delights in my delicious dal."

## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate,  
Bhubaneswar-751010

#### Ceasefire violations

Sir, Cross border terrorism and ceasefire violations by Pakistan are going on unabated in Jammu and Kashmir. After abrogation of Article 370 it was expected that normalcy would be restored in the Valley. But, it has been getting murkier day by day. Kashmir is the bone of contention between India and Pakistan. Attack on civilians by infiltrators has once again exposed the hypocrisy and double standards of the vicious Pakistan government. Martyrdom of Indian army personnel is painful and tragic. Many surgical strikes are needed to combat militancy in Kashmir. India should expose Pakistan in international forums. Banning Pakistan from SAARC would be a befitting reply to its ceasefire violations in the Valley. How many innocents and civilians would have to pay the price for the monstrous and crooked Pakistan? A strong political will is the need of the hour.

**Prabhudutt Dash**, BHUBANESWAR

#### Prejudiced demand

Sir, BJP general secretary CT Ravi has demanded that Delhi's premier institute, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), be renamed as the Swami Vivekananda University. He tweeted, "It was Swami Vivekananda who stood for the idea of 'Bharat'. His philosophy and values signify the 'Strength of Bharat'. It is only right that the Jawaharlal Nehru University is renamed Swami Vivekananda University. The life of Bharat's patriotic saint will inspire generations to come." This is a prejudiced demand and shows that the BJP has been trying to play with historical facts by promoting its ideologies. The need of the hour is that BJP does not misuse the power and must establish the constitutional values that promote national integrity, harmony, and peace in society.

**Amit Singh Kushwaha**, SATNA (MP)

#### Free trade

Sir, The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was signed after a decade of serious negotiations and a mega Asian trading bloc was formed. India had pulled out of the pact last year on grounds that it did not satisfactorily address New Delhi's outstanding issues and concerns. However, India cannot afford to turn its back on free trade in this way. There are many factors that affect India's free trade. One, domestic demand is not high to strengthen growth. Two, global trade has been disrupted by COVID-19 and US-China conflicts. India must explore other avenues that will enable it to strengthen free trade. For example, India could try trade agreements with the European Union.

**VENU GS**, KOLLAM (KERALA)



# MP to bring Bill against ‘love-jihad’

BJP-ruled Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka are also mulling over bringing a law against religious conversion in the name of ‘love jihad’, a term coined by right wing outfits opposing inter-faith marriages



**Bhopal, Nov 17:** After Uttar Pradesh, the BJP-led government in Madhya Pradesh will soon introduce a new law to curb the increase in cases of ‘love-jihad’ in the state.

The Shivraj Singh Chouhan government is all set to table the Madhya Pradesh Religious Freedom Bill, 2020 in the upcoming Assembly session. This Bill is aimed at putting an end to incidents of religious conversion and ‘love-jihad’. According to the proposed Act there will be a provision of punishment for up to five years for those indulging in or abetting forceful religious conversions.

State Home Minister Dr. Narottam Mishra Tuesday said the state government will introduce a Bill prohibiting marriage on the basis of religious conversions in the state. This Bill, he said, will be passed as the Madhya Pradesh Religious Freedom Bill, 2020, which declares forceful religious conversions and love-jihad as a non-bailable offence wherein the main accused and his/her associates in crime will be awarded a rigorous punishment upto five years.

Other (proposed) provisions include making it mandatory for kin of the person being forced to convert to other faith for the purpose of marriage to file a complaint. “The Madhya Pradesh government is working on bringing ‘Dharma Swatantrya Bill’ 2020 in the

state assembly with a provision for a five-year rigorous imprisonment for luring a person through fraud and forcing marriage by religious conversion by making it a cognisable and non-bailable offence. Such incidents are on the rise, which you call ‘love jihad,’” the home minister told reporters.

The Bill will also have a provision to declare such marriages null and void, the minister said. Besides, those assisting in such acts will be made co-accused, he added.

“It will be compulsory for family members of the person who is forced to convert for marriage, including his/her parents, brothers and sisters, to file a complaint on the matter,” Mishra said.

It will be mandatory for the person who is being converted for marriage, and religious persons involved, to inform district magistrate

concerned a month in advance about their decision, the minister said. A few days ago, in a high-level meeting with state officials, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had promised to bring in a law against love-jihad in the state. The CM had said love-jihad and marriage on the pretext of religious conversion in any form will not be tolerated as it is an illegal and unlawful activity so a law will soon be made to curb it. Chouhan ordered that strict action be taken against anti-social elements, especially those found indulging in crimes against women and girls.

BJP-ruled Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka are also mulling over bringing a law against religious conversion in the name of ‘love jihad’, a term coined by right wing outfits opposing inter-faith marriages.

# CII asks govts, farmers to end Punjab impasse

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chandigarh, Nov 17:** The industrial body CII Tuesday called upon the governments and farmer groups to find a solution to the current impasse in Punjab over the Central farm laws.

Expressing concern over the state’s economy and industry in the wake of ongoing economic and rail blockade because of agitation by farmer organisations, the CII appealed to both the Centre and the state and also the farmers to come together and find an amicable solution to end this crisis.

The industry in the state, already reeling under Covid-19 disruption, has estimated losses in thousands of crores as the train services remained suspended for nearly 50 days.

Quoting Punjab Industries and Commerce Minister Sunder Sham Arora, the CII said a loss of Rs 22,000 crore has been reported for industries in Ludhiana and Jalandhar alone.

Even more than 13,500 containers are lying at the dry port in Dhandari near Ludhiana and they could not be sent to other parts of the country.

According to the state agriculture department, 60,000 gunny bags are stuck in Delhi and Rajpura, impacting the lifting of the paddy crop from grain markets.

The industry is suffering major losses as around 13,000 commercial containers are stuck between Ranchi and Punjab.

CII Punjab State Council Chairman Rahul Ahuja said, “We understand that farmers may have some reservations on the farm laws.



### INCONCLUSIVE TALKS

THE DAY-LONG TALKS BETWEEN THE UNION GOVERNMENT AND THE FARMERS OF PUNJAB ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY IN DELHI NOVEMBER 13

NOW THE FARMER UNIONS ARE HOLDING THEIR INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS IN CHANDIGARH NOVEMBER 18, AHEAD OF ANOTHER MEETING WITH THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT NOVEMBER 21

**We understand that farmers may have some reservations on the farm laws. However, this agitation is now causing economic losses not only to large businesses but even impacting the local industry, the labour, logistic providers and small grocery stores that are unable to get the supply**

RAHUL AHUJA | CII PUNJAB STATE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

However, this agitation is now causing economic losses not only to large businesses but even impacting the local industry: the labour, logistic providers and small grocery stores that are unable to get the supply.”

He said the more this blockade continued, the more harm it would bring to the overall image of Punjab as an investment and business destination.

Bhavdeep Sardana, Vice Chairman of the CII Punjab, said the supply of raw material and semi-finished goods to the factories or export-bound shipments carrying basmati, yarn and textiles, hand tools, sports and leather goods stuck at various inland container depots.

The current crisis has adversely impacted the working capital and liquidity in the market as the exporters usually receive their payment from customers only after

# MP Congress on course correction path

PARTY HIGH COMMAND HAS SOUGHT A REPORT FROM STATE UNIT PRESIDENT KAMAL NATH ON PARTY’S DEBACLE IN BYPOLLS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhopal, Nov 17:** After the crushing defeat of the Congress in the recently held bypolls to 28 Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh, speculation across political and media circles is that the Congress leadership is set for a complete overhaul in the state. As per reports, there is a possibility that former Chief Minister Kamal Nath may quit either as the Congress state unit president or as Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly.

Congress had claimed that it would return to power in the state through these by-elections. The party high command was also assured that the by-elections would create a major power shift in the state’s politics.

In contrast to the claims made by the Congress, the results have consolidated the BJP’s numero uno position and unnerved the



Congress state unit organisation as well as the party high command. The party’s Central leadership has sought a report from state unit president Kamal Nath on the party’s debacle in the bypolls.

As per Congress sources, the

seats on which Congress candidates were defeated, the party’s district presidents and the election in-charge concerned are likely to face the axe. Top leadership of the organisation in the state may also be sacked. Former Chief

Minister Kamal Nath had earlier insisted on resigning from the post of party’s state unit president but the party high command asked him to continue.

Earlier, the Congress lost power after former rebel Congress MP Jyotiraditya Scindia along with his supporters quit the party and toppled the Kamal Nath-led Congress government by joining the BJP. However, with the loss in the by-elections, the clamour for change in Congress state leadership has grown.

Among the major contenders for the Congress state President are former Union Minister Arun Yadav, former ministers Umang Singh, Kamleshwar Patel, Ajay Singh, Jeetu Patwari and Meenakshi Natarajan. At the same time the party wants to hand over the baton of the state to such a person who is trustworthy and a confidant of the party high command as well as maintains a good rapport with Kamal Nath. If Nath quits the post of Opposition Leader it could be entrusted to any party MLA from the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community.

Political analysts believe that it is not an easy task for Kamal Nath to strengthen the Congress in the state which he is well aware of. That’s why he could resign from one of the two positions he currently holds. Nath can keep the party organisational base strong while holding on as the state unit president. If he stays as the Leader of the Opposition, the hold on the organisation will be weakened.

Therefore, there is a possibility that Nath might leave the post of Opposition leader in the Assembly and stay as Congress state unit president and boost the strength of the party so that the party could fight the panchayat and urban civic body polls with renewed vigour.

# Railways losses ₹1,670 crore in freight earnings

Goods trains have not entered Punjab for one-and-a-half months now, except for two days in late October, leading to a shortage of essential goods, including fertiliser needed for wheat sowing and coal supplies for thermal plants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** The railways has suffered a loss of Rs 1,670 crore in freight earnings alone due to the farmers agitation in Punjab that have continued for over 50 days now, resulting in the cancellation of 1,986 passenger services and 3,090 goods trains to the region, sources said.

Train services remained suspended in the state with the railways rejecting a proposal of the protesters to resume only goods trains. The national transporter suffers an estimated daily loss of Rs 36 crore in freight earnings due to the suspension of services, sources said.

From October 1 to November 15, the railways’ freight loading suffered losses due to cancellations of trains and many trains carrying essentials for Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir being stranded just outside Punjab.

As many as 520 rakes of coal could not be delivered to the five power plants in Punjab, leading to a loss of Rs 550 crore to the railways, they said.

Other cancelled goods trains include 110 rakes of steel (leading to an estimated loss of Rs 120 crore), 170 rakes of cement (loss of Rs 100 crore), 90 rakes of clinker (loss of Rs 35 crore), 1,150 rakes of foodgrains (loss of Rs 550 crore), 270 rakes of fertiliser (loss of Rs 140 crore) and 110 rakes containing petroleum, oil and lubricants (loss of Rs 40 crore), they said.

Around 600 containers with various kinds of goods meant for the region have also been cancelled which have led to a loss of around Rs 120 crore and the suspension of 70 more goods rakes caused loss of Rs 15 crore.

“While 3,090 goods trains have been cancelled so far, the losses are around Rs 1,670 crore on freight loading alone. We have also cancelled, short-terminated and diverted 1,986 passenger trains so far,” a source in the railway ministry said.

Goods trains have not entered Punjab for one-and-a-half months now, except for two days in late October, leading to a shortage of essential goods, including fertiliser needed for wheat sowing and coal supplies for thermal plants.

The agitating peasant leaders say they have vacated the tracks, but some protesters continued to occupy a few stations.

The railways has maintained that for resumption of services, it needs 100 per cent guarantee from the state government that no trains will be disrupted and both passenger and freight trains be allowed to operate.

The farmers, however, have said that while they will allow goods trains, they will take no guarantee for passenger trains.

The farmers are protesting three farm sector laws enacted by the central government recently.

Train services in the state have remained suspended since September 24 when farmer organisations organised protests on tracks and station premises against the farm laws.

Farmers’ bodies protesting against the laws have expressed apprehension that these would pave the way for the dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the ‘mercy’ of big corporate entities. They demand that the laws be withdrawn. The Centre has asserted that these new laws will be beneficial for farmers and will increase their income.

# Troubles mount for Computer Baba

The self-styled godman once secured the status of Cabinet minister in the Madhya Pradesh government and openly spoke against rebel MLAs after the change in regime from the Congress to the BJP



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhopal/Indore, Nov 17:** In Madhya Pradesh, troubles are mounting for controversial seer Namdev Das Tyagi alias Computer Baba. He will continue to stay behind bars because the court has not granted him bail and the police are tightening their grip around him.

Computer Baba, who once secured the status of cabinet minister in the Madhya Pradesh government and openly spoke against rebel MLAs after the change in regime from the Congress to the BJP, appears to be surrounded with a number of problems. His ashram in Jamboori Hapsi Village was recently bulldozed by the anti-encroachment squad.

During the removal of encroachments and the demolition,

action was taken to take Computer Baba in police custody for preventive detention. A total of seven persons including Computer Baba were sent to jail. After that, many more cases were registered against them and they have been in jail for the past 10 days.

Civic authorities and the police also took action against Ramesh Tomar, close to Computer Baba, Tuesday. A car owned by Tomar was seized from the ashram.

Computer Baba will have to remain in jail even in the days to come because his bail plea has not been accepted. One of the cases was heard Tuesday, as well. Rahul Sharma, in-charge of Indore’s Aerodrum police station, told IANS that Computer Baba has been sent to jail since his bail plea is yet to be accepted.

It may be worth recalling that Computer Baba had launched a Save Democracy campaign against the BJP and campaigned against the saffron party during the campaign for bypolls. The Congress is accusing the BJP government of political vendetta.

According to sources, the screws will be further tightened on Computer Baba in the days to come.

# ‘Be alert against people trying to destabilise Sikh community’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Amritsar, Nov 17:** Days after a brawl between the SGPC task force and members of some Sikh organisations over missing copies of the Guru Granth Sahib, Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh Tuesday cautioned people against those trying to ‘destabilise’ the community.

He said this during a religious function held to commemorate the first centenary of the formation of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), an apex religious body of the Sikhs, at the Manji Sahib Hall in the Golden Temple complex here.

Commenting over the brawl, the Jathedar said recently some “so called” Sikh outfits tried to ‘lock’ gates of the SGPC complex.

He said if this was done again, Sikhs should not sit in villages but come to Amritsar and challenge those trying to ‘destabilise’ the community.

He said the SGPC, which manages Sikh shrines, should take more caution against such elements.

A few days ago, some radical Sikh outfits had staged a protest and allegedly locked the entrance of the SGPC complex at the Golden Temple. The incident resulted in a clash, leaving several injured.

Radicals are holding the SGPC responsible for missing 328 copies of the Guru Granth Sahib in the



Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal after offering prayers to mark the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee’s 100th foundation day at the Golden Temple, in Amritsar, Tuesday

SGPC records.

The Jathedar said, “This is not a case of sacrilege as being made out but of corruption and administrative lapses.”

“Required action has already been taken in the matter and officials responsible for lapses and corruption have been suspended after the submission of an inquiry report by an eminent judge,” he said.

SGPC president Gobind Singh Longowal said the apex religious body will focus on addressing the

issue of apostasy besides strengthening the “dharma parchar lehar” (religious promotion movement).

He said focus will also be laid on tackling environmental pollution and saplings will be given at gurdwaras to devotees. He said the SGPC will establish an advisory committee to resolve grievances of Sikhs worldwide. He said an art gallery will also be established as part of the centenary celebrations.

Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal pitched for the need to ensure the “security, equality and dignity” of minorities.

Badal asked the SGPC to initiate a five-year drive to fight multi-pronged challenges like religious conversions. He cautioned against attempts to undermine “the unique, separate and sovereign religious identity of the Sikhs”.

“The Khalsa Panth takes deep pride in its unique separate religious identity. The Khalsa neither interferes in religious affairs of others nor it tolerates interference in its own religious affairs,” the SAD chief said.

Laying the blueprint of his party for Punjab, he said once they come to the power in the state, their focus will be on health and education of the youth and children.

“In addition, we will resume the development of infrastructure in Punjab with emphasis on connectivity and smart energy. We will also strive to clean our rivers and canals,” he said.





of the  
day quote

The ancient education system always taught us to live in harmony with nature and respect all beings and non-beings. Our education was practical, wholesome, and complementary to life



M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

No defence deal without loot, no defence deal without a kickback and no defence deal without some Congress leaders becoming beneficiary of it has been the go-to policy of Congress leaders



RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD | UNION LAW MINISTER

We are not expansionist. There are some countries, which are driven by expansionist desires, but we believe in the welfare of the world. We believe in 'Vasudev Kutumbakam' (the world is one family)



NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### One held for burning girl alive

**Patna:** A man has been arrested by Vaishali police in Bihar on the charge of involvement in burning alive a teenage girl over a fortnight ago, police said Tuesday. "We have arrested accused Chandan Rai and efforts are on to nab Vinay Rai and his son Satish Rai. They are still absconding," Vaishali SSP Dr Gaurav Mangla said. Satish had allegedly poured kerosene on Gulnaz Khatoun and set her on fire October 30 at Rasoolpur Habib village after she resisted eve-teasing. Gulnaz had sustained 75 per cent burn injuries and succumbed November 16.

### Covid caseload drops since July

**Mumbai:** Daily coronavirus infections in India fell to their lowest since mid-July, with 29,163 new cases reported for the last 24 hours, taking the total to 8.87 million, the Health Ministry said Tuesday. Daily cases have fallen in India, the country with the second-highest number of infections behind the United States, since hitting a peak in September. Deaths rose by 449 over the last 24 hours, the ministry also said, with toll now at 130,519.

### Driver charred to death

**Shamli (UP):** A driver, trapped in his car, was charred to death when the vehicle caught fire after crashing into a minibus on the Karnal-Meerut Highway in Shamli district. The accident took place Monday night. Circle Officer Jitendra Kumar said that the incident took place when a crane carrying the mini bus collided with the car which caught fire. The doors of the car apparently got locked and the driver could not escape. The deceased driver has not yet been identified.

### 5 of family found dead at home

**Raipur:** Five members of a family, including two children, were found dead at their home in a village in Raipur district Tuesday, a police official said. After being alerted by some locals, the police rushed to the spot and found bodies of Kamlesh Sahu (35), his mother Lalita Bai (60), wife Pramila (30), daughter Kirti (10) and son Narendra (6) at their home in Kendri village, Raipur's Senior Superintendent of Police Ajay Yadav said.



Only in J&K can leaders be detained & called anti-national for participating in elections & supporting the democratic process. The truth is all those who oppose the ideology of the BJP are labelled "corrupt & anti-national"

OMAR ABDULLAH | NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

# Amit Shah attacks Gupkar Declaration, J&K leaders hit back

The Union Home Minister hit out at the political leaders of J&K accusing them of getting "foreign forces to intervene" in the issue of scrapping of Article 370

AGENCIES

**New Delhi:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah Tuesday hit out at the political leaders of Jammu and Kashmir with a string of accusations that included getting "foreign forces to intervene" in the issue of scrapping of Article 370, taking away the rights of women and Dalits and bringing back "terror and turmoil" in the Union Territory. In a series of tweets, he also targeted the Congress – a signatory of the Gupkar Declaration – asking the party to clarify its position on the issue.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti hit back immediately with an equal number of tweets, where she accused the BJP of using "euphemism" and "stale tactic". National Conference chief Omar Abdullah pointed to the "frustration" of the minister at the J&K alliance's decision to contest elections.

"Congress and the Gupkar Gang want to take J&K back to the era of terror and turmoil. They want to take away rights of Dalits, women and tribals that we have ensured by removing Article 370. This is why they're being rejected by the people everywhere," his tweet read.

"Gupkar gang" is a slur for the "People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration", a group of key political leaders of Jammu and Kashmir – including Farooq



Abdullah, his arch-rival Mehbooba Mufti and Sajjad Lone – who came together to fight for the restoration of Article 370 and a resolution to Kashmir.

BJP leaders have accused them of being anti-national, especially after Abdullah's speech in parliament in September, advocating talks with Pakistan. The 83-year-old had argued that if India can talk to China to defuse their border row, it can also speak to its other neighbour to deal with the situation at Jammu and Kashmir borders.

"The Gupkar Gang is going global! They want foreign forces to intervene in Jammu and Kashmir. The Gupkar Gang also insults India's Tricolour: Do Sonia Ji and Rahul Ji support such moves of the Gupkar Gang? They should make their stand crystal clear to the people of India," Shah said.

The BJP had demanded that Mehbooba Mufti be charged with sedition after the vice-president

of the People's Alliance said she will not raise the national flag till Jammu and Kashmir's own flag is back. Jammu and Kashmir had lost its flag; part of its special status under Constitution's Article 370, after it was scrapped in August last year and the state was bifurcated into two Union Territories.

"Jammu and Kashmir has been, is and will always remain an integral part of India. Indian people will no longer tolerate an unholy 'global gathbandhan' against our national interest. Either the Gupkar Gang swims along with the national mood or else the people will sink it," Amit Shah also tweeted.

In her tweets, Mehbooba Mufti accused the BJP of double standards when it comes to election. "Fighting elections in an alliance is also anti-national now. BJP can stitch as many alliances in its hunger for power but somehow we are undermining national interest by putting up a united front," her tweet read.

"Love jihad, tukde tukde & now Gupkar Gang dominates the political discourse instead of like rising unemployment & inflation," she said in another tweet.

"Only in J&K can leaders be detained & called anti-national for participating in elections & supporting the democratic process. The truth is all those who oppose the ideology of the BJP are labelled 'corrupt & anti-national', Omar Abdullah's tweet read.

## Malabar exercise Phase II begins in northern Arabian Sea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** The navies of India, the US, Australia and Japan Tuesday began the second phase of the Malabar naval exercise in the northern Arabian Sea involving two aircraft carriers and a number of frontline warships, submarines and maritime reconnaissance aircraft, officials said. The major highlight of the four-day exercise is participation of Indian Navy's Vikramaditya carrier battle group and the Nimitz strike group of the US Navy. The USS Nimitz is the world's largest warship. 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 Australian Navy has deployed its HMAS Ballarat, an Anzac-class frigate while the Japanese Navy has sent its leading destroyer JS Murasame for the exercise.

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

The Navy said the exercise will include cross-deck flying operations and advanced air defence exercises by MIG 29K fighters.



REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO

## Hoping for children, couple gets 6-year-old girl killed, gangraped

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kanpur (UP), Nov 17:** A six-year-old girl has been gangraped, with her lungs taken out by the killers in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur, police have said.

The lungs were removed to perform black magic, believing that it will help a woman give birth to a child.

The girl was missing since the night of Diwali from the Ghatampur area. Following the recovery of the corpse, police have arrested the killers Ankul Kuril (20) and Beeran (31). The accused said the girl was killed and her lungs were taken out and given to key conspirator Parshuram Kuril to perform black magic.

Parshuram was arrested Monday and his wife was also detained due to the apprehension that she knew about the incident but did not talk about it to anyone, the officer added.

Parshuram initially tried to mislead the police, but eventually confessed to his crime, the ASP said. Parshuram told the police that he got married in 1999 but had not had a child so far, he said. He persuaded his nephew, Ankul, and his friend Beeran, to kidnap the girl and remove her lungs, the ASP said.

Killers Ankul and Beeran, who were in an ebriated state, abducted the girl when she had gone out on Saturday night to buy firecrackers, he added.

They took her to a nearby jungle, where they raped the girl before killing her.

The accused have been charged under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Kanpur's Deputy Inspector of General of Police Preetinder Singh had said forensic experts and sniffer dogs were pressed into service to gather scientific evidence to confirm if the girl was killed in an act of black magic.

The girl had gone missing Saturday evening while her family was preparing for Diwali prayers.

The family looked for her in the nearby areas, including the jungle, using flashlights, but failed to locate her during the night, Singh had said, adding that her body was found by some villagers passing through the jungle Sunday morning, the DIG said.

# TAGGED FALCONS VISIT INDIA COVERING 33K KM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** Flying thousands of kilometres from their breeding grounds in northern China and eastern Mongolia, nearly a million Amur falcons, a small grey bird of prey, regularly descend across northeast India for nearly a month in October to feed and rest before continuing their journey to southern Africa.

Five Amurs were tagged with satellite transmitters last November in Manipur to identify their important migration routes in remote areas, two of them, who are now considered conservation ambassadors for the locals, returned to that area in October after completing their migratory route and

covering some 30,000 km.

After spending almost a fortnight in Manipur, both tagged birds headed to their further migration onto the southern parts of Africa by crossing the Arabian Sea.

"The two Amurs that are currently being tracked are named Chiulan and Irang. Chiulan is a male Amur that arrived in Somalia yesterday and Irang is a female Amur and may have also arrived in Somalia now," Suresh Kumar, one of the key researchers, said Tuesday.

He said they were captured and tagged October 1, 2019, at Puching village, some 100 km from the state capital Imphal, in Tamenglong district. Kumar, a senior scientist at the state-funded research institution Wildlife Institute of India, said the



male Amur reached Somali after non-stop journey of 5,700 km that includes nocturnal flight.

"The bird named Chiulan reached Tamenglong October 26 after a

roundtrip of 33,000 km. After spending 15 days there, it started its non-stop onward journey November 11," he said.

During its journey Chiulan, named after a village, crossed several Indian states. It reached Somalia November 16 at 5.30 p.m. This journey took five days and 13 hours. It crossed over the Arabian Sea by covering a distance of 3,000 km.

The Irang bird reached Manipur after a roundtrip of 29,000 km.

Two of the five transmitters installed last year have been working and airing data on their migration routes.

Kumar, who has attached satellite transmitters on 15 falcons in the last seven years, said the scientists now have a better under-

standing about their migratory routes. This also helps identifying their routes in remote locations.

Each transmitter with a solar-charged battery weighs less than five grams is tagged on an Amur whose weight ranges from 170 to 180 grams.

"The weight of a transmitter should be less than three per cent of the total weight of a bird. If it is slightly heavy, it will impact the natural behaviour of the bird," he explained. This tagging project was initiated first in Nagaland in November 2013 as an international collaborative effort to create awareness about Amurs among local people, and track its migration.

The 2013 initiative was supported by the Raptors MOU, a global agreement to protect endangered rap-

## FALLING COVID-19 TESTING FIGURES IN MUMBAI WORRY EXPERTS

Covid-19 testing numbers saw a sudden drop of up to 72% during the long festive period in Mumbai, raising concerns among doctors. The city was conducting an average of 14,000 tests earlier in November but that has now dropped to below 4,000



# Salman Khurshid slams party colleagues over Bihar poll debacle

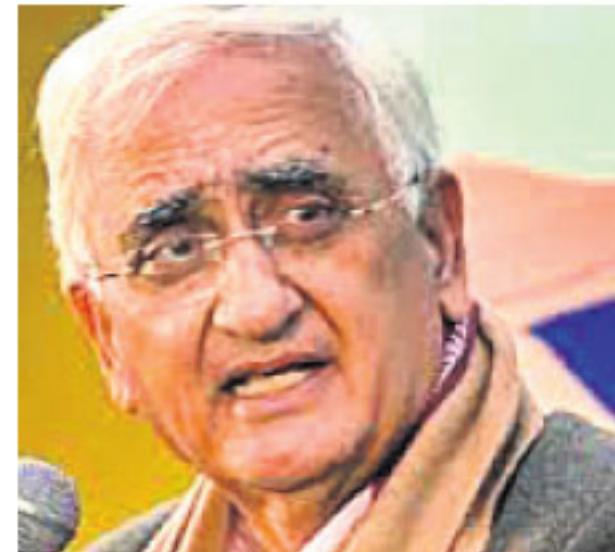
Senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid Tuesday took a dig at his party colleagues calling them "doubting Thomases" who suffer periodic "pangs of anxiety"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** Amid questions being raised by some in Congress over its Bihar poll performance, senior leader Salman Khurshid Tuesday took a dig at such party colleagues calling them "doubting Thomases" who suffer periodic "pangs of anxiety".

In a Facebook post that started with an Urdu couplet of Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar, former union minister Khurshid, who is among the leaders considered close to the Gandhi family, said if the mood of the electorate is resistant to the liberal values the party has espoused and cherished, it should be prepared for a long struggle rather than look for short cuts to get back into power.

Citing the last Mughal ruler's couplet which talks about looking within for flaws that would make one not see others as flawed (...Padi apni buraion par jo nazar to nigah mein koi burra na raha), he said Bahadur Shah Zafar's words might be a useful companion for many of our party colleagues who suffer "periodic pangs of anxiety".



Salman Khurshid

Some senior Congress leaders including Kapil Sibal have called for introspection after the party's dismal performance in the recently held Bihar Assembly polls, after which the ruling NDA returned to power in the state despite the main member of the grand opposition alliance, Rashtriya Janata Dal, putting up a strong show and emerging as the single largest party.

Quite a few leaders from the RJD as well as the Congress have blamed the grand old party's below-par performance for the opposition alliance missing the majority mark in the Bihar assembly elections.

Tariq Anwar, party's general sec-

retary and a veteran leader from Bihar, had earlier this week acknowledged that there were shortcomings due to which the Congress performed worse than other 'Mahagathbandhan' constituents in the Bihar polls and asserted that the high command was serious about introspection as well as a thorough analysis of the results.

"When we do well, admittedly somewhat infrequently they take it for granted. But when we underperform, not even do badly, they are quick to bite their nails. By the looks of it there would be little of the nails left for future disappointments. Is it really a case of bad workmen quarrelling with their tools?" Khurshid said.

Noting that everyone in the party is perplexed and pained by the continuing misfortunes of the Congress that some have chosen to describe as "our misadventures", he said there is something called faith, not necessarily blind, in destiny.

The favourite panacea of "doubting Thomases", introspection and collective leadership, might do no collateral damage but is a bit overestimated, Khurshid asserted.

## BANGALORE RIOTS

# Police arrest key accused former Congress mayor

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, Nov 17:** Bengaluru Central Crime Branch police Tuesday arrested former mayor and Congress leader R. Sampath Raj, who was wanted in Bangalore riots case.

The Bengaluru Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) Sandeep Patil confirmed the media through WhatsApp stating just "YES", he has been arrested.

Raj has been absconding from a hospital for the last one month where he was admitted after he was "tested Covid-19 positive".

His escape from hospital had raised many questions than answers as he was admitted to hospital after his name was included in the chargesheet filed by the police in local court alleging that he was one of the conspirators in Bangalore riots case.

On Monday, a major breakthrough came in this case as the CCB had arrested Raj's close aide Riyazuddin for sheltering Raj and another Congress leader Zakir who is still absconding.

It is worth noting here that August 11, Pulikeshi Nagar Congress MLA Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy's nephew Naveen Kumar (who is out on bail now) posted insidious post on his Facebook timeline.

Furious over the post, a section of residents approached K.G. Halli police and D.J. Police to initiate action against Naveen. The police reportedly dilly dallying over initiating action on Naveen, the mob went berserk and indulged in arson and looting.

In a bid to control the raging mob, the police had to open fire killing four persons on August 11. Prior to police opening fire, the mob had set MLA's house on fire besides torching several vehicles parked in KG Halli and DJ Halli police stations.



## of the day quote

Can the Bihar BJP leaders explain who was holding talks on seat-sharing with Chirag? Wasn't it Amit Shah and JP Nadda? Isn't it a fact that Chirag had various sessions with Amit Shah and Nadda before he took his decision?

PRASHAT KISHOR | ELECTION STRATEGIST

The time for introspection is over. We know the answers. The Congress must be brave and willing to recognise them

SALMAN KHURSHID | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

I am sure together we will re-establish the glory. It can happen only if Pishi's (CM) government steeped in corruption, appeasement and lawlessness is routed

AMIT MALVIYA | BJP IN-CHARGE FOR WEST BENGAL

## SHORT TAKES

### 5 charred to death in car

**Chandigarh:** Five occupants of a car, including a doctor, were charred to death when the vehicle they were travelling in caught fire after collision with a diesel tanker in Punjab, police said Tuesday. "After the collision, the fuel spilled over and the car caught fire. The occupants did not get time to come out as the doors got locked," a police official told the media. They were returning to Moga town after attending a wedding reception. The accident occurred on the Sangrur-Sunam road Monday midnight.

### Two suspected militants held

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Police Special Cell arrested two suspected militants, both residents of Jammu and Kashmir from the national capital's Sarai Kale Khan area. The arrests were made Monday night. On the basis of the information, a trap was laid near the millennium park, Sarai Kale Khan, Delhi and around 10.15 p.m., two suspected militants who are residents of J&K were apprehended. They have been identified as Abdul Latif Mir and Mohd. Ashraf Khatana.

### Man, son killed in leopard attack

**Aurangabad:** A man and his son have been mauled to death by a leopard in Maharashtra's Aurangabad district, a forest official said Tuesday. The incident took place in Apegaon Monday when the 52-year-old man and his son, aged 27, went to work at their farm, he said. When they did not return home in the evening, their relatives launched a search and also informed forest department officials.

### Two Dalit sisters killed in UP

**Fatehpur:** The bodies of two Dalit sisters were found with eye injuries in a pond in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur district, with their families alleging that they were killed after an attempt to rape, police said. The bodies of the girls, aged 8 and 12, were retrieved from the pond late Monday evening, police officer Rajesh Kumar said. Both the bodies had injury marks on the eyes, he said. The girls had gone to the field in the afternoon to get vegetables but did not return, the police said.



Without exaggeration, what we will be deciding now will determine whether India will become a first class industrial power or not...The outlook of Atmanirbhar Bharat is so crucial

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

## UP TO DEPLOY 3K PERSONNEL FOR MAGH MELA IN PRAYAGRAJ

Nearly 3,000 Uttar Pradesh police personnel will be deployed at the Magh Mela in Prayagraj to ensure that the safety protocols of the pandemic are maintained



## BRICS CONFERENCE

# Terrorism biggest global problem: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** Asserting that terrorism is the "biggest problem" facing the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said there was a need to ensure that countries supporting and assisting terrorists are held guilty, in an oblique reference to Pakistan.

Addressing the summit of five-nation grouping BRICS via video-conferencing, the prime minister also said there was a need to tackle the problem of terrorism in an organised manner.

The 12th BRICS summit, hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin, was also attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

"Terrorism is the biggest problem the world is facing. We have to ensure that the countries that support and assist the terrorists are also held guilty," the Prime Minister said. Though, Modi did not name any country, his reference is seen as directed at Pakistan.

The BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) is known as an influential bloc that represents over 3.6 billion people, or half of the world's population. The BRICS



countries have a combined GDP of \$16.6 trillion.

In his address, Modi also underlined the need for reform of the United Nations Security Council as well as multilateral bodies like the World Trade Organisation and the International Monetary Fund.

Talking about the Covid-19 crisis, Modi said India's vaccine production and delivery capabilities will work in the interest of humanity.

The Prime Minister also highlighted reform initiatives undertaken by his government under the 'self-reliant India' campaign.

We have started a comprehensive reform process under the 'Self-reliant India' campaign. The campaign is based on the belief that a self-reliant and resilient India post-COVID can be a force multiplier for the global economy and make a strong contribution to the global value chains," he said.

## BSF commandant held in cattle smuggling case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Nov 17:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday arrested a BSF commandant for his alleged involvement in a cattle smuggling racket operating at the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal, a source in the investigating agency said.

Satish Kumar, the BSF commandant who is now posted at Raipur in Chhattisgarh, was summoned to Kolkata for questioning in connection with the case by the CBI which arrested him after interrogating him for hours.

"Satish Kumar has been arrested. A case was registered against him two months ago. He will be produced before a court tomorrow," the CBI source said.

In September, CBI sleuths had conducted raids in different parts of West Bengal, including Kolkata, over cattle smuggling on the international border. The BSF commandant's house was also raided at that time.

Kumar, who was Commandant of the 36th Battalion of the BSF's South Bengal Frontier then, and three others were booked for rustling cattle, the source said.

When contacted, a senior BSF official of the South Bengal Frontier said, "Kumar was transferred from the 36th Battalion three years back. He is now posted in the Naxalite area of Raipur, Chattisgarh."

The three other persons who were booked along with Kumar included Enamul Haque, the alleged kingpin of the cattle smuggling racket.

The CBI arrested Haq November 6 in New Delhi. A court in the national capital granted him an interim bail and told him to appear before CBI in Kolkata November 9.

# Many Delhi residents leaving city due to toxic air

WORSENING AIR QUALITY AND THE THIRD WAVE OF COVID-19 ARE FUELLING FEAR AND ANXIETY

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** A good number of Delhi families may be giving up on the city. If Manas Fuloria's impending shift from Gurugram to Dehradun is any indication, a wave of migration out of the seasonally choked Delhi National Capital Region (NCR) may be in full swing. Nothing that the senior IT executive has done till now - multiple air purifiers, air quality monitors, indoor plants - has made his family, or others like it, breathe easier in the region's miasma.

The day after Diwali, the national capital recorded the worst air quality in four years. Add to that the frightening third wave of Covid-19 sweeping the city, pushing it Tuesday to the top of the list of states with most deaths - nearly 100 in 24 hours - due to the disease.

Together, the fear and anxiety this situation fuels in people is only expected.

"We keep the windows shut and some doors as well. But with no fresh air coming in, we also have to monitor carbon dioxide levels. We have air purifiers, air quality in-



dicators running all the time," Fuloria, who heads a software company with up to 6,000 employees, said.

Shifting to Dehradun, he will have to work remotely from his new home but that is acceptable to him. "I am allergic to dust. So, it is kind of sad we are not able to go outside and play. Now with the virus, we are a 100 per cent at home," says his 11-year-old son Ekagra.

Risk advisor Vibha Batra moved sooner. After having lived in the Delhi National Capital Region (NCR) for 20 years, she, along with her family, left for the tropical climes of Goa two weeks ago. Needless to say, the shift wasn't easy.

"NCR is where we grew up, both

professionally and personally. But in past 10 years, I have been seeing changes in the city...the heavy smog...my son started getting sick," Batra says.

It was her son's paediatrician who advised her to not let children play outdoors, making her think of the kind of childhood the kids were experiencing.

Ruchika Sethi Takkar, the founder of two citizens' collectives in Delhi, including Citizens For Clean Air, says that in one of her WhatsApp groups related to pollution, she sensed at least 40 families willing to leave the city.

However, unlike in the case of lockdown, not many citizens can make such a move this time.

# Non-Muslim tops Islamic studies entrance list



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jaipur, Nov 17:** In a break from the past, a non-Muslim candidate from Rajasthan has topped the all-India entrance exam for a master's course in Islamic studies at the Central University of Kashmir. "Islam is portrayed as a radical religion and there is lot of misconception about it. The division in the society is growing today and it is really very important to understand each other's religion," said Shubham Yadav, who would join the course in Kashmir for two years.

The result of the common entrance test, held on September 20, was declared on October 29.

The university, which had set up the religious studies department, which oversees the course, in 2015, confirmed that Yadav is the first non-Muslim candidate to top the exam.

"This is the first time a non-Muslim has topped the entrance exam... We've had non-Muslim scholars in the past," Professor Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi told this news agency. Yadav (21) has done BA (Honours) in philosophy from the Delhi University and hails from Alwar where two lynching cases of Pehlu Khan in 2017 and Akbar alias Rakbar Khan in 2018 took place.

"Such kind of incidents also made me think and gave motivation to read about the religion (Islam). I convinced my parents to pursue Islamic studies by making them understand that it will be about Islamic history and culture and they agreed," he said.

Yadav said that he developed an interest in Islamic studies during his college days and has informally studied about the Arab spring and Iran issues.

## 9 held for duping people of ₹23L

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thane, Nov 17:** The Navi Mumbai police have arrested nine officials and agents of a private investment firm for allegedly duping five investors of Rs 23.02 lakh by promising them lucrative returns, a police official said Tuesday.

The accused accepted investments in a money scheme from some people while promising them higher returns and later closed their business here in Maharashtra under the pretext of lockdown, Navi

Mumbai's Deputy Commissioner of Police Pravin Patil said.

Following a complaint by some investors, the police arrested nine persons, including members of the company's management team and agents. Search was underway for three other persons, including the company's director, he said.

A case was registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act and the Maharashtra Protection of Interest of Depositors Act.

# India's stand on RCEP depends on US outlook towards China

ALTHOUGH INDIA CAN JOIN THE RCEP IN FUTURE, BUT SO FAR THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT RETHINKING ITS DECISION

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** Even as the 10-member ASEAN bloc has signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) with five economies led by China, India is going to follow the policy of wait and watch till the new US presidency assumes office.

After eight years of hard negotiations, signed the trade pact with five of its FTA partners - China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand - Sunday.

The pact aims to reduce cost and time for traders of all the member

states by lowering tariffs and waiving off requirements to export their products in a hassle-free manner anywhere within the bloc. RCEP's members account for around 30 per cent of global GDP. The agreement is likely to come into effect next year.

India was to be a member too but it withdrew in November last year after RCEP did not address satisfactorily its outstanding issues. Although India can join the RCEP in future, but so far the government is not rethinking its decision, sources said.

"The Centre will wait and watch the new US presidency's approach



15 Asian nations sign world's biggest trade deal - China-backed RCEP

towards China," a source said.

The Congress-led opposition has been critical of the Modi government's backing out from the

largest trading arrangement in the Asia-Pacific region. In a couple of tweets, former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram had said

that there are pros and cons to India joining RCEP.

"But the debate has never taken place in Parliament or among the people or involving the opposition parties. It is another bad example of centralised decision-making unacceptable in a democracy," he said.

Critics believe that India's withdrawal from RCEP strengthened China's geopolitical position in the region. The conversation, according to Samir Saran, president of Asia's most influential think-tank, ORF, "has been uninformed".

Nearly all member countries

have a trade deal that predate RCEP, he said pointing out that India has deals with ASEAN, Japan and Korea and will strengthen them. But India has none with China.

"Signing up now amounts to India rewarding China the champion of trade perversion," he said.

Arguing that RCEP is dominated by China, JNU professor Srikanth Kondapalli said that Beijing would like India to open up through this route. "But we have trade deficits with 11 out of 15 members of RCEP. Heavens won't fall if we don't join it. Most of them are protectionist to our exports," he said.



## of the day quote

Any decisions on the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan must be based on conditions on the ground

**ANNEGRET KRAMP-KARRENBAUER** | GERMAN DEFENCE MINISTER

Afghanistan has not ignored the (US-Taliban) agreement, but it cannot be the basis for all our discussions

**ABDULLAH ABDULLAH** | AFGHAN POLITICIAN

The United States will only respect us as allies if we are serious about our own position, and if we have our own sovereignty regarding our defence

**EMMANUEL MACRON** | FRENCH PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### SpaceX capsule reaches ISS

**Cape Canaveral:** SpaceX's newly launched capsule with four astronauts arrived Monday at the International Space Station, their new home until spring. The Dragon capsule pulled up and docked late Monday night, following a 27-hour, completely automated flight from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The linkup occurred 262 miles (422 kilometers) above Idaho. This is the second astronaut mission for SpaceX. But it's the first time Elon Musk's company delivered a crew for a full half-year station stay.

### Johnson tests negative for nCoV

**London:** Prime Minister Boris Johnson has tested negative for COVID-19, his spokesman said Tuesday, but the British leader will continue to self isolate according to government guidance. "He took a test yesterday and that test was negative but he will in accordance with the rules on self isolation continue to self isolate," the spokesman told reporters.

### Eighteen hurt in Thailand protests

**Bangkok :** Thai police fired water cannon and teargas at protesters marching on parliament Tuesday, and at least 18 people were hurt in the most violent confrontation since a youth-led protest movement emerged in July.

### Iota batters Central America

**Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua:** Hurricane Iota sent zinc roofing flying into the streets, toppled electricity poles and flayed palm trees as it battered northeastern Nicaragua Tuesday, the second giant storm to strike Central America this month. Iota hit Nicaragua late Monday, blowing sustained winds of nearly 155 miles per hour (249 kph).

### Fresh threats

**Melbourne:** A major measles outbreaks might occur during 2021 as an unexpected consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, say scientists in an academic article published in the Lancet journal. According to the researchers, including Australian paediatrician Kim Mulholland, Chair of the World Health Organisation's SAGE Working Group on measles and rubella vaccines, many children across the world have missed out on measles vaccination this year, making future measles outbreaks inevitable.



**Russia plans to create a logistics hub for its navy in Sudan, which will accommodate up to 300 troops and staff**

**VLADIMIR PUTIN** | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

## SHOCKING REVELATION

In a major study, researchers have revealed that shift workers, especially those working permanently in the night rotation, may be at heightened risk of moderate to severe asthma



# Sputnik V vaccine could be produced in India, China: Putin

AGENCIES

**Moscow, Nov 17:** President Vladimir Putin Tuesday called for a joint effort by the BRICS countries on the development of the coronavirus vaccines as he suggested that Russia's Sputnik V vaccine against COVID-19 could be produced in China and India, which are members of the five-nation bloc.

"We believe it is important to speed up the establishment of the centre for development and research of BRICS vaccines, which we agreed to do two years ago, upon the initiative of our South African friends," Putin said while addressing the 12th BRICS summit via video-conferencing.

The summit, hosted by President Putin, was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Putin said that Russia's Sputnik V vaccine that was registered in August could be produced in China and India, both members of the BRICS, Sputniknews reported.

"The Russian Direct Investment Fund has reached agreements with its Brazilian and Indian partners on conducting clinical trials of the Sputnik V vaccine, it has also reached an agreement with pharmaceutical companies in China and India to launch production of the vaccine in these countries not just to cover their needs, but for third countries as well," Putin said.

On August 11, Russia became the world's first country to register a coronavirus vaccine, dubbed Sputnik V. The vaccine was devel-



oped by the Gamaleya Research Institute, while the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) is investing in the production and promotion of the vaccine abroad. Another Russian vaccine, EpiCoronaVac, produced by Vector Research Centre, was registered in October.

President Putin at the time said that the Sputnik V works "quite effectively" and forms a "stable immunity" against the deadly disease. He had disclosed that one of his daughters had tested a Russian COVID-19 vaccine on herself and that she is feeling well.

Sputnik V vaccine has shown 92 per cent efficacy in preventing COVID-19, according to interim trial results announced by the country's health ministry last week.

The vaccine has been named Sputnik-V. The name is a reference to the surprise 1957 launch of the world's first satellite by the Soviet Union. The 12th BRICS summit was originally scheduled to be held in Saint Petersburg in July but had to be postponed due to the outbreak

of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

So far the coronavirus has infected more than 54 million people around the world and killed more than 1.3 million people even as governments implemented strict lockdowns and restrictions to slow the spread of the virus that originated in the Chinese city of Wuhan.

A second wave of infections is threatening to derail economies and impact lives again as countries have gradually begun to ease restrictions and open up.

The BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) is known as an influential bloc that represents over 3.6 billion people, or half of the world's population. The BRICS countries have a combined GDP of USD 16.6 trillion. Meanwhile, Chinese President Xi Jinping offered to cooperate with India and other BRICS nations in the development of vaccines against the coronavirus and called for holding a symposium by the five-member bloc on traditional medicine to explore its role in the COVID-19 prevention and treatment.

## Climate change bigger threat than Covid-19, says Red Cross

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Geneva, Nov 17:** The world should react with the same urgency to climate change as to the coronavirus crisis, the Red Cross said Tuesday warning that global warming poses a greater threat than Covid-19.

Even as the pandemic rages, climate change is not taking a break from wreaking havoc, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies (IFRC) said in a new report.

In the report, on global catastrophes since the 1960s, the Geneva-based organisation pointed out that the world had been hit by more than 100 disasters - many of them climate related - since the World Health Organization declared the pandemic in March. More than 50 million people had been affected, it said. "Of course, the Covid is there, it's in front of us, it is affecting our families, our friends, our relatives," IFRC Secretary-General Jagan Chapagain told a virtual press conference. "It's a very, very serious crisis the world is facing currently," he said of the pandemic, which has already claimed more than 1.3 million lives. But he warned that the IFRC expects "climate change will have a more significant medium and long term impact on the human life and on Earth."

And while it looked increasingly likely that one or several vaccines would soon become available against Covid-19, Chapagain stressed that "unfortunately there is no vaccine for climate change". "No vaccine for climate change" When it comes to global warming, he warned, "it will require a much more sustained action and investment to really protect the human life on this Earth."

The frequency and intensity of extreme weather and climate-related events had already increased considerably in recent decades, said the IFRC.

In 2019 alone, the world was hit by 308 natural disasters - 77 per cent of them climate or weather-related - killing some 24,400 people. The number of climate and weather-related disasters has been steadily climbing since the 1960s, and has surged by nearly 35 per cent since the 1990s, IFRC said.

This is a deadly development. Weather and climate-related disasters have killed more than 410,000 people over the past decade, most of them in poorer countries, with heatwaves and storms proving the most deadly, the report said.



## CHILLING OUT



A man wearing a Santa Claus costume, sits next to a Christmas tree on a salt formation in the Dead Sea, in an event organised by Israel's tourism ministry, near Ein Bokek, Israel

REUTERS

## FB, Twitter CEOs to testify before Senate

AGENCIES

**Washington, Nov 17:** The chief executives of Facebook and Twitter are set to testify before a congressional hearing Tuesday that will explore their content moderation practices as Republicans accuse social media companies of censoring conservative speech.

In October, Republican lawmakers on the US Senate Judiciary committee voted unanimously to approve formal summons for Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and Twitter's Jack Dorsey.

Democrats on the panel did not vote on the subpoena. The sub-

poenas were approved right after the social media platforms decided to block stories from the New York Post that made claims about the son of then Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden. Tuesday's hearing is expected to be highly political.

Zuckerberg and Dorsey along with Alphabet-owned Google's Sundar Pichai also appeared before the Senate Commerce Committee in October for a hearing where Republican lawmakers questioned the companies about their content moderation decisions. The hearing quickly turned into a political scuffle with lawmakers

attacking each other.

Upset over the companies' decision on what to leave on the platform and what to take down, many Republican lawmakers and President Donald Trump have threatened to take away protections for internet companies under a federal law called Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. The law protects companies from getting sued over material users post on their platforms. At the hearing in October, Twitter's Dorsey said that eroding Section 230 could significantly hurt how people communicate online.

6% of the population, dominated national politics, infuriating the bigger Oromo and Amhara communities. Hailemariam Desalegn quit as prime minister in 2018 after failing to quell violent protests that began in late 2015 and claimed several hundred lives. The ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front named Abiy, an Oromo, as his successor.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's rule started off with a bang. He scrapped bans on Opposition and rebel groups, purged allegedly corrupt officials and ended two decades of acrimony with neighboring Eritrea - an initiative that won him the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize. He also put out the welcome mat for foreign capital to maintain

the General Services Administration (GSA), headed by a Trump appointee - has yet to recognise Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris as winners.

"A vaccine is important. It's of little use until you're vaccinated. So, how do we get the vaccine, how do we get over 300 million Americans vaccinated? What's the game plan? It's a huge, huge, huge undertaking to get it done, prioritise those greatest in need and working our way through, and also cooperate with the World Health Organisation and the rest of the world in dealing with this," he said.

**BIDEN COULD NAME TOP STAFF:** President-elect Joe Biden will focus on shaping his core White House team Tuesday while President Donald Trump presses on with his increasingly tenuous legal fight to reverse his loss in the US election. Biden is also due to be briefed on national security matters Tuesday by his own team of advisers, rather than government experts, as the White House has blocked him from receiving the benefits normally accorded to an incoming president ahead of taking power January 20.

## Clashes between govt, separatists kill about 50 in Yemen

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Sanaa, Nov 17:** Fierce fighting in southern Yemen between Emirati-backed separatists and the country's internationally recognised government killed nearly 50 fighters this week both sides, security officials said Tuesday.

The flare-up of clashes in the province of Abyan was the latest blow to a cease-fire agreement brokered by Saudi Arabia late in 2019 with the goal of closing the rift between the two sides. The sides are allies in a US-backed, Saudi-led coalition fighting against the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels since 2015.

At least 47 fighters were killed and around 90 others were wounded in the clashes centred in Zinjibar, the Abyan provincial capital, and the officials described it as the fiercest in the recent months.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorised to brief the media.

The secessionist council, an umbrella group of militias backed by the United Arab Emirates, hopes to restore an independent southern Yemen, which existed from 1967 until unification in 1990. The clashes had reopened a new front inside the larger civil war, complicating international efforts to broker a broader peace agreement to end Yemen's conflict.

momentum in one of the world's fastest-expanding economies. But he's struggled to keep the peace. Besides the dissent in Tigray, he's had to contend with violent protests after the June killing of popular Oromo musician Hachalu Hundessa, which claimed about 200 lives. Inter-communal fighting in the western Benishangul-Gumuz region in September left at least 140 people dead and drove more than 25,000 others from their homes. Ethnic conflict continues to simmer in the Amhara region, and attacks and abductions perpetrated by militia groups in parts of the central Oromia region show no sign of letting up. A number of key opposition leaders have been arrested.

# Why the animosity between Ethiopia govt and Tigrayans

AGENCIES

**Addis Ababa, Nov 17:** Tensions have been simmering for long between Ethiopia's federal government and the northern state of Tigray. Recently, the tensions have escalated into a full-blown conflict.

On November 4, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed ordered the military to respond to an alleged raid on an army camp in the restive region and placed it under a six-month state of emergency. Consequently, the leaders in Tigray hit back by banning all flights and warning that they would react to any acts of aggression by the federal government. In response, the Ethiopian

government claimed that its forces killed at least 550 fighters loyal to the Tigrayan ruling party in the first week of clashes. According to observers, failure to de-escalate the situation would be a grave setback to efforts aimed at maintaining national unity and keeping a lid on ethnic violence in Africa's second-most populous nation.

What triggered the conflict between the federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front is that the forces of the latter assaulted a military base and were defeated by the army. The TPLF, which governs Tigray, didn't acknowledge responsibility for such an offensive, saying only that the federal government attacked it with the help of foreign

forces and that it would defend itself. It was unclear whether those killed were part of the TPLF's special forces or militia fighters supporting the party.

The relations between Tigray and Abiy's administration have been strained since he took office in 2018 and set about consolidating power under his newly formed Prosperity Party. That sidelined the TPLF, which had been the nation's pre-eminent power broker. Tensions ratcheted up after Tigray staged regional elections in September in defiance of a directive to postpone them because of the coronavirus pandemic, and the federal parliament retaliated by ordering the Treasury to halt direct budget support to the re-

gional administration. Tigray's leaders have also been angered by the federal government's attempt to reshuffle the military leadership stationed in their territory and calls by the nation's House of Representatives to designate the TPLF as a terrorist organization. The animosity in Africa's oldest nation state, Ethiopia is owing to a discord between its more than 80 ethnic groups. The country was an absolute monarchy until the 1974 socialist revolution that deposed Emperor Haile Selassie. It became a multi-ethnic federation in 1991, when a TPLF-led alliance of rebels overthrew the Marxist military regime that followed Selassie. The Tigrayans, though comprising just



# business



**NINL plant is something we will look at whenever it is available. Everything will be finalised after discussions on the board level**  
**T V NARENDRA** |  
CEO & MD, TATA STEEL

## BENCHMARKS SCALE NEW HIGHS

Equity indices rallied to all-time highs Tuesday, driven by banking, finance and metal stocks, as encouraging data from another COVID-19 vaccine trial bolstered investor sentiment.



## of the day quote

Asia and the Pacific has largely done well to limit the spread of COVID-19. Ensuring access to a safe, effective, and equitable vaccine is the next frontier in the fight against this virus



**WOONCHONG UM** |  
DIRECTOR GENERAL, ADB'S SD DEPT

Mahindra Lifespace's sales booking improved in the second quarter and are likely to be strong on festive demand during the October-December period



**ARVIND SUBRAMANIAN** |  
MD AND CEO, MAHINDRA LIFESPACE

As we make investments that focus on developing and nurturing the retail ecosystem, we are also committed to making our platform easier to navigate and richer for consumers



**KALYAN KRISHNAMURTHY** |  
CEO, FLIPKART GROUP

## SHORT TAKES

### Pfizer Inc moves court against DRL

**Hyderabad:** Pfizer Inc and its group Companies filed a petition in a US court against Aurobindo Pharma Ltd and Dr Reddy's Laboratories alleging that the Indian drug makers were planning separately to come out with generic versions of its blockbuster multi-billion dollar drug Ibrance (palbociclib) before expiration of its patent. Pfizer filed the possible patent infringement petition against both the companies in the United States District Court on two counts last week. Palbociclib is used to treat a certain type of breast cancer.

### Hiring activities improve in cities

**Mumbai:** In an indication of improving hiring activities in metro cities, job postings rose over five per cent in October compared to the previous month, according to a report. The report is based on job postings on job portal SCIEKEY. "There have been signs of recovery in the hiring activities in metro cities despite the festive season. There has been an uptick in hiring in the number of job postings in October by 5.55 per cent," it said.

### Sugar production jumps three-folds

**New Delhi:** Sugar production in India, the world's second-largest producer of the sweetener, has surged nearly three-folds to 14.10 lakh tonnes in the 2020-21 season so far due to better crop output and timely commencement of the crushing operation, industry body ISMA said Tuesday. Sugar production stood at 4.84 lakh tonne in the same period of the 2019-20 season (October-September), it said. The industry body said it is awaiting policy decisions from the government.

### Tata Steel hits 52-week high

**New Delhi:** Shares of Tata Steel rallied 7 per cent in early trade on Tuesday and hit its 52-week high levels on the bourses after the company's India operations, generated strong set of numbers for the quarter ended September 30, 2020. The stock of Tata Steel opened on a bullish note at ₹504.70, then gained further ground and touched a high of ₹529.50 on BSE, up 7.60 per cent from its previous close.

# India Inc gains ₹1.52 trillion

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Nov 17:** Going by headline profits in the September quarter (Q2) of FY20-21, India Inc has done well despite the disruptions due to the pandemic. The combined net profit of listed companies reached a record ₹1.52 trillion — up two and half times on year-on-year (YoY) basis.

In comparison, these firms had reported a combined net profit of ₹11,200 crore in Q1 FY21 and a combined net loss of ₹450 crore in Q4 FY20. Not surprisingly, equity investors are bidding-up stock prices across sectors and the broader market is now more valuable than pre-Covid levels.

The surprise upside on earnings came despite a continued contraction in sales volumes and revenues. The combined net sales of listed companies (interest income in case of banks and non-bank lenders) were down 5.2 per cent YoY during Q2 — marking the fifth consecutive quarter of revenue decline.

For comparison, net sales were down 0.7 per cent YoY during Q2 FY20 and it was down 27 per cent YoY during Q1 FY21. The trend in revenues suggests a sharp rebound in economic activity on sequential basis but it is yet to recover to its pre-Covid high.

The analysis is based on the quarterly results of 2,672 companies including their listed subsidiaries. Company-wise and sec-



## NET PROFIT UP

**IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, EARNINGS WERE BOOSTED BY A SHARP DECLINE IN INPUT PRICES THAT EXPANDED GROSS AND OPERATING MARGINS**

**THE NET PROFIT OF COMPANIES — EXCLUDING OIL AND GAS, BANKS AND FINANCIALS, AND TELECOM — WAS UP 7.8 PER CENT YOY**

toral break-up of earnings growth, however, suggests recovery in earnings is much more muted than what headline numbers suggest. Nearly two-third of the swing in net profits in Q2 FY21 was accounted for by Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea.

The two mobile operators reported a sharp decline in losses on YoY basis as they no more have to make provisions for adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues. Vodafone Idea reported net loss of ₹6,451 crore in Q2 FY21 against net loss of around ₹50,000 crore last year. Airtel net loss declined from around ₹23,000 crore a year ago to ₹776 crore in Q2 FY21.

## BIZ BUZZ

### Maruti Suzuki launches fifth round of MAIL

**NEW DELHI:** The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India on Tuesday announced the fifth round of its 'Mobility & Automobile Innovation Lab' (MAIL) initiative, inviting entries from early startups in mobility and automobile space. So far, the company has collaborated with 18 startups selected in the previous four rounds of the MAIL programme, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said in a statement. Commenting on the initiative, MSI Managing Director & CEO Kenichi Ayukawa said, "As a next step, in the fifth cohort, we look forward to engage with more startups with innovative ideas for the automobile industry. Entrepreneurs with disruptive ideas, especially in light of the ongoing pandemic situation, can apply for the fifth cohort of our MAIL initiative".



### ONGC signs contract for 7 new blocks

**NEW DELHI:** State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) on Tuesday signed contracts for seven oil and gas blocks it had won in the latest bid round that saw scant participation from the private sector. Oil India Ltd signed up for the remaining four blocks awarded under the fifth bid round of Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OLAP). Speaking at the signing ceremony, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said with the latest bid round, the government has in the last four years awarded 1.56 lakh square kilometre of acreage for finding and producing oil and gas. This compares to 90,000 sq km of area awarded in nine rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and pre-NELP awards in the previous two decades.



### Pure EV to launch e-scooter next month



**NEW DELHI:** IIT-Hyderabad incubated startup PURE EV on Tuesday said its high-speed long-range electric scooter Etrance Neo will be launched next month at an ex-showroom price of ₹75,999. The new model that offers a higher pickup and longer range combined with modern aerodynamics will be launched on December 1, 2020. It comes with a patented battery and in-house technical developments for BTMS (battery thermal management systems) to ensure long life and high performance, the company said in a statement. "The new model will be available first in Hyderabad and will be available pan India from our outlets pan India from mid of December 2020," Vadera added.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** As many as 99 per cent of companies (excluding MSMEs) rated by Crisil are unlikely to opt for the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) one-time-debt-restructuring (OTDR), a preliminary analysis of 3,523 such non-MSME companies by the rating agency has indicated.

The RBI had August 6 announced the scheme as a relief measure for non-MSME corporate borrowers having an aggregate exposure of greater than ₹25 crore and were under stress due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

But of the Crisil sample, only 1 per cent indicated that they would apply for OTDR. This is despite two-thirds of the rated entities being eligible based on the parameters proposed by the K.V. Kamath Committee set up by the RBI. Subodh Rai, Senior Director, Crisil Ratings, said: "Improving business sentiment on account of



increased economic activity over the past couple of months, and expectation of a sharp recovery next fiscal are persuading borrowers to skip OTDR."

"Another deterrent is the impact on the borrower's long-term credit history - accounts of those opting for OTDR would be classified as restructured advances by lenders, which could impact their ability to raise debt in future."

Additionally, for 44 per cent of Crisil-rated corporates, more than three-fourth of their debt comprises short-term working capital facilities. In these cases, availing of OTDR would have negligible ben-

## Buy your meds from Amazon now

AGENCIES

**New York, Nov 17:** Amazon opened an online pharmacy Tuesday, giving Amazon shoppers the chance to buy their medication and order refills on their phones and have it delivered to their doorsteps in a couple of days, just like a book or toilet paper. The move propels Amazon into a

new business, potentially shaking up the pharmacy industry as it has done to everything from book sellers to toy stores and grocers. Big chains like CVS and Walgreens rely on their pharmacies to bring them a steady flow of shoppers who stop by frequently to pick up their medications. Amazon said it will offer commonly prescribed medications

starting Tuesday, including creams, pills, as well as medications that need to stay cold, like insulin. Shoppers have to set up a profile on Amazon's website and have doctors send prescriptions to the Seattle-based e-commerce giant. Most insurance is accepted, Amazon said. But Prime members who don't have insurance can also buy generic drugs.

effits, as the resolution plans under this scheme are focussed on deferring principal repayment of long-term debt.

Such borrowers, instead of opting for debt recast, may prefer to seek additional working capital financing as announced by the RBI under its Covid-19 regulatory package, the agency said.

Early into the lockdown, 968 companies, or 27 per cent of the sample set, had opted for the moratorium allowed by the RBI.

As much as 98 per cent of these are not seeking an OTDR for reasons mentioned earlier.

The rating agency said that these are early days and greater clarity will emerge as the regulatory deadline of December 31 -- set by the RBI for invoking debt restructuring plans -- nears. The number of companies seeking OTDR may increase if sentiment around recovery dampens or Covid-19 afflictions keep increasing, leading to fresh curbs on economic activity, it added.

FM gets Finance Commission's FY22-26 report

## FM gets Finance Commission's FY22-26 report

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** The Chairman and members of the 15th Finance Commission on Tuesday presented a copy of the panel's report for 2021-22 to 2025-26 financial years to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The Commission had submitted its report to the President of India on November 4 and to the Prime Minister on November 16. "Chairman @NKSingh\_MP and Members of the 15th Finance Commission presented a copy of the Commission's report for 2021-22 to 2025-26 to Finance Minister @nsitharaman today," the Ministry of Finance tweeted.

The report will be tabled in Parliament along with Explanatory Memorandum 'by way of Action Taken Report as prescribed under the Constitution. Last year, the Commission had submitted its report with recommendations for 2020-21 fiscal, which was accepted by the Union government and tabled in Parliament on January 30, 2020. As per the terms of reference (ToR), the Commission was mandated to give its recommendations for the five-year period by October 30.

## PLI scheme signals 'dramatic shift' in Centre's attitude

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 17:** Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra has said that the government's announcement of a production-linked incentive scheme for 10 more sectors, including auto, signals a "dramatic shift" in the attitude towards industry.

On November 11, the Cabinet approved production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for 10 more sectors, including automobiles and auto parts, pharmaceuticals, textiles and food products, with an outlay of about ₹1,45,980 crore over a period of five years.

Under another PLI scheme, an outlay of ₹51,311 crore has already been approved.

"I took some time to explore the contours of this initiative. I don't use the term 'game-changer' too often but it's apt in this case.

For me, what's much more important than the mechanics of the scheme is the dramatic shift it signals in the attitude towards industry," Mahindra said in a tweet.

## AIRASIA REVIEWING INDIA INVESTMENT

REUTERS

**Kuala Lumpur, Nov 17:** Malaysia's flagship budget carrier AirAsia Group Bhd has given its strongest indication to date that it could exit India, saying Tuesday it was reviewing its investment in a joint venture airline there.

The group said in a statement that its operations in India, like those of its now-shuttered Japan business, have been draining cash and adding to the group's financial stress. "Cost containment and reducing cash burn remain key priorities evident by the recent closure of AirAsia Japan and an ongoing review of our investment in AirAsia India," it said. AirAsia shut its operations in Japan, the smallest of its foreign offshoots, last month. The airline owns 49% of AirAsia India, a joint venture with Tata Sons.

The Times of India reported last month, citing sources, that Tata Sons' parent is in discussions to buy AirAsia Group's stake. Group Chief Executive Officer Tony Fernandes told Reuters in September that the group intends to consolidate and strengthen its Asean foothold, which could mean one day exiting both Japan and India.



*The group said in a statement that its operations in India have been draining cash and adding to the group's financial stress*

**Its ops in Japan, the smallest of its foreign offshoots, shut down last month**

**CEO Tony Fernandes said that the group intends to boost its ASEAN foothold**



# WILL ‘RIGHTFULLY’ IN TEAM

Have earned the right to be named in the Australian Test team for four-match series against India, says Pucovski

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sydney, Nov 17:** Fast-rising Australian batsman Will Pucovski feels he has ‘earned the right’ to be in the red-ball squad for the series against India and is better prepared to make his Test debut compared to a couple of seasons ago.

Pucovski, who was named in a 17-member extended Australian Test squad for the four-match series against India, is coming off back-to-back double hundreds in the Sheffield Shield.

Despite missing the opening two rounds of the competition, he has scored 495 runs so far this season in three innings and is currently the tournament’s highest run-scorer.

“This time it feels like I’ve earned the right to be here, and I’m pretty pumped to take the challenge on of playing India if I do get the chance,” Pucovski said on SEN Radio.

The 22-year-old was first named in the Test squad for the 2019 Sri Lanka series but stepped away from the game, citing mental health concerns. It is the first time since then that Pucovski has earned a Test squad call-up.

“I feel like I’m in a much better place to take the opportunity if it presents itself now, than I may have



been a couple of years ago.

“I was 20 a couple of years ago and I’m 22 now. I’ve played 15 or 20 more first-class games, and I’ve put a stack of work in off-field to make sure my life and my cricket is in a really good place,” he added.

Very few young Australian cricketers have generated the kind of buzz that Pucovski has managed. His sensational form in the Sheffield Shield has led several Australian greats to call for his selection in the team.

Talking about what has changed since the last call up, Pucovski said: “Probably the difference in feeling is you’re excited, but you’re ready to do a job this time. Whereas last time, not that I wasn’t ready, but I was probably just so excited to get picked for Australia that I didn’t think too much about the job at hand,” he added.

Pucovski’s inclusion has set up a competition with fellow opener Joe Burns, who is feeling the heat after a disastrous start to the first-class summer. But head coach Justin Langer and skipper Tim Paine both have hinted at persisting with the experienced Burns.

The four-Test series will begin with a day-night match at Adelaide from December 17.

# Carey opens up on T20 spot



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Melbourne, Nov 17:** Wicketkeeper-batsman Alex Carey Tuesday said he is hoping to regain his place in the Australian T20 side for the series against India after having worked on ‘little technical’ aspects of his game under Ricky Ponting during the recent IPL.

Carey had the opportunity to work with Ponting in the UAE during his time with IPL finalists Delhi Capitals, a side coached by the World Cup-winning former skipper.

“My first opportunity to be part of IPL and to have Ricky as head coach of Delhi and a few other familiar faces in the squad made it a really enjoyable couple of months,” Carey told reporters during a video conference.

“I was lucky enough to work with him through the World Cup last year and formed a good relationship. He was an amazing player, and is an amazing coach, and he picks up on little things really quickly,” he added while talking about his maiden IPL experience.

The 29-year-old was dropped from Australia’s T20 side before the final match of a series against England in September due to poor form. In the IPL, he played just three matches, scoring 32 runs.

Australia and India will lock horns in three T20Is starting December 4 after a three-match ODI series, which begins November 27.

“We had a lot to talk about and although I didn’t play a lot of games it gave me a lot of opportunity to train and just work on a few little

technical parts of my game which will hopefully help me grow and develop and have a successful summer,” he said.

Carey had hit his maiden international century in Australia’s series-clinching ODI win over England. However, in the preceding T20 series against England, he had to make way for Matthew Wade in the third T20I after scoring just three runs in the first two games. He had an equally forgettable outing in South Africa.

“I guess my numbers in the past few T20s probably allowed the opening of the door for Wade to come in. I never like being left out of any team but it’s allowed me to go away and develop,” he said.

“If it’s a lower-order role or back up the top of the order, I’m doing everything I can to get back into that team and it’s something I want to do.

“Since then I felt like I finished off that UK tour really strongly and took a lot out of the IPL working with (Ponting).”

With the rescheduled T20 World Cup just 12 months away, Carey is hoping to get his place back in the T20I series against India beginning December 4.

“I think it’s a great opportunity to continually work out the best line-up. Although it’s 12 months away, you want to hone in on some specific roles and getting some form going into that World Cup.

“Coming up against England recently and India soon, we’re playing the best in the world so it’s a great indicator of where our T20 cricket is at.”

# MPL Sports India’s official kit sponsor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** The BCCI Tuesday formally announced MPL Sports apparel and accessories as the official kit sponsor and merchandise partner of both the national men’s and women’s sides as well as the U-19 team, replacing Nike.

The deal was cleared by the Board’s apex council November 2. Nike had a five-year deal during which they paid Rs 370 crore from 2016 to 2020.

MPL Sports, the sports merchandise brand from Mobile Premier League – an e-sports platform – offers a wide range of sportswear and cricket equipment, along with other accessories such as masks, wrist bands, footwear and headgear.

As per the newly-linked strategic partnership, MPL Sports has entered into a three-year agreement from November 2020 to December 2023.

MPL Sports’ association with the BCCI begins with India’s tour of Australia, which will see Team India sporting the new jerseys. The senior men and women and the U-19 teams are also a part of the deal for the new kits.

As part of the deal, MPL Sports’ designed and manufactured jerseys will be worn by the Indian men’s, women’s and the U-19 teams.

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said: “We look forward to MPL Sports adding a new chapter to the team’s kit, and bring official BCCI licensed merchandise within easy and convenient reach for the billion-plus fans who cheer for Team India.”

Apart from Team India jerseys, MPL Sports will also sell licensed Team India merchandise. MPL Sports will offer the jerseys and its wide range of Team India merchandise to fans at affordable prices.

Board secretary Jay Shah said: “The partnership leads us to a new frontier for Team India and for sports merchandising in the country. This partnership aims at facilitating access to high-quality Indian cricket fan merchandise, including the coveted Indian cricket team jersey for cricket fans not just in the country but globally.”

The previous deal with Nike, a four-year contract, ended in September. MPL is currently associated with two IPL franchises – Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore, a CPL team and the cricket boards of Ireland and the UAE.

Commenting on the partnership, MPL Sports’ senior vice president Abhishek Madhavan said, “India is a market with a billion cricket fans and we see a lot of potential in the under-penetrated merchandise market in India.

# VIRAT & CO UNDERGO TEST SIMULATION DURING TRAINING SESSION

## Team India set sights on Tests



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sydney, Nov 17:** The limited-overs competition awaits them first but Indian players, led by captain Virat Kohli, seemed focussed on next month’s Tests against Australia as they practised in simulated long-format match conditions complete with pacers using red and pink balls here Tuesday.

All the top batsmen and bowlers, who are in all the three squads, were seen taking part in

the practice session. The likes of senior pacer Mohammed Shami and youngster Mohammad Siraj were seen bowling to Kohli in a video posted on Twitter by the captain himself. “Love Test cricket sessions,” the tweet from Kohli read.

The star batsman will feature in just the opening day-night Test, starting December 17 in Adelaide, before flying back to India for the birth of his first child.

The video showed the players

using the centre strip of the ground with proper Test match field and a batsman at the non-striker’s end, which is a deviation from traditional net sessions.

Given that the players were kept busy by the IPL for the last two months, the white-ball training has taken a back-seat. Opener KL Rahul facing the pink ball was an indicator that he is in line to be picked for the first Test.

In another video, posted by the BCCI, Shami was seen bowling in

tandem with youngster Siraj. The 30-year-old Shami, who took 20 wickets from 14 matches for Kings XI Punjab in the IPL, is a part of all the three squads.

India will rely heavily on him during the four-match Test series starting with the day-night pink ball game in Adelaide.

Siraj, who is only in the Test squad, followed his senior teammate and was seen sending down a few deliveries as other senior players watched him bowl.

The 26-year-old, who has played one ODI and three T20Is, took 11 wickets from nine matches for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the recent IPL.

“The master and his apprentice. When @MdShami11 and Siraj bowled in tandem at #TeamIndia’s nets. Fast and accurate!” the BCCI tweet read.

The star studded batting line-up was Monday seen gearing up for the lively Australian pitches with the traditional tennis ball training after competing on the slow UAE tracks during the IPL.

The first two matches of the ODI series will be played at the SCG November 27 and 29, followed by a game in Canberra on December 2.

The first T20I (December 4) will also be played in Canberra while the last two will be played at the SCG December 6 and 8.

# India to host U-17 WWC in 2022: FIFA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** The Women’s U-17 World Cup in India, which was postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic, was Tuesday cancelled by the world governing body FIFA and the country was handed the hosting rights of the 2022 edition.

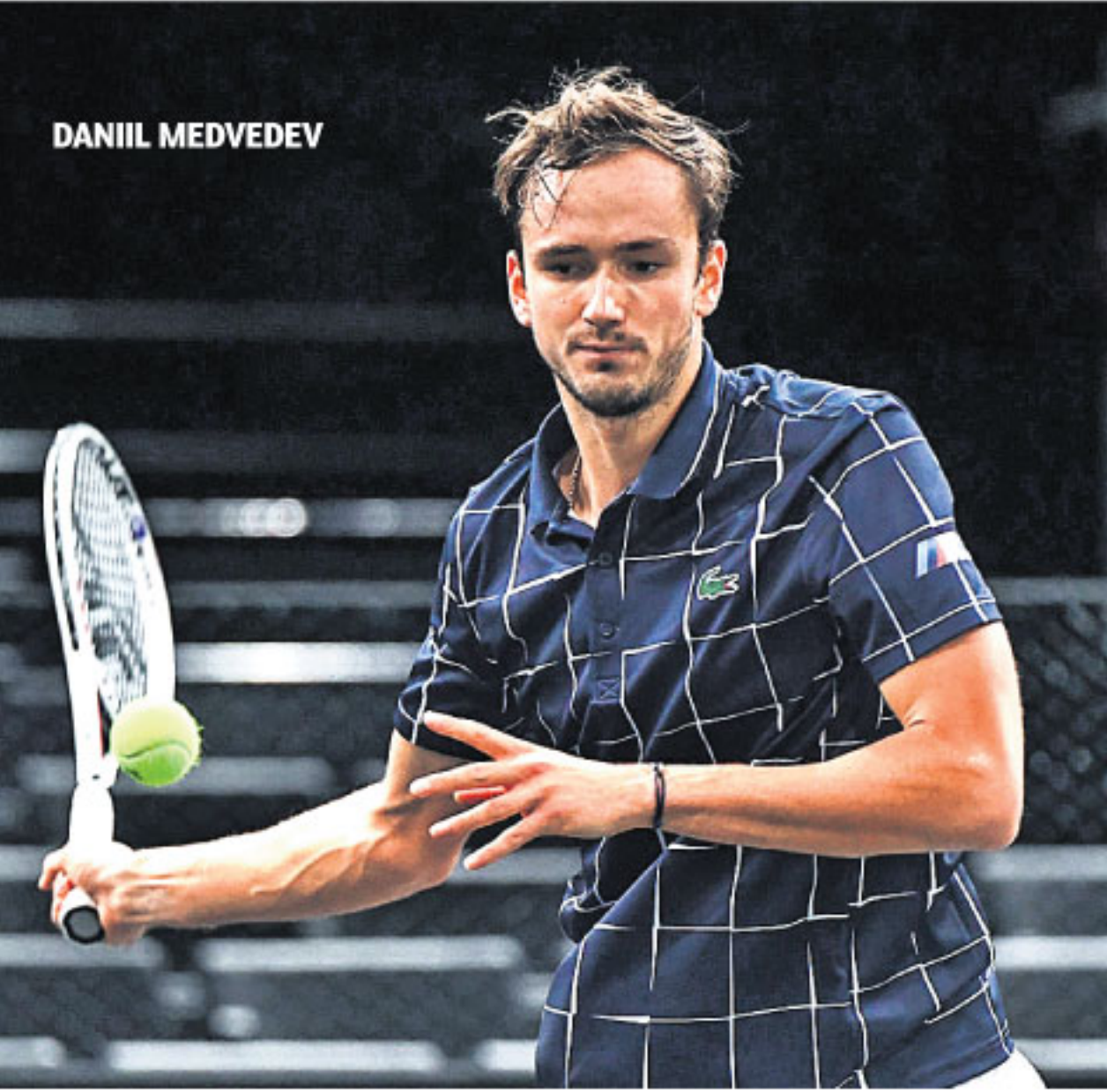
The decision was taken by the Bureau of the FIFA Council which took stock of the current global COVID-19 pandemic and its continuing impact on football.

**2020 EDITION POSTPONED TO 2021**

“... With the inability to further postpone these tournaments, the FIFA Confederations COVID-19 Working Group subsequently recommended that the 2020 editions of the two women’s youth tournaments be cancelled and that the hosting rights for the 2022 editions be offered to the countries that were due to host the 2020 editions,” the FIFA said in a statement.

“... Following further consultation between FIFA and the respective host member associations regarding the 2022 editions of the tournaments, the Bureau of the Council has approved Costa Rica as host of the FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup 2022 and India as host of the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup 2022 respectively.”

# ATP Finals: Medvedev, Djoko sail through



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, Nov 17:** Daniil Medvedev pulled off an underarm serve as he outlasted Alexander Zverev and joined Novak Djokovic as a winner at the ATP Finals on day two.

Medvedev prevailed 6-3, 6-4, while Djokovic cruised past Finals debutant Diego Schwartzman 6-3, 6-2 in an empty O2 Arena Monday.

Djokovic and Medvedev meet

Wednesday to secure the group lead.

Medvedev led 4-3, 30-30 in the second set when he surprised Zverev with a quick underarm serve. It brought the German to the net and he lost the point when his backhand block volley flew long.

“My wide serve was not working as well as I would like and he was returning good,” Medvedev said. “I see that he was five meters behind

the baseline and I have the ball close to my racket, so I thought, ‘Go for it’. It actually worked. It’s also smart.”

Two games later, he served a love game to earn his first win at the ATP Finals in his fourth match going back to last year. Medvedev went 0-3 in his first Finals, including a loss to Zverev which he avenged after an attritional opening set.

Zverev, the 2018 champion, earned a break in the first game but gave it straight back with three double faults. Another double fault by Zverev in the sixth game gave Medvedev a 4-2 lead, and the Russian finished the set with his first ace.

A weak forehand into the net cost Zverev the decisive break at 3-3 in the second. Medvedev held with the underarm serve, and he beat Zverev again eight days after winning their Paris Masters final.

The top-ranked Djokovic smothered Schwartzman after conceding an early break and, despite no fans inside the 20,000-capacity O2 Arena, he gestured to each section as if to say thanks.

Djokovic hasn’t lost an opening ATP Finals match since 2007 against David Ferrer. He also has never lost to Schwartzman in six matches.

He has won the elite, season-ending event five times – one short of Roger Federer’s record.

Schwartzman qualified for his first ATP Finals by reaching the French



Open semifinals and two finals, including at the Italian Open, where he lost to Djokovic.

Schwartzman is the first South American to play singles at the ATP Finals since 2013 and another Argentine, Juan Martin del Potro. The ATP Finals move to Turin, Italy, next year, after 12 years in London.

The players’ hotel is a short walk away, but health protocols require

they are driven to and from the venue. The tournament is using electronic line calling for the first time. Players can’t challenge whether a ball was in or out, but they can request a video review for other disputed situations, such as double bounces.

Djokovic Sunday was presented with a trophy for finishing the year with the No.1 ranking for a record-equaling sixth time.

# Olympian Jagmohan dies of heart attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Patiala, Nov 17:** Olympian hurdler and multi-faceted sports personality Jagmohan Singh, who introduced scientific fitness training methods in athletics and other sports during his long stint at the NIS-Patiala, died of heart attack here Tuesday. He was 88.

Jagmohan, who had also served as joint director general of Sports Authority of India, represented the country in 110m hurdles in the 1960 Rome Olympics. He was the national champion in this event from 1958 to 1960. He also had held national records in 110m hurdles and decathlon.

Not only he was a top athlete of his time, Jagmohan had served Indian sport as teacher, coach, administrator and physical trainer.

“Jagmohan was a pioneer in Indian sports. He introduced scientific training methods, especially in athletics, but also in hockey and cycling. He was a very active man even at his old age. Recently he sent me research papers,” Lalit Bhanot, who had served as secretary of the Athletics Federation of India for a long time, said.

After completing his B.Sc. Degree, Jagmohan served in Punjab Police for nearly 10 years before joining NIS Patiala as a teacher in 1962. He

**Jagmohan had introduced scientific fitness training methods in athletics and other sports during his long stint at the NIS-Patiala**

became Dean Teaching at SAI and was with the NIS Patiala till 1990.

In 1965, Jagmohan did a specialisation course in Physical Fitness and Sports Conditioning from the University of West Germany in Cologne. After returning from Germany, he introduced scientific training methods in the NIS courses and taught trainees on this subject.

He trained sprinters and hurdlers in the national camp for nearly 20 years and was chief athletics coach in the 1966 Commonwealth Games and 1975 Asian Athletics Championships.

Beyond athletics, he was made fitness/physical conditioning coach of the Indian hockey team in 1973. It was Jagmohan who introduced physical conditioning on scientific lines in Indian hockey. He accompanied the Indian hockey team in the 1976 Montreal Olympics in this capacity. Jagmohan also became a physical conditioning advisor of the Cycling Federation of India in 2001.