



LOVE YOURSELF

Swedish-Greek actor Elli AvrRam, in her new media post, asks fans to love themselves

LEISURE P2



BRITAIN GOES GREEN

Britain will ban sale of new gasoline and diesel cars by 2030, PM Boris Johnson says

INTERNATIONAL P10



SPAIN HAMMER GERMANY

Spain enter Nations League last four after handing Germany their worst defeat in history in competitive matches

SPORTS P12

Odisha bags Best Marine State award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: Odisha has bagged the prestigious 'Best Marine State' award, announced the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Wednesday.

On the occasion of World Fisheries Day November 21, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying will present the award to Odisha comprising of ₹10 lakh. This apart, Kalahandi district has won the 'Best Inland District' award which comprises of ₹3 lakh.

October 11, the Golden beach in Puri was accorded the prestigious 'Blue Flag' certification by the Foundation for Environment Education (FEE), Denmark. Blue Flag beaches are considered to be the cleanest beaches in the world.

Puri beach is one of the eight beaches in the country that has been accorded the coveted Blue Flag tag by the FEE. A beach has to meet 33 criteria including environmental, educational, safety, and accessibility criteria fixed by the FEE to get the tag.

A 870-metre stretch of the beach from Digabareni square to the back of Mayfair Hotel has been developed as Blue Flag beach under the World Bank-funded Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZMP) of the State Forest and Environment department and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

At 95%, Pfizer goes one notch up

A WEEK AFTER MODERNA'S 94.5% SUCCESS RATE CLAIM, PFIZER SAYS ITS FINAL VAX TRIAL IS 95% EFFECTIVE AND PLANS TO APPLY FOR EMERGENCY US AUTHORISATION WITHIN DAYS

AGENCIES

New York, Nov 18: Final results from Pfizer Inc's COVID-19 vaccine trial showed its shot had a 95 per cent success rate and two months of safety data. It paves our way to apply for an emergency US authorisation within days, it said Wednesday.

The vaccine's efficacy rate, the highest of any candidate in late-stage clinical trials so far, pleased experts who had already said that interim results showing Pfizer's shot was over 90 per cent effective were very encouraging.

Pfizer said there were 170 cases of COVID-19 in its trial of more than 43,000 volunteers and only eight people with the disease had been given the shot rather than a placebo, meaning the vaccine had a 95 per cent efficacy rate. Of the 10 people who developed severe COVID-19, one had received the vaccine.

"The data is very strong," said Ian Jones, a professor of virology at Britain's University of Reading. "It's looking like a real contender."

Pfizer said it expects the US Food and Drug Administration's vaccine advisory committee to review and discuss the data in a public meeting that will likely be held in December.

The final analysis comes just a week after initial results from the trial showed the vaccine was more than 90 per cent effective. Moderna Inc Monday released preliminary data for its vaccine, showing 94.5 per cent effectiveness.

The better-than-expected results from the two vaccines, both developed with new messenger RNA (mRNA) technology, have raised hopes for an end



THE FINAL ANALYSIS COMES JUST A WEEK AFTER INITIAL RESULTS FROM THE TRIAL SHOWED THE VACCINE WAS MORE THAN 90 PC EFFECTIVE

WHILE SOME GROUPS SUCH AS HEALTHCARE WORKERS WILL BE PRIORITISED IN THE UNITED STATES FOR VACCINATIONS THIS YEAR, IT WILL BE MONTHS BEFORE LARGE-SCALE ROLLOUTS BEGIN

to a pandemic that has killed more than 1.3 million people and wreaked havoc upon economies and daily life.

However, while some groups such as healthcare workers will be prioritised in the United States for vaccinations this year, it will be months before large-scale rollouts begin.

Pfizer said the efficacy of the vaccine developed with German partner BioNTech SE was consistent across different age and ethnic groups, a sign

that the immunisation could be employed broadly around the world.

Efficacy in adults over 65 years, who are at particular risk from the virus, was over 94 per cent.

MILD SIDE EFFECTS

Pfizer said its vaccine, BNT162b2, was well-tolerated and that side effects were mostly mild to moderate, and cleared up quickly.

The only severe adverse event that affected more than two per cent of those vaccinated was fatigue, which affected 3.7 per cent of recipients after the second dose. Older adults tended to report fewer and milder adverse events.

Moderna named five categories of severe side effects experienced by at least two per cent of those who received its vaccine. It listed fatigue at a frequency of 9.7 per cent, muscle pain at 8.9 per cent, joint pain at 5.2 per cent, headache at 4.5 per cent, pain at 4.1 per cent and redness around the injection site at two per cent.

Senior citizens, pregnant women priority: Naveen

BHUBANESWAR: Apart from healthcare workers, senior citizens and pregnant women will get priority in Covid-19 vaccine distribution programme, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here, Wednesday.

Reviewing Covid-19 situation in the state, Naveen said hopes of getting the vaccine are high. "Therefore, priority will be given to pregnant women and people above 60 years along with the health workers at the time of vaccination."

He added that the database of patients with serious illnesses and comorbidity would be helpful in this regard and emphasised the need to develop a professional, scientific, and full proof action plan for vaccinating the most vulnerable sections of the society. So far, the mask is the most effective preventive measure for Covid-19. Therefore, he once again appealed the people to wear mask and follow Covid guidelines like washing hands and maintaining social distance.

"Like America and Western European countries, New Delhi is witnessing second wave of Covid. Therefore, we all have to remain cautious during this winter season," he said. "The government has been able to control the infection with advanced planning, infrastructure, efficiency and effective monitoring of various schemes," the CM stated.

'No' Question Hour in Assembly's Winter Session too

The Question Hour should have been held to enable the MLAs to raise the problems of their respective constituencies

PRADIPTA KUMAR NAIK | LOP, BJP

The decision to cancel the Question Hour is undemocratic and illegal

NARASINGHA MISHRA | CONGRESS LEGISLATURE PARTY LEADER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: The Winter Session of the Odisha Legislative Assembly, scheduled to begin from November 20, will have no Question Hour due to Covid-19, informed Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro Wednesday. "Like the previous Monsoon Session, there will be no Question Hour," he said.

After holding the all-party meeting, the Speaker said the decision to this effect was taken in view of the Covid-19 situation.

Patro said the House will run for four and a half hours every day in adherence to all Covid-19 protocols. He said seating arrange-

ments have been made for the members in accordance with the Covid-19 guidelines. Senior MLAs will have the option to join the House through video conference, he added.

The legislators, staff and journalists, among others, will be allowed to enter the state Assembly only if they test negative for Covid-19. The Covid-19 test was carried out at the Assembly premises.

The supplementary budget for 2020-21 will be tabled on the first day of the session November 20.

However, Opposition BJP and Congress opposed the decision to suspend the Question Hour.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Good to know that you are committed to freedom of press. Please show some commitment to freedom of pressmen too.

11 DEAD IN ROAD MISHAP IN GUJ

VADODARA: At least 11 people died and 16 others were injured when a mini-truck in which they were travelling ramed into another truck on the outskirts of Gujarat's Vadodara early Wednesday morning, police said. The accident took place at Waghodia circle near the city around 2.45 am when the victims were heading towards Pavagadh in Panchmahal district, Vadodara Deputy Commissioner of Police Karanraj Vaghela said.

7 arrested for 'murdering' six of a family in Bolangir

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patnagarh, Nov 18: Police claimed to have cracked the murder of six of a family with the arrest of seven persons here in Bolangir, Wednesday.

This was revealed here by Bolangir SP Madkar Sandeep Sampat at a press meet held at the Patnagarh police station, here Wednesday. The victims were identified as Bulu Jani, 50, his wife Jyoti Jani, 45, children Sarita Jani, 12, Bhisma Jani, 5, Sanjiv Jani, 2, Sriya Jani, 3.

The accused were identified as Babulal Jani, 55, Chhaya Gond, 26, Baldev Gond, 27, Manish Gond, 24, Bhola Jani, 20, Shiva Jani, 19, and Bikal Kairi alias Singha, 20. Two more accused Gangua Jani, 50, and his son Debaraj Jani, 18, are absconding.

Three vehicles, six mobile phones and weapons used in the murders were seized from the possession of the accused.

The incident took place at the

house of Bulu Jani over a turf war involving four families at Sanrapada November 11. The murder incident was a fallout of a 10-year-old rivalry between Bulu's family and the accused families, the SP added.

Reports said that Bulu Jani, originally a native of Jharkhand, came and had settled down at Sanrapada in the town for the last 12 years. He was earning his living by selling honey. Soon other members of his community followed him and got settled in the area.

Bulu had a hostile relationship with the accused as he tried to dominate them in all aspects which led to a turf war between the former and the accused family. Bulu used to beat them up to exert his influence on the accused families.

Nine persons were involved in murdering Bulu Jani and his family members at Sanrapada village under Patnagarh police limits on the day.

DESSERT TO EYES



As the sun sets, fishermen call it a day and tourists enjoy the scenic beauty at Pentakota beach in Puri, Wednesday

PIC BY ANIL KUMAR SAHOO

HSC, PLUS II EXAMS MAY BE DEFERRED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: With schools and colleges across Odisha remaining shut due to Covid-19 pandemic and a lot of syllabi pending, S&ME Minister Samir Dash Wednesday said that the department is considering deferment of 2020-21 matriculation and Plus-II examinations.

The state High School Certificate (HSC) and Plus II examinations are usually conducted in February-March every year.



There might be a delay but both the Matric and Plus-II annual examinations will be held in this academic year. After holding classes for a minimum of three months, arrangements will be made for both the exams

SAMIR RANJAN DASH | MINISTER, DEPT OF SCHOOL AND MASS EDUCATION

Addressing the media here, Dash said, "There might be a delay but both the Matric and Plus-II annual examinations will be held in this academic year. After holding classes for a minimum of three months, arrangements will be made for both the exams."

On the other hand, if the Central government decides to cancel the board examinations, the Odisha government may also follow the same rule, added Dash.

The minister further stated that the department will discuss the re-opening of schools for Class X and XII after December 31.

No cure yet for illegible medicine prescriptions

THOUGH DIRECTED BY THE ORISSA HC 3 MONTHS AGO TO RELEASE A CIRCULAR INSTRUCTING THE DOCS TO PRESCRIBE MEDS IN CAPITAL LETTERS ONLY, THE STATE GOVT HASN'T DONE SO

KULDEEP SINGH & MANISH KUMAR, OP

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: It has been almost three months since the Orissa High Court directed the state government to issue circular asking the doctors to prescribe medicines only in capital letters for better legibility. However, the state government still has not released any such circular.

While several doctors write legible prescriptions, many continue to pen those in a manner which is found hard to be deciphered by the patients, pharmacists, police and courts in medico-legal cases. When contacted for response, senior bureaucrats in concerned departments feigned ignorance on the matter and 'promised' to look



PIC FROM 'THEQUINT'

into it. "We will check the court order and take necessary steps accordingly," a senior official from the state Health and Family Welfare department said.

Doctors and their associations on the other side said that they are 'likely' to comply with the HC order and other such previous orders by national bodies like the

Medical Council of India (MCI). "It is true that many are not writing the prescriptions in capital letters. Instructions have been passed regarding the same from the MCI as well as the Orissa HC. We as doctors don't have any problem with that and most of us and our associations are in favour of that. In the upcoming days, such trend will be followed," Dr Braj Kishore Dash, Honorary Secretary, India Medical Association (IMA), Odisha Chapter told Orissa POST.

He added that the Health department has communicated the instructions from the Orissa HC to the concerned Chief District Medical Officers (CDMO) for compliance and the new system would soon see light of the day.

HC'S OBSERVANCE

August 10, a bench of the Orissa HC headed by Justice Sanjeeb Panigrahi had ordered, "This court feels, it is imperative that the entire physician community needs to go an extra mile and make conscious efforts to write prescriptions in good handwriting preferably in capital letter...." It asked the doctors to write prescriptions in capital letters and observed that illegible scrawls composed by doctors create unnecessary nuisance.



MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	44180.05	▲ 227.34
NIFTY	12938.30	▲ 64.10
DOLLAR	74.68	▼ ₹0.25
EURO	87.93	▼ ₹0.39
GOLD	₹50,370	▼ ₹396
SILVER	₹62,540	▼ ₹708

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 33.9°C	34.6°C
	MIN 21.5°C	20.5°C
Humidity	71%	62%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light rain likely	



DIPLO DENIES DISTRIBUTING REVENGE PORN IMAGES

Grammy Award-winning DJ Diplo has denied allegations of an anonymous woman that he distributed revenge porn images of her. While a restraining order has been filed against Diplo by the woman, the DJ's lawyer has denied the accusations against his client, reports *rollingstone.com*.

SPIKE LEE TO DIRECT MUSICAL ABOUT ORIGINS OF VIAGRA

Filmmaker Spike Lee will direct a movie musical about the origin story of Viagra. The film is based on David Kushner's Esquire article titled, *All Rise: The Untold Story Of The Guys Who Launched Viagra*. Lee will direct the untitled musical from a screenplay he wrote with Kwame Kwei-Armah.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You feel like a champ! Your cherished goals will seem within your grasp today. Whatever stress you're feeling will soon dissipate, as you will realise that even if you don't have success, you have the love and support of your family, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
You will tackle your problems with a human touch as your inner self reigns supreme today, predicts Ganesh. Worries and troubles will hide you but let the barking dogs lie and focus on spending quality time with loved ones.

GEMINI
A chance encounter with an old friend will leave you feeling nostalgic. You will reminisce about the good old days for most part of the day. You are likely to meet a marriage prospect and leave a good impression on him/her.

CANCER
Today, you will be day-dreaming about your sweetheart. And as the day ends, the dream may come true, predicts Ganesh. In the afternoon, you will handle certain perilous situations with great tact.

LEO
Are you sure you did not marry your boss? Well, if you haven't, then you might have some problem with your spouse's bossy attitude. The best thing would be for you to try and sort out the individual differences with your partner.

VIRGO
Your love life will hit choppy waters today, warns Ganesh. Care and concern are important in all the matters, especially in the afternoon. Hedge a bet in matters of money. But, keep your head high and flip back to your own charismatic self, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
We all like a story with a twist in the tale, don't we? Well, hold on to your horses today, because you may be going down the same twisted road when it comes to your career, foretells Ganesh. Your slogan of hard work seems to be your answer for everything.

SCORPIO
Cupid's darts are more potent than ever today, warns Ganesh. Romantic rebirth might lead to a newer you. At the end of the day, you shall find the answer to those intimate problems, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
You may be surprised at the state of your support and subsidy, says Ganesh. Economics will worry you today. Your generally upbeat mood will be marred by small, insignificant problems at work. Hedge your bets carefully in matters of money, advises Ganesh. But keep those spirits high and meet all such matters head-on.

CAPRICORN
For once, you will think straight, planning for the future and saving every bit of your earnings for a comfortable, if not luxurious, life, says Ganesh. To your loved ones, you will come across as relenting and forgiving of the mistakes committed in the past. Later, however, you may feel others took advantage of your benignity, but it will only be a fleeting thought.

AQUARIUS
Your ambition makes you overbearing, and foot-in-mouth will be a common phenomenon today. If you're too forceful or insistent, you may be tormented by regret tomorrow. Avoid being coerced into taking drastic decisions, cautions Ganesh.

PISCES
While you are likely to be swamped today by new contracts or job offers, you would do well to carefully analyse all the pros and cons of the proposals at hand before you commit to them, lest you regret your move later, says Ganesh.

Elli AvrRam professes self-love



Mumbai: Swedish-Greek actress Elli AvrRam talks of self love in her new social media post, flaunting a perfectly sculpted frame.

The picture, posted on Instagram, shows Elli in a lacy white brassiere paired with army print shorts. Her back is towards the camera and she turns flash to smile.

"Remember to Love yourself," she wrote to fans, with a long list of tags such as #fitness, #healthylifestyle, #embrace#love, #yourself, #stayfit, #happy#grateful, #humble, #live, #laugh, #be#beautiful, #authentic, #you#ElliAvrRam, and #yourstruly."

The actress will soon be seen acting in a Swedish short film titled *With You*. On the Hindi film front, she had featured in Mohit Suri's *Malang* earlier this year. Recently, Elli posted her self-composed poem on Instagram with a couple of pictures where looks sultry in a see-through black netted number. IANS



John chronicles his pain story

Mumbai: Actor John Abraham has used social media to share proof that when it comes to fitness, there is no gain without pain.

He shared a post-workout picture where he flaunts muscles.

"I'm smiling inside :) #postworkout #goodpain," he captioned the image. Last week, John encouraged fitness enthusiasts by sharing photographs of his workout session on social media.

John shared pictures from the gym on his verified Instagram account where he can be seen lifting weights. The actor showed off biceps and triceps in black and white photographs.

"No rest for the weary," captioned the actor using the hashtags #riseandgrind, #beastmode and #gym #fitness.

On the work front, John has started shooting for his upcoming film, *Satyameva Jayate 2*.

The Milap Zaveri directorial also stars Manoj Bajpayee and Divya Khosla Kumar, and is a sequel of the 2018 action drama *Satyameva Jayate*. IANS

Yami shares her meaning of life

Mumbai: Actress Yami Gautam is balancing business with pleasure in gorgeous Dharamshala lately, and has found the meaning of life in the process, it seems.

Yami posted a picture on Instagram where she is seen holding a cup and smiling at the camera, as the sun rays fall on her face. In the caption, she drew up a check list.

"Himachal (tick mark emoji) winter mornings (tick mark emoji) chai (tick mark emoji) filter-free (tick mark emoji) = life (tick mark emoji)," she wrote as the caption.

The actress is currently shooting for the horror comedy *Bhoot Police* in the Himachal Pradesh hill town. Directed by Pawan Kripalani, the film also stars Saif Ali Khan, Jacqueline Fernandez, and Arjun Kapoor.

Earlier the *Vicky Donor* actor said that her job gives her ample opportunity to travel and explore places as much as she would love. IANS



Actors who gave OTT boost to their fading careers

Actress Radhika Apte, who is hailed as the 'Queen of OTT platforms', has earned widespread praise for her performance in web shows like 'Lust Stories' and 'Sacred Games'

Advent of OTT platforms has not only been a boon for fresh talent, many senior actors are also seeing a fresh lease of life to the careers thanks to the digital domain.

Here goes a list of actors who saw a new life to their career all thanks to streaming platforms

Sushmita Sen
The actress, who was last



seen in the 2015 Bengali film *Nirbaak*, made her acting comeback with a fierce avatar through the web series *Aarya*. The show is about how her protagonist 'Aarya' is pulled into the narcotics business when her family is threatened.

"The response to *Aarya* has been overwhelmingly great. An entire team of fantastic people put this show together and we knew we were creating something magical with this series," said the *Blivi no.1* actress.

Saif Ali Khan
After hitting a rough patch with a string of forgettable stuff like *Rangoon*, *Chef and Baazaar*, Saif's career got a breath of fresh air with *Sacred Games*, which brought him back into the action. He is now looking forward to another digital outing with the web show *Tandav*.

Bobby Deol
The *Soldier* actor started his second innings with much-hyped multi-starrers like *Race 3* and *Housefull 4*, but these films did not help his career. Now, he has found a resounding return thanks to his starring role in the OTT series, *Aashram*.

Radhika Apte
She has earned widespread praise for her performance in web shows like *Lust Stories* and *Sacred Games* and is hailed as the 'Queen of OTT platforms'.

"At the moment, the digital platforms seem to be giving women more court to play with many more and stronger protagonists," Radhika who was last seen in *Raat Akeli Hai*, which streams on Netflix.

Amit Sahl
Amit's foray into Hindi films like *Kai Po Che!* and *Sultan*, was applauded but these films did

not help him much when it comes to garnering the limelight.

That has happened in the OTT space. Earlier this year, Amit had pivotal roles in the digitally-released films *Shakuntala Devi* and *Yaara* and he made a mark with his role of a cop over two seasons of *Breathe*.

Pankaj Tripathi
Pankaj was a phenomenon waiting to happen but the Mumbai film industry didn't quite have the roles after he made his mark with that small but impressive outing in *Gangs Of Wasseypur*. His real turnaround happened on OTT, as the dreaded gangster 'Kaleen Bhaiyya' in the web series *Mirzapur*, and *Sacred Games*, where he played the power-hungry Guruji. At the moment, he is seen as a gangster in *Ludo*, which is streaming on Netflix.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8						
9				10		
11			12			
13						
14	15	16		17		
18						
19						
20						
21			22			
23						
24						

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Across

- 1 Pixels
- 3 Caribbean cruise stop
- 9 Flightless bird of New Zealand
- 10 Eskimo boat
- 11 Panda food (6,6)
- 14 Commotion
- 16 Talking bird of poetry
- 17 Jog
- 18 Auto accident (6-6)
- 21 Japanese port
- 22 Musical master
- 23 Type of hare
- 24 Lyric poems
- 5 Buttonhole fillers
- 6 Vagabond
- 7 Rice wine
- 8 Money haulers (8,4)
- 12 Cut off
- 13 Extraordinarily large
- 15 Mint family member
- 19 Passé
- 20 Swears
- 22 Farm call

Down

- 1 Welsher
- 2 Clan emblem
- 4 -en-Provence, France

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

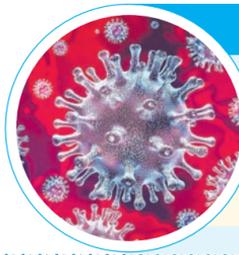
A	7	D	5	0	E	4	6	2	8	1	C	B	3	9
5	3	1	6	9	C	D	8	A	4	E	B	0	2	7
6	B	C	A	8	2	7	0	3	5	D	9	1	4	E
2	9	E	3	D	4	1	B	C	0	A	7	8	6	5
4	0	8	1	7	B	5	9	E	3	2	6	A	C	7
1	4	7	D	3	8	9	C	B	A	6	E	5	0	2
9	8	A	E	2	7	0	4	6	D	C	5	3	B	1
3	6	5	4	8	9	2	D	8	7	0	1	C	E	A
E	2	C	1	6	A	5	7	B	3	4	D	9	8	7
C	D	B	A	E	3	1	2	9	8	4	7	6	5	0
0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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



THRUST ON CLEANLINESS

Puri Collector Balwant Singh (2nd from L) visits Indradyumna pond in the Holy City to take stock of cleanliness aspect, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	5,61,57,049	3,91,20,688	13,47,459
India	89,12,907	83,35,109	1,30,993
Odisha	3,10,920	3,01,777	1,575

Govt prioritises 21 road projects in mining areas

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: In an attempt to boost the local economy and ensure faster evacuation/transportation of minerals, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy has asked the agencies concerned to complete 21 identified road projects on priority basis.

Carrying forward the doctrines of 5T and 'Ease of Doing Business', the government has prioritised 21 road projects in mining areas based on feedback received from the people and users.

Holding a meeting in this regard recently, Tripathy set timeline for each project and directed the of Works & Rural Development departments and National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to monitor progress of each project closely and ensure their timely completion.

He asked the Collectors of Sundargarh and Keonjhar districts to streamline the traffic movement for unhindered progress of the road construction.

Out of the prioritised roads, six are under the administrative control of Works department, seven under NHAI and two roads under Rural

BOOSTING LOCAL ECONOMY



Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy has set timeline for each project and stressed on their timely completion

He asked the Collectors of Sundargarh and Keonjhar to streamline traffic movement for unhindered progress of the road construction

Out of the prioritised roads, six are under the administrative control of Works department, seven under NHAI and two roads under Rural Development (RD) department.

The RD roads are: Rugudi to Kalmanga (6 km) and Kalmanga to Jaribahal (18 km). Additional Chief Secretary Rural Development PK Jena said both the roads would be completed by July 2021.

The NHAI roads included the road from Parsora (near Rimuli) to Rajamunda; Keonjhar to Tileibani NH-59; Cuttack to Sambalpur NH-55; Biramitrapur to Barkot via Rajamunda NH-143; Remuli to Panikoli NH-20; Chandikhol to Talcher NH-53; and Kalta Mines to

Roxy Railway Siding NH-20. Target was set to complete these NH projects by March 2022.

Similarly, Works department roads included the road from Nelda-Barbil (5.6 km); Barbil-Badasahi (8.9 km); Nayagarh to Jajang (18 km); Tensa to Barsua public siding (15 km); and repair of the bridge over Karo river. Review showed that these road projects are under progress. The Chief Secretary directed the departments concerned to complete these projects within the scheduled time.

MeT predicts dense fog for two days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Wednesday said dense fog is likely to occur at many places across the state for two days.

Some places of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Sundargarh, Dhenkanal, Angul, Kandhamal and Mayurbhanj districts would experience dense fog Thursday and Friday, the Met department said. The night temperature would remain almost same for next two to three days, it said.

Koraput was the coldest place of Odisha with recording a minimum temperature of 14 degrees Celsius while the night temperature was 15 degrees each at Daringibadi and Sonepur Phulbani and Angul registered a minimum temperature of 15.5 degrees and 16 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Night temperature at Bhubaneswar was 21.5 degrees Celsius whereas Cuttack recorded 20.5 degrees C Tuesday night.

WINTER IS HERE



A thick blanket of fog engulfs the Capital city, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

Shutting schools to foster quality education: Minister

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Samir Ranjan Dash Wednesday made it clear that the state government's decision to permanently shut a number of schools was based on the reports of the district Collectors' concerned.

The state government aims at providing quality education to school students in the years ahead, Dash clarified.

The S&ME department has already decided to permanently shut over 14,000 schools across Odisha from the next academic session.

"So far as the decision for completely shutting down 14,000 schools in the State is concerned, we have already identified them basing on below 20 students strength across Odisha while in coastal areas it is below 40. But, our government's intention is not to close down the schools, rather to impart quality education," Dash said.

"It is unfair to teach 18 to 20 students in a classroom and impart ed-



ucation from Class I to V. Schools mushroomed everywhere following the enactment of RTE (Right to Education) Act. It is now being observed that the students are being deprived of requisite number of classrooms and teachers as well," Dash argued.

Notably, in places where students would have to cross highways, rivers, streams, hills and forests to reach schools with fewer than 20 students will be allowed to continue on the basis of District Collectors' report.

Meanwhile, Odisha Parents Federation, Wednesday, said that they would organise an all-party

The S&ME dep has decided to permanently shut over 14,000 schools across Odisha from the next academic session

The Odisha Parents Federation said that it would organise an all-party meeting November 20 in which the parties will be asked to raise voice against the decision of shutting down government-run schools

meeting November 20 in which the parties will be asked to raise voice against the decision of shutting down government-run schools. "Shutting down government schools will put education system of the state in grave danger," said Prasanna Bisoi chairman of federation, adding that at this juncture the political parties must raise voice against the decision.

Instead of shutting down illegal private schools, they are shutting down government schools, violating the RTE norms.

Transfer of Ekamra Kanan land stalled

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: The decision to transfer the much-debated Ekamra Kanan land in Bhubaneswar to the General Administration (GA) department has been put on hold.

According to a letter from the Directorate of Horticulture written to the assistant director of Horticulture department Tuesday evening, the department directed the assistant director who is in charge of Ekamra



Kanan to maintain the status quo of the land as it was before.

Such a development came in the backdrop of widespread protests by opposition parties. The political parties decried the state government's decision to allegedly destroy forest areas for commercial exploitation.

Notably, the state government had earlier decided to transfer 20.192 acre of land from Ekamra Kanan to the General Administration department, except an area of 5.775 acre where there are buildings.

Major opposition parties in the state including the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress had raised questions over the modus operandi of the government.

3 IPS officers appointed

BHUBANESWAR: Three young IPS officers of 2018 batch got posted after completion of their Anti-Extremist Tactic course at the SOG Training and Resource Centre at Chandaka. While Abilash G has been posted as additional SP Malkangiri, Nitesh Wadhvani posted as additional SP, Talcher and Suresh as sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Kesinga.

NEW ROLE



Newly-elected BJD MLAs Bijaya Shankar Das (Tirtol) and Swarup Kumar Das (Balasore Sadar) pose for a photo after taking oath on Odisha Legislative Assembly premises, Wednesday

BMC peon held for nexus with drug peddlers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: Lingaraj Police Wednesday arrested a contractual employee of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) for his alleged links with brown sugar peddlers. The accused was identified as Dillip Bisoyi, a contractual peon at BMC.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided Dillip's house Wednesday. Police seized 7.8 gram brown sugar from his possession during the search operation. Police also seized ₹42,000 cash, five mobile phones, 40 gm gold and a car from his house.

While questioning, the police came to know about Bisoyi's alleged involvement with interstate drug peddlers. Bisoyi also has seven bank accounts to his name, police said.

No child should sleep under open sky: SCPCR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) Wednesday wrote to all the district Collectors and District Magistrates to ensure that no child sleeps under open sky during this winter.

SCPCR chairperson Sandhyabati Pradhan, in the letter, said that the commission has observed that there are children along with their homeless parents sleeping under the open sky in this chilling temperature in many of the urban locations. This raises serious concern about their safety and security. The possible rise in Covid-19 cases due to the onset of winter, as predicted by Health department, adds to their vulnerability.

In this context, the commission directs the district officials to organise special awareness drives for identification of such vulnerable children and their families in all urban set-ups in each district. A campaign should be launched by district administration to ensure that no child sleeps under open sky. WhatsApp and dedicated telephone number can be assigned for the purpose, reads the letter.

Coordination between District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) is necessary to ensuring shelter for them. Also, the administrations must ensure child-friendly space within shelter for urban homeless.

The SCPCR sought monthly reviews of such children and their situation in all the districts.

FIRE SAFETY CERTIFICATE FULLY MADE ONLINE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: The state government has decided to issue fire safety certificates for industries, commercial establishments and business houses through online only. The decision was taken in accordance with the State Reform Action Plan and District Level Business Action Reform Plan.

Business units are no longer required to get in touch with authorities physically except in cases where inspection/site visit is mandated by law.

The Home department has recently issued a notification to this effect. "Fire services for indus-

tries, commercial establishments and businesses shall be dealt with online web-systems only and any function with offline mode is dispensed forthwith," the notification said.

Fire safety certificates downloaded from the portal will be valid across the state.

Submission of physical/manual application to the authorities in addition to online application is not necessary now. No physical copies of documents will be required which was uploaded by the applicant at the time of submission of online application. The applications will be disposed of within the stipulated timeline.

PAPERLESS MOVE



Now, there is no need to submit any paper related to fire safety physically

Fire safety certificates downloaded from the portal will be valid across the state

The state government is implementing the business reforms to enhance its borrowing capacity

All authorities have been asked to accept downloaded and digitally signed certificates from the portal as valid and not ask physically

signed/stamped certificates.

However, the applicant will have to produce authentic copy of the respective documents on demand by

the appropriate authority during inspection/site visit.

The state government is implementing the business reforms to enhance its borrowing capacity. While allowing the states to borrow up to 5 per cent of the gross state domestic product (GSDP) in the current year instead of the existing 3 per cent, the Centre has set certain conditions for the states.

The conditions include implementation of 'one nation, one ration card' scheme, introduction of reforms in the energy sector for power distribution companies and steps to increase revenue of urban local bodies and improve ease of doing business.

SERPENT GOD WORSHIP



Women from Telugu community perform Nagal Chaturthi puja in Talabania area of Puri, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

Mediation in Anubhav-Varsha discord begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 18: The Supreme Court mediation centre Wednesday held the first round of mediation between Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Anubhav Mohanty and his wife Varsha Priyadarshini through video-conferencing to settle their marital discord.

According to Anubhav Mohanty's counsel Ashwini Dubey, the Supreme Court mediation centre held first round of mediation Wednesday which was conducted by advocate Pooja Aanand.

Anand has been a mediator in Supreme Court and High Court for 12 years. The mediator has fixed the second round of mediation at 1 pm, November 21.

"The process of mediation is on and the mediator is putting her best efforts to resolve the dispute. And I'm sure that with the efforts of mediator and lawyers, parties will arrive at a logical conclusion.



FILE PHOTO

Keeping their young age in mind, the sooner is the separation the better and this will be in their interest," said Anubhav's advocate Dubey.

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

Earlier, the Supreme Court had October 16 asked the couple to explore possibilities of mutual settlement. A bench of Justice Hrishikesh Roy had heard the transfer petition filed by Varsha and asked the couple to appear before

the SC mediation centre here.

The bench had observed that both of them are high profile personalities in Odia cinema industry. The bench asked them to explore possibilities of amicable settlement.

The apex court's order had come in Varsha's petition seeking transfer of the divorce petition filed by Anubhav from Patiala House court to Family Court in Cuttack.

It is to be mentioned here that the BJD MP had filed the divorce petition in Patiala House Court here July

The Supreme Court is likely to take up the matter for hearing December 8. Anubhav had filed a divorce plea in Patiala House Court July 7

7 and submitted that since the date of wedding, the marriage between them have not been consummated as due to the selfish behaviour of Varsha.

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

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

State reports 868 fresh cases

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: State's Covid-19 caseload mounted to 3,10,920 as 868 more people tested positive for the infection, while 15 more patients succumbed to the infection, pushing Odisha's coronavirus death toll to 1,575, a senior Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department official said. As many as 502 new cases were reported in quarantine centres,



while 366 infections were detected during contact tracing, the official said. Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, reported the highest number of new cases at 102, followed by Sundargarh at 82 and Cuttack at 65. Khurda has so far reported the highest number of coronavirus fatalities at 270, followed by Ganjam (233), Cuttack (125) and Sundargarh (106). The state has so far tested over 53.76 lakh samples for Covid-19 including 45,455 Tuesday. Odisha's positivity rate stands at 5.78 per cent.

Dedicated hospital for Covid warriors

BHUBANESWAR: In a bid to offer better healthcare facilities to frontline workers, the state government Wednesday designated Aditya Aswini Hospital here for the treatment of all Covid warriors. In a letter to the Directorate of Medical Education & Training (DMET) and Directorate of Health Services (DHS), Rajesh Kumar Agarawala, the deputy secretary to Health and Family Welfare department, has asked to make necessary arrangements at the earliest. "After careful consideration, on priority basis the government is pleased to designate the Aditya Ashwini Covid-19 Hospital for the treatment of doctors and Covid-19 warriors," the letter read. The state government had October 18 last announced to provide ₹50 lakh by way of compensation to the families of Covid warriors who died on duty.

The state government Tuesday claimed that the case fatality ratio (CFR) in Odisha stands at 0.50 per cent which is one of the lowest in the country.

FOR A CAUSE



Artistes under the banner of 'Odisha Pathapranata Nataka Mahasangha' hold a silent demonstration near Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, urging the state government to allow resuming street plays.

Odisha to develop water, crop info guiding system

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: The state government has decided to develop Integrated Water and Crop Information and Management System (IWCIMS) for proper management of water resources soon. The Water Resources (WR) department has constituted to collect data for development of the system. Department special sec-

retary Archana Pattnaik will head the team while engineer-in-chief is the nodal officer of the panel. "The IWCIMS aims at collecting and collating data related to surface and ground water on a Geographic Information System (GIS) enabled platform with a Decision Support System (DSS) customized for specific needs of the State," the WR department said in a notification. The state-specific system will

enable it to have a repository of satellite images of the ground and surface water bodies, role of artificial intelligence in managing water resources and scientific management of dams among others. This data will help in disseminating information about crop patterns to farmers and provide them with the irrigation facilities increasing the productivity and income thereby, sources said.

DGP SUBMITS STATUS REPORT ON 'GANGRAPE'

Cuttack, Nov 18: Director General of Police (DGP) Abhay Wednesday submitted an affidavit and a status report with the Orissa High Court related to the investigation into the alleged gangrape of a minor in Bhubaneswar. The police top brass appeared before the HC through video conferencing. While expressing displeasure over the 'tardy probe' into the case, the court scheduled the next hearing for December 16 this fall. Notably, the sensational case was initially investigated by the Mahila police in Bhubaneswar August 30. Later, the Crime Branch took over the probe. The Crime Branch had November 9 submitted its investigation report with the HC. However, the HC asked the DGP to appear personally during the hearing of the case.

2nd phase eviction begins for SCBMCH expansion

Cuttack, Nov 18: The second phase of the eviction drive for the beautification and expansion of SCB Medical College and Hospital here started Wednesday. Sources said that the dwellers who had opposed a similar eviction drive launched earlier were seen cooperating with the civic body and police officials. The demolition work will be carried out from Matrubhawan to Ranihat as there will be a 3-lane road on both sides of the Taladanda Canal. In the first phase, it has been extended from Jobra to Ranihat. The evicted people from 95 houses were being shifted to Jagatpur area. This apart, the families evicted have been provided with ₹50,000 each as compensation. The second phase of the eviction drive has been started as the road from Matrubhawan to Ranihat required to be widened. Many shops in the area have been evicted. The eviction was carried out with deployment of heavy police force to avoid any disturbances. Notably, the eviction drive will be carried out in three phases to clear the SCBMCH area from encroachment. The survey regarding the third phase of the demolition drive has already been completed by the district administration.

ECoR spells out new norms for boarding

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: To prevent the spread of coronavirus, it has been decided to follow the guidelines issued by Central and state governments strictly at railway stations. In view of this and to handle this crisis situation, East Coast Railway has taken steps to handle and prevent spread of corona virus. Thermal scanning of all the passengers is available only at Platform Number 1 of Bhubaneswar Railway Station. Also, baggage scanning machine and baggage sanitizing machines were also installed at Platform Number 1. Recently, baggage wrapping machine was also installed at the platform.

FRESH GUIDELINES

- Entry into Bhubaneswar Railway Station only through Platform Number 01
- Passengers are requested to arrive at least 90 minutes before departure of the train
- Passengers with confirmed tickets only will be allowed into the platform

To effectively manage crowd and maintain proper discipline in social distancing, entry by Platform Number 1 is allowed as of now. Due to the pandemic, 50% employees are working in roster duty. As staffs are less, it would be difficult

MoU signed for road over bridges

In order to ensure safety of both passengers and rail users and facilitate hassle-free movement of both rail and road traffic, Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and Road Under Bridges (RUBS) & Limited Height Subways are being constructed by abolishing Level Crossing Gates. In order to achieve this goal, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between East Coast Railway and Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) for execution of work for construction of six ROBs between Ranital-Jenapur Railway Stations of Ranital-Cuttack Railway Section under Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway in Howrah-Chennai Main line.

to provide security at PF no 6 side, if opened. As there is no train services on Platform no 06, the opening of gate will involve wasteful expenditure and create security hazards. Staff coming in contact with passengers at mass contact areas like

booking and reservation offices is specially being sensitized and the same with Train Travelling Ticket Examiners (TTEs). Hence for better passenger security and covid precautions entry is allowed in Platform Number- 1.

Patients carried on shoulders, rickshaws at cancer hospital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 18: The Acharya Harihar Postgraduate Institute of Cancer in the Silver City here is yet to have battery-operated vehicles for carrying patients from one place to other. As a result, patients are being carried on shoulders or rickshaws from one building to other at the premium cancer care hospital. "Most of the cancer patients are too weak to walk on their own. Their relatives often carry them on shoulders or rickshaws from one place to other at the cancer hospital for various tests and availing healthcare facilities. The hospital authorities are yet to introduce battery-operated vehicles for patients," said a social activist.



A patient being carried on rickshaw

The relatives of many patients urged the state government to look into the issue at the earliest. "The state government is spending huge sums for upgrading healthcare facilities in Odisha. But, it has not taken any step to introduce battery-operated vehicles for patients at the Acharya Harihar Postgraduate Institute of Cancer," they said. Cancer hospital director Lalatendu Sarangi said they had raised the issue with the state government a few months ago. "We will soon send a reminder to the state government," he said. It is worth mentioning here that battery-operated vehicle facility was launched at Sriram Chandra Bhanja Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) here around eight years ago.

At present, the state-run hospital has six battery-operated rickshaws for the welfare of patients. However, many attendants claimed that the six e-rickshaws were not sufficient for a big health institute like SCBMCH. "Out of the six e-rickshaws at SCBMCH, one is engaged for carrying drugs and health equipment from one place to other while another two have been reserved for Covid patients. So, there is a shortage of e-rickshaw at the hospital," Prasanta Kumar Barik, a patient's relative. It is learnt that the super specialty unit and some other departments of SCBMCH including surgery and casualty have sought separate e-rickshaws for their patients.

HITTING THE STREETS



BJD workers demonstrate near Town police station in Puri, Wednesday, condemning the recent statement of BJP's Lekhasree Samantsinghar 'demeaning' the Holy City

UTKAL UNIVERSITY 'REINVENTS' LIBRARY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: With the aim to reinvent Parija Library, Utkal University officials inaugurated a renovated reading hall here recently. The PhD scholarhall in the library has also been renovated. Approximately ₹56 lakhs were spent on the project. Anveshan hall houses 16 rooms for the PhD scholars on the second floor and a reading room for students in the name of Manoj Das has been created on the fifth floor of the library. It is set up to inform students about the life and philosophy of

Manoj Das. Books on his life and work will be available in the room. In the digital times, libraries have become less popular among the students. They have access to all sorts of information through their phones. In a bid to attract more students to the library, the university ad-



File photo of Parija Library

...We have tried to reinvent Parija library with a vision to transform it into a ground for intellectual growth. The library will no longer be a silent zone but a buzzing space for intellectual interaction

Soumendra Mohan Patnaik | UTKAL UNIVERSITY VC

ministration has taken a few steps to also make the peripheral area more inviting. The road opposite to

the library has been declared a No vehicular zone in order to avoid distraction and noise pollution. A visit to the adjacent Gandhi Memorial Park will make the experience even more serene and enjoyable. Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor, Soumendra Mohan Patnaik said, "All departments of the university have their own libraries. However, they work in silos and the number of books available there is also limited. That's why we have tried to reinvent Parija library with a vision to transform it into a ground for intellectual growth. The library will no longer be a silent zone but

a buzzing space for intellectual interaction." The two projects are housed on second and fifth floor of the library. Students can read and engage in intellectual discussions in these rooms. Parija library also has been adding e-resources in the e-library. Vice-chancellor Patnaik, registrar Avaya Kumar Nayak, PG Council Chairperson Basant Malik, Director CDC, Nigamananda Das, RUSA Coordinator P.K. Hota, New Campus OSD J. Dandpat, Library In-charge Bhaswati Patnaik and Chief librarian Ravindra Garada were present during the inaugural programme.

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Fakes get tokens as genuine farmers suffer

BOGUS TEACHERS GALORE AS NO PROGRESS IN PROBE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jeypore, Nov 18: Bogus farmers are allegedly registered by middlemen in Koraput to avail the benefits of minimum support price (MSP).

Farmers in Jeypore area alleged that there had been irregularities in online registration of farmers for paddy procurement in the kharif season. Farmers of Kusumi panchayat have taken up the issue with Jeypore sub-collector.

Due to fraud in registration, middlemen are taking advantage of paddy procurement while genuine farmers are deprived of their rights, they alleged.

Officials of the LAMP and civil supplies officials are involved in the irregularities, they claimed.

Sanyasi Gadba, a resident of Bijarapalli, is landless, but his name was registered online for paddy procurement. Sanyasi was unaware of his registration.

Similarly, Gangadhar Gadba and Balaram Gadba are also landless, but their names were registered online. Official records of the two show that Gangadhar and Balaram have 20 acres and 25 acres respectively, but the reality is different.

In another case, the name of Dambu Bhumia, a local farmer, was registered online while his land records were tagged to the name of Arjun Bhumia, another

ILLS OF PROCUREMENT



Farmers in Jeypore area alleged that there had been irregularities in online registration of farmers for paddy procurement in the kharif season. Farmers of Kusumi panchayat have taken up the issue with Jeypore sub-collector

SANYASI GADBA, A RESIDENT OF BIJARAPALLI, IS LANDLESS, BUT HIS NAME WAS REGISTERED ONLINE FOR PADDY PROCUREMENT. SAYANSI WAS UNAWARE OF HIS REGISTRATION

SIMILARLY, GANGADHAR GADBA AND BALARAM GADBA ARE ALSO LANDLESS, BUT THEIR NAMES WERE REGISTERED ONLINE. OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE TWO SHOW THAT GANGADHAR AND BALARAM HAVE 20 ACRES AND 25 ACRES RESPECTIVELY, BUT THE REALITY IS DIFFERENT

farmer of Mundipadar. Farmers had produced copies of evidence about the irregularities to the district civil supplies officer and the Kotpad tehsildar.

They alleged that though a month had passed since they apprised the officials of the matter, not step had been taken.

The farmers submitted a memorandum to the administration.

They demanded that fake registrations be cancelled and genuine farmers be registered.

The farmers demanded an investigation into the scam and action against those involved in it.

Notably, farmers of western Odisha are reportedly upset over the token system. The system has made it mandatory for farmers to obtain token numbers on their

mobile phones first before they are allowed to sell their produce in the mandis. However, the system has proved counter-productive. Farmers have to wait for weeks before they are given tokens leading to their harassment. Many farmer organizations have discussed the issue and are said to be bracing up for agitation against the token system.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Nov 18: Even as fake teachers are dime a dozen in various parts of the state, little has been done to weed out these fraudsters as the state government-ordered probe has seen no headway, a report said. This has happened due to the go-slow approach of the district administrations. The fraudsters are working in various parts of the state based on fake documents of B.Ed and CT degrees. Due to improper verification of their documents they have managed to grab the service.

This has seriously hit the education delivery system in the state and deprived actual degree holders of getting appointments as teachers, the report said.

Reports said three fake teachers have been posted in Jajpur district, one in Cuttack district, three in Nabarangpur district, two in Khurda district, one in Kandhamal district, one in Dhenkanal district, one in Malkangiri district, two in Nayagarh district, three in Kendrapara district, four in Bhadrak district, one in Nuapada district, one in Balasore district, eight in Ganjam district, one in Gajapati district, one in Kalahandi district, one in Sundargarh and one in Rayagada district.

Reports said that the department



DEO Krushna Chandra Nayak said the certificates of the accused are being verified and action will be taken after receiving the probe report

of elementary education (DEE) has published a list of 35 fake teachers posted in 14 districts. The DEE has also directed respective district education officers (DEOs), block education officers (BEOs) and project coordinators of Sarva Sishkya Abhiyan to conduct a probe into the charges and submit a report to it. The DEE has served notices four times in this regard but nothing has been done yet.

The school and mass education department and DEE had thrice issued order for fresh verification of documents of the fakes in 2015 and 2016. The DEE has also issued an order four times between December 2019 and June, 2020.

The order says the fakes will be removed and prosecuted against at local police stations. Action will be taken against fake teachers based on Section-15 of OCS (CCA) rule-1962.

The deputy director of DEE and nodal officers have pulled up the DEOs, BEOs and 10 project coordinators time and again but nothing has come out. The deputy director and the nodal officer of DEE has sent a reminder October 29, 2020.

When contacted, DEO Krushna Chandra Nayak said the certificates of the accused are being verified and action will be taken after receiving the probe report.

Mineral-laden vehicles trigger traffic jam; locals left fuming

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, Nov 18: People living in villages along Joda-Bamebari road in Keonjhar district are sore over routine traffic jam caused by thousands of mineral-laden trucks. Thousands of such trucks, dumpers, trailers, buses, vans, auto rickshaws and bikes were stranded for hours Wednesday between Joda Laupalace and Kamarajoda.

Reports said, for the last two months, repair of this road is continuing. Several commuters, who were stuck in the traffic jam for hours Wednesday expressed their displeasure before media.

They pointed out that unpleasant situations spring up at different places due to stranded vehicles.

Some passengers like Mahesh Laguri, Sanjay Patra, Janam Singh and Chinta Gopa alleged that the



state government was earning crores of rupees from the mining sector, but the condition of roads is in bad shape leading to suffering of people.

Potholes and craters cause accidents on the route while traffic jams also cause inconvenience for patients going to hospitals.

Soumya Ranjan Jena, who was on way from Joda to Keonjhar was stuck for five hours Wednesday.

Many passenger buses, which were supposed to reach Joda bus stand in the wee hours, reached at 10 am. Others pointed out that traffic jams have become routine on this route.

Andhra tries to lure Kotia people, admins hold talks with locals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, Nov 18: Various government departments and agencies of Andhra Pradesh have been carrying out a number of developmental activities in Kotia panchayat of Koraput. The Andhra government has reportedly made a fresh bid to grab the fringe panchayat by luring its people with the help of middlemen, a report said. The neighbouring state is trying to make its claim on Kotia panchayat.

Meanwhile, the sub-collector and the nodal officer of the Kotia panchayat Lalita Mohan Kahar had sought a report on the development activities being carried out by AP in the panchayat.

Following his direction, the sub-collector, BDO Monalisa Debata, additional tehsildar Mahdev Bhatra, other officials Bhaskar Dakua, Bijayananda and panchayat executive officer Dushashan Nayak took stock of the situation at Uparasembi, Tala Ganjei Padar and Talsembi villages.

During the visit, the officials found that Andhra government is carrying out excavation of a number of ponds in many villages under the panchayat. They have submitted a report in this regard to the nodal officer of the Kotia panchayat.

Former sarpanch of Tala Ganjei



Officials of Koraput and Vishakhapatnam districts along with maps visited the area and held discussions with the villagers in Andhra side Wednesday

panchayat, Gemel Bisu said the ITDA of the neighbouring government is funding excavation of 30 to 35 ponds in 12 villages including Talasembi, Panukulaba, Uparasembi, Thulipadar, Kotia-01, Tala Ganjei padar, Kotia-02, Kurudipadar, Upara Ganjei Padara, Rana Singh, Paniki and Simagada.

The Andhra government is spending ₹10 on each pond. Besides pond digging, the neighbouring government has been carrying out several other development activities.

The Andhra government has also provided electricity to 25 households at Tala Ganjei Padar, which was declared as an ideal village.

On the other hand, the state government had undertaken several developmental projects in the panchayat. The block administration

had paid wages to the tune of ₹70 lakh to people. Moreover, works on drain and protection wall are under way in the panchayat at a cost of ₹15 lakh.

Official sources said the rural development department, DPEP and ITDA are executing projects worth ₹60 crore in the panchayat. It may be noted here that Kotia panchayat was formed with 21 fringe villages on the borders of Andhra Pradesh. The AP government made several bids in the past to grab the panchayats, stoking border controversies.

Meanwhile, officials of Koraput and Vishakhapatnam districts held discussions with the villagers in Andhra side Wednesday and advised them not to create problems with Kotia people till the matter was sorted out.

Stolen gold worth ₹18L seized in Balasore, 5 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Nov 18: In a major crackdown Wednesday, Soro police recovered a large portion of gold ornaments that were stolen from a goldsmith near Bidu Chhak at Soro in Balasore district November 5. Police arrested five inter-district dacoits in this connection.

According to police, four among the five arrested were identified as Sanatan Das, Ratikant Das, Chinmaya Das and Jitendra Das. The arrested are history-sheeters and a number of cases are pending against

them at different police stations in Balasore.

Notably, a goldsmith from Anandpur in Keonjhar district with gold ornaments weighing around 500 gms had arrived in Balasore to deliver the valuables to different jewelers. He was intercepted by five miscreants on NH-16. They brandished sharp weapons at the goldsmith and had looted the gold ornaments.

Acting on directives of Balasore SP Sudhanshu Sekhar Mishra, Soro IIC Madhumita Mohanty with a police team nabbed the anti-socials.

2 killed as truck crashes into shop

Keonjhar: Two persons were killed Wednesday after an iron-ore laden truck ramed into a roadside shop in Suakati of Keonjhar district. The shopkeeper and the helper of the vehicle died following the mishap. The shopkeeper has been identified as Dolagobinda Sahu. Sources said when Sahu was selling grocery items at his roadside shop, a truck coming to Keonjhar mining areas skidded off the road and dashed against the shop damaging it severely. The driver fled the scene and the truck has been seized. Traffic movement was disrupted on Suakati road following the accident. A portion of the shop was completely damaged, a local added. Police have recovered the bodies for post-mortem while the truck was seized. Efforts are on to catch the driver while further investigation is underway.

British era coast canal dying

FARMERS OF COASTAL POCKETS BAT FOR ITS RENOVATION TO BOOST AGRICULTURE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bahanaga, Nov 18: The coast canal dug up by the British between West Bengal and Odisha is on the verge of losing its existence in Bahanaga area of Balasore.

At different places, the canal has been silted for lack of renovation over decades. Even at some places, people have levelled up the canal and made roads on it. The canal seems to be dying a slow death because of lack of maintenance and dredging, the locals lamented.

Old timers say the coast canal used to play a key role in maritime activities as well as irrigation in coastal pockets of Balasore.

Revival of the British era canal has been a major demand of people. But, no steps have been taken to renovate the 221-km long water channel which would be of great help in boosting irrigation, flood control and pisciculture in coastal parts of the district.

Locals said if the canal is revived and connected with Kansabansa river at Baunsadia in Kharasahapur panchayat, over 2000 hectares of farmland at Abhana, Kharasahapur, Aruhabada, Baripada, Bishnupur and Chittal would get irrigation



The Coast canal has become shallow for lack of restoration

facility. The drought like situations could be solved in coastal parts, they added.

A stream from Panchalingeswar hill flows through Remuna and merges with the sea at Kantiachira. "If the government thinks of channelizing the stream water to the coast canal, farmers of Talapada, Srijanga, Includi and other panchayats could irrigate their land in case of dry spells, they pointed out.

Ramachandra Majhi, a farmer of Baripada, said, "The renovation of the coast canal assumes importance for irrigation in coastal pockets. Farmers would be raising crops twice a year by using its water. Its water can help people deal with drought

like situations that arise almost every year." Sridhar Majhi, a farmer of Barajadeuli village, observed, "The government should think of linking the coast canal with the sea at Kantiachira so as to remove drought situations in the area."

Narendra Sahu, a farmer of Aruhabada, said the British government had built this canal to promote transport inland water. If this channel is dredged, it will be made good use for irrigation purpose, he added.

The canal work started in 1866 and it was envisaged to protect people from acute famine. Later, it was renovated in 1888. In 1909, the British government had stopped its renovation. Its

year-long construction had created huge scope of labour for local residents at the critical time.

At that time, the canal proved to be a boon for undivided Balasore for opening up maritime trade, transport and communication routes in Bhograi, Baliapal and Basta. The canal covers 13 km in Bhograi, 14 km in Jamkunda in Baliapal and 13 km from Jamkunda to Madhata.

Additional agriculture officer Ranganath Patra said the agriculture department has already written to the government for renovation of the canal to boost irrigation.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, R.W.S. & S. DIVISION, GAJAPATI PARALAKHEMUNDI, ODISHA

Email: eerwsggp@gmail.com, Ph.No.06815 224803
Invitation of Bid Through E-Tendering
Bid identification No. EE/RWS&S/GPT/19 of year 2020-21
No.O-565-1. The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Gajapati on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in single cover system in ONLINE MODE for Rural Piped Water Supply Projects as detailed in the DTCN to be hoisted in the website www.tenderorissa.gov.in. The eligible class of contractors may offer their bids for e-procurement.
2. No. of works: 13.
3. Estimated cost: Ranging from approx. Rs. 10.00 to Rs.89.00 lakhs.
4. Period of completion: 04 to 08 calendar months.
5. Tender cost: Rs.6000 to Rs.10000/- as mentioned in the Annexure.
6. Class of contractor: 'D', 'C', 'B' & 'A' Class.
7. Date & time of availability of bid in the website: 20.11.2020 to 01.12.2020 upto 5 P.M.
8. Last date & time for seeking tender clarification : 27.11.2020 upto 5.00 P.M.
9. Last date & time for receipt of bids: 01.12.2020 upto 5.00 P.M.
10. Date & time of opening of technical & financial bids: 02.12.2020 at 11.00 A.M.
11. Further details can be had in the website www.tenderorissa.gov.in only.
12. The contractors who have been awarded with the work orders for execution of any work under this Division earlier, but, on some account or the other, have not successfully completed the same within the stipulated period and have remained defaulter for considerable period of time are debarred from participating in the tender process.
13. Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
Enclosed: The details of the works in annexure attached herewith for reference.
Sd./- Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Gajapati, Paralakhemundi OIPR-25025/11/0017/2021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-575 OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION - I, MALKANGIRI

e-mail: rwd_malkangiri@yahoo.co.in
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Identification No. Online Tender 13/MKG/2020-21
1. Name of the Work : Road Works (Detailed in Annexure)
2. Total Number of Works : 03 (Three) Numbers
3. Tender Cost : Rs. 7.08 lakhs to Rs. 17.68 lakhs
4. Class of Contractor : 'D' & 'C' Class Contractors
5. Period of Completion : (As per Detailed in Annexure)
6. Other Details :
Procurement Officer : Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division - I, Malkangiri
Bid Identification No. : Online Tender/13/RWD-I, MKG/2020-21
No. of Works : 03 (Three) Nos. of Road Works
Availability of Tender Online for Bidding : From 20.11.2020 from 11.00 A.M. To 27.11.2020 upto 5.00 P.M.
Last date & time of seeking tender clarification : 28.11.2020 upto 5.00 P.M.
Date and time of opening of tender : 01.12.2020 at 11.00 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the website www.tenderorissa.gov.in.
Executive Engineer, R.W. Division - I, Malkangiri OIPR-25058/11/0013/2021

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA
Near District Head Quarter Hospital, Black Diamond Engineering College Road, E-mail ID: eephjsg@gmail.com
No. 5257 Dt.06.11.2020
1st CORRIGENDUM NOTICE
Bid ID No. EEPHJSG-06/2020-21 Dt.28.10.2020
No. C-205: The following amendments have been made for the above mentioned bid.
i) Cost of tender paper for the work vide Sl. No. 03 of NIT is Rs.6,000/- instead of Rs.10,000/-.
All other terms and conditions of the tender remain unchanged.
Sd./- Executive Engineer
P.H. Division, Jharsuguda
OIPR-13057/11/0005/2021

NTPC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
Registered Office Address : NTPC Bhawan, Core-7, SCOPE Complex, 7-Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003
Corporate Identification Number-L40101DL19750G007966
The applicant above named has made an application before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi for determination of tariff of Talcher Super Thermal Power Station Stage-I (1000 MW) for the period from 01.04.2019 to 31.03.2024.
1. The beneficiaries of the generating station are:
1. West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd., Viduyt Bhawan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Salt Lake City Kolkata - 700 091.
2. North Bihar Power Distribution Company Ltd., Viduyt Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna - 800 001.
3. South Bihar Power Distribution Company Ltd., Viduyt Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna - 800 001
4. Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd., Engineering Bhawan Heavy Engineering Corporation, Dhuwra, Ranchi-834 004
5. GRIDCO Ltd., Viduyt Bhawan, Janpath, Bhubaneswar - 751 007.
6. The Energy & Power Department, Govt. of Sikkim, Kazi Road, Gangtok, Sikkim - 737 101.
7. Damodar Valley Corporation, DVC Towers, VIP Road, Kolkata - 700 054.
8. Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd., Bijulee Bhawan, Paltan Bazar, Guwahati - 781 001
9. Tamil Nadu Generation & Distribution Co. Ltd., NPKRP Maalgail, 800, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002
2. Capacity of the generating station : 1000MW
3. Approved capital cost of the project : Rs. 2762.44 Cr (as on 31.03.2019)
4. Authority which has approved the Capital Cost : CERC
5. Scheduled date of commercial operation : NA
6. Date of commercial operation of station : 01.07.1997
7. Capital cost on the date of Commercial operation : Not Applicable
8. Details of tariff:
Particulars Tariff for the previous year* Year-wise tariff sought to be determined
2019-20 2020-21 2021-22 2022-23 2023-24
1. Capacity Charges (Rs.Lakh/year) 70919.35 69182.68 77117.03 92385.22 66708.15 65879.82
2. Energy Charges (Paaise/kwh)# 199.241 1.866
* As per petition filed before CERC for truing up of Tariff for 2014-19 period for the instant station.
ECR is the base energy charge rate at the start of the tariff period. However, the actual energy charge rate for the month shall be based on fuel cost(s) and GCV(s) for the month as per applicable CERC Regulation.
9. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of NTPC, namely www.ntpc.co.in under the Tab "Notices".
10. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd & 4th Floor, Chanderlok Building, 36, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001, with a copy to the applicant within 30 days of publication of this notice.
Place : New Delhi (Rohit Chhabra)
Date : 24.07.2020 Addl. General Manager (Comml.)
Leading the Power Sector

FOCUS HEALTH

A PANDEMIC WE CAN PREVENT



Superbugs take an enormous toll on healthcare systems worldwide. About 700,000 people globally die each year due to antimicrobial resistance. Without new and better treatments, that figure could rise to 10 million by 2050

us antibiotics to combat viruses, against which they are useless.

But, ultimately, slowing the spread is not enough. We must fundamentally change the way we value new antibiotics. Rather than linking their price to the quantity used, we should instead regard them as an insurance policy for medicine and health services. The United Kingdom's independent 2014-16 Review on Antimicrobial Resistance, chaired by the economist Jim O'Neill, estimated that averting the worst-case scenario of 10 million annual AMR deaths by 2050 would require an investment of \$42 billion over the course of a decade. But that would represent a mere fraction of the huge economic cost of AMR between 2015 and 2050, which the review said could top \$100 trillion.

The US Senate is considering a possible legislative remedy. The proposed Pioneering Antimicrobial Subscriptions to End Upsurging Resistance (PASTEUR) Act would award federal contracts of up to \$3 billion each to drug makers in exchange for breakthrough antibiotics. The companies would be paid on a subscription basis, regardless of how much of their drug was used.

Other countries are experimenting with different models to support antibiotic research. But one way or another, as the WHO has pointed out, governments will need to establish incentives that reward biotech companies for successfully developing antibiotics. Next year's G7 summit in the UK will, one hopes, produce long-awaited real commitments rather than merely more talk and a few pilot initiatives.

The world is locked in an arms race against superbugs. For now, the bugs are winning. But by fixing long-standing problems in the antibiotics market, we can begin to turn the tide.

The writer is Director-General of International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations.
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More than one in five Americans hospitalised with COVID-19 also contracts a bacterial infection. In the absence of effective antibiotics, those lucky enough to beat the coronavirus might die at the hands of these not-so-novel pathogens.

Unfortunately, the pipeline of new antibiotics is running dry. Less than 100 years after the development of penicillin, drug-resistant superbugs are threatening to gain the upper hand in our fight against bacterial infections.

Superbugs already take an enormous toll on health-care systems around the world. About 700,000 people globally die each year due to antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Without new and better treatments, that figure could rise to 10 million by 2050.

Researchers are currently developing more than 550 innovative treatments and vaccines for COVID-19 – a pathogen unknown just a year ago. But although AMR has been a known and growing problem for decades, only one new class of antibiotics has been discovered since 1984. The hugely successful biopharmaceutical industry whose expertise and resources are responsible for most of the medicines we use today, has been unable to take on this vital challenge.

The reason is simple: whereas the industry has built its strong and unprecedented COVID-19 response on a robust innovation ecosystem, the market for antibiotics is broken. Firms that successfully develop a cutting-edge new antibiotic face major challenges. Navigating regulatory approval and potential safety issues is expensive and time-consuming, requiring skills that smaller drug makers often lack. But prospective sales pose an insurmountable problem. New antibiotics should be used extremely sparingly to prevent bacteria from evolving and growing immune to them. Ideally, they should serve as weapons of last resort against bacteria resistant to more common antibiotics.

Probable sales for any new antibiotic will therefore be very low;

hospitals will have just a few doses – all under lock and key – for emergency use only. Unfortunately, this means the potential market return is too low to justify the necessary investment in research and development. At the heart of this upside-down economics is the issue of how to recognise the value of a treatment that must be used only infrequently. John Rex, the chief medical officer of the British biotech firm F2G Ltd., compares advanced antimicrobials to fire extinguishers: absolutely essential, but ideally rarely needed.

A handful of companies are still doggedly pursuing this line of research against the odds. They include Merck, GlaxoSmithKline, Shionogi, and Roche – as well as Pfizer, which recently acquired Arixa Pharmaceuticals, a small, California-based company developing new antibiotics for drug-resistant infections. But many drug makers have abandoned antibiotics research. Big firms like Novartis, AstraZeneca, and Sanofi exited the market long ago – and in the last two years, at least four smaller antibiotic-focused companies have gone bankrupt.

Although the global health community is – fortunately – beginning to recognise the urgent need for new antibiotics, there has so far been much talk and little action. A few players are experimenting with some alternative ways of fi-



Thomas Cueni

LESS THAN 100 YEARS AFTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF PENICILLIN, DRUG-RESISTANT SUPERBUGS ARE THREATENING TO GAIN THE UPPER HAND IN OUR FIGHT AGAINST BACTERIAL INFECTIONS



In silence lies the source of the highest inspirations.

THE MOTHER

BABY EATERS

Nothing is sweeter than a baby of any species: Nothing angers us more than when a human baby is killed. The waste of a life, the cruelty on an innocent being, shocks us.

But we do not apply the same sensitivities to other babies. During this COVID period, when people have become meaner and less tolerant, so many newly born puppies and kittens have been put in sacks and thrown into sewers, ponds and garbage. The only difference now is that whenever a litter has disappeared, angry animal welfare people have gone looking for it and have complained to the police.

There are people who celebrate events by eating babies. Pigs are as intelligent as humans and very close to them genetically. But piglets suckling on their mother's milk are slaughtered between the ages of two and six weeks and eaten for important occasions - wedding dinners or a party for a baby's completion of its first month of life. The suckling pig is a popular dish in the Southern US. The Cochon de Lait festival is held annually in Louisiana where suckling pigs are roasted alive. How are these little babies killed? Because the eater wants to see the head as well, they are killed in pig farms by repeatedly swinging them by their hind legs and thumping them against a concrete wall – in front of their mothers.

The word veal means baby cow. There are so many kinds of veal. One is Bob veal where the calf is slaughtered two hours to two days after its birth, without feeding him or letting him drink water. The meat is almost white and is completely tasteless. Another kind is Slink veal. This comes from unborn, premature (induced labour), or stillborn calves. It is banned but it is still sold both for leather and for meat. Then is the veal which is sold all over the world and is one of the most-cruel dishes to be served, eaten by the sickest of people. The male baby is separated from the mother at birth, placed in an extremely tight crate where he cannot move at all. The baby is fed no solid food, just an artificial mixture of chemicals (milk replacer) that keeps it just alive for 18-22 weeks. Its flesh, deprived of all minerals and solid food, remains pale and tender. These crates do not allow calves to turn around, much less walk, run, play, or socialise with other animals. They cannot lie down comfortably, or even clean themselves. One video on YouTube shows workers, at a major Canadian veal supplier, kicking, punching, and beating baby calves, and babies suffering from open wounds, without any veterinary care.

Squids are tubular, multi-armed, intelligent animals of the sea. Pregnant squid mothers carry this huge bag of eggs for up to nine months, taking great care of the developing babies. Baby squids are then gathered by people and the dishes, Calamari in Italian or Puntillitas in Spain, are made from them. Battered and fried baby squid is puntillitas.

The saddest Mummy story is that of the octopus mother. She remains pregnant for 4-5 months, then she starts expelling her eggs into the water, one at a time over a month. She stitches these into hanging braids, like a bead curtain. Then she retreats into her cave and hangs them up. She sits guard for months protecting her children and constantly waving her arms, making sure that nothing harmful settles on them. She fights with potential predators, keeping them away from the eggs. For six months she never eats and, by the time the offspring emerge, she has nearly starved to death. With her last bit of energy she blows all her babies out of the den into the open water. Once they are gone she dies. Then we take the babies and kill them, dip them in sauce and eat them as snacks with cocktails. How many of 56,000 babies make it to adulthood? Perhaps two.

Baby eels, the most mysterious creatures on earth, only born in the Sargasso sea, from where they drift thousands of miles to reach Europe, where they turn into transparent glass eels who travel up brooks and rivers to change into their third avatar of the yellow eel. These eels live up to 200 years if we let them. But people catch the babies and eat them. And now eels are in a very rapid decline: your children will probably never see them.

There is a special dish which originated in Spain – the country whose name means Rabbit. It is 'Noisettes de lapereau sauce cacao.' It means baby rabbits cooked in chocolate sauce. In China baby mice are drowned in wine and left there for a year. The wine is sold as a health tonic.

Hitler's favourite food was squab, baby pigeon. The lifespan of a pigeon is about six years and they are very family minded. They feed and look after their children till they are adults. Squabs are raised until they are roughly a month old and still cannot fly. Then they are strangled and cooked into tiny mouthfuls. Squab meat has its origin in Roman cooking and is now part of the cuisine of many countries.

Lamb, or the baby of a sheep or goat, is a common dish. Sweetbread is a name for the throat, gullet, neck or pancreas of a lamb or calf. Sweetbreads can also be the tongue or testicles of these babies. A veal tongue is often put into Russian salad. In Japan, the tongues of baby cows are grilled into a dish called Gyutan. The spinal marrow is taken from the bones of young calves, and their feet are used for soup. Baby lamb kidneys and liver are special delicacies. Many years ago I did an advertisement for the Amul-owned Safal. I held a lamb in my arms and other lambs milled around. They were all going for slaughter after the shooting and, as part of the payment for the ad, I took the entire herd. (The rest of the payment was a year's supply of peashells to feed cows in my hospital!) A turkey lives 10 years. But babies just eight weeks old are a must at Thanksgiving dinners. Little baby ducks, barely out of their sweet yellow fuzzy fur, are also eaten.

What a wretched species we are that we do not spare even the babies of our co-inhabitants.

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



Maneka Gandhi

Nothing angers us more than when a human baby is killed...But we do not apply the same sensitivities to other babies

SPECTRUM AGRICULTURE

Revitalise FPOs: Farmers' own middlemen

The farmers' agitation against the new farm laws is far from ebbing. The All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee has got a boost from 10 Central trade unions pledging support for its actions and protest march to Delhi next week. Of grave concern is the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, aimed at ending monopoly of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Mandis, where all farmers were required to sell their produce at government-regulated markets. Arhatiya or middlemen in such cases helped the farmers in selling their crops to private companies or government agencies.

One of the powerful ways that farmers can serve as their own middlemen is through a livelihood and development strategy that collectivises the smaller primary producers into locally-managed Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), which are then integrated into an inclusive value-chain. It is a sustainable, market-based approach in which resources of member farmers are pooled to achieve more together than they can alone.

This enables members see their work through an entrepreneurial lens and confers economies of scale,

better marketing and distribution, more investible funds and skills, greater bargaining power, access to credit and insurance, sharing of assets and costs, opportunities to upgrade skills and technology, and a safety net in times of distress. The best-known example of an FPO is that of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd which is a dairy cooperative with over three million producer members.

In this model thousands of scattered small farms are systematically aggregated and provided centralised services around production, post-harvest, and marketing. This helps reduce farms' transaction costs for accessing value chains and make it easier for small farmers to access inputs, technology, and market. It also opens opportunities to bring primary processing facilities closer to the farm gates and help producers gather market intelligence and manage the value chain better with digital agriculture tools.

An FPO is a hybrid between a private limited company and a cooperative society, wherein it can enjoy the benefits of professional management of the former and reap the benefits of the latter.

The FPOs are owned and governed by shareholder farmers and administered by professional man-

agers. They adopt all good principles of cooperatives and the efficient business practices of companies and seek to address the inadequacies of the cooperative structure. The best way for these organisations is to leverage their collective strength through a full value chain from the farm to the fork. The underlying principle is similar to that of the full stack approach. This approach makes the sponsor, catalyst or promoter responsible for every part of the experience.

In short, it is a whole-farm systems approach. It creates a complementary support ecosystem that boosts farm yields, reduces negative environmental impacts, and increases market access and small-holder farmer incomes. It also provides sustainability interventions including sustainable irrigation products and practices.

There are several structural barriers that have to be overcome. Foremost is the capital constraint. FPOs are initially not able to raise share capital from their member-farmers and cannot go to the share market to raise capital unlike the privately-owned food processing companies. The next is working capital. FPOs have to deal in cash as their member-farmers need the money desperately at harvest time

to pay input supplier and labour, repay crop loans and meet their household expenses. FPOs need higher working capital than the private sector. This is where cooperatives score better and farmers can wait for a few days to get paid.

The third barrier is managerial capability. Many FPOs are struggling on account of lack of hand-holding support and lack professionalism. They can hire well-paid professionals if they reach a certain scale as Amul and several other large, successful cooperative dairies have done. While FPOs remain the most trusted allies for farmers, they need to be revitalised by infusing modern design features without diluting their traditional ethos and philosophy. It would require innovative collaborations between State, civil society, and the private sector.

FPOs can grow as viable, member-controlled, self-sustaining farmer businesses if they constantly work on reshaping the interaction of their members with themselves. The failure of cooperatives is often rooted in inability of their promoters to understand this interaction. A self-regulatory body designed to protect the interest of FPOs and farmer members can serve a useful purpose. INFRA



Moin Qazi

AN FPO IS A HYBRID BETWEEN A PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANY AND A COOPERATIVE SOCIETY

WISDOM CORNER

- If you want to be happy, be. **LEO TOLSTOY**
- Nothing ever becomes real till it is experienced. **JOHN KEATS**
- The road of excess leads to the palace of wisdom. **WILLIAM BLAKE**

WORDSWORTH

Vehicle-to-Grid

This term – and its abbreviation V2G – are likely to be appearing more often in the future as it's being promoted as a way to boost renewable energy sources. It's based on the fact that electric vehicles all contain capacitors storage batteries, which are connected to a power supply for charging when the vehicles aren't being used. V2G connects the batteries to the electricity grid and temporarily borrows the energy stored in them to supplement the electricity supply instead of, for example, firing up another power station. The vehicle batteries would then be topped up again using off-peak power, perhaps from renewable resources such as wind turbines, whose generated power would otherwise be going to waste. Owners of electric cars would benefit through their vehicles earning money while idle. The term and the concept have been promoted for at least the last decade, are now common in the technical press but are only slowly becoming more widely known as the number of electric vehicles grows.

Another chance

Sir, Democracy had won in Myanmar five years ago when Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi ensured her party's win in the country with her National League for Democracy party romping home in the November 2015 elections. A constitutional hitch had prevented Suu Kyi from adorning the President's throne, and she had handpicked her trusted lieutenant for the top post after being endorsed by the parliament. The 1991 Nobel Peace winner ensured the Army was ousted from power after ruling the roost since 1962. Suu Kyi created the State Counsellor of Myanmar post for her. Now, the people of Myanmar have reposed their faith in the peace icon. Suu Kyi has literally swept the 2020 elections with a thumping majority. There was also a general feeling that Suu Kyi was in tacit understanding with the army, on key issues affecting the nation, going by the subsequent developments in Myanmar. The Rohingya refugee crisis was one issue that considerably dented the Nobel laureate's image. She was accused of not understanding the magnitude of the issue, and helping the military in pushing its agenda. Her defence of the army's action of brutally cracking down on the refugees at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) did precious little to save her 'peace icon' image. Now that Suu Kyi has earned a fresh mandate of her people the country looks at her with hope. Her endurance, resilience and comradeship will be tested.
Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Ethiopian challenges

Sir, The recent conflict in the Tigray region in Ethiopia is a matter of great concern. This is a clear pointer to the fact that Ethiopia has been facing numerous political challenges one after another. The unrest brewing in Tigray has showcased a lot of lessons to the world. First off, there has been a great deal of misunderstanding between the federal government and the whole of Tigray region on various fronts. Against this backdrop, a quick fix is the need of the hour in order to settle down the current situation much before anything catastrophic could erupt out there. True, civilization has been confronting a plethora of issues straight from the cradle stage. And this is true of African countries. It is time to shun violence and focus on growth on all counts like politics, economy, knowledge domain and agriculture in countries like Ethiopia. The world media, the government out there and the UN should pay attention to the issues facing Ethiopia.
P Senthil Saravana Durai, MUMBAI

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



Vijayan checkmates IUML; will he take on Cong now?

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 18: It's game on in Kerala as Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, known for showing no mercy to his detractors, has struck first blood with the arrest of former PWD Minister and senior legislator of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), VK Ebrahim Kunju, in the Palarivattom flyover collapse case.

Now all eyes are on the CM to see if he will go forward and take on Congress leaders who have been named in a sexual exploitation case, which came up along with the solar scam in 2015 and 2016.

While Kunju was arrested Wednesday, his party colleague and legislator M.C. Kamrudeen is already in jail after investors complained that his business venture cheated them.

Another IUML legislator who is presently facing the heat is the firebrand KM Shaji, a known critic of Vijayan. The investigating agencies are after him in a case of taking bribe for sanctioning courses in a school in his constituency.

But what's being keenly watched is the sexual exploitation case filed by the 'victim' against former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, AICC General Secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, Lok Sabha members Adoor Prakash and Hibi Eden, and legislator A.P. Anil Kumar -- all from the Congress -- and former Congress MP and present BJP national Vice-President A.P. Abdullahkuttu



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Abdullahkuttu. While the case was taken up by Vijayan a few years back, few senior police officers who were tasked with going forward with the cases against the top brass had backed out,

VENDETTA POLITICS

Vijayan is facing attacks from the Congress and the BJP ever since his secretary and senior IAS officer M. Sivasankar was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in the gold smuggling case. Sivasankar is presently cooling his heels in jail

The CPI-M is also nursing anger against the Congress after its state Secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan had to resign after his younger son was arrested by the Bangalore unit of the ED and is presently under the custody of the Narcotics Control Bureau. Balakrishnan junior's friend and business associate was earlier picked up by the NCB in August

The anger of the CPI-M came out when Left Front convenor, A. Vijayaraghavan, said a week back in public that very soon a dozen opposition legislators will have to cool their heels in jail

Ramesh Chennithala, who's the present Leader of Opposition, and two former state cabinet ministers, V.S. Sivakumar, presently a legislator, and K. Babu, both Congress leaders.

The vigilance department is probing the allegation, and it remains to be seen if Vijayan gives the nod to go after all these top leaders of the Congress.

Chennithala, after hearing the news of Kunju's arrest, warned the Vijayan government and also the officials who are trying to put opposition legislators under duress.

"With the Vijayan government's face completely disfigured on account various scams, he is trying to get back at the opposition by arresting legislators. Vijayaraghavan himself had publicly announced that several opposition legislators would be in jail. All those who are trying to discredit the opposition should be aware that there are laws and regulations and anyone who tries to break them will have to pay a heavy price," said Chennithala.

On his part, Vijayaraghavan said that Kunju's arrest was not an overnight decision as the case was under investigation for a long time, and no rule was violated in making the arrest.

Shah, Nadda to visit WB every month till end of Assembly polls



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 18: Firmly fixing its sights on West Bengal after victory in Bihar, the BJP in Bengal Wednesday said Union Home Minister Amit Shah and party national president J.P. Nadda will visit the state every month till the end of assembly elections.

Elections to the 294-member West Bengal Assembly are due in April-May next year.

The two senior BJP leaders will visit the state separately every month to take stock of the party organisation ahead of the elections, state BJP president Dilip Ghosh said.

"Amit Shah and J.P. Nadda will visit the state separately every month till the assembly elections are over. The dates are yet to be finalised. Their regular visits will energise the party workers," Ghosh told reporters.

Shah is likely to visit the state for two consecutive days a month and Nadda for three days, party sources said.

After catapulting the NDA to power following stupendous performance by the BJP, the saffron party has made it clear that mission Bengal tops their next target.

Shah, who missed campaigning in Bihar, made a two-day trip to Bengal starting November 5 to oversee BJP's preparedness for the state polls.

BJP president J.P. Nadda was scheduled to accompany Shah to Bengal, but his visit was cancelled a night before.

During the visit Shah met the

family members of a BJP worker Madan Ghorai allegedly killed in judicial custody last month in Patashpur in Purba Medinipur district and hit out at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over alleged minority appeasement and deteriorating law and order. He had also demanded a white paper on political killings in the state.

The Bengal BJP chief also lashed out at the Congress-CPI (M) alliance, saying both the parties have been rejected by the people of the state long back.

"The people of West Bengal have given chances to the Congress, the CPI(M) and the TMC. All the three parties have failed to live up to the expectations of the masses, which will now be fulfilled by the BJP," he said.

With an eye on the elections, the BJP Tuesday divided the state into five organisational zones and put central leaders in charge of them, party sources said.

Senior BJP leaders Sunil Deodhar, Vinod Tawde, Dushyant

Gautam, Harish Dwivedi and Vinod Sonkar have been hand-picked by the party top brass to head the North Bengal, Barh Banga (south-western districts), Nabadwip, Midnapore and Kolkata organisational zones, they said.

Deodhar, Tawde, Gautam and Sonkar are likely to conduct party meetings in their respective zones during the day.

BJP national general secretary Dushyant Gautam, who has been given charge of the Kolkata zone, exuded confidence after arriving in the city that the saffron party will come to power in the state in the assembly elections.

CPI(M), Congress plan minority outreach to stop AIMIM march



Political equations in the state are set to witness changes as the sway of non-BJP parties over minorities, a key factor in several seats, appears to be set for a stiff challenge with Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM announcing that it will contest Bengal Assembly polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 18: In a bid to stall the march of AIMIM in West Bengal, opposition CPI(M) and Congress Tuesday chalked out a detailed plan to reach out to the politically crucial minority community of the state ahead of the 2021 assembly polls.

Political equations in the polarised state are set to witness significant changes as the sway of non-BJP parties over minorities, a key factor in several seats, appears to be set for a stiff challenge with Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM announcing that it will contest Bengal assembly polls, sources in the two parties said.

AIMIM has clinched five seats in Bihar in the state polls. The CPI(M) and the Congress, which has decided to fight the next assembly polls as alliance partners, Tuesday night held a two-hour-long meeting to determine the strategy for the next assembly polls.

"As a part of our outreach programme, apart from reaching out to the community leaders and eminent personalities from the minorities community, both the parties have decided to conduct special outreach programme on the National Minorities Day December 18. We have chalked out a detailed

plan," said a senior state Congress leader who is privy to the development said.

Before the meeting, West Bengal PCC president Adhir Chowdhury and state leader of the opposition Abdul Mannan met Muslim religious leader Toha Siddique and appealed to the community to stand by the secular forces, he said.

"We met Toha Siddique at Furfura Sharif and appealed to minority community not to get confused by the forces who are B-team of the BJP," Chowdhury later told reporters.

When asked about Owaisi's plan to venture into West Bengal, Chowdhury said, "AIMIM is nothing but the B-team of the BJP, whose sole aim is to divide the Muslim votes and cause damage to the secular parties."

According to state Congress and CPI(M) sources, both the parties are concerned about AIMIM's entry into Bengal as 34 out of the 76 seats it had won in the 2016 assembly polls as an alliance were from minority-dominated districts of Malda, Murshidabad and North Dinajpur. These are districts which AIMIM is eyeing.

A deciding factor in nearly 100-110 seats in the state, minorities specially the 30 per cent Muslims, till 2019 had acted as a bulwark of the TMC against its rivals, with most of them voting in favour of the party. The minorities had considered TMC to be a "credible" force that can resist saffron surge.

But AIMIM's decision to fight the assembly polls is likely to affect it. During the meeting, it was also decided that the Congress and the CPI-M will set up a joint core committee to look into the aspects of district-wise seat-sharing in the assembly polls.

It has also been decided to increase the number of joint rallies and programmes in the state, the senior Congress leader said.

Oppn cries foul over ex-minister's arrest

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kochi, Nov 18: The Congress-led United Democratic Front, the principal opposition in Kerala, Wednesday cried foul in the manner in which the state Vigilance Department arrested the former PWD Minister and senior legislator of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) VK. Ebrahim Kunju in the Palarivattom flyover collapse case.

He was arrested from the hospital Wednesday where he had been admitted a day earlier.

Earlier in the day, the Vigilance department sleuths raided Kunju's house. His wife informed them that he was admitted in a private hospital, but unconvinced by her reply, the police entered the house and searched the house.

Later, the sleuths reached the private hospital where he was undergoing treatment and recorded his arrest. Former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy under whose tenure the construction of the controversial flyover started said, "This is nothing but politically motivated as all know that the Vijayan government is cornered not just on allegations, but on facts. It was under my tenure that 70 per cent of the work on this flyover was completed and 30 per cent of the work was done under this government and when they inaugurated it, they



District Court Judge, Jobin Sebastian, (C) leaves after recording the testimony of former Kerala minister VK Ebrahim Kunju, in connection with the Palarivattom bridge scam case, admitted at Lakeshore Hospital in Kochi, Wednesday.

claimed it as their achievement," said Chandy.

The IUML leader and Lok Sabha member P.K. Kunhalikutty soon after a meeting of his party leaders said this is a fine balancing act done by Vijayan because they think that to cover up their numerous wrong doings, which they are facing, they can effect an arrest like this.

"This is 100 per cent political

vendetta as we all heard the Left convenor A Vijayaraghavan say a few days back that a few opposition leaders will be arrested and that has happened. We knew that this was round the corner. The probe in this case was over months back and there are procedures for arrests and all rules have been flouted. This is a shameful act of settling political scores," said Kunhalikutty.

Mamata urges Modi to declare January 23 as national holiday

BORN IN 1897, NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE'S 125TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY WILL BE OBSERVED NEXT YEAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 18: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Wednesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention for declaring Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birthday January 23 as national holiday.

She also urged Modi to personally see that the Centre takes appropriate steps to give a conclusive picture on the freedom fighter's disappearance August 18, 1945.

"Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has a special place in our hearts. I would like to request your kind personal intervention to see that the Central Government declared 23rd January, Netaji's birthday, a National Holiday and also takes appropriate steps to give conclusive steps to the issue relating to the disappearance of Netaji... (sic)" the CM wrote.

In her two-page-long letter, Banerjee emphasised that the state had long been demanding that January 23 be declared a national holiday.

She further requested the PM to give people the "much-awaited



opportunity to know what happened to their great leader - their inspiration and their passion."

Several reports have claimed that Netaji boarded a plane from Taihoku Airport in Taiwan which crashed leading to the death of the leader. There is, however, no confirmation on his demise, as experts, over the years, have come up with different theories on his disappearance.

The Centre had commissioned three inquiries -- the Shah Nawaz Committee of Inquiry of 1956, the Khosla Commission of 1974, and the Justice Mukherjee Commission of

Inquiry (JMCI) of 2005 - to shed light on the mysteries surrounding the death or the disappearance of Netaji.

The first two commissions had concluded that Netaji died following a plane crash in Taipei, while the third probe panel contested the claim and suggested that Bose was alive after that.

September 1, 2016, the Narendra Modi government had declassified 100 reports on Bose. Banerjee had in September 2015 made public 64 files related to the freedom fighter.

None, however, could help draw any conclusion.

Kerala's corona scenario positive: More recoveries than new cases

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 18: The coronavirus scenario in Kerala Wednesday appeared to look positive as daily recoveries continued to exceed new cases.

While 6,419 more persons tested positive after testing of 67,369 samples in the past 24 hours, 7,066 patients were cured and discharged. The state's recoveries now total 4,68,460.

Active cases Wednesday totalled 69,394, a significant fall from close to one lakh in October.

State Health Minister KK Shailaja said 28 more Covid fatalities had taken the death toll to 1,943.

Across the state, 3,18,833 people are under observation, including

16,503 in hospitals. Kerala now has 587 hotspots.

The total virus case load has touched 5,37,791 while as many as 4,68,460 have been cured of the disease.

Ernakulam accounted for the highest number of cases 887, followed by Kozhikode 811, Thrissur 703, Kollam 693 and Alappuzha 637.

The toll has mounted 1,943 to with 28 covid deaths. Of the positive cases, 68 are health workers, 98 had come from outside the state, 5576 had been infected through contact, the minister said. As many as 3,18,833 are under observation in various districts, including 16,503 in hospitals. Six areas were included in the hotspots list and 18 were removed, a release added.





Banks are in trouble and so is the GDP. Inflation was never so high, nor was unemployment. The morale of the public is crumbling and social justice is being crushed everyday

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

MRIDULA SINHA DIES

Former Goa Governor Mridula Sinha passed away Wednesday, just days ahead of her 78th birthday. She was the Goa Governor from 2014 to 2019



of the day quote

Smt. Mridula Sinha Ji will be remembered for her efforts towards public service. She was also a proficient writer, making extensive contributions to the world of literature as well as culture. Anguished by her demise. Condolences to her family and admirers

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Today's Indian scholars should try to create such an original body of knowledge which is utilised for dealing with contemporary global challenges. JNU is among those select institutions of higher learning which can reach globally comparable excellence

RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT

Greetings on the first fast of Chhath Puja, the mega festival of faith and a symbol of respect towards nature. Coronavirus has weakened, but it has not been eliminated completely. Prevention is the best way. Try to celebrate Chhath at (your) house itself, as done in the previous festivals

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

Cong infighting worsens



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 18: Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury Wednesday slammed party colleague Kapil Sibal over his Bihar poll debacle introspection remark, saying those unhappy with the party's functioning are free to leave instead of embarrassing it in public.

Chowdhury stung Sibal for "giving sermons from AC rooms" and said disgruntled members may join other parties or float their own outfits. Wondering why Sibal was not seen campaigning for the Congress during the Bihar elections, the party's West Bengal chief said, "Speaking without doing anything doesn't mean introspection."

"Kapil Sibal could have raised the issues inside a party forum instead of making such embarrassing remarks in public. He is a senior leader and has access to the party's top brass. Those who are unhappy with the functioning of the party have the freedom to form a new party or join one if they feel that the Congress is not the right place for them," Chowdhury, a member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), said here.

His comments came in the backdrop of Sibal criticising the Congress leadership for the party's abysmal performance in the Bihar elections, where it bagged only 19 of the 70 seats it contested. Sibal was part of a group of 23 senior Congress leaders who had written to party chief Sonia Gandhi in August, giving suggestions on ways to revive the grand old party. "He seems to be very concerned about the Congress and its need for introspection. Earlier also he had spoken about it in public. But he was

not seen campaigning for the party in the elections in Bihar or other states that went to polls last year. "Instead of giving sermons sitting in AC rooms, he should work on the ground. Lecturing others without doing anything won't help. Only calling for introspection without doing anything on our own is of no use," Chowdhury said. "After the 2019 poll debacle, Rahul Gandhi stepped down as the party chief and now nobody can question the intention of Rahul Gandhi or Sonia Gandhi. They also offered that someone from outside the Gandhi-Nehru family should lead the party," the Baharampur MP said.

Senior Congress leader from Bihar, Tariq Anwar, an AICC general secretary, had earlier called for introspection and said the RJD-led Grand Alliance failed to form the government in the state due to the poor performance of the grand old party in the elections.

Apart from Chowdhury, other senior Congress leaders have also lashed out at those calling for introspection.

Earlier, Rajasthan Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot had criticised Sibal, saying his statements had hurt the sentiments of party workers across the country.

Senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid has termed the party colleagues calling for introspection as "doubting Thomases" and said they suffer from periodic pangs of anxiety.

"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," Khurshid said in a Facebook post.

11 killed, 16 hurt in accident

The victims, all from Varachha area of Surat city, were heading towards Pavagadh, a famous religious place in Panchmahal located near Vadodara

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vadodara, Nov 18: At least 11 people died and 16 others were injured when a mini-truck in which they were travelling rammed into another truck on the outskirts of Gujarat's Vadodara city early Wednesday morning, police said.

The accident took place at Waghodia circle near the city around 2.45 am when the victims were heading towards Pavagadh in Panchmahal district, Vadodara Deputy Commissioner of Police Karanraj Vaghela said.

Eleven people, including five women, succumbed to their injuries, while 16 others are undergoing treatment at the government-run SSG Hospital in the city, the medical facility said in a statement. "The deceased included 10 passengers and a co-driver of the vehicle," Vaghela said.

"The mini-truck driver, who is



PTI PHOTO

under treatment, lost control over the wheels as he dozed off when the vehicle was passing from Waghodia circle on the Surat-Vadodara highway," he said. As a result, the vehicle rammed into another truck from behind, Vaghela said, adding that no FIR has been lodged yet.

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident. "Saddened by the loss of lives due to a road accident near Vadodara. Instructed officials to do needful. May those who have been injured recover at the earliest. I pray for

the departed souls. Om Shanti," Rupani tweeted.

The victims, all from Varachha area of Surat city, were heading towards Pavagadh, a famous religious place in Panchmahal located near Vadodara, Vaghela said.

It has come to light that some families from Varachha hired the mini-truck to visit temples at Pavagadh, Vadtal and Dakor (in Kheda district) and started their journey from Surat around 11 pm on Tuesday, the official said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also expressed grief over the mishap and said the administration is providing all possible assistance to the needy. "Saddened by the accident in Vadodara. My thoughts are with those who lost their loved ones. Praying that the injured recover soon. The administration is providing all possible assistance at the site of the accident," Modi said in a tweet.

SC reserves order on Tej Bahadur's plea

PNN, AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 18: The Supreme Court Wednesday refused to adjourn the hearing on sacked BSI jawan Tej Bahadur's plea against the rejection of his nomination papers to contest 2019 Lok Sabha polls against Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Varanasi constituency, saying this is "too important matter".

The apex court reserved the order on Bahadur's plea challenging the Allahabad High Court verdict which had dismissed his election petition against the poll panel's decision to reject his nomination papers. Whether his nomination was rightly or wrongly rejected by the Election Commission (EC) depends on his eligibility, the court said.

"Why should we grant you liberty for adjournment. You are abusing the process of law. You argue," a bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde told Bahadur's counsel. After Bahadur's counsel sought adjournment or pass over in the matter, the bench said, "We cannot do. This is too important a matter. The respondent is the Prime Minister of India. We have read this matter. You argue your matter".

The benches, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, said that adjournment has gone on for months in this case and the court would not give more time.

Advocate Pradeep Kumar Yadav, appearing for Bahadur, argued that petitioner had earlier filed his nomination as an independent candidate and later as a candidate of the Samajwadi Party from Varanasi constituency.

The Returning Officer on May 1 last year had rejected the nomination papers of Bahadur, a Samajwadi Party candidate, who was dismissed from BSF in 2017 after he posted a video online complaining about the quality of food served to the troops.

Kangana, sister summoned again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 18: Mumbai police Wednesday summoned actor Kangana Ranaut and her sister, Rangoli Chandel, for the third time to record their statements on November 23 and 24 for allegedly promoting enmity between two communities.

Police have filed a sedition case against Kangana and Rangoli on the directions of the Bandra metropolitan magistrate court here. "We have issued the third notice to Kangana and Rangoli Chandel and asked them to join and cooperate with the Bandra police in the investigation," said deputy police commissioner Abhishek Trimukhe.

Ranaut's lawyer Rizwan Siddiqui had earlier replied to the previous two notices saying his clients will be unable to appear for questioning as they were busy with the wedding of their brother in Himachal Pradesh till November 15.

Munawar Ali, the complainant in the case, has accused Ranaut of creating "a bad image of Bollywood in the minds of people" and communal divide and rift between the people of two communities. In his complaint, he had claimed that Ranaut has been maliciously bringing religion in all her tweets. Ali has alleged that Chandel, who works as Ranaut's manager, also tweeted with an intention to create a communal rift.

SHORT TAKES

Bengal BJP worker killed

Cooch Behar (West Bengal): A Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) activist was killed and two other injured in a clash in West Bengal's Cooch Behar district Wednesday. The incident took place at East Shikarpur near Nakkatigach area under Toofanganj police station as members from two different clubs violently clashed with each other over continuing Kali Puja celebration. One person has been arrested in connection with the incident so far. Sources said the victim was identified as Kalachand Karmakar who was a BJP worker.

12 injured in grenade attack

Srinagar: Twelve civilians sustained injuries in a grenade attack by militants on a team of security force personnel in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday, police said. The incident took place in the Kakapora area of Pulwama, a police official said. He said the grenade missed the intended target and exploded on the road. The area has been cordoned off and a hunt launched to nab the attackers, the official said.

Avalanche kills soldier in J&K

Srinagar: A soldier was killed and two were injured when an avalanche hit their post on the Line of Control (LoC) in the Tangdhar sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district. Police sources said around 8 p.m. on Tuesday evening a snow avalanche hit the Roshan post on the LoC in the sector, where the rifleman was injured who later succumbed.

Two arrested

New Delhi: A 36-year-old man and his associate were arrested for allegedly posing as officials of the UK tax department and duping several UK-based citizens through a fake call centre in central Delhi's Rajinder Nagar area, police said Wednesday. The accused, Parvinder Singh, was operating the call centre illegally for the last one-and-a-half years in partnership with his brother-in-law Pankaj Kapoor (40), they said.

MP to get 'cow cabinet'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Nov 18: The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh has decided to set up a "gau cabinet" for the protection and promotion of the cow, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on Wednesday.

Opposition Congress said the BJP has forgotten its election promise of creating a separate cow ministry. "It has been decided to constitute a 'gau cabinet' for the protection and fostering of godhan (cow and its progeny) in the state," Chouhan tweeted in Hindi.

Ministers of Animal Husbandry, Forest, Panchayat and Rural Development, Revenue, Home and Farmers' Welfare departments will be part of this cabinet, he said. "The first meeting will be held at 12 noon on November 22 to mark Gopashami at Gau Sanctuary in Agar Malwa," he added.

Necessary orders for the constitution of the cow cabinet have been issued, officials said. Besides Chouhan, the cabinet will include Home Minister Narottam Mishra, Forest Minister Vijay Shah, Agriculture Minister Kamal Patel, Panchayat and Rural Development



Minister Mahendra Singh Sisodia and Minister for Animal Husbandry Prem Singh Patel.

Six departments will execute the decisions of the gau-cabinet in a coordinated manner, Chouhan said in a statement later. An action plan will be implemented for increasing the use of cow dung cakes (kanda). The making and marketing of Gau-Kasht (cow-wood) is being encouraged at present, similarly efforts will be made to market other products made from cow milk, he said.

State Congress chief Kamal Nath said that Chouhan did not keep his promise made before the 2018 Assembly elections. "Shivraj Singh, who announced the formation of a separate cow ministry (department) in the state before the 2018 assembly elections, is now talking about setting up a cabinet for cow

protection and fostering," he said. He has forgotten his old announcement, Nath said. "There has been no work for cow protection and promotion during the 15 years' BJP rule in the state. On the contrary, they reduced the money given for cow shelters," Nath said, adding that the Congress government had started the work on construction of 1,000 cow shelters.

Home Minister Mishra countered that the Congress government under Nath only talked about building cow shelters during its 15-month rule but was not able to set up even 15 shelters. "The BJP is nurturing Indian culture. The MP government has set a new example by constituting a gau cabinet," Mishra added. Senior BJP leader Uma Bharti praised Chouhan for the decision.

13 Bihar ministers are crorepatis: Report

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 18: A total of 13 ministers of the 15-member newly sworn-in Bihar cabinet are crorepatis and the average assets of these leaders 3.93 crore, said Bihar Election Watch and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

Of those 14 ministers, whose affidavits were analysed, 13 are crorepatis and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with its six MLAs is on top position followed by five from JD-U and one each of HAM and VIP, they said.

Out of 14 ministers, two are women. The elections watchdogs said the finding was based on an analysis of the self-sworn affidavits of 14 Ministers, submitted before the October-November Assembly elections.

"The average assets of 14 ministers analysed is Rs 3.93 crores," the report mentions. The minister with the highest declared total assets is Mewa Lal Choudhary from Tarapur constituency with assets worth Rs

12.31 crores while the minister with the lowest declared total assets is Ashok Chaudhary member of Bihar Legislative Council with assets worth Rs 72.89 lakhs.

A total of 8 ministers have declared liabilities out of which the minister with the highest liabilities is Mukesh Sahani of Simri Bakhtiarpur constituency with Rs 1.54 crores of liabilities. Four ministers have declared their educational qualification to be between 8th and 12th standard while 10 ministers have declared having an educational qualification of graduate or above.

A total of six ministers have declared their age to be between 41-50 years while eight ministers have declared their age to be between 51-75 years. The NDA secured 125 of the 243 seats in Assembly elections, defeating its key rival Grand Alliance or Mahagathbandhan led by Tejashwi Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal, Congress, CPI-M, CPI-M, and CPI.

Troops in eastern Ladakh get upgraded living facilities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: As the border standoff with China in eastern Ladakh shows no signs of immediate resolution, the Indian Army has created modern habitats with all required facilities for thousands of troops deployed in the high-altitude region which is under the grip of harsh winter, government sources said Wednesday.

The habitats have been provided with proper heating facilities as the region receives up to 40 feet of snow after November every year while temperatures fall up to minus 40 degree Celsius in the winter months, they said.

"In order to ensure operational efficiency of troops deployed in winters, the Indian Army has completed establishment of habitat facilities for all troops deployed in the sector," said a source. Nearly 50,000 troops of the Indian Army are currently deployed in a high state of combat readiness in various mountainous locations in eastern Ladakh in sub-zero conditions as multiple rounds of talks between India and China have not yielded any concrete outcome to resolve the military standoff that erupted in early May. China has also deployed an equal number of troops, according to officials.

"Apart from the smart camps



PTI PHOTO

with integrated facilities which have been built over the years, additional state of the art habitats with integrated arrangements for electricity, water, heating facilities,

health and hygiene have been recently created to accommodate the troops," the source said.

The frontline troops are being accommodated in heated tents as per

tactical considerations of their deployment, sources said. In addition, adequate civil infrastructure has also been identified to cater to any emergent requirements, they added.

The armies of India and China have held eight rounds of Corps Commander-level talks so far but no breakthrough has been achieved yet to resolve the standoff. The last round of military talks was held on November 6 during which both sides broadly discussed disengagement of troops from specific friction points.

A joint statement issued after the talks said both sides agreed to maintain dialogue and communi-

cation through military and diplomatic channels, and take forward the discussions for the settlement of outstanding issues. India has all along been maintaining that the onus is on China to carry forward the process of disengagement and de-escalation at the friction points in the mountainous region.

Following the sixth round of military talks, the two sides had announced a slew of decisions including not to send more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground and avoid taking any actions that may further complicate matters.

of the day quote

The Goa government is working on a new set of SOPs, which will make it mandatory for all hotels in the state to maintain isolation rooms for tourists and guests who test positive for Covid-19

India's decision to stay out of the transnational economic grouping RECP was ill-advised and a backward step

When you use the term leap of faith, you don't use it as some kind of a dramatic dialogue. A lot of preparation had undergone behind it. In any election, we work as hard as required. But in this kind of elections amid COVID-19, this became a more herculean and challenging task

SHORT TAKES

Army officer hurt: Jammu: An army captain was injured overnight in an accidental explosion in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

Two killed: Gurugram: Two young men riding a motorcycle in an inebriated condition were killed in a road accident in Gurugram, police said.

17 injured: Mumbai: At least 17 persons were injured after a private bus they were travelling in crashed into a road divider in neighbouring Navi Mumbai in the early hours of Wednesday, police said.

Three booked: Pratapgarh (UP): Police here booked three people in connection with alleged incidents of celebratory firing at two places in the city.

Cop arrested: Bikaner (Rajasthan): The anti-corruption bureau arrested a police sub-inspector on Wednesday for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 8,000 to clear the names of two accused in a case in Rajasthan's Bikaner, an official said.



Disappointed with the increasing cases of rape. Sisters and daughters are being forced to commit suicide in the BJP government and the government is busy in showy programs like 'Mission Shakti' and 'Pink Booth'

AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

RAMESH POKHRIYAL TO BE HONOURED

Union Education Minister Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' will receive the prestigious literary honour: the International Vatayan Summit Award, November 21



FIGHT AGAINST COVID PICKS UP PACE IN DELHI

The spurt in coronavirus cases in Delhi has been witnessed since October 28 when the daily rise breached the 5,000-mark for the first time and it crossed the 8,000-mark on November 11



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: To ramp up COVID care facilities in Delhi, 45 doctors and 160 paramedics of the paramilitary forces have arrived in the capital while the Railways is making available coaches with 800 beds at a station here to be used as health and isolation centres, the home ministry said Wednesday.

October 28 when the daily rise breached the 5,000-mark for the first time and it crossed the 8,000-mark on November 11. Delhi recorded 6,396 fresh COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, taking the infection tally in the national capital to over 4.95 lakh, even as 99 new fatalities pushed the toll to 7,812, authorities said.

to identify extra ICU beds. Visits by the teams are underway. The Railways is making available coaches with 800 beds at Shakur Basti railway station while doctors and para-medics from paramilitary forces will man the coaches which will act as COVID care-cum-isolation facilities.

Testing capacity has already been enhanced by 10,000 tests per day on November 17, the spokesperson said. The planning for house-to-house survey in Delhi is in the advanced stage.

To bring testing closer to Delhi residents, the ICMR will help Delhi government in deploying 10 mobile testing laboratories with a total capacity of 20,000 tests in a phased manner beginning next week.

FESTIVE SPIRIT



People buy bananas at a wholesale fruit market ahead of Chhath festival in Patna, Wednesday

JOURNALIST, WIFE KILLED

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Sonbhadra (Uttar Pradesh), Nov 18: A journalist, who worked as a correspondent for a Hindi daily, and his wife were brutally beaten to death in Barwadih village in Sonbhadra district, police said.

Victim Uday Paswan died on the spot while his wife, Sheeta, succumbed to injuries at a hospital in Varanasi Tuesday. The incident is a result of an old enmity with a former village head.

Superintendent of Police Sonbhadra Ashish Srivastava, said Wednesday, "Inspector Kone police station, a sub-inspector and a constable have been suspended in this connection. Five of six accused persons have also been arrested while the main accused, Keval Paswan, who is also a former village head, is absconding."

'Twitter submitted written apology'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 18: Social media giant Twitter has apologised in writing to a key parliamentary panel for wrongly showing Ladakh in China and has promised to correct the error by the month-end, the committee's chairperson Meenakshi Lekhi said Wednesday.

Twitter's deposition has come in form of an affidavit signed by Damien Karien, Chief Privacy Officer of Twitter Inc, for wrong geo-tagging of India's map, Lekhi said.

Appearing before the panel, chaired by Lekhi, representatives of Twitter India had "begged apology", but they were told by the members that it was a criminal offence that questioned the sovereignty of the country and an affidavit must be submitted by Twitter Inc, not by its 'marketing arm' Twitter India.

Twitter has now given us a written apology on an affidavit for Ladakh being shown in China," Lekhi said. "They have apologised for hurting Indian sentiments and have sworn to correct the error by November 30, 2020," she added.



Twitter's deposition has come in form of an affidavit signed by Damien Karien, Chief Privacy Officer of Twitter Inc, for wrong geo-tagging of India's map, Lekhi said

Technology (MeitY), asked Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey to respect the country's sensitivities, sources in the ministry had said. At that time, Twitter had called it a technical issue that had been swiftly resolved. In its affidavit submitted before the parliamentary panel, Twitter is believed to have said the issue was "caused due to a software error combined with imperfect data resulting in an incorrect geo-tag".

WATCHMAN SET AFIRE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Nov 18: An auto-rickshaw driver allegedly set ablaze a security guard of a private firm in Pune after the latter tried to stop him from urinating on a high-end car of the firm's owner, police said Wednesday.

The security guard, Shankar Wayphalkar (41), received burn injuries in the incident that took place around 1 pm on Tuesday in Bhosari industrial area here in Maharashtra. The auto-rickshaw driver, Mahendra Balu Kadam (31), was later arrested and booked under Indian Penal Code sections 307 (attempt to murder) and other relevant provisions, a police official said.

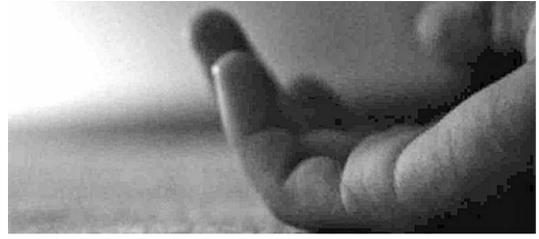
Dalit girl dies after being set ablaze

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bulandshahr (Uttar Pradesh), Nov 18: A 15-year-old Dalit girl, who was allegedly set on fire in Bulandshahr, has died in Delhi's RML Hospital, the police said Wednesday.

The incident happened Tuesday and the girl succumbed in the night. The girl was earlier allegedly raped by a local resident and the family was being pressured to withdraw her complaint. The FIR filed by the family says seven people entered their home and set her ablaze using petrol.

In a video of the victim in a hospital, she can be heard purporting saying, "There was an ongoing case of molestation by the same people who came today." Bulandshahr Senior Superintendent of Police Santosh Kumar Singh said, "In August, a girl was raped by a man. He was arrested. The accused is currently in jail. On Tuesday, we received information that the same girl has been set on fire under suspicious cir-



cumstances. Till 11 p.m. on Tuesday, it appeared she had attempted suicide. But as per the family's complaint, seven people tried to immolate her."

He said seven people have been booked and three have been arrested. According to the victim's family, those accused of setting her on fire are relatives and acquaintances of the accused, who is in jail for allegedly raping the minor, under the POCSO and SC/ST Act. Meanwhile, the victim's uncle said, "We were being threatened to withdraw the rape case and accept the decision in the Panchayat. On Monday night, I received a call

from an unknown number. They told the family to withdraw the case or face consequences. At 9.30 a.m. Tuesday, when the girl's parents were not at home, we were told that she was set on fire."

COVID vaccine: Immunisation still a distant dream for Indians

Since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in January, nearly 200 vaccine candidates are in different stages of development and about 15 are already in different stages of human trials.

US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer was the first to announce a major breakthrough disclosing that final analysis of the Phase III trials of its vaccine had shown 95 per cent effectiveness in preventing Covid-19. US biotech Moderna revealed on November 16 that its vaccine candidate is 94.5 per cent effective, giving rise to hopes that soon we will have access to a variety of vaccines to end the pandemic.

However, the cost of the vaccines and the logistic and storage requirements would make them inaccessible for most people across the world. The Government of India has assured that everyone would have access to Covid-19 vaccine by 2021, but this tall claim appears to

be hollow as experts are of the view that the Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine will not only be expensive, but also difficult to deliver in India.

Based on a novel technology, Pfizer's vaccine candidate needs to be stored at -70°C (-94°F) or even below to effectively activate the immune system against the virus. Unfortunately, most hospitals across the world do not have such ultracold storage facilities for a vaccine. Therefore, it would be really difficult to deliver Pfizer's vaccine in India, where the summer temperatures often shoot to 50°C (122°F).

As of now, pharmacies that do not have the \$15,000 ultracold freezers can store Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine in thermal boxes for about two weeks and refill the dry ice once in five days. Once the vaccine is removed from the thermal box, it can be stored in refrigerators for another five days. On the other hand, the vaccine developed by Moderna



remains stable for six months at around -20°C. Alternately, it can also be stored in a standard refrigerator, where it will remain stable for up to 30 days.

Aside from the transportation and storage facilities, another key issue is the price of these vaccine candidates. They will be very expensive - actually out of the reach of most of the 1.3 billion Indians.

is on making profits.

Add to this the cost of multiple shots required to immunise an individual from the coronavirus. In July, Pfizer had said that an individual would require two shots of its vaccine candidate three weeks apart. Similarly, an individual will require two shots of Moderna's vaccine candidate four weeks apart.

As the Moderna vaccine candidate has been funded by the National Institutes of Health and the US Department of Health and Human Services, it is natural that the US market will be its first and main target. The US government has allocated \$2.48 billion to the company to develop this vaccine, which was considered to be President Donald Trump's brightest hope of Operation Warp Speed programme. Owing to the price as well as the vaccine candidate's links with the US government, people in other parts of the world will have to wait, while the US

is likely to receive 20 million doses of the vaccine this year.

People in low-income countries like India would, therefore, have to look elsewhere for immunization from Covid-19. While the United Nation's COVAX programme will roll out vaccines to poorer countries at subsidised prices - at a price that Moderna wants. Again, this will make even the subsidised Covid-19 vaccine quite expensive.

Adar Poonawalla, CEO and owner of the Serum Institute of India, recently said a perfect vaccine is one that is "safe, offers long-term protection against targeted disease, can be transported and stored at a manageable temperature and affordable to all of humanity." Keeping these parameters in view, neither Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine candidate nor that of Moderna is likely to be accessible to majority of Indians any time soon. We have to wait till some new vaccine candidate appears on the horizon.

AGENCIES

international



China has joined the COVAX facility and will actively consider providing vaccines to the BRICS countries where there is a need
XI JINPING | CHINA PRESIDENT

UN RELEASES \$100M TO 7 COUNTRIES

The United Nations humanitarian office is releasing \$100 million in emergency funding to seven countries at risk of famine in Africa and the Middle East amid conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic, while the humanitarian chief says returning to a world where famines are common would be "obscene"



of the day quote

India stands in violation of the UNSC resolutions calling for final disposal of the disputed State of the J&K through the exercise of self-determination by the people of the State in a free and fair plebiscite under UN auspices



AMBASSADOR MUNIR AKRAM | PAKISTAN'S REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UN

The country needs more talent in technology and hoped that a newly-announced work pass will help it attract highly accomplished individuals in the field



LEE HSIEN LOONG | SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER

The functioning of a 220-million strong country has been left in the hands of someone who was incapable of even running a union council even



MARYAM NAWAZ | PML-N VICE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Thai protesters mass again

Bangkok: Thousands of Thai protesters took to the streets of Bangkok Wednesday despite the worst violence in months of demonstrations the day before, when police fired water cannon and tear gas and at least 55 people were hurt. Youth-led protests since July have become the biggest challenge to the establishment in years with their demands for the ousting of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a new constitution and reforms to curb the monarchy's powers.

Berlin braces for protests

Berlin: Berlin police, bolstered by forces from around the country, cordoned off a wide perimeter around the capital's government centre Wednesday ahead of expected protests as parliament votes on a bill that would strengthen the government's ability to impose coronavirus restrictions.

Europe sees dip in nCoV cases

Geneva, Switzerland: The number of new Covid-19 cases declined last week for the first time in over three months, but deaths in the region continued to climb, WHO data showed Wednesday. In total, nearly four million cases of the novel coronavirus were registered worldwide during the week ending Sunday, and almost 60,000 people died from the disease during the same period, the World Health Organisation said.

Solomon Islands to ban Facebook

Honiara, Solomon Islands: The Solomon Islands is reportedly planning to ban Facebook after the government received harsh criticism on the social media platform, sparking outrage among rights groups and opposition figures in the Pacific island nation.

Israel strikes widely in Syria

Jerusalem/Amman: Israel launched air raids against what it called a wide range of Syrian and Iranian targets in Syria Wednesday, sending a signal that it will pursue its policy of striking across the border despite Donald Trump's election defeat.

Biden turns to nCoV as Trump fights to overturn election

AGENCIES

Wilmington/Washington, Nov 18: US President-elect Joe Biden will meet with healthcare workers on the frontlines of the coronavirus crisis in a virtual event Wednesday, as outgoing President Donald Trump expands his campaign to overturn the election results.

Trump has refused to concede the November 3 election, blocking the smooth transition to a new administration. Biden has pledged to make the pandemic, which has killed more than 247,000 people in the United States and cost millions their jobs, a top priority when he takes office January 20.

Biden and his senior advisers have said that Trump's defiance could jeopardize efforts to contain surging COVID-19 cases and inhibit vaccine distribution planning.

That sentiment was echoed by three leading US healthcare or-



ganizations Tuesday that addressed the president directly in an open letter, urging him to share critical COVID-19 data with the Biden team.

"As providers of care for all Americans, we see the suffering that is occurring in our communities due to COVID-19....It is from this front line human perspective that we urge you to share critical data and information as soon as possible," said the letter, signed by the heads of the American Medical Association.

While Biden participates in the virtual roundtable from his home state of Delaware Wednesday,

Trump again has no public events scheduled. Trump has claimed, without providing evidence, that he was cheated out of a victory by widespread fraud and he has fired off a flurry of lawsuits that judges have mostly rejected.

Trump faces a Wednesday deadline to file for a recount in Wisconsin after Biden defeated him in the state by more than 20,600 votes based on final canvassed totals. The totals submitted by all 72 counties to the state elections commission showed Trump with a roughly six-tenths of a point margin — close enough for Trump to file for a recount.

Facebook, Twitter CEOs testify before Congress



MARK ZUCKERBERG



JACK DORSEY

Washington, Nov 18: The CEOs of Facebook and Twitter have testified before a powerful Senate Judiciary Committee of Congress where they defended their handling of disinformation in the closely-fought US presidential election.

Facebook CEO and founder Mark Zuckerberg told lawmakers Tuesday that ahead of the November 3 election, the social media giant undertook the largest election integrity effort by any private company in recent times.

"Altogether, I believe this was the largest election integrity effort by any private company in recent times. This is what people expect of us," Zuckerberg told the Senate Judiciary Committee which held a hearing on Censorship and the 2020 Election.

"I'm glad that from what we've seen so far, our systems performed well. But election interference remains an ongoing threat that will never fully be solved. So we continue to improve with each election," he said, giving details of the efforts being undertaken by the California-headquartered company during the elections.

Noting that they take responsibility at Facebook to protect the integrity of this election very seriously, Zuckerberg said that in 2016, the company began to face new kinds of threats and after years of preparation, they were ready to defend against them.

Facebook has taken down more

than 100 networks of bad actors who are trying to coordinate and interfere globally.

It established a network of independent fact checkers that covers more than 60 languages and made political advertising more transparent on Facebook than anywhere else, including TV, radio and email. It also introduced new policies to combat voter suppression and misinformation, he said.

Still, the pandemic created new challenges as to how to handle misinformation about COVID-19 and voting by mail, how to prepare people for the reality that results would take time and how to handle if someone prematurely declared victory or refused to accept the result, Zuckerberg said.

Facebook, he said, locked down new political ads in the week before the election to prevent misleading claims from spreading when they couldn't be rebutted.

Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee, told lawmakers: "More than a year ago, the public asked us to offer additional context to help make potentially misleading information more apparent. We did exactly that, applying labels to over 300,000 tweets from October 27 to November 11, which represented about 2.2 per cent of all US election related tweets".

The micro-blogging site also changed how its product works in order to help increase context and encourage more thoughtful consideration before tweets are shared broadly, he said.

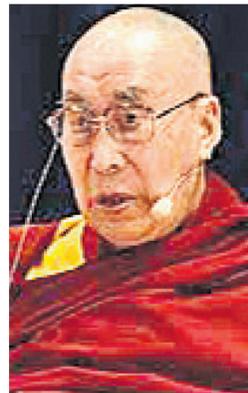
China has no right to pick the next Dalai Lama: US

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, Nov 18: The US backs the right of the Tibetan Buddhists to select the next Dalai Lama and the Chinese Communist Party does not have the authority according to a US official dealing with international religious matters.

"The United States is opposed to China picking the next Dalai Lama," Samuel Brownback, the ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom said Tuesday. "They have no right to do that. They have no theological basis to do that," he said. The 85-year-old Dalai Lama is the 14th leader of Tibetan Buddhists and he fled the Chinese takeover of the Tibet to India and took refuge there.

Traditionally the Dalai Lama gives instructions on where to find the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama, but the Chinese government has asserted that it has the right to



determine who becomes the leader of the Tibetan Buddhists. "We think that's completely wrong of the Chinese Communist Party to assert that they have that right," Brownback told reporters during

a telephone briefing. "The Tibetan Buddhists have successfully picked their leader for hundreds of years, if not longer, and they have the right to do that now," he added. The Dalai Lama has said that when he reaches around 90, he will consult other lamas, the Tibetan public and followers of the religion to decide "whether the institution of the Dalai Lama should continue or not".

If it was decided that there should be a successor, the officers of the Dalai Lama's Gaden Phodrang Trust will have the primary responsibility for recognising the person in accordance with the past traditions and that he would leave written instructions for it, he added. The Dalai Lama warned that "no recognition or acceptance should be given to a candidate chosen for political ends by anyone, including those in the People's Republic of China".

UK to ban diesel, petrol cars from 2030



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 18: UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson Wednesday unveiled plans for a new Green Industrial Revolution for the country, including a ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030 and new measures to become a world leader in carbon capture.

Downing Street says the government has mobilised 12 billion pounds for the 10-point plan, which it claims will support up to 250,000 jobs and comes

as the UK prepares to co-host the Climate Ambition Summit on December 12 and the UN COP26 climate summit next year.

Johnson will also speak about the plan in the House of Commons as he attends the weekly Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) session for the first time via video link from Downing Street, where he continues to self-isolate following contact with an MP who later tested positive for COVID-19.

"Although this year has taken a very different path to the one we expected, the UK is looking to the future and seizing the opportunity to build back greener," said Johnson.

"The recovery of our planet and of our economies can and must go hand-in-hand. As we look ahead to hosting the COP26 climate summit next year, I am setting out an ambitious plan for a green industrial revolution that will transform the way we live in the UK. This is a shared global challenge — every coun-

try in the world needs to take action to secure the future of the planet for our children, grandchildren and generations to come," he said in a statement.

The ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030, with hybrid cars to follow in 2035, brings forward a previous deadline of 2040.

The strategy will focus on transforming the UK's national infrastructure to better support electric vehicles.

"This will put the UK on course to be the first G7 country to decarbonise road transport," Downing Street said.

Besides the government's mega investment, the aim is to spur over three times as much private sector investment by 2030, to build the green jobs and industries of the future across the UK and around the world.

Johnson will also host a virtual roundtable with investors as part of this incentivisation of private sector investment.

'ETHIOPIA FACES HELL IN BATTLE FOR TIGRAY'

AGENCIES

Addis Ababa, Nov 18: The rulers of Ethiopia's rebellious Tigray region refused Wednesday to surrender to federal troops and instead claimed they were winning a war that has exacerbated ethnic fractures in the vast nation and further destabilised the Horn of Africa.

The war has killed hundreds and possibly thousands on both sides, sent 30,000 refugees fleeing into Sudan, and called into question the reputation of Africa's youngest leader who won a Nobel Peace Prize in 2019 for a peace pact with Eritrea.

Abiy, 44, ordered air strikes and sent soldiers into Tigray November 4 after accusing the well-armed local ruling party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), of revolt and an attack on a government base.

The TPLF says their former military comrade and one-time political partner has been persecuting their ethnic group and removing Tigrayan officials from senior security and government positions since he took office in 2018.

In a lengthy statement, the Tigrayan leaders accused federal forces of targeting civilians, churches and homes, while blocking internet, electricity and banking services. Hundreds of thousands of people have been uprooted from homes, it said.

Nevertheless, Tigrayan forces had captured tanks and artillery and would soon drive their enemies out despite being massively outnumbered, it added.

The government denies it is targeting civilians. Which countries have stakes in Ethiopia's war?



The northern state is largely cut off to the world as media are barred, most communications are down and foreign aid workers are pulling out, meaning Reuters could not independently verify assertions made by either side. "The wider world

will soon testify the amazing victories achieved by the people and government of Tigray," the Tigrayan statement added. "Attempting to rule the people of Tigray by force is like walking on a burning flame ... Tigray will be the graveyard of dic-

tators and aggressors and not their playground." Tigrayans who have fled to Sudan have told Reuters that militias from Amhara, the neighbouring state, attacked them because of their ethnicity and that government airstrikes were killing civilians. There have also been reports of Tigrayans losing jobs and facing discrimination around Ethiopia.

Tigrayan leaders have used the word "genocide". But Abiy's government has repeatedly denied an ethnic undertone, saying it is simply restoring law and order, pursuing criminals and guaranteeing national unity. Abiy is of mixed heritage, with parents from the Oromo and Amharic ethnic groups - the country's largest and second largest groups respectively.

Tigrayans represent about 5%

CPN Secretariat meet ends in stalemate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Nov 18: The much-awaited crucial meeting of the Central Secretariat of the ruling Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) Wednesday ended in a stalemate with Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli demanding ten days' time to present a separate political document in response to his rival Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda's" accusations that he was running the government without consulting the party.

As soon as the meeting started at Prime Minister Oli's official residence in Baluwatar, Oli told the members of the Secretariat that he will present a separate political document in the next meeting and demanded ten days' time for preparation, party's spokesperson Narayankaji Shrestha said.

The next meeting of the Secretariat has been rescheduled for November 28, he said.

The brief meeting began at 1 pm (local time) amidst fears of splitting the largest communist party, that enjoys almost two third majority in the House of Representatives.

The meeting was supposed to discuss the 19-page political report submitted by the party's executive chairman Prachanda during Friday's Secretariat meeting in which he had accused Oli of running the government without consulting the party and failing to abide by the party's due procedures, according to sources close to the ruling party.

All the nine members of the Secretariat were present during the crucial meeting, which was convened on the initiative of Prachanda. Not briefing the party's Secretariat regarding his recent talks with India's Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Samant Kumar Goel by Oli was one of the key issues raised by Prachanda in his political report, a senior Standing Committee member of the party said. Earlier, Oli had asked Prachanda to take back the report saying that it was not acceptable to him.

US ends B737 MAX flight ban after crash probes

REUTERS

Washington, Nov 18: After nearly two years of scrutiny, corporate upheaval and a standoff with global regulators, Boeing Co won approval Wednesday from the US Federal Aviation Administration to fly its 737 MAX jet again after two fatal disasters.

The FAA detailed software upgrades and training changes Boeing must make in order for it to resume commercial flights after a 20-month grounding, the longest in commercial aviation history.

The 737 MAX crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia killed 346 people within five months in 2018 and 2019 and triggered a hailstorm of investigations, frayed US leadership in global aviation and cost Boeing some \$20 billion.

The US planemaker's best-selling jet will resume commercial service facing strong headwinds from a resurgent coronavirus pandemic, new European trade tariffs and mistrust of one of the most scrutinized brands in aviation.

business



India is the second largest producer of steel in the entire world, yet it is fully dependent on imports for special grade steel
FAGGA SINGH KULASTE | MOS FOR STEEL

UNILEVER ANNOUNCES NEW TARGETS FOR GLOBAL FOODS BIZ

Global FMCG major Unilever has announced a new set of targets for its global foods and refreshment business, including doubling the number of products delivering positive nutrition, which will play a role in addressing challenges of unbalanced diet and micronutrient deficiency in India



of the day quote

When we are talking of patient care, there has to be a little bit of understanding and that is being rightly said that public-partnership has to be in a way that there is confidence on both sides



RANDEEP GULERIA | DIRECTOR, AIIMS

There is no doubt that public sector spending (on health) by both centre and states need to go up very significantly. Our endeavour must be to raise public spending from 0.95% of GDP to 2.5% of GDP by 2024



NK SINGH | CHAIRMAN, 15TH FINANCE COMMISSION

The wider role, purpose and meaning of what constitutes 'good business' has never been more relevant than today. A company's social and community impact is being discussed as loudly and frequently as its balance sheets, and by more people than ever before



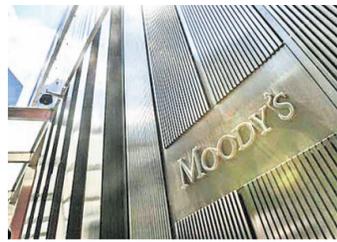
ANAND MAHINDRA | CHAIRMAN, MAHINDRA GROUP

'Merger with LVB to strengthen DBS' India biz'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: Moody's Investors Service Wednesday said Singapore's DBS Bank will strengthen its India business following merger with troubled Lakshmi Vilas Bank. Banking regulator RBI Tuesday announced a draft scheme to amalgamate the troubled Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) into DBS Bank India, which is fully owned by DBS Bank Ltd.

"The merger will strengthen DBS' business position in India by adding new retail and small and medium sized customers. We estimate that DBS India's customer deposits and net loans will increase by about 50 per cent-70 per cent following the merger," Moody's said in a statement.



The merger will strengthen DBS' business position in India by adding new retail and small and medium sized customers

LVB will also add around 500 branches to DBS India's 27 branches. The global rating agency said India is one of DBS' priority markets, and the acquisition of LVB fits its expansion strategy. "We estimate that the merger

will increase DBS' net loans in India to around 1.5 per cent of group loans, from 0.9 per cent as of June 30, 2020. DBS' net loan exposure in India will remain small and will not alter the group's credit profile," it added. The acquisition will help DBS

complement traditional physical branch banking with its digital strategy in India.

Moody's said India and Indonesia are DBS' core foreign markets where it is actively growing its digital banking services, and had more than 3 million digital bank customers in these two markets at the end of 2019.

LVB will add retail and SME (small and medium enterprises) customers to DBS Bank India's mostly corporate and SME-focused loan book. LVB is insolvent and the RBI has introduced a moratorium on payments to large depositors and creditors until December 16.

As part of the draft amalgamation scheme, DBS will invest around USD 345 million in LVB's capital.

"The acquisition will be positive for depositors and senior creditors of LVB because the bank will benefit from parental support from DBS, a very strong bank," it said.

Moody's said LVB's rescue process highlights the deficiencies in India's bank resolution mechanism as the moratorium restricts full and timely payments to depositors and creditors, thereby leading to a temporary default by the bank. This is despite the fact that the Indian government recently gave powers to the RBI to resolve a bank without imposing a moratorium.

"The recent report by the Financial Stability Board identifies India as one of outliers among the G20 countries in terms of resolution powers," it added.

Renault to roll out B-SUV 'Kiger'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: Renault India will expand its product range and segment presence with the launch of its new game-changer, Renault KIGER. It will be built on the same platform as TRIBER and will be an international launch for Groupe Renault. The company will also introduce an all-new global engine with Renault KIGER.



Renault KIGER show car is collaboration between the corporate design teams in France and Renault India design.

Renault is slated to launch an all new turbo engine with Renault KIGER and promises to offer an exciting drive courtesy its high performance, modern and efficient engine options.

Company's authorities said that Renault KIGER is all-new B-SUV which will stand out as an attractive, smart and exciting offering from Groupe Renault. Global launch of Renault KIGER will be in India, after which it will be launched in other markets across the world.

After KWID and TRIBER, Renault KIGER is the third global car from Groupe Renault to be launched in India first, followed by other markets. It will be launched in the B-segment, which accounts for more than 50% of the total industry sales, thereby enabling us to grow our presence across the country.

TPCODL to launch customer relations centre in Cuttack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: TP Central Odisha Distribution Ltd. (TP-CODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, will launch two new customer relations centres (CRC) in Cuttack and Puri. With this, Tata Power's CRC chains now stand at 3 CRC in Odisha.

Both the CRCs will be entirely managed by a team of well-trained men and women officials who are trained to handle a gamut of customer service offerings such as new power supply applications, monthly bill payments, address of customers' queries & concerns along with other customer related services at the CRC. An all women customer care centre will be started in Cuttack and will be the first by any utility in Odisha.

TPCODL CEO M Shenbagam said, "These two new CRCs in Odisha will cater to customers in Cuttack and Puri, with an aim to create customer delight by delivering innovative services and solutions.

Our CRCs will provide our customers with easy access to a number of services and the opportunity to directly interact with us, all under one roof."

'Amazon seeking to derail Future Retail without owning a stake'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: World's largest e-commerce company Amazon is seeking to exercise control over India's biggest retail acquisition using an agreement that gave it an indirect foothold in the owner of retail chain Big Bazaar; lawyers

But that the August 22, 2019 shareholders' agreement gives FCL critical control rights over the management and affairs of FRL, including a bar on selling any retail asset without its approval and a bar on selling assets to any restricted persons. This, they said, tantamounts to



- Amazon had in August last year bought 49 per cent in one of Kishore Biyani-led Future Group's unlisted firms
- The US firm claims that its contract with the unlisted Future Copouns Ltd (FCL) barred a transaction with a number of persons and companies, including Ambani and Reliance

and analysts said. Amazon had in August last year bought 49 per cent in one of Kishore Biyani-led Future Group's unlisted firms, with the right to buy into the listed flagship Future Retail Ltd (FRL) after a few years and if the government were to undo its bar on foreign ownership of multibrand retailers.

But FRL ran into a severe cash crunch soon after the nationwide lockdown imposed to curb the coronavirus outbreak. It cut a deal with Reliance Industries to sell assets for ₹24,713 crore, infuriating Amazon.

The US firm claims that its contract with the unlisted Future Copouns Ltd (FCL) barred a transaction with a number of persons and companies, including Ambani and Reliance.

The lawyers and analysts said Amazon invested not in FRL but in a company owned and controlled by Kishore Biyani namely Future Copouns Ltd (FCL), which was carrying on the business of wholesale trading of goods and merchandise and marketing and distribution of corporate gifts cards, loyalty cards, and reward cards to corporate customers.

Amazon getting 'control rights' in FRL even though the law does not provide for that.

Amazon on the other hand feels it didn't have any operational control over FRL and the agreement only tries to protect its investments. The agreement was disclosed to Sebi as well as the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Sources, however, said the 'control' was in violation of the law as FDI is permitted in multi-brand retail with government approval and with a lot of restrictions such as 50 per cent of the funds being invested in backend infrastructure, mandatory local sourcing of goods and services, a bar on retail trading by means of e-commerce and multi-brand retail being allowed only in certain states. Amazon did not reply to a detailed email sent seeking comments.

The charge of foreign control over the multi-brand retailer is being sought to be dismissed by pointing to 12.3 per cent foreign portfolio ownership in FRL. Amazon invested ₹1,430 crore to acquire 49 per cent equity in FCL. 51 per cent is held by Biyani.

Economy will see double-digit growth next fiscal, says ex-CEA

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 18: Indian economy is likely to contract 7.5 per cent in the current fiscal but will see a double-digit growth in 2021-22, former chief economic adviser Arvind Virmani said Wednesday.

Addressing a virtual event organised by industry body PHDCCI, Virmani said the central government has come up with some noteworthy reforms, including Goods and Services Tax (GST), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and setting up of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

"There is a need to re-accelerate the economic growth... Indian economy is likely to contract to 7.5 per cent in 2020-21. But it will grow in double-digit in the next fiscal year," he said.

Virmani lamented that in 2009, he had written that pending re-



We need import substitution policy vis-a-vis China and free trade policy vis-a-vis rest of the world
ARVIND VIRMANI | FORMER CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER

forms must continue if India wants sustained economic growth but that his advice was not followed.

Recently, Moody's Investors Service revised upwards its GDP forecasts for India to (-) 8.9 per cent contraction in 2020 as the economy deflates after a long and strict nationwide lockdown but had said the recovery is patchy.

The Reserve Bank of India has projected the Indian economy to contract 9.5 per cent in the current fiscal while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World

Bank estimates the contraction at 10.3 per cent and 9.6 per cent, respectively.

Virmani said that an increase in marginal income tax rates need to be reversed. He also noted that to decrease capital costs, India needs more financial sector reforms.

"We need import substitution policy vis-a-vis China and free trade policy vis-a-vis rest of the world," he said, adding that there is a need to increase India's economic competitiveness so that protectionist policies are required less and less.

TOP GAINERS 18 NOV		
44,180.05		
227.34		
POINTS		%
705.60	M&M	10.76%
1147.75	L&T	6.15%
828.50	IndusInd Bank	5.67%
7778.25	Bajaj Finserv	5.62%
252.05	SBI	4.93%
4655.40	Bajaj Finance	3.73%
497.45	ICICI Bank	2.31%
1830.15	Kotak Mahi	1.86%
636.20	Axis Bank	1.18%
7055.30	Maruti Suzuki	1.06%

BIZ- BUZZ

Apple to reduce App Store commission

San Francisco: Facing flak for App Stores 30% standard commission for paid app revenue and in-app purchases, Apple Wednesday unveiled a new developer programme that will reduce the charge by half for small businesses that earn up to \$1 million in revenue from January 1. Apple said the new "App Store Small Business Programme" will benefit the vast majority of developers who sell digital goods and services on the store, providing them with a reduced commission on paid apps and in-app purchases. To be launched January 1, the programme comes at an important time as small and independent developers continue working to innovate and thrive during a period of unprecedented global economic challenge.



Union Bank celebrates 102nd Foundation Day

Bhubaneswar: Union Bank of India, Balasore Regional Office celebrated the 102nd foundation day on the premises of its regional office. The day was celebrated in the presence of Regional Head Sankar Hembram, Deputy Regional Head Harendra Kumar Jena and other staff members. Hembram stressed upon the importance of banks in revival of the economy during this pandemic while addressing the staff members and customers.



WB to bring in single-window system for allotting industrial land

THE SINGLE-WINDOW SYSTEM FOR LAND ALLOTMENT WILL FACILITATE ALL BIG, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SCALE INDUSTRIES TO SET UP UNITS IN A MUCH HASSLE-FREE MANNER. THIS WOULD ALSO HELP THEM GET LAND IN LESS NUMBER OF DAYS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Nov 18: As the Mamata Banerjee-led West Bengal government gears up for the high-voltage Assembly polls in 2021, the state government has decided to introduce a single-window system to allot land for industries across various districts.

The single-window system for land allotment will facilitate all big, small and medium-scale industries to set up units in a much hassle-free manner. This would also help them get land in less number of days as compared to the time it used to take earlier.

At the fag end of its second successful term, the state incumbent Trinamool Congress government has done really little to in attracting big investments to Bengal. The party which rose to power in 2011



riding on the anti-land acquisition movement in Singur and Nandigram went all out to lure investors every year in Bengal Global Business Summit

It claimed that the state, with a GSDP of \$155.32 billion, is the 4th

largest contributor to India's services GDP and 6th largest contributor to India's manufacturing GDP. With a consumer base of over 91 million and a strategic location gateway to over 300 million people covering entire East,

Northeast of India, Bengal is also the gateway to Southeast Asia and ASEAN countries.

"Yes, I feel that attracting big investments to Bengal has been an area where we have not scored substantially over the last one decade. The problem is that the state has a huge population density and big land is not available," veteran Trinamool Congress leader and Lok Sabha MP Sougata Roy told IANS.

Roy said that any big industry would want to set up their facilities in and around the state capital Kolkata and the issue is the land available near is pretty agricultur-

ally fertile. He said what the Trinamool Congress had gained politically in the Singur and Nandigram movement the same thing has boomeranged the party when it is in the government now.

According sources in the state industry department, the allotment of land for industries used to be looked after by three different bodies - West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) for big industries, West Bengal Small

Industries Development Corporation (WBSIDC) for medium and small-scale industries and West Bengal Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (WBI-IDC) for developing infrastructure for the units.

The industrial units used to approach these three separate state government entities depending on their requirements. Now onwards, the entire process will be made easy by introduction of a single-window system, a senior state government official said, adding that land allotment for industries would not remain a time-taking procedure in the state anymore.

There are about 6,041 acres of vacant land available across as many as 16 districts, both in south and north Bengal, with the state's industrial land bank currently, sources said.

Mamata Banerjee, CM, West Bengal



Catastrophic low for Low



Ferran Torres scores hat-trick to guide Spain into Nations League last four as Neuer & Co. suffer Germany's worst defeat in history in competitive matches

scored a first career hat-trick. Germany were powerless to stop Luis Enrique's relentless side as the visitors suffered their worst defeat in a competitive game and the most humiliating since losing by the same scoreline against Austria in a friendly in 1931.

Alvaro Morata, Ferran and Rodri gave Enrique's side a 3-0 halftime lead, while Ferran struck again early in the second half and completed his treble with a classy finish.

Substitute Mikel Oyarzabal tapped in the sixth goal in the 89th minute to adorn an incredible Spain display and deepen four-time World Champions Germany's misery.

Morata meanwhile took pleasure in silencing Spain's critics after they snatched a 1-1 draw away to Switzerland Saturday.

The victory saw Spain finish top of League A4 with 11 points after six games, joining France in the final four tournament, which will take place in October 2021. The Germans, who only needed a draw to progress to the final phase, came second with nine.

Spain suffered an early injury setback when Sergio Canales was taken off but his replacement Fabian Ruiz had an immediate impact, sending in a superb delivery from a corner and Morata rose unmarked at the far post to head home



in the 17th minute. Morata netted again soon after by connecting with a cross from Ferran but his strike was incorrectly ruled offside, with no VAR in operation in the Nations League.

However, Spain quickly shrugged off any sense of injustice as Ferran smashed in their second goal on the rebound in the 33rd after Dani Olmo had glanced against the post, while Rodri headed home a corner from Koke five minutes later.

Spain lost captain Sergio Ramos to a suspected muscle injury towards the end of the first half but they grew ever more confident after the break as Germany continued to wilt. Dani Olmo spurned a chance to add to Spain's lead, allowing Manuel Neuer to make a rare save in a match where his main task

was picking the ball out of the net on a night when he became Germany's most capped keeper with 96 games ahead of Sepp Maier.

But Ferran showed no mercy, taking a pass from ex-Valencia team mate Jose Gaya to net his second and then receiving a ball from Fabian and beating Neuer from outside the box to become the first Spain player to score a hat-trick against Germany.

Post-mortem begins after unwanted feat

The painful post-mortem has started in Germany after Spain destroyed them 6-0 in Tuesday night with the country's biggest paper, 'BILD', calling for Joachim Low to resign.

'BILD' sports chief Matthias Brugelmann said that Low should offer his resignation from the position. The publication tore into the team and wrote: "Low is wobbling after the disaster", adding that they were "bodiless, defenseless and without a chance."

Low has been at the helm for 14 years and led the country to World Cup glory in 2014 before embarking on a rebuilding job after the ignominy of the 2018 tournament. BILD were in good company in their savage assessment of Tuesday's display.

'Der Spiegel' described it as "like a wrecking ball" and reported that "Spanish

fury had ruined Germany's planned rise back to the top of the world... it was a game like a slap in the face".

"Low's team were not defeated, it was destroyed," exclaimed 'WELT' and they went on to brand the 6-0 a 'historic debacle'.

'Frankfurter Allgemeine' wrote that the German national team "had experienced a disaster" and now says Low "faces a mess of a team" to sort out.

"It was humiliation from the first to the last minute - and the biggest defeat of a DFB selection since 1931," lamented Morgenpost.

Sueddeutsche branded it "the worst game in the era of the national coach." And they went on to pick the performance apart in excruciating detail, writing: "From a German point of view it doesn't just sound like disaster and humiliation, it actually was, and actually it was even worse."

THIS VICTORY BELONGS TO EVERY PLAYER, EVEN THOSE WHO DIDN'T PLAY. IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO SINGLE ANYONE OUT BECAUSE TO DO WHAT WE DID, TO PRESS A TEAM LIKE GERMANY ALL OVER THE PITCH, YOU NEED EVERY PLAYER FROM DEFFEN TO ATTACK TO WORK HARD. THIS WAS ONE OF THOSE NIGHTS THAT HAPPEN VERY RARELY, WHEN EVERYTHING GOES EXACTLY AS PLANNED. THIS IS WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU COMBINE QUALITY AND ATTITUDE

LUIS ENRIQUE **JOACHIM LOW**

I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TEAM. WE HAD HARDLY ANY CHANCES AND WE DIDN'T WIN A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL BATTLE OUT ON THE PITCH. IN THE SECOND HALF WE TRIED TO PRESS THEM HIGH UP THE PITCH TO SCORE AND GET BACK INTO THE GAME BUT SPAIN PLAYED FAR BETTER THAN US, THEY WERE MUCH FASTER AND PLAYED WITH MORE PRECISION

Seville, Nov 18: Sparkling Spain crushed hapless Germany 6-0 at home Tuesday to storm into the final four of the Nations League in style as forward Ferran Torres

Arthur, Richarlison help Brazil through



Arthur (R) is congratulated by teammate Gabriel Jesus after his goal

REUTERS

Montevideo, Nov 18: First half goals from Arthur and Richarlison gave Brazil a 2-0 win away at Uruguay Tuesday and maintained their 100 percent record in the South American World Cup qualifiers for Qatar 2022.

Brazil were missing a host of players through COVID-19 and injury, including talismanic striker Neymar, but they were too strong for their opponents, who have not beaten them since 2001.

Arthur got the opener after 34 minutes when his shot from outside the box was cruelly deflected past Uruguayan keeper Martin Campana and then Richarlison glanced a header into the net from a short corner seconds before halftime.

Missing Luis Suarez after he tested positive for COVID-19, Uruguay hit the woodwork twice in the first half but their unlucky night was confirmed when the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) convinced the officials to send off Edinson Cavani for a mistimed tackle on Richarlison at 71 minutes.

Uruguay kept battling and Martin Caceres saw his close shot hit the net with a quarter of an hour left only to be disallowed by the Chilean referee.

The win in Montevideo was Brazil's fourth in a row in the qualifying stage and ensures they are the only side in the 10-team South American group to have won all of their opening matches. The qualifiers will restart again in March 2021.

The top four teams in the group qualify automatically for Qatar 2022 and the fifth-placed side goes into an inter-regional playoff.

In Caracas, Venezuela picked up their first points thanks to a late Salomon Rondon winner against Chile. Guillermo Maripan

put the home side ahead after eight minutes and although Arturo Vidal got his third goal in two games moments later Rondon's 81st minute strike gave Venezuela a much-needed win.

ARGENTINA EASE PAST PERUVIANS



Lima: Argentina scored twice in the first half and were unfortunate not to score more in a dominant second as they comfortably beat Peru 2-0 in a World Cup qualifier in Lima Tuesday. Nicolas Gonzalez put the visitors ahead with an angled shot in 17 minutes following incisive work from Giovanni Lo Ceslo on the left flank and then Lautaro Martinez doubled their lead 11 minutes later when he ran on to a superb pass from Leandro Paredes and rounded the keeper to slot home. The win extended Argentina's unbeaten run to 11 games and means they stay second in the 10-team South American qualifying group for Qatar 2022, two points behind leaders Brazil. It also marked the first time since the year 2000 that the two-time World Champions have won three consecutive away qualifiers.

Giroud brace lifts Les Bleus

REUTERS

Paris, Nov 18: Olivier Giroud bagged a double as he showed his worth for France again to help the world champions beat Sweden 4-2 at home in the Nations League Tuesday.

Giroud scored either side of Benjamin Pavard's first-half strike as Les Bleus recovered from Viktor Claesson's early opener. Sweden, who reduced the arrears through Robin Quaison before France's Kingsley Coman wrapped it up in stoppage time, were relegated into League B.

Didier Deschamps' France side, who had already qualified for the Final Four, topped Group 3 with 16 points from six games, three points ahead of Portugal, who beat third-placed Croatia 3-2 away. Sweden finished bottom on three points, behind Croatia on goal difference.

Giroud, who has only made three Premier League appearances for Chelsea this season, has now netted 44 international goals to move

seven shy of Thierry Henry's all-time France scoring record.

Claesson put the visitors ahead after four minutes when his shot from inside the box took a deflection off Raphael Varane and wrong-footed Hugo Lloris.

Les Bleus hit back in the 16th minute, with Giroud finding the back of the net with a low shot on the turn from Marcus Thuram's cutback.

Pavard gave France the lead nine minutes before the break with a low, driven volley after Thuram had drawn the defence towards him with a dazzling run into the box.

Giroud, who has been warned by Deschamps that he needs to sort out his club situation in order to stay in the squad, put the result beyond doubt with a header from second-half substitute Kylian Mbappe in the 59th minute.

Quaison pulled one back two minutes from fulltime but it was too little, too late for Sweden, who conceded another from late substitute Coman at the end of a counter attack five minutes into added time.

Saha, Ishant back to training, on road to recovery

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Nov 18: Veteran wicket-keeper Wriddhiman Saha was back at the Indian team nets here Wednesday, showing signs of recovery from an injury with four weeks still left for the much-anticipated December 17-21 Test series opener against Australia in Adelaide.

Saha had damaged both his hamstrings during a short but successful IPL campaign for Sunrisers Hyderabad. Saha was seen facing throwdowns at the nets for a considerable period of time. He didn't keep wickets though and the extent of recovery couldn't be ascertained from the video uploaded by the BCCI media.

In the other development, Ishant Sharma bowled full tilt at the NCA with an aim to get fit for India's four-match Test series in Australia.

Ishant was ruled out of the IPL after playing just one game for Delhi Capitals against SRH before a 'left internal oblique muscle tear' ended his campaign prematurely. 'ESPNcricinfo' on their twitter handle, posted a minute-long clip of the 32-year-old, who was seen bowling from his full run-up.

Dias scores twice in Portugal victory

AGENCIES

Poljud (Croatia), Nov 18: Dominik Livakovic's calamitous late error gifted Portugal a 3-2 victory as Fernando Santos' side ended their Nations League campaign on a high note but Croatia avoided relegation from Group A3.

Croatia, reduced to 10 men early in the second half when Marko Rog received a second booking, seemed to be heading for a draw in Split Tuesday.

Mateo Kovacic opened the scoring in the 29th minute before curling in from the edge of the box after goals from Ruben Dias and Joao Felix had put Portugal ahead.

But Livakovic endured a 90th-minute nightmare, fumbling a corner to the feet of Dias, who completed his double to snatch the points, yet Croatia avoid the drop due to France's win over Sweden.

Kovacic put the hosts ahead lashing home at the second attempt after having his initial shot from Pasalic's cross blocked. Portugal had their equaliser eight minutes into the second half.

Rog was shown a second yellow card for a foul on Ronaldo, whose free-kick was parried out by Livakovic and Ruben Semedo squared for Dias to add insult to injury by prodding in.

Portugal were in front on the hour-mark, with Joao Felix on hand to tuck in from Diogo Jota's lay off, yet Croatia defied their numerical disadvantage to hit back when Kovacic curled a low strike into the bottom-left corner.

Croatian goalkeeper Livakovic charged out to claim Joao Moutinho's corner, only to drop it after making contact with Dejan Lovren, enabling Dias to snatch victory.

Thiem beats Nadal; Tsitsipas wins too

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 18: Dominic Thiem mastered the tie-breakers again to get the better of Rafa Nadal, and defending champion Stefanos Tsitsipas also won on Day 3 of the ATP Finals.

Thiem beat the 20-time Grand Slam champion in straight sets and secured his spot in the semifinals when Tsitsipas outlasted tournament newcomer Andrey Rublev in the evening match at an empty O2 Arena.

Thiem Tuesday clinched a 7-6(9-7), 7-6(7-4) win on his fifth match point in his first meeting with Nadal since the Australian Open quarterfinals in January, when the Austrian player prevailed after winning three tie-breakers in a tight four-set match.

The US Open champion opened group play in the season-ending event with a three-set victory over Tsitsipas Sunday and qualified for the semifinals when Tsitsipas won 6-1, 4-6, 7-6(8-6), handing Rublev his second defeat.

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic, Wednesday, will play Daniil Medvedev — both players won their opening matches — and Alexander Zverev faces Diego Schwartzman, with both in search of their first victories.

Nadal, who beat Rublev in straight sets in their opener, missed a chance to qualify with a match to spare and next will play Tsitsipas Thursday with a semifinal place at stake. Nadal has never won the ATP Finals, one of few gaps on his resume.



Dominic Thiem reacts after winning a set point against Rafa Nadal, Tuesday



STEFANOS TSITSIPAS

Thiem, who described his performance as one of the best of his career; won the first set after coming from 5-2 down in the tie-breaker, saving two set points in the process.

There was high-quality shot-making throughout the match, but not least when Thiem produced two inside-out forehand winners in a three-point span to close the tiebreaker — the first on set point for Nadal — and then to clinch the set.

The ATP Finals move to Turin, Italy, next year, after 12 years in London. 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.