



GOING GLOBAL

Actor Urvashi Rautela says it's an honour to be one to become a showstopper at Arab Fashion Week

LEISURE P2



CHILD LABOUR IN GUJ

Nearly 1.30 lakh children, mostly tribal, are illegally employed at Gujarat's cottonseed farms, a study said

TWO STATES P7



MALABAR NAVAL DRILLS

China said it has 'taken note' of India's announcement that Oz will join the Malabar exercises

INTERNATIONAL P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We had ample stock of anxiety pills. But then the PM announced he was going to address the nation

SHORT TAKES

Kartika: Spl 'abadha' outlet at Srimandir

Puri: The Suar-Mahasuar Niyog of Srimandir would open temporary counters at the south and north gates of the shrine to sell Mahaprasad during the holy month of Kartika. Suar-Mahasuar Niyog secretary Krushna Chandra Pratihari said Srimandir has been shut for devotees since March this year due to Covid-19. However, many devotees and elderly women who observe Kartika Brata will require Mahaprasad during the holy month. "The Suar-Mahasuar Niyog has held discussions with the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration chief Krishan Kumar and proposed opening of a few temporary counters near Srimandir to sell Mahaprasad to the devotees. The SJTA chief has agreed to our proposal," Pratihari added.

Anti-extortion help

Bhubaneswar: Director General of Police, Abhay Tuesday launched anti-extortion helpline number '9938910000' during a special programme at the Police Bhawan here. Citizens of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar can dial the helpline number to inform the anti-extortion task force of the Commissionerate Police about demands of money by the extortionists in twin cities. The victims can share information or complaints on the helpline number through telephone calls, SMSes or WhatsApp and Telegram app. Abhay told media that the identity of the complainants and informants will be kept secret by the task force.

BSF defuses 7 IEDs

Bhubaneswar: Seven IEDs, suspected to have been planted by cadres of the banned CPI (Maoist) outfit, were defused by security forces in Malkangiri district, a BSF statement said Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off, Border Security Force (BSF) personnel launched a combing operation in Swabhimaan Anchal along the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border Monday evening, it said. The troops detected the improvised explosive devices planted on a road, the statement said.

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	40544.37	↑ 112.77
NIFTY	11896.80	↑ 23.80
DOLLAR	73.70	↑ ₹0.13
EURO	86.78	↑ ₹0.47
GOLD	₹50,750	↑ ₹63
SILVER	₹62,760	↑ ₹665

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	33.0°C	34.0°C
MIN	24.7°C	23.2°C
Humidity	98%	80%
Rainfall	2mm	Nil

Forecast: Generally cloudy sky

No complacency till vaccine: Modi

'Lockdown has ended, but virus still there; all must be cautious during fests'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 20: With the onset of festival season, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday made an impassioned appeal to people to follow COVID-19 guidelines, saying this is not the time to be careless as the virus is still around and even a small negligence can dampen the festive spirit. In his seventh address to the nation following the COVID-19 outbreak, Modi cited examples of the US and several European countries to note that the coronavirus cases there have seen a sudden and worrisome rise after witnessing a fall, as he cautioned citizens against any laxity until an effective cure is found.

He said pictures and videos have of late emerged showing that many people have either stopped following precautions like wearing masks or have become negligent. "This is absolutely not right. Those who have become negligent and are moving around without masks are putting themselves and their families, including children and elderly, at risk," he said in his televised speech. He noted that people have been getting on with their lives after the lockdown was lifted while economic activities are picking up and crowds are slowly returning to markets in the festive times. At one point in his speech, he folded his hands to impress upon people to take precautions like wearing masks, sanitising their hands and

Never lower guard, CM urges people

Bhubaneswar: With the beginning of the festive season, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday appealed to people to remain cautious and follow Covid guidelines strictly. Addressing people through a video message, Naveen said the character profile of coronavirus is very critical. Therefore, all have to be cautious till a vaccine for Covid-19 is out. Naveen cited the examples of European countries like UK, France and Spain where the infection rate was at peak during March and April. But now, these countries are facing the second wave of Covid-19.

maintaining social distance and said he wants to see them safe and their families happy. "We must keep in mind that lockdown may have ended, but the virus is still there... This is not the time to be negligent, this is not the time to believe that corona is gone or there is no danger from it," he said. "India is in a stable situation today due to efforts of every Indian in the last seven-eight months, and we have to ensure that the situation does not deteriorate," he added. Modi invoked sages like Kabir and the holy scripture of Ramcharitmanas to make his point about not taking a disease lightly until it is fully overcome.

Govt to go ahead with 'Make in Odisha Conclave', inks MoU

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 20: Giving a green light for the third edition of the Make in Odisha Conclave, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday set the ball rolling for the mega business event to be held here. The state government has roped in Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) as its national industry partner for the 3rd edition of the event. An MoU was signed between Industrial Promotion & Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL) and FICCI on a virtual platform in presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Naveen said a positive policy framework, robust infrastructure, skilled human resources and result-oriented administration will help Odisha realise this vision. With the signing of the MoU, he expressed confidence that the state will take the next leap in industrial growth and development. He said the Make in Odisha Conclaves in 2016 and 2018 brought in significant quantum of investments resulting in creation of a diversified industrial base in the state, and as an outcome, the state has established itself as one of the premier investment destinations in the country. The state has all the mechanisms in place to realise the vision of making Odisha an investment destination of choice, both nationally and globally, he further said. The CM said even during these trying times, Odisha has undertaken various investment promotion activities and is able to attract over Rs 24,300 crore worth of new investments since February 2020. Odisha has implemented a robust single window framework to enable seamless, hassle-free and prompt investment facilitation services. Odisha remains amongst the top destinations in terms of grounding of industrial projects, Patnaik added.

Task force to end man-animal conflicts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 20: With an aim to reduce man-animal conflicts, the state government has constituted a task force to prepare a master plan for next three years. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (wildlife) has been appointed as chairman of the task force, said Forest and Environment Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha Tuesday. The panel was asked to submit its report to the government within six weeks, he said. Representatives of South Eastern Railways & East Coast Railways, CEOs of power distribution companies, chief engineer (roads), chief general manager of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), regional chief conservator of forests (RCCF)—Angul, Rourkela & Bhubaneswar,



Save Elephant Foundation Trust and many resource persons have been included in the panel. The task force can induct any other individual as its members or consult any individual/institution for preparation of the master plan. "Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has always stressed endeavours for reduction of man-animal conflicts in the state. It is, therefore, essential to prioritise

the activities and streamline different interventions to reduce man animal conflict and have a master plan for 3 years so that funds under different schemes are spent as per this master plan," Arukha said. In addition to department schemes, funds under site specific wild life plans for forest diversion cases, CAMPA, MGNREGS & district mineral fund (DMF) can be effectively utilised for habitat development, digging of trenches and other protective measures, the minister said. Arukha advised divisional forest officers (DFOs) to have SOPs with railways, NH, state highways, irrigation officials, power distribution companies with an institutional arrangement of regular monitoring and review at the circle, district and division levels.

Jumbo deaths up

Bhubaneswar: Elephant fatalities in different forest reserves and man-elephant conflicts in the state have caused concern for the forest department. Data from the forest department and the environment ministry hint that Odisha has become a concern for elephant deaths and their conflicts with humans. According to official data, elephants in the state caused 105 deaths in 2017-18, the highest in India while in 2018-19 72, more humans were killed by jumbos. When it comes to elephant deaths, data submitted by the forest department in Assembly, 2018 was the most fatal for jumbos in last decade. Wildlife experts and environmentalists blame the government for the rising elephant deaths and conflicts with humans.

OilMin babus visit blast site

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 20: Senior officials of the Union ministry of petroleum visited the petrol pump at Raj Bhawan and its surrounding areas to inquire into the explosion October 7 that killed one person and injured several others. The officials along with officers of Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) Monday afternoon reached the petrol pump for inquiry. An employee of the filling station revealed all ten staff present at the fateful day were asked by their owner to reach the pump by evening. The team asked them various questions related to the explosion. They reportedly visited a nearby slum to record the statements of locals in this regard. The owner of the pump was also grilled by the officials. However, Deputy Commissioner of

Police, Umashankar Dash, said the team has not contacted the commissionerate police. He informed media that different agencies including the commissionerate police and the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) have been separately probing the explosion. The commissionerate police Monday submitted before the SDJM court the human body parts and other items seized from the explosion site at the IOCL filling station here. The seized items were later sent to the State Forensic Science Laboratory for examination. Earlier, Union minister for petroleum Dharmendra Pradhan had directed the secretary of petroleum and natural gas to probe and submit a report after discussing with senior officers of the state government and Indian Oil. Notably, an LPG tank had blown off at the pump during refilling of fuel October 7.



Govt sounds high alert ahead of rain

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 20: A fresh low-pressure area, formed over the Bay of Bengal Tuesday, is likely to trigger heavy to very heavy rainfall in many parts of Odisha over the next three days, the Meteorological Centre here said. In view of the weather forecast, the Odisha government Tuesday asked senior officials to remain prepared to meet any eventuality, particularly waterlogging and landslides in hilly areas. Under the influence of a cyclonic circulation over the central Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood, a low-pressure area has formed over the same region. Associated cyclonic circulation extends up to 7.6 km above mean sea level, it said. It is likely to become well marked and move initially north-westwards during the next two days and then north-eastwards in subsequent three days, the MeT Centre said in a bulletin. This is the 10th low-pressure system developed over the Bay of Bengal since the beginning of August and third this month. While rain-

fall of varying intensity is likely to lash most parts of the state till October 23, heavy to very heavy downpour may pound some areas during the period due to the low-pressure system. This apart, squally weather with wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph is likely to prevail over west central parts of Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood, the MeT Centre said, advising fishermen not to venture into deep sea area of westcentral Bay of Bengal till October 23. Following the MeT centre's forecast, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC), PK Jena issued an advisory to District Collectors and senior officials to maintain constant vigil and closely monitor the situation in low lying areas to deal with possible waterlogging and landslides. While heavy rainfall is likely to lash some places of Malkangiri, Koraput and Ganjam districts till Wednesday, heavy rainfall may occur at one or two places in Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak and Balasore districts Wednesday and Thursday, the MeT Centre said.

NATURE'S BOUNTY



A woman collects water chestnut from a pond in Ajmer district Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

FATF plenary today: What next for Pakistan

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 20: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) will begin a three-day virtual plenary meeting Wednesday that will decide on the next course of action against Pakistan with regard to steps taken by the country to crack down on fund-raising by terror groups. The multilateral watchdog, which counters money laundering and terror financing, put Pakistan on its list of "jurisdictions under increased monitoring" or "grey list" in 2018 for not doing enough to curb financial activities of terror groups. The grey list now has 18 countries, ranging from Iceland to Mauritius and Panama, and most of these nations have been cited for lax money laundering regimes and none face as serious charges related to terror financing as Pakistan.

After a plenary meeting in February, FATF warned Pakistan that all deadlines set for implementing an action plan against terror financing had expired, and that the country had largely addressed only 14 of 27 action items in the plan. According to a more recent assessment, Pakistan is understood to have largely addressed about 20 action items. However, FATF's regional affiliate Asia-Pacific Group (APG) concluded last month that Pakistan has fully complied with only two out of 40 recommendations to curb money laundering and terror financing. The abuse of non-profit organisations (NPOs) and registered charities by groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was cited by APG in its latest report as a "significant threat", and the group retained Pakistan in its "enhanced follow-up" category.



Combating terror financing has been a priority for FATF since 2001. FATF plays a key role in global efforts to fight terror financing by setting global standards, assisting countries to implement financial provisions of the United Nations Security Council resolutions on terror; and evaluating their ability

to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute the financing of terrorism. FATF carries out assessments throughout the year of countries on the grey list, though this work has been curtailed in 2020 by the Covid-19 pandemic. Much of its work in Pakistan has been focused on getting the

government to introduce laws to enforce UN sanctions, improve co-ordination between different government organisations and law enforcement agencies, and prosecution of terrorists involved in fund-raising. Though Pakistan has arrested LeT founder Hafiz Saeed and a handful of other terrorist leaders and successfully prosecuted several of them - Saeed was given a prison term of five-and-a-half years in February - there have been other developments that have been criticised by Western nations. For instance, Pakistani authorities have removed some 3,800 names from a terror watch list this year. Pakistan has also enacted some 10 laws for freezing the assets of terror groups and to impose fines and prison terms for terror financing but FATF has said enforcement and prosecution needs to improve further.

leisure

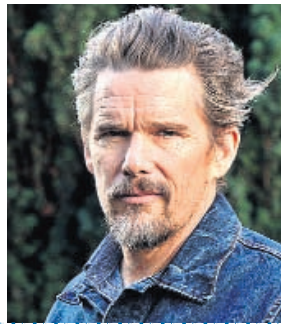


'BLACK PANTHER SEQUEL SANS BOSEMAN SEEMS STRANGE'

Actress Letitia Wright, who impressed as Shuri in *Black Panther*, says the thought of working on a sequel to the superhero adventure without the late Chadwick Boseman seems strange. Boseman shot to global superstardom playing Black Panther in the 2018 film, while Wright played his sister.

I WANT TO COME TO INDIA AND EXPERIENCE ITS CULTURE: HAWKE

Hollywood star Ethan Hawke says he wants to visit India and experience the culture of the country. "I want to come to India so badly. India has always been one of those places, where I want to go," Hawke said during an exclusive interview.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will pay attention to the voice of your inner self today. This will help you implement all your plans perfectly. You will not only be jovial, but you will also not let disappointments cow you down. Ganesha says not only today, but you can summon this quality whenever you like.

TAURUS
Ganesha is pleased to see that you have a bright day ahead. Your efforts are due to give the results you expect. If you are in a mood to achieve something more than usual, this is the day for it. You are not likely to be disappointed.

GEMINI
Along with your house, family and business matters, you will also be busy with your social obligations today. You will be afforded the co-operation of those around you. New ways of thinking will flourish within you. Make full use of the opportunities you get today, says Ganesha.

CANCER
You may donate to a charity organisation, for your mental happiness. On the job front, stick to your routine, rather than taking a new bold step, says Ganesha. A good day on the financial front.

LEO
A lucky day is in the offing. You will taste success in all your endeavours. You will be extremely creative. You will contribute a lot of new ideas in meetings. You will be able to talk about your love without any hesitation today, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Today you need to carry on with your success without resting on your past laurels. You will also need to stay focused and organised to continue with the same success level that you enjoyed in the past. Pay attention to your relationship matters as they are the quintessential of your success and peace of mind.

LIBRA
Ganesha says that you need to be more careful in your work field as your enemies or your competitors will try to pull you down today. You will have to be very careful in making business agreements or negotiations regarding give and take in the business. You will see your beloved grow distant from you today.

SCORPIO
You may find yourself at crossroads, wondering which path to take. Crucial decisions regarding your personal life may numb your thoughts. Let this not interfere with your routine or it may lead to complications at work and with loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS
You seem to be on a self-appreciation mode today. Grooming, makeover and attracting attention in on your cards today, you make extra efforts to get that glamorous look for your self. And as Ganesha says, it will surely not go unnoticed as you bag a lot of compliments for it. One of the fortunate days in store for you!

CAPRICORN
Unless you be calm and patient, your tendency to act impulsively will get you into hot water, warns Ganesha. Your image on the minds of your colleagues and bosses will remain intact, though. You will keep on climbing up the ladder and come closer to success, but don't get too excited if everything is turning out as per the plan.

AQUARIUS
Today, you will have a lot of fun with your siblings! Though generally well-organised and methodical, you will enjoy going with the flow of what your siblings and friends plan for you. Sometimes, spontaneity is a good thing, says Ganesha.

PISCES
Some unknown fear could haunt you today. You will direct your energies to discovering the source of your worries and eliminate them. Lovers will find some precious time to cozy up with their partners. You will find yourself going out to the movies or to a concert. On the whole it will be a productive day for you, says Ganesha.

Urvashi to be a showstopper at Arab Fashion Week

Mumbai: Actress Urvashi Rautela will be showstopper for Filipino designer Furne One at the upcoming Arab Fashion Week. "It's an honour to be the first Indian Bollywood actor to be a showstopper at Arab Fashion Week, which is one of the biggest and most prestigious fashion weeks. It is for one of the biggest designers -- Furne One of AMATO Couture. The fact that he chose me is really a huge deal for me. He has worked with pop icons like Jennifer Lopez, Ariana Grande, Beyonce and Mariah Carey," said Urvashi.

"He showcases me as an 'Arabic warrior princess' for his collection," she added about her look on the ramp.

The upcoming 12th edition of the Arab Fashion Week will be hosted virtually in Dubai from October 21 to 24.

"I have also shot for a short fashion film that showcases the message of equality and tackles racism and inequality. I feel there are no boundaries and everyone is created equally," Urvashi further said.

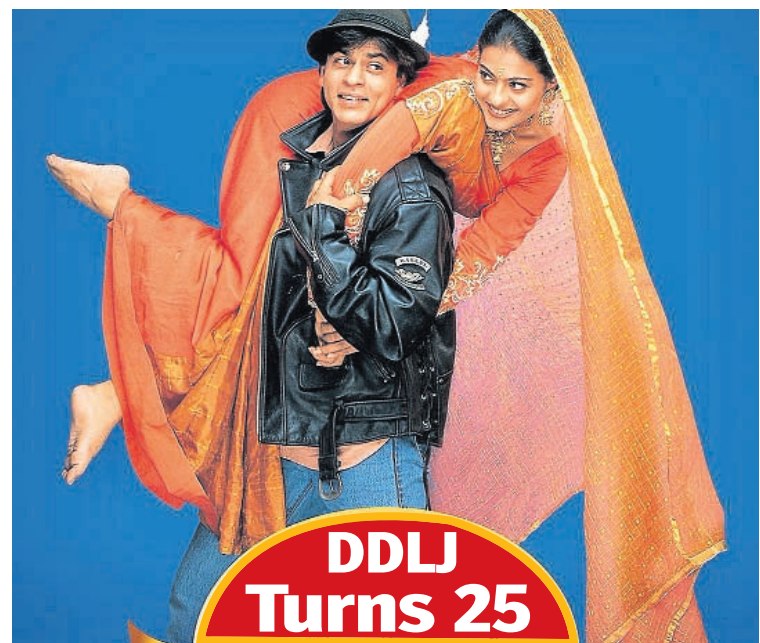
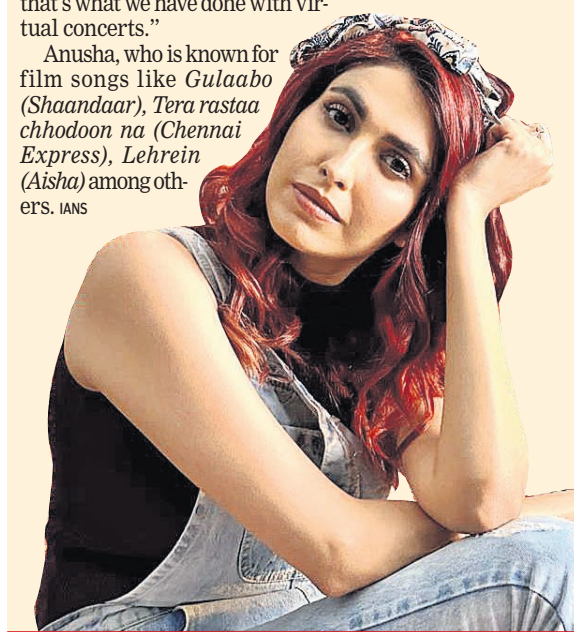


It feels bizarre to perform in living room, says Anusha

Mumbai: For playback singer Anusha Mani, the strangest feeling is to perform in her living room for virtual gigs, which has become the new normal amid the pandemic.

"We've done about five to six virtual concerts so far. It's the strangest feeling to perform in your living room and then walk 20 steps to retire for the day. However, I am very grateful to be able to continue working in whatever small capacity during the lockdown, and in the present situation," Anusha said. Are virtual concerts as satisfying for an artiste as live gigs? Anusha replied: "Virtual gigs come nowhere close in comparison with the satisfaction, adrenaline rush, instant gratification and playing with musicians under the big stage lights and seeing the audience react live in front of you. I think human beings are amazing creatures, so adaptive in nature. We learn to make the most of any given situation and that's what we have done with virtual concerts."

Anusha, who is known for film songs like *Gulaabo (Shaandaar)*, *Tera rasta chhodoon na (Chennai Express)*, *Lehrein (Aisha)* among others, IANS



DDLJ Turns 25

When SRK was skeptical of playing romantic hero

Mumbai: *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* (DDLJ) has turned 25 years old Tuesday, and its actor Shah Rukh Khan looks back at the 1995 blockbuster that helped cement his lover boy image that makes women weak in the knees even today. SRK surprises many saying he was initially skeptical about his ability to pull off the romantic scenes in the ever-popular love story.

"I was told by many people that I looked unconventional, very different from what the perception

of a leading man was. I did feel, maybe, not being handsome enough -- or, as they called it back then, 'chocolatey' -- would make me unsuitable for romantic roles. Also, I am very shy and awkward with ladies, and I didn't know how I would say all the loving, romantic bits," Shah Rukh recalled.

"I have to admit, for someone who doesn't like mushy and romantic films, the scenes Kajol and I did make me feel fuzzy and warm! There, I said it," he smiled. IANS

FIRST DIGITAL LAKME FASHION WEEK BEGINS

Top stars walking virtual ramp to support home-grown craftsmen

COUTURIER MANISH MALHOTRA AND LFW HAVE PARTNERED TO BACK ARTISANS THROUGH A FUND-RAISING PRESENTATION FOR THE REVIVAL OF ARTISANS' PURIST WORKMANSHIP



Actor Kartik Aryan as showstopper at a fashion show FILE PHOTO

AGENCIES
New Delhi: Actor Kartik Aryan walked a virtual runway for designer Manish Malhotra at the first digital Lakme Fashion Week (LFW) edition that started

Tuesday. Manish Malhotra and LFW have partnered to support artisans through a fund-raising opening show presentation in which he will be showcasing his collection that

aims to revive indigenous craftsmen and artisans' slow and purist workmanship. The line-up is inspired by "majesty of old-world regalia and takes the liberty to re-interpret the look in a more suitable palette for modern tastes."

The event will see many other actors walking the virtual ramp. Actress and dancer Sandeepa Dhar will walk for designer Kaveri Lalchand, who will launch her collection to inspire the state of Bengal on the Sustainable Fashion Day of the event October 22.

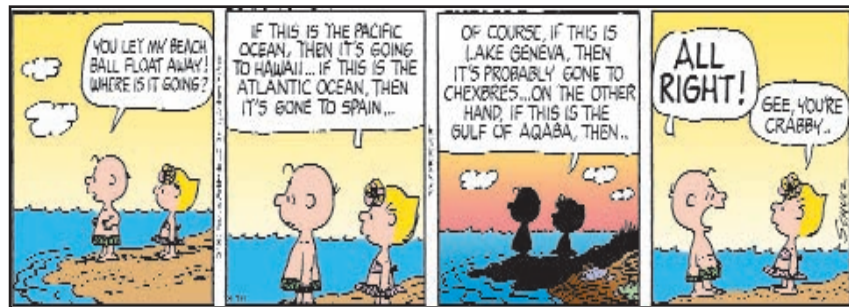
Diana Penty will sashay the ramp adorning ensembles designed by Disha Patil on Day 4 of LFW October 24. Patil will launch her collection "The Labyrinth" inspired by sacred geometry and fueled by poetry is the perfect offering for the new age bride. Actor Aparshakti Khurana

will also be walking the virtual runway on Day 4 along with the debutant showstopper Radhika Madan. The duo will be sporting ensembles from the 'Neo - Phulkari' collection by designer duo Sukriti and Aakriti. Their collection is inspired by the history of Punjab and tries to revive the traditional handicraft. Day 5 will see Athiya Shetty setting strutting down the virtual ramp as muse for designer Aisha Rao who has created the collection keeping the concept of zero waste in mind.

The final show by designer Rimzim Dadu and Saaksha and Kinni will have actress Mrunal Thakur who will bring the curtain of LFW down. Dadu will be seen experimenting with her signature metallic cords and steel wires, exploring floral and geometrics.

FUN post

PEANUTS



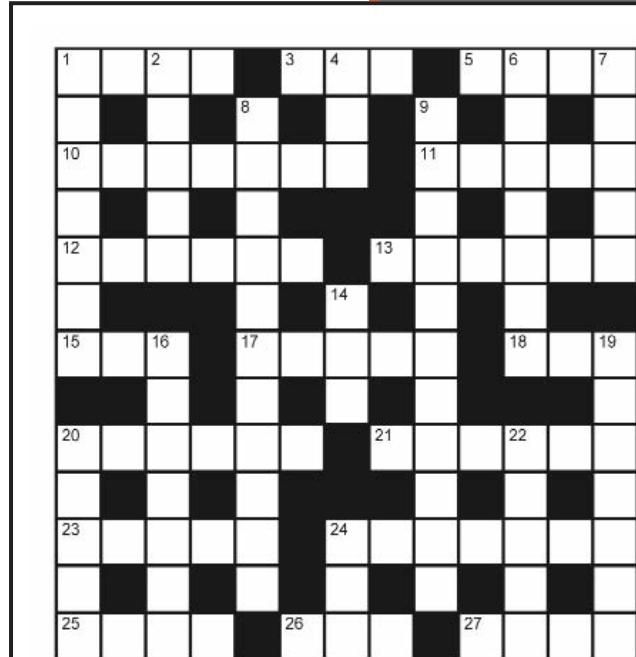
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



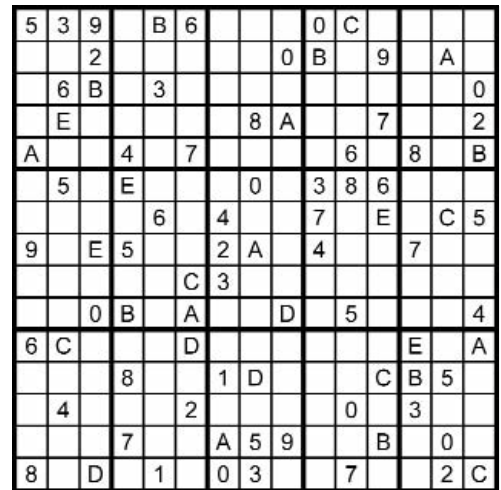
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Crown
 - 3 Bird-to-be
 - 5 Exchange
 - 10 Makes a phone call (5,2)
 - 11 Speculate
 - 12 Acquire
 - 13 Truant
 - 15 Defraud
 - 17 Sufficient
 - 18 Small pouch
 - 20 Tux adornment (3,3)
 - 21 The Thinker, e.g.
 - 23 Colossus
 - 24 Spelling bee, for one
 - 25 London district
 - 26 Caustic chemical
 - 27 Hankering
- Down**
- 1 Sitting room
 - 2 Basic belief
 - 4 Hiatus
 - 6 Sommeliers, e.g.
 - 7 Skirt fold
 - 8 Dreams, in a way
 - 9 Like some rural streets
 - 14 Gibbon, for one
 - 16 Entrance
 - 19 Big cat
 - 20 Nibbles
 - 22 Pick up the tab
 - 24 Coquettish

SUDOKU

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

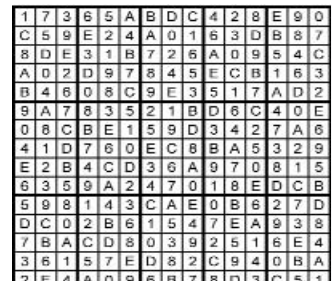


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

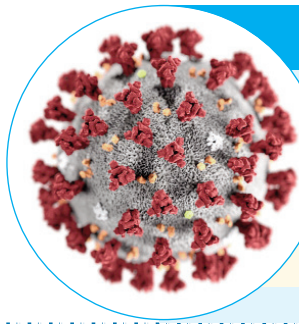


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



DISINFECTION DRIVE

Swargadwar cremation ground in Puri being sanitised, Tuesday. The administration Monday eased restrictions on the cremation of bodies from outside Puri at the seaside ground



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	4,07,99,165	3,04,53,520	11,25,106
India	75,97,063	67,33,328	1,15,197
Odisha	2,72,250	2,52,197	1,168

Govt tries new ways to save jumbos

ELEPHANTS IN ODISHA HAVE CLAIMED LIVES OF 105 HUMAN BEINGS IN 2017-18

MANISH KUMAR, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 20: The fatalities arising out of elephant-human conflicts and death of jumbos due to habitat loss have emerged as a major cause of concern for the state Forest and Environment department, which claimed that it is taking steps to ameliorate the situation.

According to Ministry of Environment and Forests, elephants in Odisha have claimed lives of 105 human beings in 2017-18, the highest in India while 72 more people were killed by elephants in 2018-19 in the state. It is worth mentioning here that the 2017 Elephant Census has claimed that Odisha is fifth in the country to host maximum number of jumbos.

Data submitted by the Forest department in the Assembly said that in the last one decade, 2018 was the most fatal year for jumbos. Wildlife experts and environmentalists blame the government for elephant deaths and rising conflicts with humans.

"The Odisha government had been forming several committees and conducting studies to conserve elephants but hardly implementing the recommendations. The use of barbed wire and other unfriendly means has only added fuel



ELEPHANT CASUALTIES		HUMANS KILLED BY JUMBOS	
YEAR	DEATHS	YEAR	DEATHS
2014-15	55	2014-15	65
2015-16	85	2015-16	89
2016-17	75	2016-17	66
2017-18	78	2017-18	105
2018-19	93	2018-19	72

to the fire," Biswajit Mohanty, wildlife expert from the state said.

At the same time, the state is also blamed for not notifying Elephant Corridors despite proposing it. A case in this regard is subjudice in the National Green Tribunal (NGT). Shankar Prasad Pani, an NGT lawyer, said that the elephant paths are not legally recognised due to lack of notification for the same.

"If the corridors are not recognised, those do not get legal safeguard. Many mining projects and industries which come on Elephant Corridors could have been otherwise challenged due to its interference on the elephant passage. Due to lack of notification, elephant paths do not enjoy legal sanctity like other protected areas," he said.

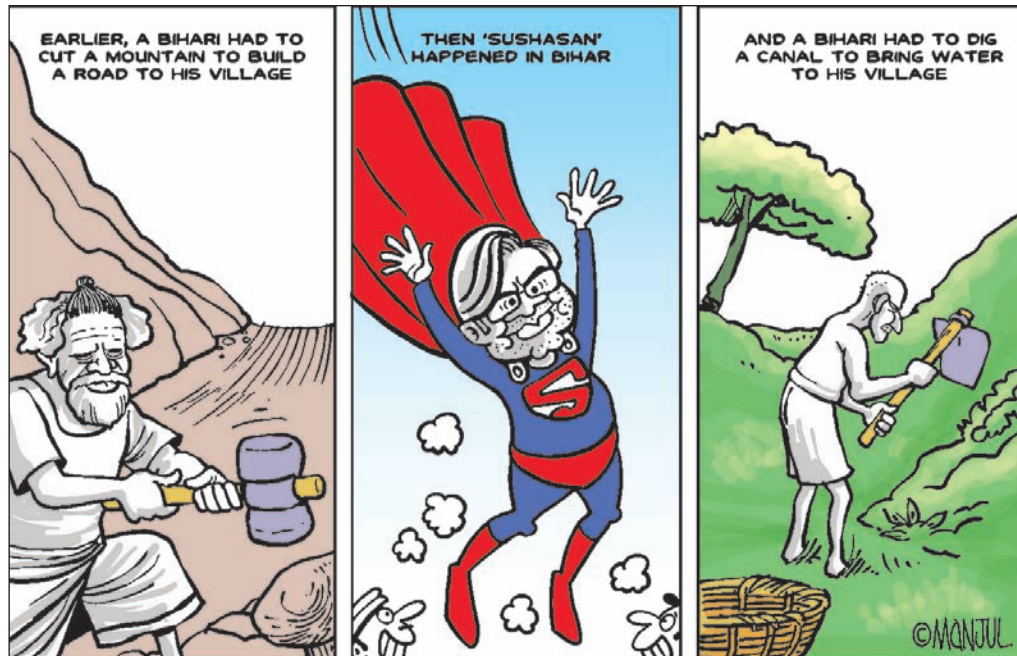
The Forest department, however, claimed that several steps are now being taken to protect elephants and reduce conflicts. "We are using drones in some areas for surveillance. We have collaborated with IIT-Bhubaneswar to bring robust technology on elephant tracking. We also started SMS-based alert system for Angul Forest Division. Solar

THREE KILLED IN ELEPHANT ATTACK

BARIPADA/ANGUL: Three persons were trampled to death by elephants in Mayurbhanj and Angul districts Tuesday. In the first incident, two women were killed by an elephant that strayed into Palashmundali under Rasagovindpur range in Mayurbhanj district. The deceased were identified as Subhadra Rana, 65, and Pramila Mohanta. Subhadra was plucking flowers when the elephant attacked her and killed her. Another person was critically wounded in the elephant attack. Forest department officials have reached the spot. In another incident, a farmer was trampled to death in Kamalpur village under Athamallik forest range in Angul district. The deceased was identified as Bhaskar Bhukta. Bhukta saw the elephant in his paddy field Tuesday morning. He tried to drive it away. However, the elephant attacked him giving him leaving little time to escape.

fencing has also started in the state," HS Upadhyay, Principal Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) said. Some forest areas like Athagarh Forest Division have experimented with the bamboo plantation through seed-balls for habitat enrichment to reduce the invasion of jumbos into human habitations and farmlands.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



15K pleas pending with info panel: Bhusan

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 20: A petition filed in the Supreme Court seeking timely and transparent appointment of information commissioners has highlighted huge pendency of around 15,000 appeals in Odisha.

The application filed by Prashant Bhusan on behalf of activist Anjali Bhardwaj highlighted the non-compliance of the Supreme Court order dated February 15, 2019. The petitioner stated that as many as six posts, including that of Chief Information

The SC Feb 15, 2019 directed Odisha and 5 other states to fill vacancies within 2 months

Commissioner, are lying vacant in Central Information Commission and four in Odisha State Information Commission (SIC). "With the retirement of the Chief on 26.08.2020 and another commissioner demitting office in the end of September 2020, currently 6 posts, including that of the Chief are lying

vacant and the pendency of the appeals/complaints has risen to over 36,600," the petitioner submitted.

In Odisha, the petitioner submitted that Odisha SIC has been functioning with four posts only despite having huge backlog of nearly 15,000 appeals and complaints. Significantly, the apex court had February 15, 2019 directed Odisha and five other states to fill all the vacancies of sanctioned posts within two months (four sanctioned posts, including the chief's) and also take decision regarding sanctioning of additional posts.

Woman's death at SCB: OHRC orders probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 20: The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Tuesday directed the SCB Medical College and Hospital superintendent and Puri CDMO to enquire into the death of an ailing woman who was brought to the state-run health institute by her husband on a trolley rickshaw from Satyabadi.

The commission, while hearing a plea filed by several human rights activists, asked both the officials to reply by November 12. The rights activists had urged the OHRC to conduct a probe into the incident and award ₹50 lakh as compensation to the bereaved family.

Notably, the woman, identified as Sukanti Bhoi of Dasbidyadharpur village under Satyabadi block in Puri district, was suffering from liver cancer. Sukanti was unwell for quite some days.

Her husband Kabir Bhoi had consulted several doctors at various hospitals in Puri to treat Sukanti. However, he decided to admit Sukanti to SCBMCH as per the advice of a doctor in Puri. The couple travelled around 90 km on their trolley rickshaw to SCBMCH. However, the woman died while being treated at the premium health institute.

COUNTERS TO OPEN FOR MAHAPRASAD SALE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Oct 20: There is a piece of good news for devotees as well as elderly women who observe Habisa in the Hindu month of Kartika. The Suar-Mahasuar Niyog of Srimandir would open temporary counters at the South and North gates of the shrine to sell Mahaprasad during the month.

"Srimandir has been out of bounds for devotees since March this year due to Covid-19 pandemic. However, many devotees and elderly women who observe Habisa in Kartika require Mahaprasad. We will make all arrangements to supply Mahaprasad to the devotees," said Suar-Mahasuar Niyog secretary Krushna Chandra Pratihari.

Pratihari claimed that Suar-Mahasuar Niyog had held discussions with the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief Krishan Kumar and proposed for the opening of a few temporary counters near Srimandir to sell Mahaprasad to the devotees.

"The SJTA chief has agreed to our proposal. We will soon erect a few temporary sheds near the shrine for sale of Mahaprasad. A temporary counter for the sale of



PREP FOR HOLY MONTH

The Suar-Mahasuar Niyog of Srimandir would open temporary counters at the South and North gates of the shrine to sell Mahaprasad during the month

Devotees can collect Mahaprasad after buying tokens from the temporary counters

The devotees are required to adhere to Covid-19 norms while buying tokens and collecting Mahaprasad from the temple gates

temple delicacies had been opened near the Srigundicha temple during this year's Rath Yatra," Pratihari added.

According to him, devotees can collect Mahaprasad after buying tokens from the temporary counters. The devotees are required to adhere to Covid-19 norms while buying tokens and collecting Mahaprasad from the temple gates, Pratihari said.

SJTA administrator (development) Ajay Kumar Jena, however, said that he was not aware of any decision to open temporary counters for Mahaprasad sale during Kartika month.

"The Suar-Mahasuar Niyog might have discussed the issue with the SJTA chief and received the latter's nod for setting up of temporary sheds

for sale of the temple delicacies during the holy month," Jena added. It is worth mentioning here that the state government had launched a scheme a few years ago to provide shelter and other facilities to elderly women who observe Habisa in Puri.

Last year, around 3,000 elderly women had availed the benefit of Habisiyali scheme. This year, the scheme has been suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic, sources said.

BJP says BJD flouted poll code, moves EC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 20: The state unit of Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) Tuesday accused the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) of indulging in unfair means to woo voters in Balasore Sadar Assembly constituency.

The saffron party claimed that the regional party has been violating the Model Code of Conduct and is carrying out some new projects and completing some pending works in the region.

Party leader Jatin Mohanty said, "We met the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) to raise our concerns over violation of the Code of Conduct in Balasore Sadar Assembly constituency where we bypolls will be held next month."

He also added, "Model Code of Conduct is already in force in the region but the state government officials, in blatant violation of laws, have started new projects to woo the voters. We have submitted our concerns and also submitted the photographs to the CEO."

The delegation told the CEO that tubewells, transformers and other works are being done in the area just before the elections. It also al-



The BJP leaders at the CEO office in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

leged that a working organisation of the BJD under the name of Odisha Vidyut Karmachari Mahasangh has opened its office at NESCO office.

"Who gave them permission and who allowed a party outfit to run from a government office? The CEO has assured us that after conducting an enquiry into the matter, he will inform us," he added.

The BJP demanded that such works must be stopped. "Several gram panchayats have seen influx of party workers who are completing some pending works and are trying to woo the voters from the area. There have been wrongful attempts of influencing the people against established laws of elections," the party said.

Ex-MLA Gurupada Nanda passes away

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 20: Senior Congress leader and former Rourkela MLA Gurupada Nanda passed away at a private hospital here Tuesday. He was 77.

Nanda, who had been an active student leader throughout his college career, had formed All Orissa Students' League in 1969 and joined the Congress in 1972. He was elected to Odisha Legislative Assembly from Rourkela Assembly Constituency on a Congress ticket in 1980. He also served as the Cuttack District Congress Committee president. During his tenure as Rourkela MLA, Nanda established a B Ed college in the Steel city in 1981. The government took it over in 1992 and secured full recognition in 2005.

He was undergoing treatment for age-related health issues at a private hospital, it was learnt. As soon as the news of his demise came, political leaders and common people thronged his residence in the city to offer their last tribute to the departed soul.



UPHOLDING TRADITION



Young girls of Srimandir servitor families offer Neta puja at Markanda pond in Puri Tuesday. As per the belief, a girl would get a good match by offering the puja

Covid robs living of tourism workers at Konark

AVIRAL MISHRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 20: Dawn has broken at Konark. It's an early start for Pradeep Behera, who has been making his both ends meet through photography at Sun Temple for the past 10 years. With the camera bag strapped around his shoulders, Behera scouts for the first visitors after re-opening of tourist spots, almost seven months after the pandemic hit the state. However, almost no one arrives and it's another no-income day for Pradeep.

While the state government has allowed opening of tourist spots from September 1, lack of visitors has added to the woes of traders and professionals who earn their livelihood from tourism sector.

Pradeep's predicament is perhaps one of the 300 shutterbugs and tour guides for whom the lockdown might have ended but not their hardships.

"I have been a photographer since 2010 and it has been seven years since I have been working at Sun Temple. The lockdown has affected my income very badly. While earlier I used to earn ₹800 to ₹1,000 daily, now it would be great even if



I make ₹1,500 a week. I have never seen anything like this before," Pradeep said.

The loss of livelihood is stated to have taken toll on the mental health of people associated with tourism sector.

Pradeep, with a family of his wife and two daughters, admitted to contemplating suicide fearing his inability to provide his family. Suranjan Das, a local tour guide, has a similar story to tell. Das who hails from Rourkela and works at

Sun Temple said he had to survive on just water and rice as he was left with no money in his pockets while lockdown was in force.

"I couldn't leave for my home and I stayed in Puri. However, with no source of income it became almost unbearable during lockdown," he said.

While he was forced to sell vegetables during lockdown, Das returned to Konark after tourist destinations were allowed to resume. However, with the government put-

ting a cap on visitors to only 3,500, Das business is yet to go back to normalcy.

"Before lockdown I used to make anything between ₹700 to ₹1,500 every day. However, with almost no tourists visiting, I once agreed for mere ₹200 with a client when minimum rates don't go beyond ₹500," Das said.

Das, who is sceptical of any turnaround, said, "Local or domestic tourists hardly value tour guides. We rely largely on international tourists.

PANDEMIC BLUES

WHILE THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOWED OPENING OF TOURIST SPOTS FROM SEPTEMBER 1, LACK OF VISITORS HAS ADDED TO THE WOES OF TRADERS AND PROFESSIONALS WHO EARN THEIR LIVELIHOOD FROM TOURISM SECTOR

THE LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD IS STATED TO HAVE TAKEN TOLL ON THE MENTAL HEALTH OF PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH TOURISM SECTOR

But with the government yet to announce any resumption of international flights it's hard to see any change of our fortunes," he said.

The associations of tour guides and Konark photographers said that they had repeatedly requested the state government to provide assistance, but to no avail. "The year 2020 has been hard on us. I'm not very hopeful that things will get better this year. However, we are hopeful that things may change next year," Pradeep said.

Below 2K Covid-19 cases for 2nd day in a row

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 20: State's novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) tally surged to 2,72,250 Tuesday as 1,904 more people tested positive for the infection, while 16 fresh fatalities pushed Odisha's coronavirus death toll to 1,168, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

After a gap of more than two months, the state reported less than 2,000 new cases for the second consecutive day Tuesday, said the official. On Monday, Odisha registered 1,982 cases.

As many as 1,115 fresh cases were reported in quarantine centres, while 789 people tested positive for the infection during contact tracing, the official said, adding that the local contact cases have also declined to less than 1,000 in the past few days in the state.

Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, reported the highest number of fresh infections at 221, followed by Nuapada (128), Cuttack (111), Angul (109), Kendrapara (106) and Sundargarh (100), said the official.

Four fresh fatalities were reported in Mayurbhanj, three each in Khurda and Kalahandi, two in Nuapada, and one each in Bhadrak, Cuttack, Jharsuguda and Kendrapara districts.

All the 30 districts in the state have reported Covid deaths; five of them such as Deogarh, Boudh, Nuapada, Jharsuguda and Angul have re-



ported single-digit deaths.

Khurda, Cuttack, Ganjam, Puri, Balasore and Sundargarh have registered more than 50 deaths of which Ganjam has the highest number of 225 deaths followed by Khurda (201) and Cuttack (104).

These five districts together had reported 722 deaths (61.8 per cent) and 1,23,239 Covid cases (45.26 per cent), the official further said.

As many as 53 coronavirus pa-

tients have died due to other ailments so far.

The state now has 21,454 active coronavirus cases, while 2,49,575 people have been cured of the disease so far; the H&FW department official pointed out.

The state has so far tested over 41.17 lakh samples, including 35,027 Monday, sources at the Health department said. City sees 229 new cases, 307 recoveries

ODISHA & COVID

With 1,904 new infections, Odisha's Covid-19 tally surged to 2,72,250

16 fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 1,168

Khurda reported the highest number of fresh infections at 221, followed by Nuapada (128), Cuttack (111), Angul (109), Kendrapara (106) and Sundargarh (100)

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Khurda, Cuttack, Ganjam, Puri, Balasore and Sundargarh have registered 722 deaths (61.8 per cent) and 1,23,239 Covid cases (45.26 per cent)

The Capital city Tuesday logged 229 new cases of Covid-19 taking the total caseload in the Temple City to 27,441.

While 182 were local contact cases, 47 infections have been reported from quarantine in the last 24 hours. With 307 new recoveries, the total number of recovered cases in the capital rose to 24,450. Active cases remain at 2,830 while the death toll is 140.

Vigilance glare on public health asst engineer

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 20: Vigilance sleuths Tuesday conducted raids at the office and houses of assistant executive engineer, General Public Health (GPH) Division-II, Bhubaneswar, Rabindra Nath Pradhan, for allegedly amassing wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Raids were on at six places simultaneously when this report was being filed.

The properties that are being raided are: A double-storey building at Nayapalli here, an apartment on Plot No-51 at Kanchilo, Nuagaon in Baliaanta area, a single-storey building at Naharakanta in Baliaanta area, Pradhan's office at GPH, Division-II, Unit-III here, a house of his relative at Kurunti in Baliaanta area and his native place at Ayodhya Nagar under Baidyanathpur police limits, Berhampur in Ganjam district.

The sleuths raided the executive engineer's properties after obtaining search warrants issued by the Court of Special Judge, Vigilance.

Sources also revealed that Pradhan's son, a realtor, has several flats registered in his name.

The sleuths claimed to have stumbled upon assets worth over Rs 6.53 crore belonging to Pradhan and his family

HC allows Puri mandap to celebrate Durga Puja



PNN & AGENCIES

Cuttack, Oct 20: Recognising the importance of the rituals of Srimandir in Puri, the Orissa High Court Tuesday allowed the Satasahi Puja Committee of the pilgrim city to go ahead with the Durga puja even though the idol is taller than the stipulated size fixed by the government.

The state government in September this year had restricted among others, the idol sizes of the deities to only four feet as part of its Covid-19 guidelines.

"As a one-time measure, if the idol of the committee has already been constructed beyond four feet and having a connection with the rituals of Shree Jagannath Temple, which has

got special status in Odisha, this Court does not want to disturb the same and allow the petitioner (Satasahi Puja Committee) to go ahead with puja," said an order delivered by the division bench headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq.

The HC also directed the Puri district administration to make separate arrangements for immersion of Satasahi Puja Committee deity by following the Covid-19 guidelines issued by the Union and the state government.

"The arrangement is only for this Durga Puja but not for any future pujas to be held in Puri," the HC said declining to extend this relief to other puja mandaps of Puri, as was also requested by the petitioners counsel.

Khaitan earns minister's praise

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 20: Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Minister Arun Sahoo congratulated Pranav Khaitan for his contribution in UN's World Food Programme to eradicate hunger and promoting food security, for which they won Nobel Peace Prize this year.

Sahoo said, "Odisha-born Pranav Khaitan led the artificial intelligence operations of World Food Programme that was recently awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. His tech-innovations have revolutionised humanitarian operations expediting hunger elimination. Odisha is proud of its young lad! Congrats!" minister said.

Other personalities like Nila Madhab Panda, Former MLA Akash Das Nayak also congratulated Khaitan for his achievement.

TAKING TO THE STREETS



Members of East Coast Railway Shramika Union demonstrate near Cuttack railway station, Tuesday, demanding bonus while opposing privatisation of the Railways

OP PHOTO

Traffic cop feted for donning sweeper's hat



Police commissioner Sudhanshu Sarangi felicitates traffic constable Lalit Mohan Rout

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 20: After receiving encomiums from netizens for cleaning a road at Sikharpur in Cuttack, traffic constable Lalit Mohan Rout was felicitated Tuesday.

The video of Rout sweeping the road was uploaded October 17 and has been flooded with comments. Commissioner of Police Sudhanshu Sarangi felicitated Rout for going out of his way and sweeping the road with a broom near Sikharpur Square in Cuttack to avert accidents. Apart from a letter of appreciation, the twin city Commissionerate Police also handed over a cash reward of Rs 1,000 to Rout so as to boost his morale.

Rout said, "After noticing sand and stone chips causing trouble for two-wheelers, I felt like doing

Police Commissioner felicitated Rout for going out of his way and sweeping the road near Sikharpur Square to avert mishaps

something. I picked up a broom and cleaned the road. While doing such activities, I get immense satisfaction."

Seeing Lalit sweeping the road, other cops had also joined him. It is worth mentioning here that Lalit is the same traffic policeman who saved four lives due to his alacrity and presence of mind last year. He saved these four bikers from an imminent accident. He was also felicitated then.

Cong protests power tariff hike in City, sets afire television sets

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 20: The Odisha Youth Congress Tuesday protested against the recent hike of electricity tariff by the Odisha Electricity Regulatory Authority (OERC).

The party workers staged demonstration in front of the OERC office and demanded roll back of the increase in rates. Several party workers carried television sets with them in front of their office to mark their protest and to express the woes of the citizens.

Several of their leaders also set on fire many TV sets in front of the OERC office. The youth wing has demanded roll out of the rates and threatened to organize bigger protests throughout the state against the decision.

"The decision of OERC to increase the tariff during the COVID outbreak is against the people of the state and must be condemned. We want to warn the government that if they do not heed to our demand, our agitation will only intensify," a youth leader from the party said.



The protest is against the rise of electricity rates in the state. The government must accept our demand otherwise we are going to see more such protests

PANCHANAN KANUNGO I CONGRESS LEADER

Senior party leader Panchanan Kanungo also took part in the protest. He said, "The protest is against the rise of electricity rates in the state. The government must accept our demand otherwise we are going to see more such protests,"

The BJD however responded to the claims and defended the state government.

BJD leader Amar Satpathy said, "The government has not increased the rates. There are regulatory bodies which examine the rates and hear the customers, distributors and government decided the rates. The final decision is only after such scrutiny. We do not want to burden people."

Outfit urges Guv to protect tribal lands in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 20: Lok Shakti Abhiyan Tuesday wrote a letter to Governor Ganeshi Lal demanding protection of tribal community land in Nabarangpur district.

Prafulla Samantara, president, Lokshakti Abhiyan said that in different parts of schedule areas in Odisha, the district administration, state govt and responsible officers do not honour the rights of tribals and their community rights over natural resource in accordance to laws.

At present, the villagers of Kosagumuda in Nabarangpur are in protest against undemocratically, unlawfully and forcefully transfer of 160 acres of community land of the village.

In this land 37 families belonging schedule tribe and schedule caste have received a piece of land for cultivation of economic fruits and crops as livelihood schemes from district administration since a long.

They are also using the land for the purpose. The rest of land is used by the villagers for fodder to domestic animals. Meanwhile, the entire land of 160 acres has been transferred to the State Industrial Development Corporation without prior information and prior consent of Gram Sabha which is must as the village belongs to the schedule area under the 5th schedule of the Constitution.

SAFETY FIRST



An excavator engaged by the civic body pulls down dilapidated shops at Penthakata in Puri, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

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Kalinganagar cries for air-care

THE INDUSTRIAL TOWN HAS BEEN EXCLUDED FROM ONLINE AIR POLLUTION MONITORING PURVIEW BY THE STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Oct 20: With an effort to curb air pollution in the state, the board meeting of OSPCB approved the proposal for setting up CAAQM stations in the districts of Cuttack, Balasore, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj and Angul apart from Bhubaneswar. At present, two CAAQMs are operating at Talcher and Ib Valley in Brajarajnagar.

The Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) has been directed to complete the work within the current financial year. It was decided to put in place an SOP for rigorous validation and analysis of the large volume of raw data expected to be generated from these stations for public use.

However, it was surprising for many that mineral and industrial rich district like Jajpur has been excluded. After this fact came to the fore, various quarters have expressed concern over this. Some people have tweeted their complaints, tagging the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary.

They wondered how the government failed to consider the case of Kalinganagar for air quality monitoring system when the district has been bearing the brunt of air

FLIRTING WITH DISASTER

Greenpeace had tagged Kalinganagar as the second-most polluted town in the state

The pollution level in the town was 113 microgram/cubic metre air between 2015 and 2017

Commencing of a cement manufacturing unit has exacerbated conditions there



IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, THE LEVEL OF POLLUTION HAS GONE UP OVER 120 MICROGRAM/CUBIC METRE AIR IN THE AREA

and water pollution due to cement, steel plants there, scores of stone mines and stone crushing units in Dharmashala and chromite mines in Sukinda valley. On the basis of an NGT report, the central government has identified 106 towns in the country as highly polluted while six of the towns of Odisha are in this list. Kalinganagar industrial Complex was also enlisted.

Experts pointed out that after establishment of a cement grinding factory in Kalinganagar air pollution has been alarmingly rising. According to a survey by Air

Pollution Monitoring Centre, the pollution level was 113 microgram/cubic metre air in Kalinganagar between 2015 and 2017. In the last three years, with the functioning of the cement factory and mineral transportation and unloading at Sukinda railway siding, the level of pollution has gone up over 120 microgram/cubic metre in the area.

Greenpeace, an international NGO working for environment protection, had tagged Kalinganagar as the second-most polluted town in the state. Air Quality Index is cal-

culated keeping in view eight pollutants' presence, namely PM10, PM2.5, NO2, SO2, CO, O3, NH3 and Pb. As per the CPCB, the pollution level in the air (annual) should not be beyond 30 microgram/cubic metre.

In view of this, the SPCB has allegedly failed to curb this number in the pollution-level in Kalinganagar.

Due to air pollution, various diseases have been playing havoc in the state. According to a report of the Health department, in the last two years, 201 people have died of TB while 107 of them were from mineral-rich Sukinda and Danagadi blocks. Around 53 per cent of TB casualties were reported from the mining and industrial rich areas.

Advocate Satyaprakash Behuria and student Digambar Sahu said that the level of air pollution in Kalinganagar is quite high, and not setting up online air pollution monitoring system will contribute to the disaster.

Regional Officer of Kalinganagar SPCB office, Pramod Kumar Behera said that he was aware of the complaints in this regard at the CMO.

The SPCB head-office will be apprised of it and steps will be taken accordingly, he added.

State's 2nd Sainik School in Sambalpur functional now

Over 10 pc of the total seats is reserved for girl students and 67 pc of the seats is reserved for state's students

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Oct 20: A Sainik School in this district which is second in the state has become functional with the start of online classes for students in this educational session, a report said.

The school having its campus at Basantpur in Chipilima became functional after construction of classrooms, administrative building, playground, gymnasium, Yoga Centre and staff quarters were completed. This was stated here by Principal Shouvik Bhattacharya to this correspondent, Monday.

The school has facilities for co-education and girls can take admission in the school from the next education session, he said. Over 10 per cent of the total seats will be reserved for girl students and 67 per cent of the seats will be reserved for the students of the state.

The school will also have 26 per cent reservation for other backward castes (OBCs) students, 16 per cent for scheduled castes and 7.5 per cent for scheduled tribe students.

The school is managing with online classes due to Covid-19 re-



The school is functional now. Construction of classrooms, administrative building, playground, gymnasium, Yoga Centre and staff quarters have been completed
SHOUVIK BHATTACHARYA | PRINCIPAL

strictions while all staff members have joined their duty. For this year, admission was conducted into Class-VI only which received enrollment of 101 students.

Apart from classroom teachings, the students will also be trained in swimming, horse riding, rifle shooting, various games, debate and drawing.

Notably, the state had only one Sainik School at VSS Nagar in Bhubaneswar. Earlier, the government had announced for establishment of another Sainik School in the state in Sambalpur. However, the establishment of the school failed to take off as there were several bottlenecks.

It was then decided to start the school temporarily in the office premises of Fishery and Animal Husbandry department in Chipilima. However, the Sainik School authorities visited the area and refused to start the school temporarily unless a permanent campus.

Later, on the direction of the state government, the district administration identified 105 acre of land at Basantpur for the purpose. The Works department floated a tender and constructed the school building and other facilities at an expenditure of ₹48 crore in the first phase.

Daringbadi tribals don't want eco-retreat project



Representative pic

POST NEWS NETWORK

Daringbadi, Oct 20: The tribal community at Daringbadi locality in Kandhamal district Tuesday opposed the development of an eco-retreat project in the area. They alleged that the district administration had not consulted them before starting the project.

Sources said some officials Tuesday reached the Saringirpi village under Daringbadi block which has been selected as the proposed site of eco-retreat project. The officials went there to conduct a survey regarding expenditure of the project. However, they faced hundreds of angry locals who shouted slogans and demanded the officials leave the site. They blocked roads by burning tyres and did not allow the officers to conduct the survey.

According to locals, the land where the eco-retreat project is to be

Locals say the land where the eco-retreat project is to be developed is a forest area

It is a source of income for the tribals living in that locality

They demand a rehabilitation programme first and then only they would allow the admin to go-ahead with the project

developed is a forest area. It is a source of income for the tribals living in that locality. They said that a proper rehabilitation programme has to be worked out for them. Prior to that, they will not allow any destruction of forest land. The officials tried to pacify the agitating villagers. They assured the grievances would be forwarded to higher officials. However, the agitators did not back away. Finally, the officials had to leave the place.

Locals said that protests will continue if the district administration does not hold a discussion with them as soon as possible.

No electricity to lift irrigation points

3 yrs ago the admin sunk in tube wells, and since then power connections to these haven't been provided

POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogaon, Oct 20: Even as the state government had promised to make provision for a separate feeder for lift irrigation points and deep borewells, scores of lift irrigation points in Deogaon block of Bolangir district have been lying defunct sans electricity, a report said.

Farmers have to suffer a lot in saving their crops in the event of water scarcity.

Farmers alleged that about three and a half years ago tube wells have been sunk in Brahmanijora panchayat. But they are of no use to the beneficiary farmers, because electricity has not been supplied to these points.

Farmers like Bijay Rai, Jadupati Bhoi, Dibakar Bhoi, Bikar Bhoi, Kadam Bhoi, Biseswar Hota, Natittam Bhoi and Shibaprasad Bhoi narrated their ordeal.

"We applied for bore wells for our farmland in 2017. Each of us had to deposit ₹20,000 each at the Union Bank branch here to get bore wells which were sunk March 23, 2017. But they have not been operationalised till date," Bijay rued.

Though these farmers have apprised the authorities concerned through written complaints, no



A farmer shows one of the unused bore wells

step has been taken, they alleged.

As the executive engineer of the Irrigation department did not pay heed to their problem, the farmers took up the issue with the Collector April 4, 2019.

The then, Collector had directed

the authorities to redress the issue with immediate effect, but it fell on deaf ears of the department, they lamented.

They observed that the government schemes are being executed in such haphazard manner at the

ground level. The government should wake up to this reality, they noted.

A couple of years ago, the state government had made an ambitious plan to install one lakh borewells in the state in three years to overcome the water scarcity for irrigation. Besides, the other objective was to ensure assured irrigation to at least 35 per cent of cultivable land of

We applied for bore wells for our farmlands in 2017. Each of us had to deposit ₹20,000 each at the Union Bank branch here to get bore wells which were sunk March 23, 2017 but they haven't been operationalised till date
BIJAY RAI | FARMER, DEOGAON

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. ST-01-TELE-ZONAL-BALLU-191 Dtd:-14.10.2020
Name of the Work: TELECOM ZONAL WORK EACH COSTING RS. 5,00,000/- OR LESS IN THE SECTION UNDER JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER TELECOM/BALUGAON OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR ONE YEAR.
Tender Value: ₹ 40,76,379.13, EMD: ₹ 81,500/- Cost of tender document: ₹ 3,540/- (Including 18% GST)
Bidding start date: 22.10.2020 Tender closing date & time: at 100 hrs. of 05.11.2020
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: <http://www.reps.gov.in>
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.
Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), Khurda Road
PR-306/L/20-21

OJEE agrees for spl exam for these students

Around 60 students from Gajapati couldn't appear the exam due to a bus mishap



The ill-fated bus FILE PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gajapati, Oct 20: The Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE) has decided to conduct a special examination for the ill-fated students who missed a chance to appear the exam due to a bus mishap. A total of 60 aspirants were travelling in a bus October 16 to appear for the exams when the accident occurred. Officials of the district administration informed Tuesday that the exams for these 60 students will be conducted October 22.

A notification issued by the district administration said that students need to call the district nodal officer on mobile number-8763687848 for appearing for the test.

The 60 aspirants were from Ramagiri, Udayagiri, Jiranga and Chandiput localities in Gajapati district. The bus was going to Bhubaneswar via Berhampur city. While taking a sharp turn near Taptapani Ghat on national highway (NH-326), the driver lost control over the ill-fated vehicle and the bus overturned.

Twenty five OJEE aspirants suffered injuries. Out of them, five students are still in critical condition.

District Collector Anupam Saha had written a letter to the OJEE authorities requesting them to conduct another test for the aspirants. OJEE chairman SK Chand accepted the request and the aspirants will have another chance.

Man tries to buy bike with counterfeit notes, arrested

The accused was identified as Dibya Ranjan Hota, 42, a lawyer by profession and member of Nayagarh Bar Association



The counterfeit notes on display

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Oct 20: A fake currency manufacturing unit was busted in this town after a man walked into a two-wheeler showroom here and tried to buy a sports bike with counterfeit notes, Tuesday.

Surprisingly, the accused was identified as Dibya Ranjan Hota, 42, a lawyer by profession and member of Nayagarh Bar Association. He is a native of Saradhapur village under Khandapada police limits.

Nayagarh Town police arrested Hota for the offence and detained another person. Police raided the fake currency manufacturing unit

at Amarendra Bazaar in the town and seized counterfeit notes of ₹500 and ₹2,000 denominations.

A computer, printer and various printing materials, half-printed currency notes and soiled notes were seized from the unit, IIC Jaydeep Mohanty said. The complicity of the person in the crime accompanying Hota to the showroom is being verified and further investigations are on, the IIC said.

Police said Hota visited a motorcycle showroom in the town and inspected the entry-level bikes. After inquiring about the features, Hota settled on one which is valued over ₹1 lakh.

The showroom staff completed the paperworks and other formalities for sale of the vehicle. Later, when asked about the payment mode, he replied to transact in all-cash.

Hota confidently handed over the 'home-made' notes of ₹1.30 lakh which were of ₹500 denomination. However, the staff was quick to sniff out the fake notes of ₹1.25 lakh while the rest ₹5000 was genuine. Later, they informed their authorities before informing the local police.

Acting swiftly, Town Police raided the rented house at Amarendra Bazaar and busted the fake currency manufacturing unit with the seizure of various materials used in manufacturing of counterfeit notes.

LEOPARD HIDE SEIZED, 5 HELD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Oct 20: Forest officials arrested five poachers and seized a leopard skin from their possession in Rairangpur forest division of Mayurbhanj district, Tuesday.

Forest officials of Rairangpur forest division and Manada range raided an area while the poachers were striking a deal to sell a leopard skin near Katas village. A team of the forest officials has been on a strict vigil for the past six months on poaching activities. The accused were identified as Brajanath Hembrum (25) and Sanat Marndi (45) of Bisoi area, Sushil Murmu (42) of Haragada, Hambir Tudu (18) of Kuliana police limits, and Khelram Hansdah (21) of Chaidikota.

Woman, 3-yr-old son killed in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Oct 20: In a tragic incident, a woman and her three-year-old son were killed after being run over by a speeding truck on Sambalpur-Deogarh road near Padiabahal Chowk here Tuesday.

Locals identified the deceased woman and child as Ahladini Meher, wife of Govind Meher and Priyanshu Meher, respectively. They were residents of Bada Turung village under Sadar police limits. Source said the woman and her son were walking along the Sambalpur-Deogarh road. A truck (MH 46 AR 3143) heading to-

wards Deogarh hit them from behind and ran over them. Both were killed on the spot. They said the truck was travelling at high speed.

Locals rushed to the spot and detained the driver. They later handed him over to the police when they arrived after being informed. The police have seized the truck and sent the bodies to a nearby government hospital for post-mortem.

Local residents alleged that the drivers of trucks plying on the Sambalpur-Deogarh road frequently break traffic rules and drive at speeds more than the permissible limit. They demanded stringent action against such unruly drivers.



Anganwadi workers and assistants stage protests over multiple demands in Sambalpur, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

FOCUS DATA GOVERNANCE

NEW DIGITAL DOMAIN



The growing gap between the digital economy's winners and losers is evident in skyrocketing inequality and the erosion of the middle class. The political centre also has shrunk, with support for left and right wing extremist parties increasing while belief in democracy and trust in media have declined in both Europe and the United States

Today, as our economic and social lives increasingly move online owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the digital and physical domains are becoming more integrated than ever. And now more than ever, governance and regulation of a hyper-powered digital world must catch up.

Besides triggering the most-severe economic crisis since the Great Depression, Covid-19 is also accelerating technological trends that were already well underway. One of the most notable is that big tech is getting bigger. The tech-heavy NASDAQ index is up by 30 per cent so far in 2020, while the combined market capitalisation of Apple, Amazon, Facebook, and Alphabet (Google's parent company) has passed \$5 trillion. As a result, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos' personal fortune has increased by over \$70 billion, or 68 per cent, since the pandemic began, while Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's net worth has risen by \$30 billion to \$87.8 billion.

This growing concentration of power and wealth in the hands of a few global digital firms will shape national and international politics as we emerge from the pandemic. The big tech companies gain value from intangible assets such as data, algorithms, and intellectual property, rather than just tangible assets such as physical labour or goods and services, and have taken advantage of weak digital governance to avoid paying taxes and social-security contributions. Our global governance system was built for the tangible world, and governments have been far too slow to adapt laws and regulations to build an equitable digital economy.

The growing gap between the digital economy's winners and losers is evident in skyrocketing inequality and the erosion of the middle class, which the pandemic is likely to exacerbate in the short term. The political centre also has shrunk, with support for left- and right-wing extremist parties increasing. Belief in democracy and trust in media have declined in both Europe and the United States: today, a mere 30 per cent of US millennials think it is essential to live in a democracy. All these trends risk being amplified in the near future, to the benefit of illiberal populists.

The pandemic also has increased global geopolitical rivalries and highlighted the reality that great

power confrontation increasingly takes place in the digital domain, in areas owned by global private firms. Facebook and Google, for example, are becoming contested terrain for both national and international struggles, as the 2016 and 2020 US presidential election campaigns, as well as other elections around the world, have shown.

Meanwhile, national policymakers are struggling to assert technological sovereignty in order to govern data and the digital giants. Governments of some large European countries have been unable to implement their own Covid-19 contact-tracing protocols owing to the stranglehold of Apple and Google, which in effect decided between themselves how the world's 3.2 billion smartphones could — and could not — be used to fight the pandemic. Policymakers must come to terms with these developments. In The New Digital Domain, our recent report for IE University's Center for the Governance of Change, we recommend three sets of imperatives for policymakers.

First, we need new governance models for the digital economy. These should include a new forum for diplomatic and global coordination to overcome the current balkanisation of data governance. Neither China's state-centric approach nor the firm-centric US approach allow individuals to control their personal data. By contrast, the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation goes further in this direction. The problem is that the three zones defined

by these approaches cannot 'talk' to one another. As a result, no tech firm or legislation can be truly global, because it is impossible to comply with all three zones' rules simultaneously.

We also need an international body to shape global standards and regulations for the platform economy. This institution could advise on best practices, monitor risks arising from new technologies (including their impact on civil society), and develop regulatory and policy interventions to address them. Today's digital domain is undermining our ability to arrive at a common understanding of facts. To prevent an epistemological crisis, we need an information space that is a public good, rather than one that seeks to maximise profit.

Second, we need new economic governance models. The digital economy is driven by proprietary technology, and by its nature favours first movers and economies of agglomeration. Governments need to create a level playing field for innovators and laggards, and devise smart, agile regulations to ameliorate the impact of technological disruptions in traditional sectors. Policymakers should also develop new ways to protect gig-economy workers and offer them the same forms of socioeconomic security enjoyed by ordinary workers, albeit through different mechanisms.

Third, we need a new social contract to end the social fracture and polarisation of politics. The status quo of an untaxed and

largely unregulated digital economy is no longer tenable. The failure to tax the gains of large public firms is constraining governments' ability to provide social public goods and services. We need to establish a new global regime to tackle the problem of tax arbitrage by multinationals whose value is derived largely from the intangible economy.

In addition, promoting and regulating inclusive and innovative working arrangements could help to repopulate less developed areas, and contribute to narrowing the regional disparities that contribute to political polarisation. Education is the most effective tool for social mobility, but its costs are increasing while curricula are slow to adapt to the changing needs of the digital economy. Providing effective, up-to-date, and affordable education for citizens is crucial.

Mitigating the digital domain's adverse effects requires holistic approaches to platform and data governance. For too long, and on too many issues, policymakers have left the governance of technology in the hands of those who design it. They can no longer afford to stand by.

Oscar Jonsson is Academic Director of the Center for the Governance of Change at IE University. Taylor Owen is Chair of Media, Ethics, and Communications and Director of the Center for Media, Technology, and Democracy at McGill University.

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There is no better way to become friends than to laugh together.

THE MOTHER



UNENVIABLE BORIS

Money is not everything but money makes all the difference in life. Word has come that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is tired of holding the heavy responsibility and would want to quit in a few months' time. What he's most upset with is that his salary of 150,000 pounds, equal to nearly a crore and a half in Indian rupee terms, is too low. By all standards, it is. Why it remains so is a curious question.

By contrast, US president Donald Trump has a salary of \$400,000 a year, German Chancellor Angela Merkel's salary is in the range of \$370,000 and New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has a salary of \$340,000. As a leading journalist, Boris Johnson earned more than what he now earns as PM. Those in this profession generally get peanuts as salary. Johnson was lucky. As a leading media personality, he earned big money from lectures too. VIP presence at an august gathering makes a difference though no pearl of wisdom might often emanate from such lectures.

With six children in tow, and a divorced wife getting maintenance allowance from him, the PM's cup of financial woes must be full. PM is the chief executive of the nation. A PM and his family will need to maintain a decent standard of life.

This may sound funny to us in India. We assume a PM anywhere in the world would normally be loaded with cash since that is what we have come to perceive. In many countries across the world, however, the PM is usually not a crony of any business house, unlike India. Perquisites are what Indian politicians get in a handsome manner while their salaries are kept low.

It should be in the fitness of things if the salaries of those in power in any country are kept at reasonably high levels matching with the salaries and benefits in the rest of the world. Why the UK has not done this is also a commentary on the state of affairs of a nation that was once the epicentre of an empire that never saw the sunset. Politics itself is going through ups and downs in the UK as is evident from the chaos and confusion that Brexit has created.

Clearly, power brings with it a status and this is more important than money. It is unusual for a PM to quit office because his earnings are low. In public life there are many who mint money. Eminent lawyers and doctors, for instance, charge fees by the minute. They make big money in a matter of a few days; mostly unaccounted, meaning tax-free. Big-time lawyers are reticent about taking up a judicial posting, as there is a mismatch between the money a lawyer earns and what a judge gets as salary. Although that too has changed for judges in current day India. Money may not be the sole means of subverting the system for personal aggrandizement is what we see today.

Money makes a big difference to life. But happiness is not necessarily linked to wealth or money.

Oscar Jonsson & Taylor Owen

FOR TOO LONG, AND ON TOO MANY ISSUES, POLICYMAKERS HAVE LEFT THE GOVERNANCE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO DESIGN IT. THEY CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO STAND BY

WISDOM CORNER

- Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago. WARREN BUFFETT
- We must let go of the life we have planned, so as to accept the one that is waiting for us. JOSEPH CAMPBELL
- The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have. VINCE LOMBARDI

WORDSWORTH

Umami

This word is about taste. It's usually said that the human tongue can detect only four basic tastes: sweet, sour, bitter and salty, and that all tastes are combinations of these. Many specialists now believe that taste is actually more complicated than this, with the taste buds being helped along by sense of smell, by the feel of substances in the mouth and even by the noise that food makes when we chew it. In recent years some workers have added a fifth taste, umami, to the other four, though western food scientists are divided about whether it really exists or not. It has been suggested that the taste is triggered by compounds of some amino acids, such as glutamates or aspartates, especially the flavour-enhancing substance monosodium glutamate. Both the word and the concept are Japanese, and in Japan are of some antiquity. Umami is hard to translate, to judge by the number of English words that have been suggested as equivalents, such as savoury, essence, pungent, deliciousness, and meaty. It's sometimes associated with a feeling of perfect quality in a taste, or of some special emotional circumstance in which a taste is experienced. It is also said to involve all the senses, not just that of taste. There's more than a suggestion of a spiritual or mystical quality about the word.

Umbrage

Umbrage denotes offence or annoyance. These days we almost always take umbrage, the two words having been conjoined into a fixed phrase. It is less common to hear of people giving umbrage, though someone who takes umbrage presumably has had it inflicted on him by another. Or does this imbalance imply that the perceived offence is almost always in the mind of the receiver? Umbrage derives from Latin umbra, shadow, and that was its first meaning in English. A tree might cast umbrage and in later centuries its foliage came to be its umbrage. Shelley wrote "The tall ash and oak, in mingled umbrage, sighed far above their heads." In the time of Shakespeare, an umbrage was a shadowy outline (Hamlet uses it for the shadow of a man), which led to its suggesting somebody lurking out of plain view. From this grew ideas of being under the shadow of suspicion and being in disfavour and indirectly to our modern senses of annoyance, offence or resentment. Umbrage has almost entirely severed its associations with shadows, but its adjective umbrageous usually refers to shade, most often that cast by trees. We have lost its relative umbratite, which once referred to a reclusive person, one who kept in the shade by staying indoors. However, we retain another relative, umbrella, originally a sunshade, which came into English via Italian.

Umquihile

It's from Old English ymb hwile, which progressively changed to umbewhitle and umwhile or umquihile. The last of these is the Scots spelling, which is why it so frequently turns up in the works of Sir Walter Scott. One appearance was in The Heart of Midlothian of 1818: "Above the inner entrance hung, and had hung, for many years, the mouldering hatchment, which announced that umquihile Laurence Dumbie of Dumbiedikes had been gathered to his fathers in Newbattle kirkyard." Another was in The Monastery (1820): "The Lady of the umquihile Walter de Avenel was in very weak health in the Tower of Glendearg." The Trollopes were among the last active wielders of umquihile. Frances Trollope used it in 1832 in her Domestic Manners of the Americans (she didn't like them) and her son Anthony employed it in The Three Clerks in 1857: "She had been the widow of Jonathan Golightly, Esq., umquihile sheriff of the city of London, and stockbroker." The word had pretty much vanished from the language by 1900. It has been recorded a few times since, but always in historical or self-consciously archaic contexts. Even the writers of fantasy fiction, those busy resurrectors of antique words, have passed it by.

LOL

Repairing the phone

A man was a frequent user of a pay telephone at a popular truck stop, and was greatly inconvenienced when the phone went out of commission. Repeated requests for repair brought only promises. After several days, the phone



company was again contacted and told that there was no longer a rush. The phone was now working fine -- except that all money was being returned upon completion of each call. A repairman arrived within the hour!

IN JEST THIS

We all deserve awards for stupidity



Melvin Durai

INSTEAD OF COMMON SENSE, MANY OF US EXHIBIT COMMON STUPIDITY. WE'RE JUST LUCKY IT HASN'T YET KILLED US

Considering how modest and humble I am, you may be surprised to learn that I enjoy winning awards. I'd be thrilled to receive almost any kind of award. I'd even accept an award from the National Association of Lazy Husbands. Yes, even an award called "Outstanding Achievement by a Husband in Napping on the Couch." At the awards ceremony, I'd smile and say, "I'd like to thank my wife for encouraging me and not waking me up unnecessarily. I couldn't have done it without you, sweetheart. I'd also like to thank my mother for believing in me and teaching me important values, including the value of sleep. This one's for you, Mom. And to all those people who thought I'd never amount to anything, all I can say is: Look at me now. I haven't yet won the Nobel Prize, but it's only a matter of time!"

Almost any award would thrill me, but definitely not the one that's

named after the father of evolution. It's called a Darwin Award and some people are literally dying to win it.

The Darwin Awards were created to "commemorate those who improve our gene pool by removing themselves from it." In other words, the awards — which have spawned a best-selling book and other products — recognise people who kill themselves in stupid ways. Among last year's winners was a poacher who entered a national park in South Africa intending to kill a rhino and steal its valuable horn, but found himself trampled by an elephant and eaten by lions.

Though I denounce poaching of any sort — I don't even like poached eggs — I find these awards unsettling. Not only do they seem insensitive, they assume that the rest of us are geniuses. Truth is, many of us are just as stupid. Look around you and you'll see enough stupidity to keep all the hospital emer-

gency rooms busy. Instead of common sense, many of us exhibit common stupidity. We're just lucky it hasn't yet killed us. Obituary pages are full of people like these:

1. Harish Helmetless. Always in a hurry, he loved to ride his motorcycle fast, sometimes at twice the speed limit. But he didn't like to wear his helmet because it was too uncomfortable. He preferred to feel the breeze in his hair. Unfortunately, he lost control of his motorcycle one day and struck a tree, learning the true meaning of 'uncomfortable.' His obituary reads: "Only 24 years old, he left a big mark on the world, a mark that future generations can find on a tree."

2. Connie Morepuffs. A longtime smoker, she died of lung cancer at the ripe old age of 36. She learned to read when she was just 4, but somehow had trouble reading the warnings on cigarette packs. She smoked five packs a day, but couldn't afford to buy health insurance.

Her obituary reads: "Many of her friends urged her to stop smoking and she has finally listened."

3. Johnny Beltnot. His wife asked him to wear his seat belt, but he said, "I hate wearing belts. They're such a pain. Almost as bad as your nagging. Besides, I'm a safe driver — the safest driver I know! Nothing's going to happen to me. Nothing!" Something did happen to the 44-year-old man when a truck hit his car. Johnny Beltnot turned into Johnny Pilot. Yes, he flew right out of his window. He travelled more than 20 yards, setting a world record for unaided flight by a human. Unfortunately, he messed up the landing. He landed right on his head. It was such a pain. His obituary reads: "Though his flight was unintentional, the Wright Brothers would have been so proud. He is survived by a distraught wife, three young children and an unused seat belt."

GST fund for states

Sir, Several states have agreed to take the money borrowed by the Centre, as high as ₹1.1 trillion, in lieu of GST compensation. A federal system of government cannot succeed if the Centre and the states pull in different directions. The decision of the Centre to borrow was a climb-down from its earlier stand. Well-done! Still, problem arose over this from non-BJP states. States can reap more electoral dividends by working hand-in-hand with the Centre than opposing and obstructing it at every step. The wrong actions of the government will need to be opposed tooth and nail, though. People understand the political motives of the parties and hence leaders must be behaving with a sense of responsibility.

KV Seetharamaiah, VISAKHAPATNAM

IAF shows the way

Sir, The Indian Air Force takes the cake for having more number of women personnel as compared to the Indian Army and the Indian Navy. But the 'combatant' roles for women in Indian armed forces had to wait till the early 2016 when three women officers were selected as fighter squadrons in the IAF. One of them, Flying Officer Avani Chaturvedi, made headlines by becoming the country's first woman to fly the prestigious MiG-21. A year earlier, three more women were inducted to the IAF. Shivangi Singh was one. Now, she is set to fly the multi-role fighter aircraft Rafale in December. The IAF boasts of having 10 women fighter pilots. During the 1999 Kargil war, Flight Lieutenant Gunjan Saxena had flown her helicopter into the war zone. The 28-year-old sub-lieutenant Shubangi Swaroop, who joined the Indian Navy in December 2019, has been assigned to fly from on-board warships. All these women have broken common stereotypes about women.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

CSK's chances

Sir, Chennai Super Kings' horror patch in this edition of the IPL continued as the team went down tamerly to Rajasthan Royals on Monday. CSK skipper MS Dhoni, who became the first cricketer to get to the landmark of 200 IPL matches, and his team once again lacked intent as they mustered only 125 in their quota of 20 overs. Rajasthan Royals rode on Jos Buttler's unbeaten 48-ball 70 to scamper home in style. The loss rules out CSK's chances of making the playoffs.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

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



Gruelling poll battle for scions of political dynasties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 20: The Bihar assembly election 2020 is testing the mettle of the scions of two foremost political dynasties in the state—the Prasads and the Paswans—as they fight a gruelling electoral battle to protect and preserve the formidable legacies of their fathers.

Tejashwi Yadav, the articulate younger son of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad who helms the five-party Grand Alliance, has been the state's deputy chief minister for a couple years, but faces the electorate for the first time without his charismatic father by his side.

Chirag Paswan, to whom his father Ram Vilas Paswan had passed on the baton of the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) in his lifetime, is ploughing a lonely furrow in the absence of the wise counsel of his father; the redoubtable Dalit leader from Bihar with a national appeal, who died a few days ago.

Chirag, the sitting Lok Sabha MP from Jamui, faces the daunting task of carrying forward the legacy of his father, who had friends across the political divide, virtually friendless.

Paswan Junior walked out of the NDA in Bihar when his father was on the death bed, and has been furiously attacking Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who is also the JD(U) boss and the ruling coalition's chief ministerial contender.



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar (L) and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav (R) meet LJP chief Chirag Paswan who was performing 'Shradh' rituals for his father late Ram Vilas Paswan, in Patna, Tuesday.

However, he has been all the while professing his loyalty to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and calling himself his 'Hanuman'.

Amid hushed whispers about the "tacit" backing Chirag has of a section of BJP leadership, Kumar, a loyal adherent to real politik, made some senior leaders of the saffron party, including union minister Prakash Javadekar, openly renounce and denounce Paswan Jr, who they called a 'vote katu' (vote splitter who doesn't stand to gain

much) that was trying to confuse the NDA voters.

With the support of his numerically small but assertive Paswan castemen, the LJP president hopes to clinch sufficient number of seats in the 243-member Bihar assembly to stay relevant in state politics.

The party had won six Lok Sabha seats in the 2019 elections, largely because of the alliance it had with the BJP and JD(U). It had won just two seats in the 2015 assembly polls. According to analysts, Tejashwi

is comparatively on a more firm footing, particularly because of the preponderance of the Yadavs, the single biggest caste in the state. In several constituencies yadav candidates have won and finished second election after election.

Though Lalu Prasad may not be around to lead his army in the electoral battlefield, many in the opposition claim, he had a decisive say in selecting candidates and finalising the seat-sharing formula while still serving time in a Ranchi jail

FIGHT TO PROTECT LEGACIES

Tejashwi Yadav, the younger son of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, who helms the five-party Grand Alliance, faces the electorate for the first time without his charismatic father by his side

Chirag Paswan is ploughing a lonely furrow in the absence of the wise counsel of his father Ram Vilas Paswan, the redoubtable Dalit leader from Bihar with a national appeal, who died a few days ago

after his conviction in the fodder scam.

The RJD-led alliance has the Congress, CPI, CPI(M) and CPI-ML as its constituents.

The Muslims have, by and large, stood behind the RJD-Congress combine and, according to close watchers of the poll scene, things will be no different this time.

Tejashwi's elder brother Tej Pratap, a sitting MLA from Mahua, has shifted to Hasanpur in Samastipur district.

Chirag Paswan has nominated his cousin Krishna Raj from Rosera constituency.

Apart from Tejashwi and Chirag, who have big shoes to fill, a bevy of younger men and women belonging to lesser political clans are set to try their luck at the hustings.

Child labour thrives in Guj's cottonseed farms

Nearly 1.30 lakh children, mostly tribal, are illegally employed at the farms, according to a study by the Centre for Labour Research and Action



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 20: Nearly 1.30 lakh children, mostly tribal, are illegally employed at cottonseed farms in Gujarat, a city-based NGO has claimed.

Taking cognisance of the matter, an official from the state labour department told PTI Tuesday that they will send their teams in areas specified by the NGO and take action if any wrongdoing is found.

Low prices paid by seed companies to farmers is one of the main reasons why cultivators are employing children instead of adults for cross-pollination work in the fields, Sudhir Katiyar, from the Centre for Labour Research and Action, told reporters here Monday.

"According to a study, tribal children are paid just Rs 150 for a day's work, something for which an adult labourer never settles. As many as 1.30 lakh children are engaged as labourers in cottonseed farms," Katiyar claimed.

After the state government's firm action against child labour in such farms in north Gujarat region around 10 years back, the cottonseed industry has shifted pro-

duction to tribal farms in Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Arvali, Mahisagar and Chhotaudepur districts, he said.

"Though the shift has significantly reduced migration and trafficking of children from south Rajasthan, child labour continues in the cottonseed industry as local tribal children are now engaged as farm labourers," Katiyar said.

To stop this illegal practice, seed companies should consider giving better prices to farmers for cottonseed yield, he said.

"We also urge the government to take note of the altered practices in the industry and devise a new strategy to stop child labour," he added.

When contacted, state deputy labour commissioner MC Karia told PTI that they have taken

note of the issue raised by Katiyar and action will be taken if needed. "Our department had earlier broken an entire chain of child labour and trafficking in north Gujarat region. We regularly conduct drives to keep a check on this activity," the official said.

"I will send teams in these areas and take action if any wrongdoing is found," he added.

Our department had earlier broken an entire chain of child labour and trafficking in north Gujarat region. We regularly conduct drives to keep a check on this activity
MC KARIA | BY LABOUR COMMISSIONER

BJP president likens Grand Alliance to 'unholy alliance'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Buxar/Arrah, Oct 20: BJP president JP Nadda Tuesday termed Bihar's five-party 'Mahagathbandhan' an unholy and unnatural alliance that seeks to divide society and spread unrest.

Branding the Congress party as 'anti-national', Nadda said its leaders were praising Pakistan when an election is under way in India.

The RJD-led Mahagathbandhan or Grand Alliance also includes the Congress and three left parties-CPI, CPI-M and CPI-ML. Though the influence of the CPI and CPI-M has waned, the CPI-ML still has some pockets of influence in the state.

"This CPI(ML), RJD, and Congress alliance is not a natural alliance. It is an unholy and unnatural alliance. They don't have love for the society. They divide the society and spread unrest. We have to get rid of this unholy alliance," he told election rallies in Buxar and Arrah.

Parts of Buxar and Bhojpur district, of which Arrah is the headquarters, frequently saw bloody conflicts between armed Maoist groups, particularly the CPI-ML, and militias of upper caste land owners when Lalu Prasad's party was in power between 1990 and 2005.

Nadda, however, made no reference to the LJP, which walked out of the NDA in Bihar and is ploughing a lonely furrow. The party founded by Dalit leader Ram Vilas Paswan is still a part of the ruling coalition at the Centre but has no minister in the Modi government after the death of Paswan.

Addressing a well-attended election rally in Buxar, Nadda referred to the 'tukde-tukde gang', 'urban naxals', Shaheen Bagh protests and abrogation of provisions of Article 370 that accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Nadda, who was born and brought up in Bihar, greeted the crowds in Bhojpur, and reminded them of their rich culture and heritage exemplified by iconic leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan.

This CPI(ML), RJD, and Congress alliance is not a natural alliance. It is an unholy and unnatural alliance. They don't have love for the society. They divide the society and spread unrest. We have to get rid of this unholy alliance

JP NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

He launched a blistering attack on the Congress at his rally in Arrah. "When the election is on in Bihar, talk about Pakistan. What has Bihar election got to do with Pakistan? But Congress leaders are praising Pakistan. And who is leading them in this praise? Rahul Gandhi," Nadda said.

Rahul Gandhi had on Friday targeted the Centre over IMF's projection that the Indian economy is set to contract by a massive 10.3 per cent this year, saying it was another 'solid achievement' of the government.

Gandhi had taken a swipe at the government on Twitter by tagging a chart that showed IMF growth projections for 2020-21 for Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, China, Bhutan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and India.

The BJP chief said the entire world, including the WHO Director General and the United Nations Secretary General, had lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for managing the COVID-19 crisis well in a country of 130 crore people.

"But our Rahul Gandhi talks about Pakistan's handling of COVID-19," Nadda said, and accused the former Congress president of "speaking the language of Pakistan and separatists."

He also assailed senior Congress leader P Chidambaram for his assertion that the party stood for restoration of Article 370.

"Let alone restoration of Article 370, people will not leave you in a position to be in the opposition, what to talk of forming the government. We know that well."

Black money, inducements worth ₹35cr seized in Bihar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 20: Cash and suspected illegal inducements for voters such as liquor seized in poll-bound Bihar have been valued at over Rs 35 crore, a figure much more than what was impounded by surveillance teams during the last assembly polls in 2015, according to the latest EC data.

The items seized during the last assembly elections in the state were worth Rs 23.81 crore.

As per data available till Monday, the Election Commission (EC) appointed expenditure monitoring teams have seized cash and other illegal inducements like liquor valued at Rs 35.26 crore.

In addition, Rs 79.85 lakh Nepalese currency has been seized in the state till now, the data said.

Polls for the 243-member Bihar assembly will be held in three phases - October 28, November 3 and November 7 - and the counting of votes will be held November 10.

The EC has deployed 67 expenditure observers in the state apart from deputing two high-ranking



retired officers of the Income Tax Department who are deployed as special expenditure observers.

A total of 91 assembly seats have been declared as 'expenditure sensitive' and brought under 'focussed monitoring' by the poll panel so that a level playing field is maintained and voters are not bribed.

The EC said "881 flying squads and 948 static surveillance teams have been formed for election expenditure monitoring work for the

assembly elections of Bihar."

Distributing cash and gifts during the electoral process is not permitted under the law along with distribution of money, liquor, or any other item disbursed and given to the electors with the intent of influencing them. This expenditure comes under the definition of 'bribery' which is an offence both under the Indian Penal Code and the Representation of the People Act, the EC said.

Digital wallet holders falling prey to remote access app

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 20: The Gujarat police Tuesday arrested a member of a gang from Jharkhand allegedly involved in taking out money from accounts of unsuspecting victims in the name of updating their details on online payment application Paytm, an official said.

The cybercrime branch nabbed Mahendra Das, a native of Jamtara in Jharkhand, from Silvassa town in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, the official said.

The arrest was made based on a complaint lodged by one Manoj Patel, who claimed that a man identified as Rajul had contacted him over phone in June and warned that his Paytm application will stop working if he does not update his 'know your customer' (KYC) details.

The man made the victim download a remote desktop application on his phone, through which he managed to find out Patel's OTP and allegedly removed Rs 2.09 lakh from his account in multiple transactions and transferred the sum to the accused's bank accounts, he said.

While Rs 35,000 was transferred into Das' bank account in Silvassa, the deposited money was withdrawn from an ATM in Jamtara, the official added.

Meanwhile, Paytm Payments Bank spokesperson said, "There



THE MODUS OPERANDI

Manoj Patel claimed that a man identified as Rajul had contacted him over phone in June and warned that his Paytm application will stop working if he does not update his KYC details

are multiple registered and un-registered telemarketers and subscribers who are senders of unsolicited commercial communication to millions of Indians. As a pattern, these fraudsters abuse the telecom bulk SMS capacity to send SMSes stating if a customer does not call back on the number mentioned in SMS then his Paytm account will get closed."

Some innocent customers get defrauded either by sharing banking credentials (card details and

OTP) or installing a screen-sharing app, he said, adding that the company has already filed a writ petition in Delhi High Court seeking immediate stopping of circulation of phishing SMSes and calls by telecom operators.

"Our cyber cell department is connected to police crime branches to effectively tackle cyber frauds and when they are reported. We are constantly working to inform customers to safeguard themselves from such incidents," he said.

Guj: 81 candidates in fray for by-polls to 8 Assembly seats

The by-elections were necessitated after the sitting Congress MLAs resigned

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 20: A total 81 candidates are in the fray for by-elections to eight seats in Gujarat to be held November 3, the Election Commission said Tuesday.

By-elections in Abdasa, Limbdi, Morbi, Dhari, Gadhada, Karjan, Dang and Kaprada seats were necessitated after the sitting Congress MLAs resigned. Monday was the last date for withdrawal of nomination forms.

Out of 102 nominations received by the EC for eight seats, 21 forms were withdrawn till Monday, leaving 81 candidates in the fray, a release from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer said.

Limbdi has the highest number of 14 candidates, while Kaprada, reserved for Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates, has the lowest number of four candidates.

As per the release, 12 candidates each are in the fray in Morbi and Gadhada seats, followed by 11 in Dhari, 10 in Abdasa, and nine each in Karjan and Dang.

Candidates of the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress are pitted against each other in all the eight seats. The Bharatiya Tribal

Party has also fielded two candidates - in Dang, which is reserved for ST candidates, and Karjan.

Lesser-known outfits like the Bahujan Maha Party, Bahujan Mukti Party, Bharatiya Jana Parishad, Akhil Bharatiya Rajarya Sabha, All India Majlis-e-Inqilab-e-Millat, Rashtravadi Jana Chetna, Yuva Jan Jagruti, Vyavastha Parivartan Party, and Rashtriya Jankranti Party have also fielded one or two candidates in some of the seats. A total of 51 independents are also in the fray. The BJP has fielded Pradyumnsinh Jadeja (Abdasa), Kiritsinh Rana (Limbdi), Brijesh Merja (Morbi), J V Kakadiya (Dhari), Atmaram Parmar (Gadhada), Akshay Patel (Karjan), Vijay Patel (Dang) and Jitubhai Chaudhary (Kaprada).

These candidates include five former Congress MLAs who resigned from the opposition party and joined the BJP.

The Congress candidates for the by-polls are Shantilal Sendhani (Abdasa), Chetan Khachar (Limbdi), Jayantilal Patel (Morbi), Suresh Kotadiya (Dhari), Mohan Solanki (Gadhada), Kiritsinh Jadeja (Karjan), Suryakant Gavit (Dang) and Babubhai Patel (Kaprada).



of the day quote

The state should not get a bad name and any lapse in the implementation of the sand policy would not be tolerated

YS JAGAN MOHAN REDDY | ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

I demand strong action against all miscreants and unscrupulous individuals who have criminally hacked/tampered with my mobile phone and uploaded and transmitted obscene material

CHANDRAKANT KAVLEKAR | GOA DY CHIEF MINISTER

The perverse intimidation of Vijay Sethupathi's daughter is not only barbaric but extremely dangerous to the very fabric of our society

KANIMOZHI | DMK LEADER



One cannot treat women with disrespect. Kamalnath ji is from my party. But I don't personally like that type of language that Kamalnath ji has used. I do not appreciate it. It is unfortunate

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

ACTOR VIJAY SETHUPATHI'S DAUGHTER GETS RAPE THREAT

The Cyber Cell of Chennai Police has registered a case after a rape threat was made on Twitter against actor Vijay Sethupathi's daughter after he exited from "800" - a biopic on Lankan cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan



ELECTIONS AMID COVID-19

Govt enhances expenditure limit of candidates

The maximum expenditure for campaigning in Lok Sabha polls has been increased from ₹70 lakh to ₹77 lakh, while it has been hiked from ₹28 lakh to ₹30.8 lakh of Assemblies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 20: The poll spending limit for candidates contesting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections has been enhanced by 10 per cent based on the recommendation of the Election Commission that contestants be allowed to spend more on campaigning keeping in mind difficulties they may face due to Covid-19 curbs.

The hike in expenditure limit will help candidates contesting Bihar Assembly poll as well as by-polls to one Lok Sabha and 59 Assembly seats.

Over a month ago, the Election Commission had recommended a 10 per cent hike in expenditure for all elections to be held during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The hike was recommended keeping in mind the difficulties candidates may face in campaigning



amid the restrictions imposed, including those on holding rallies amid the pandemic.

The notification issued by the Law Ministry Monday night said the maximum expenditure a candidate can incur for campaigning in Lok Sabha polls is now ₹77 lakh. It was so far ₹70 lakh.

mind the pandemic and whether it is limited for polls being held amid Covid-19. The amended rules, the notification said, "Shall come into force on the date of their publication in the official Gazette and shall remain in force till such date as may be notified by the Central Government."

"The maximum expenditure limit was enhanced for a reason. But the notification need not mention the reason," explained a senior EC functionary.

The last time the expenditure ceiling was enhanced was in 2014 just ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. Assembly polls in Bihar will be held October 28, November 3 and November 7. Most of the Assembly by-polls will be held November 3.

By-polls to the Valmiki Nagar Lok Sabha seat in Bihar and some Assembly seats in Manipur will take place November 7.

ICMR may remove plasma therapy from Covid clinical protocol

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 20: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) issued a big statement Tuesday regarding plasma therapy, which is touted as a life saving intervention for patients suffering from severe Covid-19.

The Director-General (DG) of ICMR, Balram Bhargava, stated that plasma therapy may be deleted from the national clinical protocols for the management of Covid-19.

"We have had a discussion with the National Task Force for Covid-19 management. We are discussing further with the joint monitoring committee and contemplating on removing the plasma therapy from the national guidelines," he said.

"We are more or less reaching towards a decision (to remove plasma therapy from the national clinical protocols)," Bhargava said during the weekly press briefing of the Union Health Ministry.

The statement has come in the wake of several studies conducted on the efficacy of convalescent plasma therapy which suggested

that it did not reduce mortality or progression to severe disease condition. ICMR's own study, which came out in September, revealed that plasma therapy failed to save people dying from Covid-19.

India had conducted the world's largest randomised controlled trials named PLACID Trials to study the efficacy of plasma therapy. The trials were conducted on 464 patients between April 22 and July 14 at 39 centres across the country. The study was published in a medical journal in September.

The result of the trials revealed that the plasma therapy failed to exhibit any significant difference in mortality rates between those who received convalescent plasma and those in the control group.

Besides, the ICMR chief also informed that the PLACID Trials would soon come out as a research paper in the New England Medical Journal. "More than 350 authors contributed to the study which was accepted by the British medical journal and it is going to appear very soon as a full paper," he added.

SHORT TAKES

1 killed in Kolkata building collapse

Kolkata: One person was killed after an old building collapsed in Entally area of Kolkata Tuesday, police said. The person was trapped under the debris of the two-storey dilapidated structure on Convent Road, a police officer said. The building came crashing down in the morning hours, he said.

Live streaming of Dussehra festival

Kolkata: The Dussehra festival in the city and the burning of Ravana effigy will be live-streamed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions against public gathering, an organising committee member said. The 20-foot Ravana effigy will be set aflame at Salt Lake's Central Park October 26 evening in the presence of only executive members of the Salt Lake Sanskritik Sansad Committee and Sanmarg.

Another woman gangraped in UP

Chitrakoot (UP): Four people, including a woman, have been arrested Tuesday in connection with the alleged gang rape of a 35-year-old woman, police said. Based on a complaint filed by the woman, a case was registered against two men on charges of gang rape and three others on charges of criminal conspiracy, the police said. According to the complaint filed October 18, the woman was brought by the two men to the house of another accused in the Karwi police station area of Chitrakoot district in Uttar Pradesh September 28 and raped.

Naxal killed, cops hurt in encounter

Raipur: A naxal was killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district Tuesday afternoon, the police said. Two jawans of the police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) were injured in the blast of an improvised explosive device (IED) triggered by the ultras during the skirmish, they said.

Three killed in LPG blast

Datia (MP): At least three persons were killed and eight others injured in a fire and blast triggered by a leak in an LPG cylinder at a home in Bhandar town of Madhya Pradesh's Datia district Tuesday, police said. The incident occurred at around 10 am in Sarafa Bazaar of Bhandar town.

PERFECT CLICK



Youngsters pose during a photo shoot at the Gateway of India that was re-opened for public after being closed for nearly seven months due to coronavirus pandemic in Mumbai, Tuesday

First case of Covid-linked brain nerve damage at AIIMS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 20: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, has reported the first case of Covid-19-induced brain nerve damage in a child, which led to blurred vision, as per a report.

AIIMS doctors are reportedly preparing a report on the health condition of the 11-year-old. According to a doctor at the AIIMS, "We have found Covid-19 infection-induced Acute Demyelinating Syndrome (ADS) in an 11-year-old girl. This is the first case that has been reported in the paediatric age group."

"This girl had come to us with a loss of vision. The MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) showed ADS, which is a new manifestation. However, we now know that the virus majorly affects the brain and the lungs. We plan to publish this case report since we have established that her condition was Covid-19 induced," Dr Sheffali Gulati of the department of paediatrics at AIIMS was quoted as saying in the report.

ADS include health conditions that damage myelin, brain sig-



nals and affect neurological functions. The protective layer which covers the nerves is called myelin, as per the report.

The health condition of the 11-year-old girl improved with immunotherapy, and she was discharged from the hospital after about 50 per cent of her vision was regained.

The report added that another Covid-19 positive person, a 13-year-old girl, is also undergoing treatment at AIIMS after she had complained of fever and encephalopathy (swelling of the brain). The doctors, however, are still trying to ascertain whether her condition was induced by Covid-19, the report added.

MP Assembly by-polls a big test for Shivraj, Scindia

Madhya Pradesh by-polls don't seem to be a worry for the BJP as it needs to win only nine of the 28 seats to stay in power

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Oct 20: Madhya Pradesh Assembly by-polls are a big test for Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Rajya Sabha MP Jyotiraditya Scindia as they look to consolidate BJP's position in the Assembly. At the same time, former CM Kamal Nath sniffs a comeback opportunity.

The ruling BJP and the Congress are locked in intense electioneering that saw former Chief Minister Kamal Nath stirring up a controversy with his "item" remark about a woman politician and incumbent Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan sitting on a protest.

Madhya Pradesh Assembly election in 2018 had ousted the BJP from its 15-year-rule bringing the Congress to power with the support of Independent MLAs and smaller parties. But the Congress' victory proved to be short-lived. The BJP returned to power in



March this year via defection of 22 Congress MLAs. They resigned and joined the BJP along with Jyotiraditya Scindia, who was later elected to the Rajya Sabha as a BJP member. Three more MLAs followed suit.

Madhya Pradesh by-polls don't seem to be a worry for the BJP as it needs to win only nine of the 28 seats to stay in power. The Congress, however, needs to win all 28 to make a comeback.

In the 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly, a party or coalition needs 116 MLAs to win majority. The BJP currently has 107 MLAs. The Congress has 88 MLAs. For Nath, there is a second pos-

sible equation that can bring him back to power in Madhya Pradesh. If he wins at least 21 of the 28 seats for the Congress, then he can try to convince four Independent, two BSP and one SP legislators to support his bid for a return to power.

Chouhan has not been his usual flamboyant self in the fourth tenure of chief ministership. He has had to accommodate Scindia loyalists in his cabinet and then agree to field all 25 Congress rebels bracing opposition from his own party leaders. Reports from the poll battleground indicate that Chouhan has largely managed to assuage the feeling of anguish among party cadres.

The Madhya Pradesh by-election battle is centred on Gwalior-Chambal region 16 of 28 by-poll seats are here. This is also the sphere of influence of Scindia, who engineered a change of government in Madhya Pradesh, and also of Union minister Narendra Tomar.

India, Taiwan likely to hold formal talks on trade deal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi/Taipei, Oct 20: After approving incentives for Taiwanese firms, the government is now likely to have formal talks on a trade deal with the Tsai Ing-wen administration.

The move will be significant since India, like most countries, does not formally recognise Taiwan because of Beijing's 'One China Principle' under which the democratic island is its "integral" part.



However, in the last six months, China's aggression against India along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh has pushed New Delhi to review its foreign policy in the region and its approach towards the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) regime.

The CCP has been threatening to invade Taiwan but President Tsai Ing-wen recently warned it against any such move. Incidentally, on Taiwan's National Day celebrations early this month, Tsai had announced that Taipei will play an active role in establishing a new regional and international order in the face of the Chinese aggression against democracies.

Tsai's statement had come days after the foreign ministry level meeting of the Quad - Japan, Australia, US and India - in Tokyo where US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo lashed out at China's military moves against India, Taiwan and in South China Sea. The Quad has also been discussing global over dependence on China's supply chains for manufactured products.

Earlier this month, the Modi government approved \$6.65 billion incentives for 16 firms including Taiwan's three major partners of Apple - Foxconn Technology Group, Wistron Corp and Pegatron Corp.

'Naxalism-hit areas used for illegal cannabis cultivation'

NAXALISM-AFFECTED AREAS OF ANDHRA PRADESH, ODISHA, JHARKHAND AND WEST BENGAL AND DIFFICULT TERRAIN OF SOME OF THE HILLY STATES HAVE BEEN USED FOR ILLEGAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 20: The Naxalism-affected areas of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal and difficult hilly terrain of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura, a government official said.

"Ganja" from these regions finds its way to all over the country, including Delhi, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, and is also smuggled across the ocean to Sri Lanka.

Hostile terrain and inaccessibility make this area difficult for the law enforcement agencies to conduct destruction of illicit cannabis cultivation, the official said.



Intensive enforcement efforts carried out by the NCB throughout India resulted in the crackdown on multiple drug trafficking networks operating in various states.

The concerted efforts in intelligence gathering and enforcement by the NCB have so far had a telling effect on the seizure of narcotic drugs. Between August and the

first week of October, the NCB has seized a total 10,700.5 kg 'Ganja' in various parts of the country. A total of 1.18 kg of Methylendioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA) has been seized by the NCB in the last two months.

There is a rapidly increasing popularity of MDMA, commonly known as 'ecstasy', in the country. It is a party drug that alters mood and perception and is chemically similar to both stimulants and hallucinogens and produce feelings of increased energy and pleasure, the official said.

It is popular in big cities like Mumbai and Bangalore.

of the day **quote**

If the Union Home Minister has raised concern over the language used by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, it's significant



SHARAD PAWAR | NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY CHIEF

What happened to you former CM Kamal Nath. You are 74-yr-old and I can't repeat what you said about BJP's Imarti Devi...When we objected, he shamelessly called everyone an item including himself



SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

Ironic that Mr Amit Shah has found data on bomb factories, but when it comes to data on migrants, his government is clueless!



ABHISHEK BANERJEE | TMC LEADER

SHORT TAKES

2 men hacked to death in J'khand

Gumla (J'khand): Two men have been hacked to death and their bodies dumped beside a road in Jharkhand's Gumla district, police said Tuesday. The bodies were found near Khurshuta village in Raidih police station area on Monday, Chainpur SDPO Kuldeep Kumar said. The deceased have been identified as Vinod Ekka (24) and Rahul Tirkey (28), he said. Prima facie, it seems the murder was a result of a personal rivalry but this can be confirmed only after a detailed probe, the officer said.

4 ultras killed in J&K encounters

Srinagar: Four militants were killed in two separate encounters with security forces in Shopian and Pulwama districts of Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday, taking the death toll of the ultras in the two operation to five, the Army said. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation at Melhura in Zainapora area of Shopian Monday evening, following information about presence of militants in the area, a police official said.

Kerala local body polls in December

Thiruvananthapuram: The postponed local body polls in Kerala in all likelihood are going to be held during the first week of December, according to sources. The election will be held to elect new representatives to 941 village councils, 152 block Panchayats, 14 district Panchayats, 86 municipalities and six municipal corporations. This poll is being seen as the curtain raiser of the Assembly polls, which may be held in May 2021.

3 killed as truck hits bike in UP

Ballia (UP): Three people were killed when their motorcycle was hit by a truck at Dunkin Ganj crossing here, police said Tuesday. The accident took place under Pakdi police station area on Monday evening when the motorcycle was trying to overtake the truck, they said. Those killed have been identified as Ramakant Rajbhar (48), Kishan Dev Rajbha (45) and Ramashray Rajbhar (36), police said, adding that the bodies have been sent for post-mortem.



“If I am inexperienced then why is the BJP using its full force against me? This proves that they are desperate. Is Nitish Kumar's face not working?”

TEJASHWI YADAV | RASHTRIYA JANATA DAL CHIEF

BUS DRIVER SUFFERS HEART ATTACK; PASSENGERS SAFE

Nine bus passengers had a miraculous escape Tuesday morning when the vehicle rammed into a signal post near Chembur in Mumbai after its driver suffered a heart attack, an official said



Punjab Assembly passes Bills to 'negate' Centre's farm laws

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, Oct 20: In a move to protect the state's farmers and agriculture, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh Tuesday presented in the Vidhan Sabha a draft resolution rejecting outright the Centre's "anti-farmer" laws and the proposed electricity amendment Bill, with an appeal to all parties to rise above political interests in the spirit of saving the agrarian state.

The draft resolution seeks annulment of the farm laws and the proposed Electricity Bill, as well as promulgation of "a fresh ordinance making the procurement of food grains on the minimum support price (MSP) a statutory right of the farmers".

Regretting that several legislators indulged in frivolous activities Monday to gain political mileage, with some coming in tractors and some spending the night in the Assembly precincts in protest against non-receipt of his government's Bills, the Chief Minister said he had signed the same at 9.30 p.m., after extensive discussions and consultations with various experts. Such delays in sharing copies of



Bills happen in emergent session, he said, pointing to something similar happening when his government had brought in the Punjab Termination of Water Agreements Act during his last tenure in 2004.

Amarinder Singh said the Bills being presented Tuesday, the second day of the special Assembly session, would form the basis of the state's legal battle ahead and, hence, needed to be thoroughly vetted before presentation.

The draft resolution expresses the deep regret of the state legislative Assembly over the "callous and inconsiderate attitude of the Government of India in attending to the concerns of the farming community on recent allegedly farm

SIDHU TARGETS PUNJAB ON MSP

CHANDIGARH: On the day the Punjab government tabled a Bill in the Assembly to blunt the effects of the Centre's new farm laws, Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu criticised his party's government in the state for a second time for its crop procurement model and "lack" of storage and marketing abilities. "Today, Punjab does not have a government procurement model for any other crop apart from wheat and rice. Neither do we have storage capacity nor the marketing ability. Today, the central foodgrain warehouses are empty. They will buy our rice this year, our wheat next year. Then what after that? Our timeline for preparation is just one-three years," Sidhu said in a video uploaded on his YouTube channel.

legislation enacted by them". It reads that the Assembly is constrained to unanimously reject the three (farm) legislations and the proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

Referring to The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020, the draft resolution notes that the Union Government had converted the relevant farm ordinances into Acts and notified the same September 24 and 26 even though the concerns and sentiments of the House were conveyed to the Prime Minister through

letter of September 14 by the Chief Minister.

"These three legislations along with the proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2020 are clearly against the interests of farmers and landless workers, and time-tested agriculture marketing system established not only in Punjab but also in original green revolution areas of Punjab, Haryana, and Western Uttar Pradesh," it said, adding the Government of India had clearly enacted trade legislations and not farm legislations.

Further, said the draft resolution, these laws are also against the Constitution of India (Entry 14 List-II), which comprises agriculture as a subject of the state.

'Every second farmer opposed to farm laws'

A SURVEY FOUND THAT OF THE 52 PER CENT OPPOSING THE FARM LAWS, OVER 36 PER CENT WERE NOT INFORMED ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THESE LAWS



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 20: Gaon Connections survey 'The Indian Farmers Perception of the New Agri Laws' found every second respondent farmer opposed to the three laws, while 35 per cent farmers supported these acts.

However, it was also found that of the 52 per cent opposing the farm laws, over 36 per cent were not informed about the details of these laws. Similarly, of the 35 per cent supporting the farm laws, almost 18 per cent were not informed about them.

The survey by Gaon Connection Insights, the data and insights arm of India's biggest rural media platform, was conducted between October 3 and October 9 across 53 districts in 16 states of the country.

As per the survey, the biggest fear of these new farm laws among the respondent farmers (57 per cent) is that they will now be forced to sell their crop produce at a lower price in the open market, while 33 per cent farmers fear the government will end the system of minimum support price (MSP).

Further, 59 per cent respondent

farmers want the MSP system to be made a mandatory law in India. A large section of marginal and small farmers, who own less than five acres land, support these farm laws compared to medium and large farmers.

Interestingly, in spite of slightly more than half (52 per cent) the respondent farmers opposing the three new agri laws (of which 36 per cent were not informed about these laws), almost 44 per cent respondent farmers said the Modi government was 'pro-farmer', whereas about 28 per cent said it was 'anti-farmer'.

Further, to another survey question, a majority of farmers (35 per cent) said the Modi government supported the farmers, whereas about 20 per cent said it supported the private corporates/companies.

A section of farmers and farmers' organisations have been protesting against the new farm laws. To document the opinion and perception of the farmers on these new Acts, Gaon Connection carried out this rapid survey with 5,022 respondent farmers spread across all regions of the country (see survey methodology for details).

CBI takes over probe into 'TRP manipulation'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 20: The CBI has registered an FIR into alleged manipulation of Television Rating Points (TRP) on the basis of a reference from the Uttar Pradesh Police, officials said Tuesday.

The case, which was earlier registered at Hazratganj police station in Lucknow on a complaint of an advertising company promoter, was handed over to the CBI by the Uttar Pradesh Government, they said.

Taking prompt action, the CBI has registered an FIR against unidentified persons, they said.

The primary allegations relate to manipulation of TRPs on a payment, they said. The CBI officials refused to give any further details. TRP or Television Rating Points of a channel or programme are used to measure popularity by advertising agencies which affect pricing. The points are calculated in India by Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) using a device installed in over 45,000 households across the country called "Bar-O-Meter".

The device collects data about a programme or channel watched by members of these household on the basis of which weekly ratings are issued by BARC. Recently, Mumbai police had registered a case of TRP manipulation following which the ratings were reportedly suspended by BARC.

Now, one Hathras accused found to be minor

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hathras (Uttar Pradesh), Oct 20: In a major development, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probing the Hathras case in which a Dalit girl was allegedly gang raped and later died of injuries, has found that one of the four accused, is a minor according to his school records.

According to the mother of the minor accused, the CBI team had visited their residence and taken the marksheets from her. She also claimed that her son is a minor. "They also took some of my elder son's clothes along with the marksheet. He is a minor," said the mother.



The four accused in the Hathras alleged gang rape case have been lodged at the Aligarh jail. A CBI team questioned the four accused in the Hathras case for over eight hours Monday and visited the crime site with eyewitnesses Tuesday. The marksheet of the accused

ED attaches gangster's assets worth ₹22.42cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 20: Assets worth over ₹22 crore, including a cinema hall and a hotel in Mumbai, of late gangster Iqbal Mirchi's family have been attached in connection with a money laundering case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said Tuesday.

A provisional order for attaching the properties has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). "The attached assets includes a talkies (cinema hall) and a hotel in Mumbai, an under construction hotel, a farm house, two bungalows and 3.5 acre land in Panchgani," the central investigative agency said in a statement.

The total value of the attachment is ₹22.42 crore and it includes deposits kept in seven bank accounts, it said.

The total attachment in this

money laundering case against the late gangster and his family is about 798 crore as the agency had issued attachments orders, including for overseas properties worth ₹203 crore, in the past.

Mirchi, who died in 2013 in London, was alleged to be the right-hand man of global terrorist Dawood Ibrahim in drug trafficking and extortion crimes.

"He (Mirchi) was an international drugs dealer and smuggler who had amassed huge wealth and acquired various immovable properties and businesses across the globe," the ED had said earlier. The agency alleged Mirchi "indirectly owned various properties in and around Mumbai".

It has filed a criminal case against Mirchi, his family and others last year to probe money laundering charges linked to their alleged illegal dealings in the purchase and sale of costly real estate assets in Mumbai.

POLLUTED YAMUNA



An animal is seen grazing in the polluted water of the river Yamuna, covered in foam during a hazy morning, in New Delhi

31% candidates face criminal cases: ADR report

THE REPORT SAID THAT 21 CANDIDATES HAVE DECLARED CASES RELATED TO MURDER AGAINST THEMSELVES, WHILE 62 HAVE DECLARED CASES RELATED TO ATTEMPT TO MURDER AGAINST THEM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 20: Over 30 per cent of 1,064 candidates in the first phase of the Bihar Assembly election have declared criminal cases against themselves, according to a report by poll rights group Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

Twenty-three per cent or 244 candidates have declared serious criminal cases against themselves, it said.

As many as 328 or 31 per cent candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves. A total of 375 or 35 per cent have given their financial assets worth crores of rupees while five candidates have declared zero assets, the report said.

According to the report, 30 (73 per cent) out of 41 candidates analysed from the RJD have declared criminal cases against themselves and 22 (54 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves

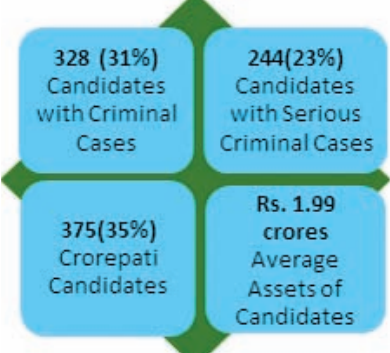
in their affidavits. About 21 (72 per cent) out of 29 candidates analysed from the BJP have declared criminal cases against themselves and 13 (45 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits, the report said.

The poll body report said that about 24 (59 per cent) out of 41 candidates analysed from the LJP have declared criminal cases against themselves and 20 (49 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

About 12 (57 per cent) out of 21 candidates analysed from the Congress, 15 (43 per cent) out of 35 candidates analysed from the JD(U) and eight (31 per cent) out of 26 candidates analysed from the BSP have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

Nine (43 per cent) out of 21 candidates analysed from the Congress, 10 (29 per

BIHAR POLLS - PHASE I



cent) out of 35 candidates analysed from the JD(U) and 5 (19 per cent) out of 26 candidates analysed from the BSP have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their

affidavits, the report said. As many as 29 candidates have declared cases related to crime against women and out of 29 candidates, three have declared cases related to rape, the report said.

The report said that 21 candidates have declared cases related to murder against themselves and 62 candidates have declared cases related to attempt to murder against them.

The details of the financial background of the candidates were also given in the report.

"Out of the 1,064 candidates, 375 (35 per cent) are crorepaties. Among the major parties, 39 (95 per cent) out of 41 candidates analysed from RJD, 31 (89 per cent) out of 35 candidates analysed from JD(U), 24 (83 per cent) out of 29 candidates analysed from BJP, 30 (73 per cent) out of 41 candidates analysed from LJP, 14 (67 per cent) out of 21 candidates analysed from the INC

(Congress) and 12 (46 per cent) out of 26 candidates from the BSP have declared assets worth more than ₹1 crore," the report said.

The average of assets per candidate contesting in the first phase of Bihar Assembly elections is ₹1.99 crore, the report said.

"Among major parties, the average assets per candidate for 35 JD(U) candidates analysed is ₹8.12 crores, 41 RJD candidates analysed is ₹6.98 crores, 21 INC candidates have average assets of ₹6.03 crores, 41 LJP candidates have average assets of ₹4.62 crores, 29 BJP candidates have average assets of ₹3.10 crores and 26 BSP candidates have average assets worth ₹1.36 crore," it said.

As many as 453 or (43 per cent) candidates have declared liabilities in their affidavits, it said.

The findings of the report were unveiled in a press conference by ADR.



Iran is ready to sign military and security agreements with the Gulf states
AMIR HATAMI | IRANIAN DEFENCE MINISTER

JUSTICE DEPT FILES LANDMARK ANTITRUST CASE AGAINST GOOGLE

The Justice Department Tuesday sued Google for antitrust violations, alleging that it abused its dominance in online search and advertising to stifle competition and harm consumers



of the day quote

We are seeing a massive resurgence of coronavirus infections in the US and the countries across Europe. That's why the Prime Minister has emphasised face coverings. She has urged everyone to be more careful



KHANDKER ANWARUL ISLAM | BANGLADESH CABINET SECRETARY

Next year will be the greatest economic year in the history of our country, that's what's going to happen



DONALD TRUMP | US PRESIDENT

We strongly condemn the violence against our diplomat in Fiji by China's uncivilised wolf warriors



JOSEPH WU | TAIWAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

UK sets deadline for Manchester

London: The British government has given the city of Manchester a noon Tuesday deadline to agree to tighter coronavirus measures, as Prime Minister Boris Johnson struggles to impose his plan for localised restrictions on restive regions. Johnson's government is resisting a recommendation from its scientific advisors to have a short "circuit-breaker" lockdown to curb the spread of coronavirus.

HK to relax nCoV curbs

Hong Kong: Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam Tuesday announced that her government could slightly relax some of the incumbent social-distancing rules aimed at allowing the revival of local tours and social activities such as weddings. "The recent epidemic situation seems to be stabilised again, there were no untraceable infections over the past three days," the *South China Morning Post* quoted Lam as saying.

Rouhani meets Abdullah

Kabul/Tehran: Abdullah Abdullah, Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, met Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, who pledged his country's support for an enduring and acceptable peace for the people of Afghanistan, an official statement. According to the statement issued by Abdullah's office, the meeting took place Monday, reports *TOLO News*. Rouhani said that he hoped the peace efforts will work in Afghanistan's favour and insisted on the implementation of joint economic plans between the two countries, the statement said.

Imran fears 2nd nCoV wave

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has expressed fears over a second COVID-19 wave in the country in the coming months due to a resurgence of new cases in some parts of the country. "I fear there might be another spike of coronavirus in cities where the rate of pollution increases in October and November," *Dawn* news quoted the premier as saying Monday at an event. Fears of a second wave have surfaced after health officials warned of cases rising in Punjab province, especially Lahore, while there was also an increase in Karachi's COVID-19 positivity rate.

Trump plans to debate Biden despite 'unfair' rule changes

AGENCIES

Washington, Oct 20: US President Donald Trump has confirmed his participation in the presidential debate with his Democratic challenger Joe Biden later this week, even as he raised objections about "unfair" changes in the format. Trump, 74, and Biden, 77, are slated to face their final presidential debate at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee October 22.

The non-partisan Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) on Monday announced new rules under

PREZ SLAMS FAUCI

During a call with his re-election campaign staff, US President Donald Trump slammed Anthony Fauci, America's top infectious disease expert, and called the latter "a disaster". According to the audio of Monday's call obtained by The Hill news website, the President even accused Fauci of providing inconsistent advice about the coronavirus pandemic and claimed that if he had followed all of the top scientist's advice, the US would have "700,000 to 800,000 deaths right now".



which it will mute microphones for two minutes of the rival speakers so as to give them uninterrupted opening remarks.

"I'll participate, I just think it is very unfair," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One on Monday. "I will participate, but it's very unfair that they changed the topics and it is very unfair that again we have an anchor who is totally biased," the president said, responding to a question on changes in the debate rules by CPD. In a letter to CPD on Monday, Trump 2020 campaign manager Bill Stepien expressed concern over the announced topics for what was always billed as the 'Foreign Policy Debate' in the series of events agreed to by both the

Trump and the Biden campaigns many months ago. "The topics announced by moderator Kristen Welker (fighting COVID-19, American families, race in America, climate change, national security, and leadership) are serious and worthy of discussion, but only a few of them even touch on foreign policy," he said, asserting that almost all of the topics were discussed at length during the first debate "won" by Trump. **MICROPHONES TO BE MUTED:** The microphones of Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Joe Biden will be muted during segments of Thursday's presidential debate, the last direct face-off before the November 3 election, it was announced.

China takes note of Oz joining Malabar drills

AGENCIES

Beijing, Oct 20: China Tuesday said it has "taken note" of India's announcement that Australia will join the annual Malabar naval exercise along with the US and Japan, underlining that military cooperation should be "conductive" to regional peace and stability.

India Monday announced that Australia will join the upcoming Malabar exercise which effectively means that all the four-member countries of the 'Quad' or Quadrilateral coalition will be participating in the mega drill. Australia will participate in the Malabar naval exercise next month involving India, the US and Japan that will bring the four key defence



partners and democracies in the region together, demonstrating their collective resolve to support an open and prosperous Indo-Pacific. Commenting on the announcement, Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that China has "taken note of this development." "We always believe that military cooperation between countries should be conducive to regional peace and stability," he said in a brief reaction. India's decision to heed to Australia's request to be part of the mega naval drill comes in the midst of growing strain in ties with China over the border row in eastern Ladakh.

What is the Malabar exercise?

The Malabar naval exercise began in 1992 as a training event between the United States and India. Japan joined it in 2015, but Australia has not participated since 2007. The exercise was conducted off the coast of Guam in the Philippine Sea in 2018 and off the coast of Japan in 2019. This year's drills are likely to be held in the Bay of Bengal and the Gulf, India's defence ministry says. Dates have not yet been confirmed.



A cat yawns outside Downing Street in London

REUTERS

NATO to set up space center

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kester (Belgium), Oct 20: To a few of the locals, the top-secret, fenced-off installation on the hill is known as "the radar station".

Some folks claim to have seen mysterious Russians in the area. Over the years, rumours have swirled that it might be a base for US nuclear warheads. It's easy to see how the rumours start. The site is visually striking. Four huge white Kevlar balls sit like giant spherical spacecraft in a compound in the middle of open farm country 25 kilometres (16 miles) west of Belgium's capital, Brussels.

But the Kester Satellite Ground Station is both safer and more sophisticated than local lore might suggest. It's central to space communications at NATO — the biggest and most modern of four such stations the military alliance runs. Around 2,000 satellites orbit



the earth, over half operated by NATO countries, ensuring everything from mobile phone and banking services to weather forecasts. NATO commanders in places like Afghanistan or Kosovo rely on some of them to navigate, communicate, share intelligence and detect missile launches. This week, the site at Kester is set to fall under a new orbit, when NATO announces that it is creating a space centre to help manage satellite communications and key parts of its military operations around the world.

In December, NATO leaders declared space to be the alliance's "fifth domain" of operations, after land, sea, air and cyberspace. Over two days of talks starting on Thursday, NATO defence ministers will greenlight a new space centre at the alliance's Air Command in Ramstein, Germany.

It's part of the alliance's efforts to keep ahead in a fast-moving and hi-tech sector, particularly amid concern about what member countries say is increasingly aggressive behavior in space by China and Russia. Around 80 countries have satellites and private companies are moving in too. In the 1980s, just a fraction of NATO's communications was via satellite. Today, it's at least 40%. During the Cold War, NATO had more than 20 stations, but new technologies mean the world's biggest security organization can double its coverage with a fifth of that number.

Shehbaz sent to jail in money laundering case

AGENCIES

Lahore, Oct 20: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief and Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif was sent to jail Tuesday in a money laundering case.

Shehbaz, the younger brother of three-time former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) September 28 after a court here rejected his bail application in the Rs 700 crores money laundering case. Next day, the 69-year-old

former Chief Minister of Punjab province was sent on a physical remand by an accountability court. On Tuesday, an accountability court of Lahore rejected the NAB's plea seeking further extension to his physical remand. Shehbaz told the court that NAB didn't ask any questions about money laundering during his three weeks detention.

Talking to reporters, Shehbaz criticised the Imran Khan government for arresting Mohammad Safdar, son-in-law of Nawaz Sharif, for raising slogans in giving respect to the ballot. Safdar was

Monday briefly arrested from his hotel room in Karachi, a day after he staged a protest at the tomb of the country's founder and attended a joint opposition rally.

MARYAM BOOKED: Nawaz Sharif's daughter and Opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's vice-president Maryam Nawaz was Tuesday booked along with over 2,000 party members for holding an anti-government rally in Lahore where she called Prime Minister Imran Khan a 'coward, selected and puppet' who hides behind the Army.

Nagorno-Karabakh fighting continues

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yerevan, Oct 20: Armenia and Azerbaijan reported more fighting Tuesday over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, where clashes have continued for over three weeks despite two attempts at establishing a cease-fire.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said the hostilities carried on overnight and accused Armenian forces of shelling the Terter and the Agdam regions of Azerbaijan in the morning. Armenian Defense Ministry spokeswoman Shushan



Stepanian reported "intensive fierce battles" Tuesday morning in the

southern areas of the conflict zone, and alleged that Azerbaijani forces were using aviation and artillery in the northern sector.

The two countries announced a cease-fire Saturday in a bid to halt the fighting that has killed hundreds since September 27, when clashes resumed in the worst escalation of a decades-old conflict. The agreement — just like a cease-fire deal brokered by Russia a week earlier — was almost immediately challenged by mutual claims of violations and the fighting resumed unabated.

WORLD AWAITS COVID-19 VACCINE

UNICEF plans to stock half billion syringes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Oct 20: UNICEF said it will stockpile 520 million syringes in its warehouses, as part of a larger plan of one billion hypodermic needles by 2021, to guarantee initial supply and help ensure that syringes are available in countries before the COVID-19 vaccines arrives.

"As the world awaits a COVID-19 vaccine, UNICEF has begun laying the groundwork for the rapid, safe and efficient delivery of the eventual vaccine by purchasing and pre-positioning syringes and other necessary equipment," the UN agency said Monday.

The agency said as soon as COVID-19 vaccines successfully emerge from trials and are licensed

and recommended for use, the world will need as many syringes as doses of vaccine. To begin preparations, this year, UNICEF will stockpile 520 million syringes in its warehouses, part of a larger plan of one billion syringes by 2021, to guarantee initial supply and help ensure that syringes arrive in countries before the COVID-19 vaccines, it said.

During 2021, assuming there are enough doses of COVID-19 vaccines, UNICEF anticipates delivering over one billion syringes to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts on top of the 620 million syringes that it will purchase for other vaccination programmes against other diseases such as measles, typhoid and more. "Vaccinating the world against



COVID-19 will be one of the largest mass undertakings in human history, and we will need to move as quickly as the vaccines can be produced," UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore said. "In order to

move fast later, we must move fast now. By the end of the year, we will already have over half a billion syringes pre-positioned where they can be deployed quickly and cost effectively. That's enough syringes

to wrap around the world one and a half times," Fore said.

In line with the longstanding collaboration between the two partners, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, will reimburse the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the procurement of the syringes and safety boxes, which shall then be used for the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX Facility) and for other Gavi-funded immunisation programmes if necessary. Accordingly, UNICEF is "bundling" the syringes with safety boxes to ensure enough safety boxes are available to go along with the syringes. UNICEF said injection equipment such as syringes and safety boxes have a shelf life of five years. Lead-times for such equipment are also long as these

items are bulky and need to be transported by sea freight.

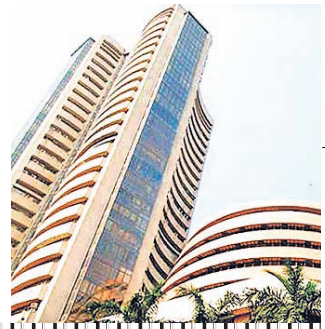
Vaccines, which are heat sensitive, are normally transported more quickly by air freight. In addition to saving time, early purchase of syringes and safety boxes also reduces pressure on the market and pre-empts potential early spikes in demand when vaccines do become available. Every year, UNICEF provides vaccines for almost half of the world's children and procures and supplies around 600-800 million syringes for regular immunisation programmes. COVID-19 vaccines will likely treble or quadruple that number, depending on the number of COVID-19 vaccines that are ultimately produced and secured by the UNICEF.

business

A triple whammy of postponement in elective surgeries, revenue loss from the highly profitable medical tourism segment, and increasing costs will lead to 35-40 per cent reduction in operating profit of pvt hospitals
ASHU SUVASH | MD & CEO, CRISIL

MARKETS TICK HIGHER FOR 3RD DAY; IT STOCKS SHINE

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty notched up gains for the third straight session Tuesday, led by IT stocks and HDFC Bank amid a rebound in the global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex settled 112.77 points or 0.28 per cent higher at 40,544.37.



of the day quote

Maruti Suzuki Subscribe comes with features including flexible tenure, zero down payment, registration and insurance, and complete maintenance. The company is overwhelmed with customer response



SHASHANK SRIVASTAVA | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA

We have all had our favourite Super Hero, with whom we relate. We find ways to celebrate this relationship. The TVS NTORQ 125 SuperSquad Edition, gives new expression to this ageless fascination



ANIRUDDHA HALDER | VICE PRESIDENT (MARKETING), TVS

Dr Reddy's has launched a product, which is equivalent to Johnson & Johnson's Pepsid AC, in the US after getting approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA)



MARC KIKUCHI | CEO, DR REDDY'S LABORATORIES NORTH AMERICA GENERICS

Above normal rainfall increases net acreage

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Oct 20: With above normal rainfall during the monsoon, farmers have sown record 1,095.37 lakh hectares so far, though output of cereals like rice and maize is likely to be impacted, according to the National Bulk Handling Corporation's first kharif crop estimates for 2020-21.

Total 19 states and union territories have received normal rainfall this year, while nine states and union territories saw excess rainfall, NBHC said in a statement.

In the post monsoon phase, most parts of Maharashtra have received moderate to heavy rainfall due to cyclonic disturbance, it added.

NBHC said that in the preliminary reports by the commissioner of agriculture it was mentioned that crops over 4.5 lakh hectares were damaged in the rains and standing crops of soybean, maize, sugarcane and tur reported damage.

"Total rice is expected to show marginal improvements in area by 6.74 per cent but production is likely to decline by 2.20 per cent than last year. Maize acreage is expected to increase by 2.31 per cent but still we are expecting a 5.71 per cent lower crop size because heavy rain is seen affecting yield of the standing crop in Madhya Pradesh



and Karnataka," NBHC Head - Research and Development - Hanish Kumar Sinha said.

Area of jowar is expected to decline 1.17 per cent despite increase in production by 1.22 per cent and Bajra acreage is expected to increase marginally by 3.71 per cent but production is expected to fall by 14.40 per cent, he added.

In the pulses sector, acreage and production of tur is expected to increase by 9.78 per cent and 5.48 per cent, respectively, due to good crop conditions so far in the major growing states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana and Jharkhand, NBHC said. Urad area is expected to increase by 1.47 per cent, whereas production is expected to increase by 45.38 per cent because even in

some places the crops have been damaged, alternatively there has been an increase in the sowing area as well, Sinha added.

"We expect the area under moong to increase by 19.70 per cent whereas the production is expected lower by 3.91 per cent mainly due to crop damage in major producing states," Sinha opined. In the oilseeds sector, he said, excess rains in central India are expected to dampen the prospects of a record harvest for kharif oilseeds, mainly soybean and groundnut.

Soybean acreage is expected to improve by 8.17 per cent but the production is expected to reduce by 15.29 per cent due to heavy rains in September and October in major growing areas.

Retail inflation eases slightly for rural areas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 20: The retail inflation for farm workers and rural labourers eased only marginally to 6.25 per cent and 6.1 per cent, respectively in September as food prices remained high. The retail inflation for farm workers and rural labourers is measured in terms of Consumer Price Index - Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) and Consumer Price Index - Rural Labourers (CPI-RL).

Point-to-point rate of inflation based on CPI-AL and CPI-RL decreased to 6.25 per cent and 6.10 per cent in September from 6.32 per cent and 6.28 per cent, respectively in August, a labour ministry statement said.

The rise in index varied from state to state. In case of agricultural labourers, it recorded an increase of 1-23 points in 20 states, it said. Tamil Nadu with 1,234 points topped the index table whereas Himachal Pradesh with 816 points stood at the bottom.

In case of rural workers, it recorded an increase of 2-20 points in 20 states. Tamil Nadu with 1,218 points topped the index table whereas Himachal Pradesh with 863 points was at the bottom.

Labourers for September 2020 increased by 11 points and 10 points to stand at 1,037 and 1,043 point, respectively, the statement added.

Hiring activity dips 30 pc in Q2: Report

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 20: The hiring activity in India saw a 30 per cent decrease in the June quarter compared to the same period last year as the country saw a rise in contractual jobs, a new report said Tuesday.

However, the June quarter witnessed a 13 per cent increase in the number of work-from-home jobs as compared to Q2 2019.

Furthermore, the demand for contract workforce increased by 11 per cent in Q2 from the same period last year, while the demand for full-time employees decreased by 13.8 per cent, according to data from SICKYE talent commerce platform, a talent marketplace.

IT and IT Services sectors indicated recovery in contractual jobs in the June quarter.

"Cloud businesses and digital transformation is the need of the hour and one of the top most requirements for all industries to adapt to the new normal," said Karunjit Kumar Dhir, Co-Founder SICKYE.

"This will definitely have a positive impact on the hiring sentiments among techies who will now look for jobs in India especially due to the strain in H-1B visas".

The pandemic has given rise to a huge number of contract workers for a plug and play model allowing companies to reduce their



THE JUNE QUARTER WITNESSED A 13 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF WORK-FROM-HOME JOBS

hiring costs.

In the packaging, IT, telecom and e-commerce industry, some of the top job roles companies are looking for are developer, analyst, management profiles, tester, engineer, senior and consultants.

An earlier study from the company found that there was an uptick in hiring senior executives in India compared to freshers and mid-level executives in the pandemic period (April to July) as the enterprises looked to invest in talent at the very top levels.

SHORT TAKES

HUL Q2 net up 8.6% at ₹1.9K cr

New Delhi: FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Tuesday reported an 8.58 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to ₹1,974 crore for the quarter ended on September 30, 2020. The company had posted a net profit of ₹1,818 crore in the July-September quarter of the previous fiscal. Its sales during the quarter under review stood at ₹11,510 crore, up 15.89 per cent compared to ₹9,931 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) said in a regulatory filing.

Govt bans gas, CBM sale to self

New Delhi: The government has banned natural gas and coal-bed methane (CBM) producers from buying their own produce in the newly notified gas marketing freedom guidelines. The government on October 15 notified the Natural Gas Marketing Reforms that give producers the freedom to discover the market price of gas through a standard e-bidding process. The notification, which follows the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approving gas reforms, also gives them the liberty to market or sell the gas produced to anyone including affiliates.

Cipla launches fibrosis drug

New Delhi: Pharma major Cipla Tuesday said it has launched generic Nintedanib used for the treatment of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF) under the brand name 'Nintib' in India. Available as 100 mg and 150 mg capsules, the launch marks another milestone in the company's decade-long commitment to treat IPF, a rare lung disease that impacts ten in one lakh people, Cipla said in a statement.

Rupee falls on fiscal concerns

Mumbai: The rupee Tuesday depreciated by 12 paise to close at 73.49 against the US currency due to dollar buying by state-run banks amid increased forex inflows. Capital inflows and strong domestic equities, however, limited the local currency's losses. The Indian currency opened at 73.36 at the interbank forex market and moved in the range of 73.29 to 73.53 in a volatile trade during the day. The unit closed at 73.49.

BIZ BUZZ

Wipro wins five-year contract from Fortum

Bengaluru: Wipro Limited Tuesday announced that it has won an Application Management (AMS) and Services Integration & Management (SIAM) contract from Fortum, one of the leading clean-energy companies headquartered in Finland. As a part of the five-year agreement, Bengaluru-headquartered Wipro said it would manage Fortum's application portfolio across hundreds of applications for more than 11,500 users across 18 countries and provide 24/7 support for business-critical applications. The IT major said in a statement it would leverage its artificial intelligence and automation platform, 'Wipro HOLMES' to enable process automation for enhanced end-user experience. "In addition, Wipro's Service Integration & Management (SIAM) transformation solution will help Fortum consolidate and govern its multi-supplier eco-system," the statement added.



RMZ group sells 12.5 mn sq ft real estate assets



New Delhi: In India's largest realty deal, Bengaluru-based RMZ Corp has sold 12.5 million sq ft of real estate portfolio and co-working business to Brookfield for USD 2 billion (around ₹14,680 crore) to become debt-free company. On September 29, the fair-trade regulator CCI had approved the proposed deal. RMZ group will become debt-free with the closure of this transaction, which has come amid the COVID-19 pandemic. RMZ, a privately-held realty firm and fully-owned by brothers Raj and Manoj Menda, said it has sold 12.5 million sq ft of commercial assets to a fund managed by Brookfield Asset Management for USD 2 billion. "The deal marks the largest-ever deal in the Indian real estate industry," RMZ said in a statement.

JSPL develops new grade of rails; gets IR approval

New Delhi: Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) Tuesday said the Indian Railways has approved another grade of rails developed by the company for high-speed and high-axle load applications. In a statement, JSPL said it is the first and only Indian manufacturer to successfully develop 60E1 1175 Heat Treated (HT) rails suitable for high-speed and high-axle load applications. The Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), which works under the ambit of the Railway Board, has also approved the newly developed grade, it added. The company said that the Railways has embarked upon upgrading the track system to carry heavy-axle load at a speed of up to 200 km/hour.



Mercedes-Benz to start local assembly

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 20: German luxury car maker Mercedes-Benz Tuesday said it will start local assembly of its performance vehicle range AMG in India.

The first Mercedes-AMG product to roll out of the assembly line from Mercedes-Benz India's plant at Chakan in Pune will be the AMG GLC 43 4MATIC Coupé, the company said in a statement.

Mercedes-Benz India Managing Director and CEO Martin Schwenk said, The decision to locally produce AMG in India underlines Mercedes-Benz's clear road map for the Indian market and our long-term commitment



to our Indian customers. We want AMG to be more accessible to the potential customers and play a bigger role in our overall portfolio we offer in India.

He further said this decision is an important milestone towards strengthening the company's AMG ambitions in India further.

The AMG brand over the years has become synonymous with per-

formance motoring in India and remains highly aspirational, Schwenk said.

Mercedes-Benz's performance sub-brand AMG has a wide portfolio of performance limousines, performance SUVs, SUV Coupés, and sports cars in India. The AMG brand has a dedicated retail presence through the AMG Performance Centres located across Indian metros. On the decision to start with the local assembly of the AMG GLC 43 4MATIC Coupé, he said it is an important model in the company's portfolio having the distinction of being one of the highest selling AMG models in India.

We are proud to introduce this dynamic SUV Coupé for our Indian

customers now in its 'made in India' version. The addition of the stylish AMG GLC 43 Coupé will further cement our strong position in the performance SUV segment, he said.

The company is confident that the launch of the locally produced AMG GLC 43 4MATIC Coupé will drive in value and aspiration for customers and help the model retain its top preference among the discerning AMG customers, Schwenk said.

Till date, Mercedes-Benz India locally produced Mercedes Maybach S 560, S-Class, E-Class Long Wheelbase, CLA, C-Class and the GLA, GLC, GLC Coupé, long wheelbase GLE G350d and GLS luxury SUVs.

OMCs hold petrol, diesel prices

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 20: Oil marketing companies (OMC) kept petrol and diesel prices unchanged across the four metros on Tuesday as global oil prices remained subdued and product prices remained steady.

Petrol prices have been unchanged for 28 days at a stretch while diesel prices were the same for the 18 consecutive days. Price of petrol in the national capital was at ₹81.06 per litre. In Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, the fuel was sold for ₹87.74, ₹84.14 and ₹82.59 per litre, respectively.

Diesel prices in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata were at ₹70.46, ₹76.86, ₹75.95 and ₹73.99, respectively. Domestic fuel prices have been largely subdued off late.

Govt to give flexibility to Air India bidders: DIPAM Secy

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 20: In a bid to resurrect Air India privatisation, the government is planning to give flexibility to potential investors to decide on the humongous debt with the national carrier, a top official has said.

The flexibility to potential investors on the quantum of the ₹60,074 crore debt that they want to absorb will replace the current condition of the buyer taking over more than a third of the debt and transferring the rest to a special purpose vehicle, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said.

The potential investors in Air



India have given feedback that due to the uncertainty created by COVID-19 in the aviation sector the debt should not be fixed at the Expression of Interest (EOI) stage, he added.

As per the Air India EoI floated by DIPAM in January, of the airline's total debt of ₹60,074 crore as of March 31, 2019, the buyer would

be required to absorb ₹23,286.5 crore, while the rest would be transferred to Air India Assets Holding Ltd (AIAHL), a special purpose vehicle.

The government is seeking to sell 100 per cent of its stake in the state-owned national airline, including Air India's 100 per cent shareholding in AI Express Ltd and 50 per cent in Air India SATS Airport Services Private Ltd.

On Air India, we would try and sort out the investor issues with respect to debt... We will see whether we can give flexibility at least at the EoI stage and let the debt be determined through the market rather than freezing it upfront. This is what we are examining, Pandey told PTI in an interview.

Bezos vs Ambani: Battle royale for India's retail crown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 20: A one-man arbitration panel heard the plea of Amazon and Future Group last week and a verdict is expected in a few days, according to sources.

A hearing of the arbitration took place at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre on October 16 after Amazon had slapped a legal notice on Future Group, alleging that the retailer's ₹24,713 crore asset sale to Reliance Industries (RIL) violated an agreement with the e-commerce giant.

According to sources familiar with the matter, VK Rajah - the sole arbitrator in the Amazon vs Future vs Reliance arbitration matter - heard the matter on October 16. Rajah, former Attorney General

of Singapore, is expected to deliver his judgment in the next few days, the sources said. Amazon has declined to comment over the development. "We cannot offer any comments as the matter is sub-judice," said an Amazon Spokesperson. E-mails sent to Future Group and Reliance did not solicit any response.

An outcome in this matter would decide the fate of the Future-Reliance deal announced on August 29, 2020 in which Future Group had announced sale of its retail, wholesale and logistics etc to Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd ("RRVL"), the retail arm of RIL.

In the hearing, Future Retail side was represented by advocate Harish Salve, sources said.

Last year, Amazon had bought a 49 per cent stake in one of Future's



unlisted firms, Future Coupons Ltd, with the right to buy into flagship Future Retail after a period between 3 and 10 years. Future

Coupons owns 7.3 per cent stake in Future Retail.

The tussle between Future and Amazon comes at a time when RIL

HIGH PROFILE TUSSLE

THE TUSSLE BETWEEN FUTURE AND AMAZON COMES AT A TIME WHEN RIL HAS BEEN BOLSTERING ITS POSITION IN THE COUNTRY'S RETAIL SEGMENT

RRVL HAS BEEN ON A FUND RAISING SPREE AND SINCE SEPTEMBER, IT HAS RAISED ₹37,710 CRORE BY SELLING STAKE IN ITS RETAIL ARM

has been bolstering its position in the country's retail segment. RRVL-run by India's richest man Mukesh Ambani - has been on a fund raising spree and since September, it has raised ₹37,710 crore by selling stake in its retail arm.

RRVL operates India's largest, fastest-growing and most profitable retail business spanning super-markets, consumer electronics chain stores, cash and carry wholesale business, fast-fashion outlets and online grocery store JioMart.

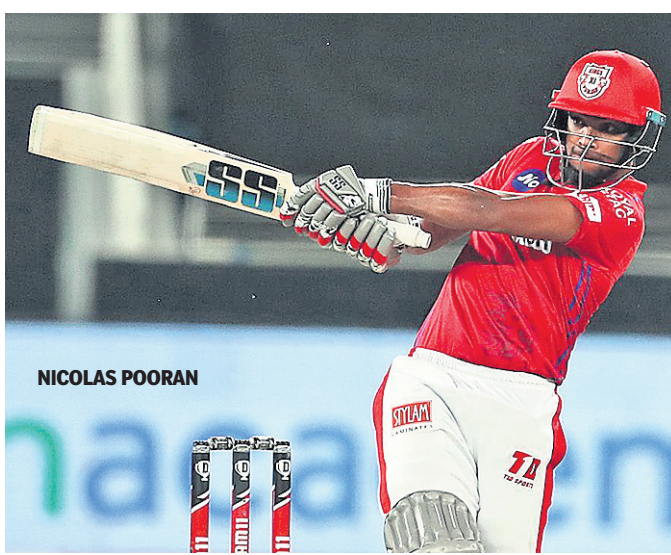
It operates about 12,000 stores in nearly 7,000 towns, with 640 million footfalls across core categories of grocery, consumer electronics and apparel. Revenues for Reliance Retail in 2019-20 stood at ₹1.63 lakh crore. The investments equip Reliance Retail with funds to compete in both offline and online formats. The investments come as the country's retail sector prepares for the upcoming festive season and would help Reliance to launch an assault on rivals such as Walmart-owned Flipkart and Amazon.

KXIP SPOILS DHAWAN PARTY

KKR look to make amends versus RCB



SHIKHAR DHAWAN



NICOLAS POORAN



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 20: Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) continued their winning run Tuesday keeping alive their play-off hopes alive this season in IPL. They spoiled Shikhar Dhawan's (106 n o, 61b, 12x4, 3x6) historic innings scripting a five-wicket victory over Delhi Capitals.

Dhawan became the first batsman to score back-to-back hundreds in the IPL. However, Nicolas Pooran (53, 28b, 6x4, 3x6) played a blitzkrieg of a knock to help KXIP register their third successive win. With this win, KXIP rose to fifth with eight points in their kitty.

Chasing a modest 165, KXIP dealt with a huge blow when they lost their in-form skipper KL Rahul (15) in the third over off Axar Patel (1/27). Then Chris Gayle (29, 13b, 3x4, 2x6) played a cameo before perishing off a Ravi Ashwin (1/27) delivery. Mayank Agarwal too got out following a mix-up with Pooran while searching for a quick single. With this, KXIP were reduced to 56/3 in 5.5 overs.

Earlier, Dhawan's sensational effort took DC to 164/5. It seemed he was batting on a different surface with the second highest score of the innings coming from skipper Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant, who made 14 each.

KXIP bowled well at the back end of the innings to restrict DC to below 180 with lead pacer Mohammed Shami (2/28) being the stand out performer. The southpaw crossed the 5,000-run mark in the IPL by sweeping leggie Ravi Bishnoi for a six over deep square-leg, becoming the fifth batsman to do so in the tournament's history.

Abu Dhabi, Oct 20: Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) have finally found their mojo with the late inclusion of tearaway pacer Lockie Ferguson and they would look to avenge their first leg rout by the star-studded Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) when the two sides clash in the IPL here Wednesday.

It will be interesting to see how Morgan uses Ferguson against the likes of De Villiers, RCB skipper Virat Kohli and opener Aaron Finch. Ferguson's inclusion gave the much-needed impetus to the side, but KKR are still struggling with their star all-rounder Andre Russell who capped yet another flop show with the bat.

It needed KKR nine games, and a change of captaincy, to realise the true potential of the World Cup star pacer for runners-up New Zealand, and when the Eoin Morgan-led side finally brought him in, he blew away Sunrisers Hyderabad with his relentless pace and variations.

Ferguson made all the difference to KKR's yet another ordinary show, returning with sensational figures of 3/15 (four overs) and 2/2 from three balls in Super-Over.

The imposing bowler, who returned with just two wickets from five games for KKR last season, was on the go from his first ball when he claimed his Kiwi skipper Kane Williamson, brilliantly mixing up his raw pace with slow deliveries to nail the opposition.

RCB, on the other hand, are ahead of KKR by two points and occupy the third place in the table after their seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals. Skipper Virat Kohli will also look to convert his starts as they look to brighten their playoff hopes with a double against KKR.

It's a welcome inclusion for the Morgan-led KKR (10 points) who are placed fourth with five matches left and Ferguson will be their key man to take them to the playoffs at a time when their star Aussie recruit Pat Cummins (three wickets from nine matches) is not making much of an impact of late.

Sindhu quashes reports of rift with family, coach

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 20: Reigning World Champion PV Sindhu Tuesday insisted that there is no rift within her family, adding that she has travelled to London to work on her 'nutrition and recovery needs'.

In a social media post, the 25-year-old also said she has no problem with national coach Pullela Gopichand or the facilities available at his academy in Hyderabad where the national camp is currently underway.

"I came to London a few days back to work on my nutrition and recovery needs with GSSI. In fact I have come here with the consent of my parents and absolutely they were no family rifts in this regard (sic)," said Sindhu in the statement which she released on her social media handles.

"Why will I have problems/issues with my parents who have sacrificed their lives for my sake? Mine is a very close knitted family and they will always support me. I am in touch with my family members every day. Also I do not have any issues with my coach Mr Gopichand or the training facilities at the academy," she added.

Kris slams MSD for Jadhav selection

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Oct 20: Kris Srikkanth, the former India captain and selection committee chief, has slammed MS Dhoni's 'ridiculous' calls for Chennai Super Kings in the ongoing IPL and asked what 'spark' did he see in the under-performing Kedar Jadhav.

about process, process... but the process of selection itself is wrong. "What is Dhoni's deal? He says (N) Jagadeesan (uncapped wicketkeeper-batsman) doesn't have spark, but does 'scooter' Jadhav have that spark? This is ridiculous. I will not accept this answer today. All this talk of process, and Chennai's tournament itself is over," he added.

Srikkanth was referring to Dhoni's remark that the youngsters in the CSK squad did not show the spark needed to challenge the seniors and break into the playing XI. "I will never accept what Dhoni is saying about this process," Srikkanth told 'Star Sports Tamil'. "This process he keeps talking about is meaningless. You keep talking

Jagadeesan has played just one match so far. Srikkanth, who was the team mentor and brand ambassador of CSK in the inaugural edition of the IPL, also questioned Piyush Chawla's selection. "Dhoni now says that since the pressure is off, he'll give the youngsters a chance. Come on, yaar. I don't understand this rubbish about the process at all.

"Karn Sharma at least took wickets. Chawla simply goes through the motions of bowling, coming on when the game is already lost. There is no doubt Dhoni is great, but I cannot agree with him or accept this." Dhoni's remarks, after the game, were met with severe criticism on the social media. "Fair enough, this season we weren't really there," Dhoni said at the presentation ceremony. "Also the youngsters, we didn't see the spark to push the guys. But what this result has done is give those youngsters a chance in the rest of the tournament. Maybe going forward we bring them in and they play without pressure."

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