



BIG OCCASION

Actor Priyanka Chopra is set to star with Grammy-winner Celine Dion in an upcoming romantic drama

LEISURE P2



DELHI'S COVID SURGE

Covid is bound to worsen as a mix of pollution, overcrowding and winter is proving to be a triple whammy

TWO STATES P7



SELF-STYLED GURU JAILED

A 'self-help' guru convicted of running a cult-like organisation of sex slaves sentenced to 120 years in prison

INTERNATIONAL P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Which pollster did you vote for?

SHORT TAKES

Int'l flights to remain suspended till Nov 30

New Delhi: The Centre Wednesday extended the suspension of scheduled commercial international flight operations to and from India till November 30. "This restriction shall not apply to international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation," an official statement said Wednesday. "However, international scheduled flights may be allowed on select routes by the competent authority on a case-to-case basis," it added.

Misconduct: DU VC suspended

New Delhi: The Vice Chancellor of the University of Delhi was suspended on President Ram Nath Kovind's orders, the Union education ministry said Wednesday, amid a major row over appointments that spawned an ugly power tussle. The education ministry had asked the President to allow an inquiry against Yogesh Tyagi after a dispute over appointments to the university last week.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	39922.46 ↓ 599.64
NIFTY	11729.60 ↓ 159.80
DOLLAR	74.08 ↑ ₹0.22
EURO	87.03 ↓ ₹0.25
GOLD	₹50,4171 ↑ ₹544
SILVER	₹60,145 ↓ ₹2136

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.8°C	32.8°C
TEMP MIN	20.1°C	19.5°C
Humidity	91%	69%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Mainly clear sky	

Monsoon bids adieu

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: The southwest monsoon which arrived in the state June 11 has completely withdrawn from the entire state Wednesday (October 28), the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said.

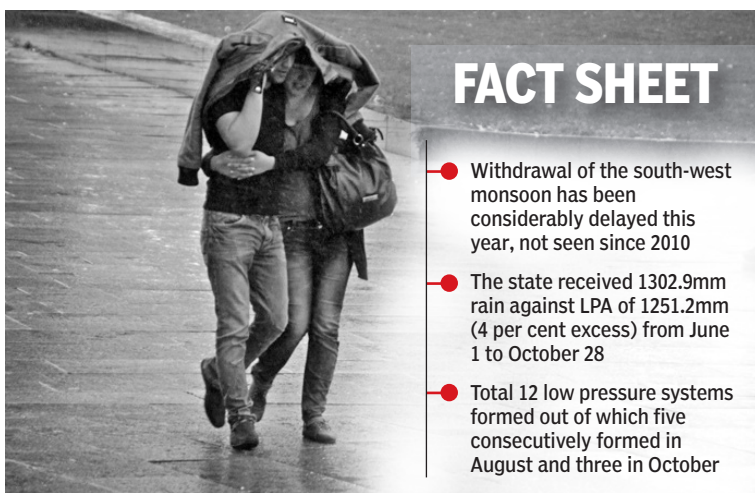
"The southwest monsoon withdrew from some parts of interior Odisha October 26 and it completely withdrew from entire Odisha and from entire the country today," it said.

This year, the monsoon had hit Kerala, June 1 and set in over Odisha June 11. It covered entire Odisha by June 13.

The state received a total of 1302.9mm rainfall against LPA rainfall of 1251.2mm (4 per cent excess) from June 1 to October 28 (date of withdrawal of monsoon).

A total of 12 low pressure systems formed over Bay Bengal from June to October 28 out of which five low pressure systems consecutively formed in August and three in October.

In June, the state recorded 15 per cent excess rainfall. Many unfavourable conditions like absence of adequate low pressure system over Bay of Bengal (only one low pressure formed over Bay Bengal from July 5 to July 7) and eastern part of monsoon trough lay to northern position than normal or close to foothills of Himalayas in many days resulted in deficient rainfall over Odisha



FACT SHEET

- Withdrawal of the south-west monsoon has been considerably delayed this year, not seen since 2010
- The state received 1302.9mm rain against LPA of 1251.2mm (4 per cent excess) from June 1 to October 28
- Total 12 low pressure systems formed out of which five consecutively formed in August and three in October

during July. The state had witnessed 35 per cent deficit rainfall in July.

Similarly, the state received 40 per cent excess and 32 per cent deficit rainfall in the months of August and September respectively. Also in two days (August 26 & 27), a very high amount of rainfall (129.7mm) occurred in state which caused riverine floods in some areas.

In October, the state recorded 69 per cent more than normal rainfall. Rainfall over Odisha in October (till October 28) has been 162.1m against the normal rainfall of 95.9 mm. Out of 30 districts, 18 districts received large excess (60%),

five districts received excess (between 20 per cent and 60 per cent) and rest seven districts received normal rainfall.

This year, the monsoon withdrawal has been considerably delayed after 2010. In 2010, the southwest monsoon had withdrawn from the entire state October 28. The three consecutive low pressure systems (one deep depression, one depression and one low pressure) formed over Bay of Bengal in this month may be one of the causes for the delay in withdrawal of the southwest monsoon from Odisha, the Met department said.

Amid drug rage, state forms panel to fight it

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: Even as the menace of drug addiction is raging in the country, the state government has formed a special committee of officials to fight the scourge in the state through several interventions.

The department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) which deals with drug de-addiction issues has formed an 18-member panel with people with varied expertise such as drug de-addiction, policing, narcotics and others. SSEPD secretary Bhaskar Sarma is the chairman of the committee while Director General of Police is a member of the panel. Other members in the panel included Additional Chief Secretary from the health department and representatives from the Narcotics Control Bureau, education department, women and child development department and other experts and people working in the sector.

The panel named 'State Level Nasha Mukta Bharat Campaign Committee' would work towards formulating a state campaign activity under the mission. It would also ensure formulation and implementation of a district level mukt campaign in vulnerable districts in the state. The panel would work to-



wards increasing community participation and public cooperation. It has been envisioned that the ban on sale of cigarettes within 100 metres of an educational institution would be enforced by the panel.

Training programmes at different levels would be organized to increase awareness among people. Social media could also be roped in to boost the presence of such activities on the social media.

The panel would visit institutions, hospitals for assessment of preparedness and implementation of the campaign. It has also been planned to obtain information on the availability and sale of drugs and review the action taken on such information.

"The committee will sit at least once in two months to review the situation of Nasha Mukta Bharat Campaign in Odisha and to formulate the future action plan for awareness generation, capacity building, and drug demand reduction and enforcement activities," an office order of the department said Wednesday.

After early success, boat ambulances set to go places in state

MANISH KUMAR, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: The health department is all set to expand the services of 108 boat ambulances in different cut-off areas to boost delivery of health services in far-flung areas of the state.

Days after the services were well received in two blocks of Kendrapara, they will be rolled out in Koraput, Malkangiri and Kalahandi districts. Sabyasachi Biswal, State-Head Ziqitza Healthcare, the firm which manages the services, said there are six boat ambulances to serve people in cutoff areas. "We have two boat ambulances in Kendrapara, two in Malkangiri, one each in Koraput and Kalahandi. Two are working in Kendrapara and works on others will begin soon," he said.

These boat ambulances offer life support systems like oxygen, anti-snake venom drugs, saline, suction machine, BP meter, stethoscope, stretchers, wheelchairs and others. "There are villages on other side of the Gupti river where motorable roads are either not present or get submerged during monsoons. In some areas, the road takes longer to reach hospitals. Through our service, we try to take patients in the shortest span of time to health centres," Jagannath Behera, cluster leader, Kendrapara, 108 Ambulance Service told **Orissa POST**.

MOTHERLY LOVE



A jungle babbler feeds its birdlings near Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

PIC: MAUSAM NANDA

SUPER CYCLONE ROUNDS OFF 21 YEARS TODAY

Natural defence against calamities fast weakens

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Oct 28: The state continues to remain prone to natural disasters as the Super Cyclone-1999 completes 21 year Thursday. This is because the mangrove forest cover protecting the coastal pockets from natural calamities has declined fast. Mushrooming of prawn gheries has also caused serious damage to the flora and fauna.

Mangroves sustain the ecological balance of coastal areas as well as livelihood security of thousands of fisherman. The Super Cyclone-1999 wreaked havoc in coastal districts. While the official toll then was 9,885 people, unofficial sources estimated the toll to be above 50,000. An estimated 1,500 children were orphaned. Of the total casualty, Jagatsinghpur district alone had accounted for 8,119 people.

At least 13 million people, including 3.3 million children and 5 million women were affected in 1999. The storm had left 7,505 people injured and killed 3,15,886 heads of cattle. The Super Cyclone provided an impetus to the state government to prepare a roadmap to tackle the future natural disasters. As a result, it laid stress on relief and rescue operation during calamities thereafter.

The state government attached



importance to construction of roads, cyclone relief shelters, timely evacuation of people from disaster prone habitats to safer places, installation of sirens to alert people at the time of approaching calamities, upgrading of healthcare facilities and environment management.

However, the mangrove forest cover which acts as a cover against cyclonic storms are fast depleting. Ten out of the 20 sirens in the cyclone alert centres have become defunct. This will hit timely evacuation of people before a calamity. Environmentalists said in the 48 km long sea coast of the district, the Bhitarkanika National Park has 188 sqkm of dense mangrove forests. However, these mangrove is de-

clining at a rapid rate since 1960. Over 88 sqkm of mangrove forests which are known as a protective wall against sea erosion have been washed away into the sea. Mangroves are salt tolerant plant species found in inter-tidal regions along the creeks and estuaries. They play a significant role in protecting the hinterland against cyclones and ingress of sea water.

Besides, they stabilize the coastal land mass against sea erosion. Sambit Kumar Satpathy, district emergency officer, said proper management of natural disasters is always a priority for the district administration because of which the district witnessed zero casualties in the last cyclonic storms.

Who created Aarogya Setu App? Government does not know

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 28: The Central Information Commission has issued show-cause notices to the CPIOs, NIC of Electronics, National Informatics Centre and National E-Governance Division (NeGD), seeking to know as to why penalty under Section 20 of the RTI Act should not be imposed on them for prima facie obstruction of information and providing an evasive reply on an RTI application related to the Aarogya Setu App, the Live Law reported.

The report said that CIC also asked the NIC to explain that when in the Aarogya Setu website it is mentioned that the platform was designed, developed and hosted by it, then how is it that it doesn't have any information

about the creation of the App.

"The Commission directs the CPIOs, NIC to explain this matter in writing as to how the website https://aarogyasetu.gov.in/ was created with the domain gov.in, if they do not have any information about it," Information Commissioner Vanaja N. Sarma ordered.

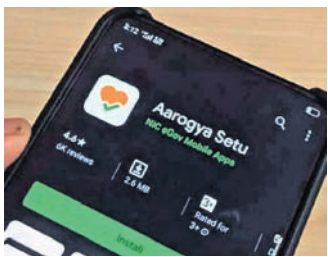
"None of the CPIOs were able to explain anything regarding who created the App, where are the files, and the same is extremely preposterous," Sarma said.

The Commission has issued show-cause notices to SK Tyagi, Deputy Director and CPIO, DK Sagar, Deputy Director, Electronics, and RA Dhawan, Senior General Manager (HR and Admin) and CPIO NeGD, the report said.

"The Commission directs the above-mentioned CPIOs to appear

before the bench on 24.11.2020 at 01.15 pm to show cause as to why action should not be initiated against them under Section 20 of the RTI Act. The CPIOs are also directed to send a copy of all supporting documents upon which they choose to rely upon during the hearing. The said documents be sent to the Commission at least five days prior to the hearing via linkpaper.

"If any other persons are responsible for the said omission, the CPIO shall serve a copy of this order on such persons to direct their presence before the bench as well. Swarup Dutta, Scientist F and CPIO NIC, to explain why penalty under Section 20 of the RTI Act should not be imposed on them for prima facie obstruction of information and providing an evasive reply," CICI said.



The development comes in a complaint filed by one Saurav Das, stating that the relevant authorities, i.e., NIC, National E-Governance Division (NeGD) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), had failed to furnish information about the process of creation of Aarogya Setu App and other information relating to its creation.

He submitted that the RTI was filed with the NIC, which stated that it "does not hold the information" relating to the App's creation, which is very surprising since it is the App's developer.

leisure



SONGSTRESS DEMI LOVATO TO HOST PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS 2020

Singer-actress Demi Lovato will host the 2020 People's Choice Awards to be held November 15. "Her authentic presence and dynamic talents will make for an unforgettable night," said Jen Neal, general manager of live events and lifestyle digital.

SHOTGUN WEDDING FOR JLO, ARMIE HAMMER

Hollywood stars Jennifer Lopez and Armie Hammer will co-star in the upcoming action comedy, *Shotgun Wedding*. The characters of Lopez and Hammer are gearing up for destination wedding. The twist comes when their entire wedding party is taken hostage.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Carry the peace sign if you have to, because today, people will literally pull you into arguments. You could even be facing some kind of litigation or trouble with peace-keeping forces, warns Ganesha.

TAURUS
Armed with ingenuity and lateral thinking, you are all set to take on today with practised ease, feels Ganesha. The toughest of problems will crumble like a house of cards before your intellect. A promotion or salary hike is also likely today.

GEMINI
Today, you may decide to get a little more conscious about your health. Filled with positive drive, you may even plan to join a gymnasium or start taking a hard look at your calorie intake. Don't go overboard, though! You don't want to do it only today, and forget it tomorrow - plan and execute in a step-wise manner, so it doesn't get a bit too much.

CANCER
Control your anger, counsels Ganesha. Or else, it will sadden your near ones. Writers may display creative output of high order. The day augurs well for artists, too. This is the time to take up new challenges, says Ganesha.

LEO
The pressure at work will be high. Some person may try to tempt you with lucrative offers to go against your principles. However, you will be able to resist the lure of easy money. Your health may suffer today, so be on guard, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
You will stay calm and steady today, and there is hardly anything that can disturb your peace of mind. Your family and friends will back you fully and motivate you to overcome hurdles. You will work with devotion, says Ganesha. You may ask for work that others may find very difficult to do.

LIBRA
Ganesha says people will try to take advantage of your amiable nature and disposition. Small issues will crop up today making your nature a little tensed and enhance your anger too. You will be inspired to take chances in monetary matters.

SCORPIO
Your imagination runs wild today. Though you do not travel geographically, your mind travels beyond boundaries. Think and act according to your will, advises Ganesha. However, practice caution before taking any major step.

SAGITTARIUS
You will be loaded with responsibilities at work today, fore sees Ganesha. But, you are pro challenges and will take it up sportingly. On personal front, the list of your friends is likely to get longer. All in all, Ganesha sees you in an active avatar today.

CAPRICORN
Don't let your emotions play a spoilsport while deciding about the future. Think practically, otherwise, your expectations and reality will not be on the same boat, guides Ganesha. Friendly and supportive, today you will spread happiness and win the love of one and all.

AQUARIUS
You speed up your pace and try to do everything in order to complete your targets, but you won't be able to complete the tasks on time. Don't lose hope as tomorrow will be a different day, says Ganesha.

PISCES
Some conflicts could crop up in the morning on the domestic front. However, they will cease to be a cause of annoyance as the day progresses. Come evening and you will be in as fine a mood as you ever were, ready to spend time basking in the affection of your near and dear ones, says Ganesha.

XUB to host annual media conclave Oct 31



The event will have five speakers narrating their personal experiences, pioneering moments and discussing current media affairs

POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: Xavier University Bhubaneswar (XUB) will be hosting its annual media conclave, *Communique XUB '2020*, October 31, 2020. The event is being organised by IlluminatIX, Media & PR Cell of XUB and has generated quite a buzz among the students. The theme for this year's *Communique XUB* is *The Stories You Know, The Hardships You Don't*.

The event will witness the participation of various stakeholders of the Xavier fraternity, including students from the diverse schools operating under XUB, as well as stalwarts from the media industry.

The conclave will have five speakers narrating their personal experiences, pioneering moments and discussing current media affairs.

Xavier University, Bhubaneswar promotes healthy discussion over prevalent topics and recognises the educational potential of conclaves by allowing candidates to actively engage with their peers and industry experts. *Communique XUB* is one amongst the wide array

of conclaves hosted by the University which aims to create a channel of communication between the students and the pioneers of the professional world.

XUB was established under the Xavier University Act, 2013, and was inaugurated July 07, 2014. XUB has thirteen Schools that offer world-class education in different fields. The schools that come under the XUB tree are Xavier Institute of Management, Xavier School of Human Resource Management (erstwhile XIMB-HRM), Xavier School of Rural Mana management (erstwhile XIMB-RM), Xavier School of Commerce, Xavier School of Sustainability, Xavier School of Human Settlements, Xavier Emlyon Business School, Xavier School of Communications, Xavier School of Economics, Xavier School of Computer Science & Engineering, Xavier Law School, Xavier Centre for Humanities & Compassion Studies, and School of Government & Public Affairs.

XUB also hosts Centre of Excellence in Fiscal Policy and Taxation, Centre for Humanities and Compassion Studies, Centre for Sustainable Ecological Systems, Centre for Business and Society, Centre for Corporate Governance, and Centre for Business Analytics and Digital Transformation.

Priyanka in Hollywood rom-com with Dion, Heughan

Los Angeles: Priyanka Chopra Jonas is set to star with Grammy-winner Celine Dion and actor Sam Heughan in an upcoming romantic drama, tentatively titled *Text For You*.



"So excited to kick start this amazing

movie with such incredible people! Jim Strouse, Sam Heughan, Celine Dion. It's my honour. Let's gooooo." Priyanka tweeted while sharing the screenshot of the announcement.

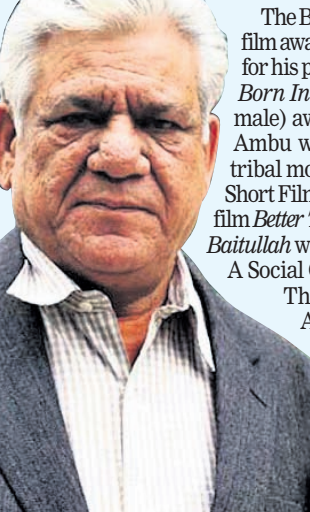
Written and directed by Jim Strouse, the film is an English remake of the German-language film *SMS Fur Dich*, based on Sofie Cramer's novel, reports *variety.com*.

According to the storyline, Priyanka's character is a heartbroken woman who has just lost her fiancé. In her attempt to send constant messages to her fiancé's old number, she will connect with a man across town suffering from a similar heartbreak. Celine Dion's music aims at connecting the two and give them the courage to take a second shot at love.

Om Puri honoured at IFFB, Boston

New Delhi: Late actor Om Puri was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the third India International Film Festival of Boston (IFFFB 2020).

The Best Feature Film Award went to the Malayalam film *Kaanthi*, which narrates the story of a blind tribal girl and her mother's attempts to get treatment for the girl. The film showcased the love between the mother and daughter as well as bureaucratic woes.



The Best Actor (male) in a feature film award went to Victor Banerjee for his portrayal of a priest in *Josef: Born In Grace*. The Best Actor (female) award was given to Shylaja Ambu who played the part of the tribal mother in *Kaanthi*. The Best Short Film award went to the Iranian film *Better Than Neil Armstrong*, while *Baitullah* was adjudged Best Film With A Social Cause.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was accorded to the late Om Puri, and received by his wife Nandita Puri.

The film festival, based in Boston, USA, was held virtually this year, from October 16 to 18.

Divya wanted to be like Big B

Mumbai: National award winning actress Divya Dutta wanted to be like Amitabh Bachchan as a child.

"Ever since I can remember, I would dance on *Khaika paan Banaras wala!* I would dance on all the Amitabh Bachchan dance numbers and entertain everyone around me. My mother was a doctor. Whenever she brought over friends home, I would go to them and say 'I want to show you a dance', and become the centre of attraction. The aunts would clap, laugh and give me gulab jamun! I would dress like Mr Bachchan, wrap mumma's dupatta around my head like Mr Bachchan did in many films," Divya recalled.

"In my class I was the most popular child. As mumma is a doctor, and education was always the most important thing in our childhood. I managed both, happily. I represented India in Japan for Red Cross, for acting and dance, and I was there on a student exchange programme for a month. I used to get scholarship, too" shared the actress.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

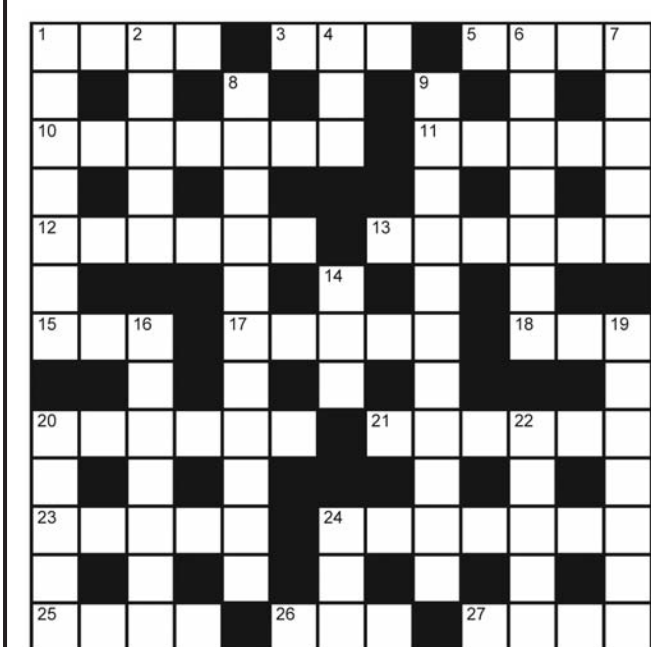


BREVITY



FUN post

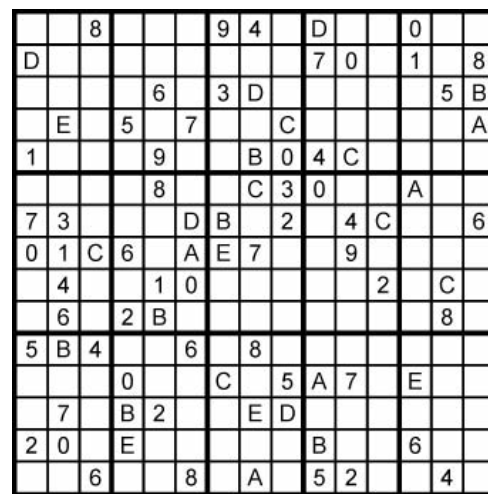
CROSSWORD



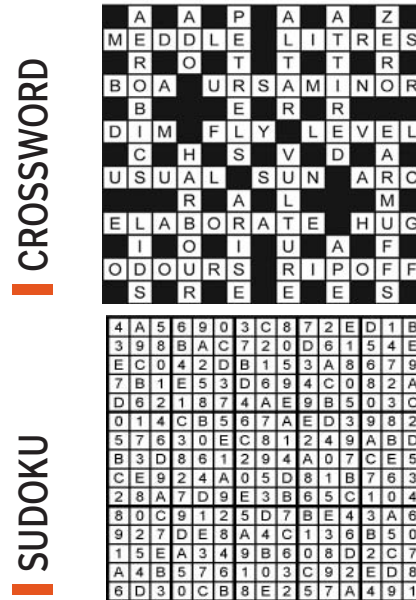
- Across**
- 1 Leave at the altar
 - 3 Extinct flightless bird
 - 5 Kon-Tiki Museum site
 - 10 Ostracise (4,3)
 - 11 Apportion
 - 12 Go on a diet
 - 13 Rays
 - 15 Recliner part
 - 17 Noodles
 - 18 Luau treat
 - 20 Find
 - 21 Talk foolishly
 - 23 Mechanical man
 - 24 Simple wind instrument
 - 25 River of Belgium
 - 26 Gremlin
 - 27 Lose traction
 - 4 Make a choice
 - 6 Divorce (5,2)
 - 7 Promises
 - 8 Layabout (5,6)
 - 9 Man-made shipping lane (6,5)
 - 14 Petition
 - 16 Gruesome
 - 19 Reykjavik locale
 - 20 Package van
 - 22 Building block
 - 24 Mouse catcher
- Down**
- 1 Indonesian capital
 - 2 Rational

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

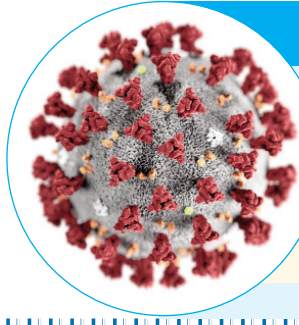


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



CHECKING POLLUTION

A day after the immersion of idols following the Dussehra festival, garbage being removed from a temporary pond on Kuakhai riverbank near Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	4,44,33,127	3,25,50,358	11,74,548
India	79,90,322	72,59,509	1,20,010
Odisha	2,85,482	2,70,130	1,284

Broadband for schools, hosps in OMBADC dists

EIGHT PROJECTS WORTH ₹257 CR SANCTIONED FOR DEVELOPMENTAL INITIATIVES IN MINERAL-RICH DISTRICTS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: The state government has allocated funds to provide broadband connectivity to hospitals and schools in mineral bearing districts of Odisha.

The state government Wednesday approved eight projects for development of mineral-rich districts for which ₹257 crore would be spent from Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC).

The projects were approved at the OMBADC Board of Directors meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy Wednesday. The projects will be implemented in nine mineral bearing districts - Angul, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Rayagada and Sundargarh.

The government has sanctioned



MINING FUND BOOST

The projects will be implemented in Angul, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Rayagada and Sundargarh

The govt sanctions ₹47.25 crore for up-gradation of health service facilities in health sub-centres, primary health centres, community health centres and sub-divisional hospitals in two blocks of Mayurbhanj district

Chief Secretary asks officials to prepare 'weekly monitoring plan' for expeditious implementation of the projects

₹47.25 crore for up-gradation of health service facilities in health sub-centres, primary health centres, community health centres and sub-divisional hospitals in two blocks of Mayurbhanj district.

While ₹34 crore was sanctioned for up-gradation of library, labo-

ratory and teaching-learning infrastructure of Keonjhar engineering college, ₹123.45 crore has been allocated for opening of centres of excellence in government ITIs and polytechnics.

Similarly, the government will spend ₹3 crore to provide broad-

band connectivity to hospitals and schools in the districts while ₹20.48 crore was released for improvement of milk procurement facilities in Jajpur district.

Development of four mega mother nurseries in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh and Jajpur

RBI lauds Odisha's fiscal management

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) applauded the fiscal management of Odisha government and mentioned its exemplary work on fiscal management practices.

In its report, State Finances-A Study of Budgets of 2020-21, RBI claimed, "Given the lack of transparency with regard to states in reporting of some of these risks, efforts by Odisha in acknowledging, assessing and preparing in advance for such unforeseen risks could be worthy of emulation."

RBI praised government and said that Odisha identified fiscal risk management as one of the key reforms priority under technical assistance from the IMF's South Asia Regional Training and Technical

Assistance Centre (SARTTAC) in 2019.

In this regard, state government adopted a three-stage approach to fiscal risk management and those are identification and measurement of fiscal risks, fiscal risk reporting, and mitigation and management of fiscal risk.

Odisha has set up a dedicated Fiscal Risk and Debt Management Cell in the Finance Department and a high-level Fiscal Risk Committee.

The state government also uses IMF's state-Owned Enterprise Health Check Tool to assess financial health of state PSUs.

Over the years, the state government has built up a sizeable CSF (about 15% of its liabilities) and GRF (about 25% of total guarantee exposure).

Naveen holds virtual rally for Tirtol bypoll

APPEALS PEOPLE TO FOLLOW COVID GUIDELINES, VOWS TO VISIT THE CONSTITUENCY POST PANDEMIC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: With the Tirtol by-election round the corner, BJD President and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday addressed an election rally through virtual mode.

Naveen said he was unable to visit Tirtol physically due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, he promised the people to visit Tirtol and meet them in person after passing of the situation. "I am aware of your immense love for me. I will visit your area and oversee the ongoing development works," he said.

He told the people about the construction of two bridges over Mahanadi river and that his government is giving priority to infrastructure of education and health infrastructure.

Stating that the state government has taken necessary steps to



I am aware of your immense love for me. I will visit your area and oversee the ongoing development works

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

regulate flood in Tirtol, he said that the creation of jobs for unemployed youths is the top priority of his government.

The Chief Minister said his government is providing Re 1-per-kg rice

Praising the works of Mission Shakti in Tirtol constituency, Naveen urged the women members to continue with their good work

and assured that not a single eligible people would be deprived of food security.

Praising the works of the Mission Shakti in Tirtol, he urged the women members to continue with their good work. "I am always with you to help in times of need," he stated.

Advising people to strictly adhere to Covid-19 guidelines, he requested them to maintain social distancing norms at the polling booths. He requested the people of Tirtol constituency in Jagatsinghpur district to vote in favour of his

party candidate Bijay Shankar Das.

The BJD supremo will conduct another virtual rally for Balasore Sadar constituency, Thursday Both BJP and Congress targeted the Chief Minister over his rally on digital mode.

"The person who was in chair and ruling the state for past 20 years should come forward and listen to the people," BJD leader Aparajita Sarangi said.

State Congress president Niranjan Patnaik asked Naveen to clear his relationship with the BJP and RSS. "Why you have gifted one Rajya Sabha seat to BJP and supported all bills including the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, Farm Bill, GST, demonetisation of Centre in past few years?," he asked.

Time has come the CM should also tell the people what development activities has he carried out during 20 years, Niranjan said.

HOME MATTERS



People buying bamboo-made baskets from a vendor along Ring Road near Purighat in Cuttack, Wednesday. OP PHOTO

Dispose of Nachika's bail plea in 2 weeks, HC told

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 28: The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Orissa High Court to dispose of a bail petition filed by tribal leader Nachika Linga within two weeks.

A three-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices NV Ramana, Surya Kant and Aniruddha Bose observed that the matter relates to personal liberty of the petitioner and asked the High Court to dispose of the matter expeditiously.

"Taking into consideration the fact that this matter relates to bail and personal liberty of the petitioner, we request the High Court to dispose of the matter pending before it expeditiously and preferably within a period of two weeks from the date of communication of



The apex court noted that Nachika's bail plea before the HC came up of hearing July 1 but since then the matter is pending with the court

this order," the bench said. The SC noted that Nachika had

filed an application for bail before the Orissa High Court which came up of hearing July 1 and since then the matter has not been taken up.

Significantly, Chasi Mulia Adivasi Sangh (CMAS) leader, Nachika Linga, had surrendered before the police in October 2014 at Narayanpatna, his native place. He is wanted in around 28 cases.

He was allegedly involved in agitation for land rights and the attack on Narayanpatna police station in 2009. It is to be mentioned here that CMAS, a mass organisation of tribals in Narayanpatna, in Koraput district, was demanding proper land settlement in Narayanpatna block for many years.

The tribal leader was leading an agitation against encroachment of tribal land by non-tribals in Narayanpatna area for a long time.

New courses at cancer hospital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: The Board of Governors in supersession of Medical Council of India (MCI) has accorded recognition to M.Ch in Surgical Oncology and M.Ch in Gynaecological Oncology courses of Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer in Cuttack.

The MCI had allowed the cancer hospital to start teaching in the two courses in 2017. The first batch of students successfully completed the curriculum and passed the qualifying examinations this year.

In his letter, Secretary to Ministry of Health, RK Vats, said that the Board of Governors considered the assessment report on the standard of examination and teaching facilities at the cancer hospital for recognition of M.Ch in Surgical Oncology degree for two seats. The Board of Governors also granted recognition to two seats for M. Ch in Gynecological Oncology in the hospital.

Missing Jharkhand tourist's body fished out from Puri sea

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Oct 28: Fire brigade personnel Wednesday recovered the body of a tourist from Jharkhand who had gone missing in the sea Tuesday.

The youth, who was on a vacation with his family, was having a bath in the sea when he got pulled away by strong currents. The youth was identified as Tanishk Binay, son of Binay Ray Tanishk was taking a dip in what has recently been marked as the 'Blue Flag Beach' Tuesday when strong currents swept him away. On being informed, a fire service personnel team reached the spot and launched an operation to trace him out. Finally they managed to fish out his body Wednesday.

Incidentally, during the inauguration of the 'Blue Flag Beach' it was said that adequate number of life guards would be deployed in the

Labourer drowns in Kathajodi

BARANG: A labourer from Jharkhand met watery grave while trying to save a woman from drowning in Kathajodi river at Naranpur here Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Rohit Sahani, 20, of Barjamada village in Jharkhand. Sahani along with his sister was working at a brick kiln at Naranpur. Villagers said Sahani along with some others went for a bath in Kathajodi around the noon. While bathing, Sahani and his friend Sanatan Lohar found a woman in distress as she was drifted away



by strong currents. "Sahani drowned while trying to rescue the woman. But, Sanatan and the woman managed to reach the riverbank," said a villager. Later, Sahani's body was fished out by the fire brigade personnel. Barang police seized the body and sent it for postmortem.

area to avert any kind of drowning incidents. However, it remains a mystery as to how the youth still got dragged away by the strong currents. Notably, this is the first incident

of a tourist going missing in the sea since the 870-metre long beach area from Digabareni Square to a reputed hotel here was accorded 'Blue Flag Beach' status October 11.

PLEA TO REOPEN TEMPLES



A priest from Sakhigopal temple beats cymbal in front of Puri Srimandir, Wednesday, urging the state government to allow reopening of the shrines which have been shut for devotees due to the Covid-19 pandemic. OP PHOTO

CoE at Gopabandhu Academy soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: The state government has decided to set up a centre of excellence (CoE) at Result Based Management (RBM) on the premises of Gopabandhu Academy of Administration (GAA) here. The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) would be a knowledge partner for the CoE.

Chief Secretary has directed the officials to look into pan-Odisha issues along with local specific problems

This was decided during a high-level meeting held virtually under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy, Wednesday. Tripathy directed the officials to study and analyze the pan-Odisha issues along with local specific



problems for finding long lasting 'people-centric solutions'.

Pan-Odisha issues like ground level functioning of piped water supply projects, the issues that disrupt their functioning and the realistic solutions for their sustainability would provide valuable inputs for planning and execution, he said.

It was decided that the CoE would

also analyze location-specific issues like whether people harness the benefit of irrigation projects for raising multi-crops, whether all government facilities created were put to maximum utilisation, what could be a localised approach to address chronic malnutrition, what best practices could be replicated and others.

Academy Director General SP

Thakur said, "At present, a knowledge management centre (KMC) is functioning in GAA. The proposed Centre of Excellence would further strengthen the KMC."

Thakur said that the CoE would look into the real problems at ground level through independent researchers. People would be the "real consultants" from whom suggestions for possible solution would be elicited.

The research would focus on the suggestions from people who encounter a particular problem, the DG said.

He said the research for an identified issue would be completed in two months and solution oriented findings would be put forth by the third month. The outcomes of the study would be useful both for training and policy making purposes.

The CoE would also extend its support for implementation of corrective measures against the problems studied if the government decides.

COVID, LOW PAYMENT MAR HIGHWAY PATROLLING PLAN

THE DECISION TO HIKE MONTHLY CHARGES FOR HIRED VEHICLES FROM ₹30,000 TO ₹70,000 REKINDLES HOPE FOR ATTRACTING BIDDERS THIS TIME

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: The Covid-19 pandemic and unattractive remuneration for vehicles to be hired and human resources have apparently poured cold water on the state government's plan to launch highway patrolling in the state as directed by the Supreme Court in 2019.

The state police neither could appoint the special police officers (SPOs) nor could it succeed in attracting bidders to supply vehicles for patrolling on the selected highways.



The state police, in March, had released the advertisement seeking applications from retired police officials for 119 special police officer posts on contractual basis

ROADBLOCKS GALORE

The stretches of national highways earmarked for patrolling include Bhubaneswar-Puri, Manguli-Sambalpur, Sambalpur-Rourkela, Jaleswar-Ichhapuram and Sambalpur-Sohela

Retired staffers aged above 60 years showed no interest in SPO posts due to the pandemic and low remuneration

According to sources in the state police, retired staffers aged above 60 years showed no interest in the post due to the pandemic and low remuneration.

"Who would like to risk his life for Rs 15,000-odd salary during the Covid-19 pandemic," questioned an official.

Similarly, he asserted that the vehicle owners also did not show any interest provide their vehicles to Odisha police because of lower monthly rentals. The state

government had earlier fixed around Rs 30,000 as monthly charges for hired vehicles. "Why anyone would allow its vehicle to run 24X7 for a paltry sum of money?" he questioned.

The state police has recently issued another fresh bid to procure 36 highway patrolling vehicles.

However, the police will be able to attract bidders this time due to the increase in monthly charges to Rs 70,000 as compared to the earlier Rs 30,000, claimed the officer.

State reports 1,540 fresh nCoV cases, 12 fatalities

ODISHA'S CORONAVIRUS CASELOAD MOUNTS TO 2,85,482, WHILE FATALITIES STAND AT 1,284

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: State's novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) caseload mounted to 2,85,482 Wednesday as 1,540 more people tested positive for the infection, while 12 fresh fatalities pushed Odisha's coronavirus death toll to 1,284, an official of the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

As many as 886 new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while 654 infections were detected during contact tracing exercise, the official said.

Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, reported the highest number of new cases at 208, followed by Sundargarh 111, Angul 100, Cuttack 99, Balasore 92, Mayurbhanj 91, Jagatsinghpur 78, Bolangir 67, Kendrapada 62 and Nuapada 51 cases.

Two fresh fatalities each were reported from Khurda, Jharsuguda and Nuapada districts, and one each from Nabarangpur, Puri, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Cuttack and Ganjam districts, the official said.

Ganjam has so far reported the highest number of coronavirus fatalities at 228, followed by Khurda 221 and Cuttack 106, said the official, adding that as many as 53 coronavirus patients have so far died in Odisha due to other ailments. The state has so far tested over 44.22

ODISHA & PANDEMIC



KHURDA DISTRICT, UNDER WHICH BHUBANESWAR FALLS, REPORTED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF NEW CASES AT 208, FOLLOWED BY SUNDARGARH (111) AND ANGUL (100)

TWO FRESH FATALITIES EACH WERE REPORTED FROM KHURDA, JHARSUGUDA AND NUAPADA DISTRICTS, AND ONE EACH FROM NABARANGPUR, PURI, SUNDARGARH, SAMBALPUR, CUTTACK AND GANJAM DISTRICTS

GANJAM HAS SO FAR REPORTED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CORONAVIRUS FATALITIES AT 228, FOLLOWED BY KHURDA (221) AND CUTTACK (106)

ODISHA HAS SO FAR TESTED OVER 44.22 LAKH SAMPLES FOR COVID-19, INCLUDING 36,905 TUESDAY

lakh samples for Covid-19, including 36,905 Tuesday, the official added.

Meanwhile, a dedicated Covid Hospital has been inaugurated on the premises of SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. The 500-bed hospital with state-of-the-art facilities has been set up combining three buildings, two from the Ophthalmology department and another from the new Medicine department.

Taking to the Twitter, the CMO Wednesday said, "Further strength-

ening fight against #COVID19 pandemic, a 500-bed dedicated Covid Hospital has started functioning at SCB Medical College & Hospital in Cuttack. It has 70 ICU beds, obstetrics & surgery facilities and isolation facilities for #COVID19 patients."

City's nCoV tally stands at 28,892

The Covid-19 tally in the Capital city rose to 28,892 with 110 more persons testing positive for the infection in the last 24 hours, the Bhubaneswar Municipal

Corporation (BMC) said Wednesday

While 33 were quarantine cases, 77 persons tested positive for the disease during contract tracing, the civic body pointed out. Meanwhile, 219 persons in the Temple City recovered from the viral infection, taking the total recoveries to 26,826, the BMC tweeted.

Bhubaneswar has 1,885 active Covid-19 cases, while 160 persons have so far succumbed to the infectious disease, the civic body pointed out.

Sero survey in Cuttack from November 2

CUTTACK: The state government will conduct a four-day long serological survey to analyse the extent and penetration of COVID-19 infection among citizens of Cuttack city. The serological survey in the city will start from November 2 and will continue till November 5. Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), with the support of Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), will take up this serological survey in 25 wards of the city. The samples will be collected from one adult person in each family to study the antibody prevalence against COVID-19.

BMC to shut Covid care centres

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Wednesday, said that it is mulling to close down several Covid care centres here in a phased manner as occupancy remained nil to low amid falling infections.

Addressing a presser, BMC Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary said that cases have been declining in Capital city and that most of the cases have been referred for home isolation. Observing this the BMC Commissioner stated that it would close different Covid care centres (CCCs) in and around



the city as there is less demand for these centres now.

"We have already surrendered 1,000 beds of CCCs in last 15 days that were earlier made ready to counter the Covid. Since around

75 per cent (1,500-1,600) of present active cases are in home isolation the Covid centres are likely to be closed in a phased manner. However, we still have beds available in Covid hospitals for critical patients in 18 private and six government hospitals," Chaudhary said.

Debunking allegations of reduced testing, Chaudhary further said that testing across the city remains more or less the same. "We are still conducting tests at 23 camps spread in the city. Testing has been made available on demand by the BMC. Moreover, we are also providing Favipiravir to nearly 30-35 patients on a daily basis," he added.

LAXMI PUJA AHEAD



An artisan crowns a clay idol of goddess Laxmi at Unit-I market in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

Rotary Club initiates 'Joy of Giving' scheme

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: As a part of 'Joy of Giving' programme, the Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Wednesday distributed 48 solar lanterns with panel in SOS village, Bhubaneswar.

The club president Sabita Swain, Secretary Manik Chand Sharma, Director Suvendu Parida, Director, former presidents and Rotarians were present during the event. The initiative would facilitate children studying in dark.

Swain said that the effort of the rotary will eventually help in re-



ducing the dependence of children on kerosene lanterns, which otherwise are used for lighting in the absence of power supply.

The initiative promotes the use of renewable, efficient and clean source of energy for a cleaner environment.

Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar has also undertaken the projects like Asha, ROPARS as part of long term sustainable community development programmes.

The club has also adopted a village 'Kalapita' under Bhagabatipur - II GP of Kantabada block in Khurda district.

Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar has provided toilets to the households, free health facilities and health cards to all the villagers. Eventually the club is committed to enrich community livelihoods of the state through various reformations and renovations.

CAREFREE CHILDHOOD



A kid plays with a toy near Rajmahal Square in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

ROBBERS ATTACK TECHIE IN LOOT BID

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: Two bike-borne miscreants allegedly attacked an engineer of Central Tool Room and Training Centre (CTTC) at Sallashree Vihar area in Bhubaneswar with a sword, Wednesday

According to a source, the victim was plucking flowers Wednesday morning near his house when two miscreants came on a bike and tried to snatch away his cell phone and gold chain from his neck. When they failed in their attempt they attacked him with a sword.

In a bid to save himself, the engineer held the weapon following which he sustained critical injuries on his palm. When some locals noticed the incident, the miscreants fled the spot. The engineer was im-



mediately taken to a local hospital where the doctors dressed his wounds.

Notably, a 70-year-old woman was allegedly looted of gold ornaments in the same area of the city when she was plucking flowers in the morning October 20, 2020.

Application date for NTS, NMMS extended

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: The Directorate of Teacher Education and SCERT Wednesday extended the dates for filling up of application forms of National Talent Search (NTS) and National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMS) examinations for 2020-21 academic year.

In a letter by nodal officer of TE and SCERT, it was said that the last date for filling up of application forms for NTS and NMMS examinations was October 28. However, the date for filling up of application forms has been extended till October 31. The last date for verification at institute level is November 5 and last date for verification at district level is November 11.

SILVER PLATING OF SRIMANDIR DOORS TO START SOON

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, Oct 28: Work for silver plating of the 12th century Srimandir doors would start within 10 days as per a decision taken in the temple body meeting held here, an official said, Wednesday.

It is estimated that about 2.5-tonne silver would be used for reinforcing the wooden doors with silver.

A Mumbai-based devotee expressed his willingness to donate the required silver. Experienced silver artisans deputed by the donor would do the work amid tight security in the Niladri Bhakta Niwas campus, temple body member Anant Tiadi said.

A 17-member committee has been constituted to look after the remake,



repair and silver plating work. Temple managing committee

members Ramachandra Dasmahapatra and Anant Tiadi

FACELIFT PLAN

Altogether 11 doors, including Mahalaxmi, Bimala and Nrusingha temples located in the temple complex, would be remade and silver plated during Rath Yatra next year

It is estimated that about 2.5-tonne silver would be used for reinforcing the wooden doors with silver

A Mumbai-based devotee expressed his willingness to donate the required silver

Experienced silver artisans deputed by the donor would do the work amid tight security in the Niladri Bhakta Niwas campus

doors like Kalahat, Jay-Vijay, Beharana would be remade and silver plated during the coming Rath Yatra when deities would be at Gundicha temple, they said.

Altogether 11 doors, including Mahalaxmi, Bimala and Nrusingha temples located in the temple com-

plex, would be remade and silver plated in a phased manner, Dasmahapatra said.

In the first phase, work to remake Sata Pahacha door would begin within 10 days. It would be remade with 4-inch thick teak wood and silver plated.

Silver plating design would be finalised in the next meeting scheduled for November 9, 2021, Dasmahapatra added.

The Chhatisha Niyog president proposed in the meeting for gold plating of Kalahat door.

AK Jena (administrator development), Jitendra Kumar Sahu (administrator rituals), all temple committee members and representatives of various servitor bodies (Niyogs) of the temple attended the meeting.

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Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (H&S)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895506649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanay Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemanager-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sallashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sallashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Parties set eyes on women voters

THE THREE MAJOR PARTIES ARE TRYING TO WOO MEMBERS OF WOMEN SHGs FOR THEIR CANDIDATES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Oct 28: Amid Covid restrictions, the three major political parties namely the BJD, the BJP and Congress have intensified their campaigning here for the by-poll November 3. The three have set their eyes on women voters and are leaving no stone unturned to appeal to that voter base, a report said. All the three parties are trying to woo members of women SHGs for their candidates. Women voters are allegedly being motivated in various ways by the parties.

The BJD has stepped up its campaign in full force by roping in several ministers and frontline leaders, even though it is said that difference of opinion between former MLA Jiban Pradip Das and former MP Rabindra Jena has remained unresolved.

The ruling party has deployed efficient leaders and assigned responsibility of convincing voters to them in 26 and 31 wards under the Sadar Assembly constituency so as to ensure win of its candidate Swaroop Das.

The BJP has not fallen behind in the campaign. Many of its senior leaders like Union Ministers Pratap Sarangi and Dharmendra Pradhan, KV Singhdeo, national spokesperson Aparajita Sarangi and many state leaders have been campaigning for party candidate Manas Dutta.

Meanwhile, the BJP has alleged that people are being given threats during campaigns. A delegation of

BALASORE BY-POLL



The BJD has fielded newcomer Swaroop Das. Party workers are toiling hard to ensure his victory



Manas Dutta, son of the deceased MLA Madan Mohan Dutta is contesting from the BJP. BJP leaders campaign for their candidate, Wednesday

■ THE CONGRESS HAS FIELDER MAMATA KUNDU FOR THE SEAT ■ FIVE INDEPENDENTS ARE ALSO IN THE FRAY

the BJP has submitted a memorandum to the Balasure SP, seeking to ensure a free and fair by-poll in the Sadar Assembly segment November 3.

"All have equal rights in a democracy. People have every right to raise their issues with the elected representatives. But people are being threatened instead of their problems being addressed. This is against the norms of a healthy democracy," lamented senior BJP leader Pradipta Nayak.

Nayak was indirectly pointing out an incident that took place during the campaign Tuesday at Srikona

panchayat, sources said. He alleged that people of Srikona panchayat had apprised Culture and Tourism minister Jyotiprakash Panigrahi of various basic problems of their village at Banachakh during the campaign. They dem

anded overall development of the area. It was alleged that the minister was uncomfortable with a barge of questions from the villagers.

Later, a local leader of the ruling party along with 30 people rushed to the village and threatened people who raised local issues with the minister, sources added. It was alleged that the mob took two villagers with them.

Nayak said that such an act was committed on the instruction of the minister and it is highly condemnable. "This act is open violation of election code of conduct and condemnable," he added.

BJD leaders conducted meetings at Patrapada, Sriloma, Chandipur and various wards of the municipality.

Labour Minister Sushant Singh, Culture Minister Jyotiprakash Panigrahi, Zilla Parishad president Nibenduati Mohanty block chairperson Narayan Pradhan, former MLA Mukhtikant Mandal, former MP Rabindra Jena and MLA Saroj Behera took part in marathon campaigns for the party candidate.

Congress leaders are also trying their best to curry favours of people for its party candidate Mamata Kundu.

Jajpur dist hasn't submitted 38pc of UCs, CAG says

The fact came to the fore when the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General was presented in the Assembly, recently

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Oct 28: Several departments in Jajpur are yet to submit 38.51 per cent utilisation certificates of the last 10 years of the flood assistance funds. Furthermore, four departments have not submitted their utilisation certificates of their fund utilisation at all by September 30, 2020.

The fact came to the fore when the report of the Comptroller and

Khurtha and Jajpur have been facing flood fury at regular intervals. Flood problem has been a perennial issue for them over decades. This issue has not yet been redressed properly despite provision of funds.

The floods caused by Baitarani and Brahmani rivers in August had caused huge devastation in Jajpur. Extent of damage by floods was said to be the worst ever in the last two decades.

About 10 lakh people of 1,244 villages in 258 panchayats were affected by floods and 10 people had died.

In the devastating floods of 2011, around four lakh people in 499 villages in the district were affected. Huge sum of funds were provided to the district for repair and reconstruction works.



Representative pic

Auditor General was presented in the Assembly, recently.

The CAG report pointed out that 37 departments have not submitted utilisation certificates of Rs 45,340 crore. As a result, these departments may not be able to get further funds from the Centre. At the state executive meeting, joint secretary of the Water Resources department Subrat Kumar Panda has issued a directive to submit UCs as soon as possible.

On the other hand, people in coastal districts have alleged mis-utilisation of funds being provided for repair of damage and reconstruction work.

Many riparian pockets in Balasure, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Nayagarh, Puri,

The CAG report points out that 37 depts have not submitted utilisation certificates of ₹45,340 crore. As a result, these depts may not be able to get further funds from the Centre

In the last 10 years, the state government has provided Rs 684823.52 lakh. UCs for Rs488292.04 lakh have been submitted to the state government while UCs for Rs196531.48 lakh are yet to be submitted.

Various quarters expressed suspicion over utilisation of flood assistance funds in the district, as they have pointed out non-submission of UCs by some departments in ten years.

RED MENACE

Explosives seized in Swabhiman Anchal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 28: Security forces seized a huge cache of explosives from Dumadanga reserve forest of Swabhiman Anchal in this district during a combing operation, a top police official said Wednesday.

This was stated in a press note issued by Malkangiri SP Hrushikesh D Khilari, Wednesday. Based on an intelligence input about the movement of some armed Maoists in Dumadanga reserve forest area Tuesday, SOG and DVF teams of Odisha Police along with BSF jawans and Andhra Pradesh Police had launched a combing operation.

During the combing operation, the Maoists opened fire at the security forces near Gunamamudi village to which the latter retaliated. The exchange of fire continued for over two hours during which the ultras managed to flee from the spot. Maoist leader Anil and several other leaders managed to flee during the melee.

Speaking about the operation, Malkangiri SP said, "It is a huge success for the police. The combing operations will continue in the area in the coming days."

Subsequently, after the exchange of fire, the area was thoroughly



Huge amount of ammunition including IED, 11 7.62 mm SLR live rounds, four 7.62 mm AK rounds, one 5.56 mm INSAS round, one SLR magazine, 32 numbers of detonators, one camera flash, radio, 11 number of kit bags, three pairs of Maoist uniforms, Maoist literature, utensils, medicines, daily use articles and clothes were seized

searched and a large cache of arms and ammunitions along with various Maoists literature and items used by them were recovered.

It is suspected that these articles belonged to AOBSCZ Cadres which were intended to be used against civilians and security forces for 'anti-national and subversive activities'. Further operations were underway in this area.

MDM irregularities in Nabarangpur

FORMER ABEO SURESH CHANDRA NAYAK, BEO BIKASH CHANDRA SARKAR, ABEO BINAY KUMAR SORI AND TRANSPORT CONTRACTOR TO FACE MUSIC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Oct 28: Mid-day Meal (MDM) rice was found to be illegally stocked on the premises of Mahakuma Upper Primary School near the ABEO office at Jharigaon block of Nabarangpur district.

Taking serious note of it, the project management unit (MDM) of the School and Mass Education department issued a letter to the Collector, seeking: criminal proceedings against former Additional Block Education Officer (ABEO) Suresh Chandra Nayak, clarification from the BEO Bikash Chandra Sarkar and suspension of ABEO Binay Kumar Sori. The project management unit (MDM) of the School and Mass Education department has also sought cancellation of contract with the transport contractors.

The district education officer in a letter had earlier informed the BEO, the Collector, the SP, the district civil supplies inspector and the state MDM nodal officer that the rice stocked on the school premises was



Representative pic

meant for the MDM and not for PDS.

This has pointed out massive irregularities in MDM rice supply to the schoolchildren in the district.

It may be noted here that a rice laden truck overturned on Chandahandi-Jharigaon road September 9. A person had died on the spot. Police had seized 375 quintals of rice even as people sought to know if the rice was meant for MDM or PDS. An investigation was on.

The district civil supplies officer had submitted an investigation report September 14 to the Collector, pointing out that the rice was not meant for PDS. Around 750 quintal of rice had been supplied to Jharigaon in the third quarter. The rice was not for PDS. Moreover, 92 bags of rice were seized in a godown near ABEO office September 9.

However, the ABEO said that he was unaware of this rice which was seized near his office, but he

had seen a transport agency used to take out and in rice there.

The district civil supplies officer in his report said that the rice was supplied in March to the godown, but Hemanta Kumar Chaurasia and Kiran Kumar Pattnaik of a transport agency were taking the rice September 9.

Later, Jharigaon marketing inspector told local IIC that Kiran Kumar and Hemanta Kumar were authorised transport dealers who were taking out rice from CWC godown March 23. The district education officer had issued this rice for 253 schools. The MI had also submitted the statements of the rice dealers and copies of gate pass at the IIC.

Accordingly, October 15, the project management unit (MDM) of the School and Mass Education department issued a letter to the Collector. The BEO has filed a complaint against these four people at the Jharigaon police station.

Sold for ₹15K, newborn girl rescued

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Oct 28: A newborn girl of Charamal, who was allegedly sold by her parents for ₹15,000 due to poverty, was rescued by local police from Redhakhol area in Sambalpur district late Tuesday.

The baby girl is just one month and seven days old. However, the mother of the newborn denied the charge while admitting that she had handed over the girl to another woman who is an acquaintance as she found it difficult to feed her due to poverty. The mother is de-

serted by her husband and works as casual labourer to earn her living.

Acting on a complaint lodged by the Childline members in this regard in Charamal police station, the baby girl was rescued by Redhakhol police late Tuesday night. Police also detained the couple belonging to Keutibahal village who had allegedly purchased the newborn girl. The couple denied the charge and said that they took the girl with them after filing an affidavit before a notary in Redhakhol.

AGAINST NEW LABOUR LAW



Members of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh stage protests against the new Labour Law of the Central government. They submitted a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister through the Collector. The labour union alleges that the Union government intends to favour capitalists in the garb of reforming the labour laws

LOST
I, Sri Balukeshwar Sahoo, aged about 78 years, S/o: Late Sibjatan Sahoo, Resident of Village- Balisankara, P.S.: Talsara, Dist.: Sundargarh, do hereby declare that my original Sale Deed bearing Khata No.: 170, Plot No.: 989, Kisam: Gharabari, Area: Ac.0.23dec. and Plot No.: 989/3440, Kisam: Gharabari, Area: Ac.0.06dec. Total Measuring Area: Ac.0.29dec., under Mouza: Balisankara has been lost since long. I have given a Station Diary at Talsara Police Station, Sundargarh on 28.10.2020.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
UPPER INDRAVATI LEFT CANAL DIVISION NO.-II, DHARAMGARH, KALAHANDI, ODISHA
e-mail: eeouilcdii@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice No. EE/UJL-CD-II-02/2020-21 (02)

1. Type of the Work	Canal Works
2. No. of Works	02 (Two)
3. Class of Contractor	'D' & 'C' Class
4. Bid Identification No.	EE/UJL-CD-II-02/2020-21 (02)
5. Estimated Cost	Rs. 7.97 lakh and 13.21 lakh
6. Period of Completion	90 days
7. Other details as follows	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Bid Online	Submission of Bid Online	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
Executive Engineer, U.I. Left Canal Division No.-II, Dharamgarh, Dist.- Kalahandi	EE/UJL-CD-II-02/2020-21 (02)	From 29.10.2020 11:00 A.M. to 10.11.2020, 5.00 P.M.	From 29.10.2020 11:00 A.M. to 10.11.2020, 5.00 P.M.	11.11.2020 at 12:00 Noon onwards in the O/o. Executive Engineer, UI Left Canal Division No.-II, Dharamgarh, Dist.- Kalahandi

Further details can be seen from the Government website <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, UI Left Canal Division No.-II, Dharamgarh OIPR-3226/11/1002/2021

FOCUS US

CONSERVATIVE COURT



The conservative-leaning Supreme Court of the United States is now shifting far to the right, given the Senate's confirmation of President Donald Trump's nominee, Amy Coney Barrett, to the seat previously held by the late liberal justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

The claim of right-wing judges that their 'originalist' jurisprudence reflects judicial restraint and a reluctance to 'legislate from the bench' is also a sham. Originalism is seen by critics as a Trojan horse: it rationalises an activist role of striking down progressive legislation such as environmental, labour, and other regulations, on the grounds that no mention was made of such matters when the Constitution was written.

The Barrett appointment is also another reflection of the religious right's hold on American judicial conservatism. Perpetuation of this arrangement is a major reason Trump has retained evangelical support, albeit with some recent slippage. Barrett's Catholicism, indeed, is of the 'radical,' 'ultra-montane' sort that sometimes appears to oppose change itself. She has been involved in a charismatic Christian group, People of Praise, which believes that in households men are superior to women, and its members speak in tongues. Though the group removed all references to Barrett from its public documents, a snippet of one has her once serving as a 'handmaid,' a leadership position.

As for abortion, one does not win the Federalist Society's support unless one has raised objections to Roe v. Wade. With Barrett joining other conservative justices – including Trump's two other appointees, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh – it is now possible that Roe may be overturned – or nullified through other decisions.

With an unprecedented 60-plus million Americans having already voted, it may be too late for Trump to turn things around. So, with winter coming on, COVID-19 cases reaching all-time highs, and the White House having given up on controlling the pandemic, anxious Americans are left speculating not only about who will win the election, but, for the first time in history, whether the president will honour the result and if the Supreme Court will abet him in subverting it.

The writer is a Washington-based journalist and author.
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Following the US elections on November 3 – although its final resolution may take longer – the partisan arrangements of almost the entire US federal government are subject to change. Only the House of Representatives appears certain to remain in the same party's hands (the Democrats'). The Republican-dominated Senate could be won by the Democrats. The conservative-leaning Supreme Court is now shifting far to the right, given the Senate's confirmation of President Donald Trump's nominee, Amy Coney Barrett, to the seat previously held by the late liberal justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

One oddity of the US system is that even if Democratic candidate Joe Biden wins the election, overcoming barriers already thrown in his way by Court decisions and voter suppression, the presidency will remain for over two months in the hands of a man whose physical and mental stability are in doubt. The current constitutional arrangements to deal with presidential mental or physical incapacity are unworkable. Little is said publicly about this precarious situation; timorous newspapers are reluctant to mention the crazy uncle in the White House, even though Trump's behaviour of late has been even more aberrant than usual, possibly an effect of having had COVID-19 and taking powerful medications.

Perhaps confusing the current race with that of 2016, Trump has resumed attacking Hillary Clinton, turning on his most subservient cabinet members for not indicting her, as well as former President Barack Obama, and Biden – for whatever reasons. Trump tosses around nebulous charges of left-wing terrorism and mail-in voting fraud, though The Washington Post has found his charges of ballot fraud fraudulent.

If Biden defeats Trump – the polls, currently in his favour, are considered more reliable than in 2016, but polls can't predict voter suppression – his supporters' celebrations may be short-lived. Controversies about counting votes are already in the courts, which have changed dramatically

as a result of Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell appointing an astonishing 220 federal judges. Moreover, Senate Republicans are already plotting how to undermine a Democratic majority.

But the greatest threat to Biden and any progressive government for a long time to come will emanate from the Supreme Court. The approval of Barrett (age 48) has produced, almost certainly, a very conservative 6-3 majority. Chief Justice John Roberts, who has tried to keep the Court from going to extremes, will no longer have the controlling swing vote. The legitimacy of the Court is now in question.

The hearings on Barrett's nomination were a sham. This was not because of her unresponsiveness to questions, but because the fix was in. Trump insisted that he had not questioned Barrett on sensitive issues. Trump, Barrett huffed, didn't ask her about her position on such matters as abortion or the Affordable Care Act. Nor would she have discussed her positions with him. How dare anyone question her integrity?

It was all charade. Through the early spotting, close vetting, and years of cultivation of possible

Supreme Court nominees by the right-wing, corporate-sponsored Federalist Society, which effectively controls who gets named to the highest bench by Republican presidents, Trump and his aides were fully aware of Barrett's positions on key issues. (Liberal Democrats also have groups that back judges, but they are not as organised and effective as the Federalist Society.) The purpose of such intensive vetting is to have 'no more surprises' – no more Republican appointees who start out as conservative but move left. The example that most annoys conservatives was David Souter, appointed by George HW Bush. Souter was advertised as a conservative, but became a reliable liberal.

Behind the rush to get Barrett confirmed was Trump's determination to have her seated by Election Day – so that, the president openly said, she would be in place if issues affecting the election came to the Court. Barrett refused to commit to recusing herself from cases that involved Trump's re-election. The rush to confirm her was also a form of protection for conservatives in case the Republicans lose the Senate.



Elizabeth Drew

THE GREATEST THREAT TO BIDEN AND ANY PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENT FOR A LONG TIME TO COME WILL EMANATE FROM THE SUPREME COURT



THE MOTHER

Consciousness, to be sure, is more effective than packets of medicine.

Impose GST on meat

Why would any government make policies that make its people poorer and unhealthier? I can only put this down to a complete ignorance of real economics due to which policies have the worst effect on the economy and on health.

Let me briefly give you the reasons why you should not eat meat. All living beings require food and water. In order to grow food for animals we need vast amount of land, which we don't have. So, we allow them to graze in forests and this destroys forests, which in turn impacts climate and reduces groundwater. We give them water that we don't have. We grow animal food instead of growing food for humans. To produce one kilo of beef requires 25 kilos of grain to feed the animal and roughly 15,000 litres of water. Pigs and goats are almost the same, and chicken a little less. Their emissions: faeces, urine and methane, degrade the land and water and cause the climate to become hotter. Methane causes 24 times more damage than carbon dioxide and each cow emits 600 litres of methane daily. Livestock farming contributes 18 per cent greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. This is more than the emissions from all forms of transport put together. When the climate becomes hotter we need to do far more coal mining to create more energy to cool humans down during heat waves. The water levels rise and flood lands. The rest of the lands suffer drought as glaciers melt and dry up. Mosquitoes and other pests increase and so do their diseases. We feed grain to animals grown for meat, and so the prices go up and there is no grain left for the poor. If all these grain were fed to humans directly we could feed 3.5 billion people more daily – and keep them healthier.

Because the industrial growing of animals does not recognise their bodies as live, they are simply seen as meat machines and deliberately grown to be fatter, larger, softer... whatever. This can only be done by using antibiotics, hormones and chemicals. In both, India and America, 80 per cent of all antibiotics are fed to animals and so the human eating them in his/her meat becomes immune to them. Thousands of people die every day because there is no medicine left to cure them when they become sick. Heart disease, diabetes and cancer are all related to animal eating, and you and I are paying taxes for more and more hospitals. Switching to a plant based diet could save lives, lead to healthcare related savings and avoid climate change damages of up to \$1.5 trillion.

Giving up meat is one of the easiest things we can do to live better. But this is not going to happen unless the government takes a policy decision on whether it wants the country to survive or not. Encouraging meat export is the quickest way of destroying our land, water and air. The excuse is feeble that meat exports earn money – what is the point if that money is spent on restoring water sources and forests or paying farmers compensation for destruction of crops? Or for trying to undo the effects of climate change? This makes no sense to me at all.

This is where GST comes in. This tax should be made far more sensitive and sophisticated in its social agenda as well as its economic one. And that means adding GST to meat.

The government has decreed no GST on live animals grown for food: bovines, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, geese, ducks, turkeys and guinea fowls. The government has given exemption to all meat of bovine animals, swine, sheep, goats, poultry fresh or chilled. For some reason it has also exempted the meat of horses, donkeys, mules – even though these animals are forbidden to be killed for meat by the FSSAI. Does the Finance Ministry even know the food laws? All offal (which means the parts like anus, intestines and hooves) and fats of pig and poultry are exempt (so now they can put them happily into vegetarian Dalda). All fish, prawn, shrimp, crustaceans and molluscs and every other aquatic invertebrate, live or dead, are exempt. Considering that a large number of them are banned for being catching/eating under the Wildlife Protection Act, this seems equally bizarre. The prawn/shrimp growing industry is probably the most polluting industry, and the worst for health, because it uses tonnes, literally tonnes, of antibiotics which wash into agricultural fields making those lands dangerous for all grains/vegetable eaters. Eggs are exempt. Milk and all its products, of course, would be exempt as it is a holy cow in itself.

Some countries give food a special tax exempt status. Many states in America exclude groceries from sales tax, and there is no VAT on foodstuffs in UK, Ireland and Malta, though other European countries, add VAT to food. However, regardless of the level of tax charged on food, taxation systems fail to distinguish between different types of food. Simply put, taxes are blind to the differences between meat and other foods like fruit and vegetables. Food which is good for the country and the human is taxed just as much as food that destroys the planet and the individual. Taxes and all revenue collection should encourage or discourage certain behaviour. Do we not put huge taxes on cigarettes and alcohol or luxury cars? Then why should meat get treated on par with fruit and vegetables when it costs the country so much more in terms of pollution, water, land, health? Tax revenue is used (among other things) to support public healthcare and fund government-backed environmental initiatives. So, given that meat compromises both public health and the environment, it surely follows that it should be taxed accordingly.

It makes no sense to me that the Indian government would exempt all forms of meat from all GST. Meat is not a necessity. It is a luxury – and it falls in the same category as cigarettes. The slaughterhouses are run by multi-millionaires who are sending most of the meat abroad and most of the owners are NRIs. If the government were to put GST on meat at the rate of even 10 per cent the potential revenues would run into crores. At a time when internationally calls are increasing for taxing meat on environmental and health grounds, why would India go the other way?

Taxing meat would help nudge Indians in a healthier direction. A reduction in meat consumption, encouraged through taxation, will have both environmental and public health benefits. More revenue would remain with the government, since healthcare costs would come down. By not taxing meat production and consumption appropriately, governments are in fact subsidising environmental and public health destruction.

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



Maneka Gandhi

Meat is not a necessity. It is a luxury – and it falls in the same category as cigarettes

SPECTRUM BIHAR

BJP bracing to dump Nitish



Anita Saluja

WITH NO LOVE LOST BETWEEN MODI AND NITISH THE DUO WOULD DUMP EACH OTHER AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar were never friends but they were forced to join hands, given political compulsions in the state. The results of Bihar Assembly elections will once again decide whether they will be seen together, or will it mark the end of their pretentious relationship.

Though as of now the BJP leadership is claiming that it will make Nitish the CM, much depends on the poll outcome. The BJP is ready with its Plan B, of joining hands with Chirag Paswan's LJP, who has no qualms declaring himself as the Hanuman of PM Modi.

The BJP is walking the tightrope by ensuring that it doesn't rub its two alliance partners of NDA on the wrong side. However, given the first opportunity, it will always prefer to form government with the LJP, if it manages to get enough seats.

The relations between Modi and Nitish have always been strained. However, due to political compulsions, both their parties were forced to join hands in 2005 to form the government. Nitish owes the formation of his government mostly to late BJP veteran Arun Jaitley, who, through his good offices, was able

to convince the BJP leadership.

I recall that during the BJP national executive meeting in Patna in June 2010, Nitish had thrown tantrums by raising objections over the then Gujarat CM Narendra Modi. Both of them were CMs then and enjoyed popularity in their respective states. In the regional papers of Bihar, Modi got his advertisements published, flaunting the donation given to the flood-affected state. This naturally offended Nitish, who refused to invite Modi at the dinner hosted by him for the BJP leadership during the BJP national executive. The dinner was eventually cancelled, as LK Advani, Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj and Venkaiah Naidu refused to go without Modi.

Ever since Modi was projected as the PM candidate, Nitish has been at loggerheads with the BJP, eventually pulling out of NDA in 2013. For the Bihar Assembly elections in 2015, Nitish joined hands with his political bete-noire Lalu Prasad Yadav and went on to retain power in the state. However, he was forced to join hands with the BJP in 2017, when Lalu refused to accept the demand for the ouster of his son and Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav from the government over graft charges.

With no love lost between Modi and Nitish the duo would dump each other at the first opportunity. In fact, Modi is working towards the same plot and would be too pleased to sever his ties with Nitish if the plan to distance him works out for him in these Assembly elections.

It's not for nothing that Nitish is not to be seen in posters of Modi. It's a well-worked out strategy of BJP which is keen to garner votes in the name of Modi, fully-aware that the popularity of Nitish is gradually waning.

The BJP, which had earlier vowed to wipe-out the trace of Congress from the nation, has gone a step ahead by severing its ties with its own allies – Shiv Sena in Maharashtra and Shiromani Akali Dal in Punjab. The next party will be JD (U), if Nitish fails to live-up to its expectations and fails to cobble-up the numbers. The ultimate goal of Modi is to form BJP's own government in Bihar.

For Nitish, who was once termed as the 'Chanakya of Bihar,' it's a do-or-die battle. His failure in the elections will shut all doors for him for future alliances. Having run the government for 15 years, his popularity has taken a beating, with no

out-of-the-box ideas to end the woes of Biharis. People are disillusioned, with no hopes of getting jobs and lawlessness touching its peak. He, too, is aware the BJP will dump him if he is defeated at the hustings.

Heckled and hooted down in rallies, Nitish has been losing his cool and shouting at audience, giving enough hints to the public that he is on a sticky wicket. Depending on the results on November 10, it will be seen where the JD(U) will finally end its electoral journey. So far, Nitish is at the receiving-end, being attacked by Tejashwi on the one side and Chirag on the other.

BJP, too, will not mind the downfall of Nitish, but not at the expense of the survival of its own government. It would be too pleased to dump him, if it is able to cobble-up the majority for itself, with the help of Chirag. It is not for nothing that it has given him the full liberty to attack its own coalition partner and the CM during the crucial Assembly elections. As of now, the people are being fooled by the politicians. However, the Indian electorate, especially Biharis cannot be taken for granted.

The writer is a Delhi-based journalist.

WORDSWORTH

Up the spout

Up the spout, gone wrong, ruined, failed or lost, is a slang expression from the British Isles of considerable age, being first recorded early in the nineteenth century. It's still common. To find its origin we must in imagination travel to the low-life world of pre-Dickensian England. Pawnbrokers commonly stored goods that were in hock on an upper floor of their premises, but this required a method by which such items could be moved from their shop counters to storage and back again. This is the way such a device was described in a famous work of the 19th Century: "[The chute] reaches from the top of the house of the Pawnbroker (where the goods are deposited for safety till redeemed or sold) to the shop, where they are first received; through which a small bag is dropped upon the ringing of a bell, which conveys the tickets or duplicates to a person above stairs, who, upon finding them, (unless too bulky) saves himself the trouble and loss of time of coming down stairs, by more readily conveying them down." It was the shape and function of this device, in later years nearer in form to the kitchen lift or dumbwaiter, that caused it to become known to customers and pawnbrokers as the spout. The action of pawning goods was spouting them. Something that had been pawned was said to have gone up the spout. It was so common for the item not to be redeemed because the owner hadn't the money to do so that to put something up the spout implied a likely permanent loss. Much more recently, as a separate development but with implications related to those of the original, up the spout came to mean being pregnant, sometimes an unwelcome development among unmarried women.

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

Don't hoodwink the voters

Sir, The political temperature has risen in the state due to the upcoming by-elections in Tirtol and Balasore. Every political party makes promises but fails to deliver. Innocent voters are trapped in the quagmire of political speeches. Honesty and integrity of candidates should not be overlooked. It is about performance and delivery of services to the public. Now, voters are not fooled by dry promises and rosy freebies. Politics is not a business and profit-loss game. It is about integrity, conviction, honesty and truthfulness. Now, it is not easy to hoodwink the educated and net-savvy voters. Political leaders should make a commitment to the public. There should be a performance appraisal of politicians every year. Voters should not be taken for granted. People are the very source and foundation of democracy.
Prabhudutt Dash, Bhubaneswar

All about viruses

Sir, Viruses have become a pain in the neck for human beings. People who tackled and overcame minor and major viral infections due to rapid strides made in medicine were left bamboozled and stunned by a six-word virus. Never before was a common man beaten into submission by a tiny virus, and perhaps never again. While the world is waiting with bated breath for a vaccine against coronavirus, and scientists continue to grapple with intricacies of Covid, the Nobel Prize for Medicine has been awarded to three scientists for their phenomenal work on another virus that troubled mankind not very long ago – the Hepatitis C. Harvey Alter and Charles Rice of the US were given the Nobel with Michael Houghton of the UK for discovering the viral origin of Hepatitis C and its blood-borne origin in many patients. As a result of their pioneering work, a battery of blood tests, that include the now common liver function tests, are done routinely to validate Hepatitis C in patients. The Hepatitis C disease was a leading cause of death that was largely unexplainable at that point in time when science was struggling to keep pace with people's beliefs. The three men worked tirelessly and independently to supplement each other. At a time when researchers were under a wrong impression that the mysterious deaths were either due to Hepatitis A or B, it was left to the three to bring to the fore the role of Hepatitis C, and they succeeded in doing so. The Nobel winners' understanding and contribution to the 'hepatitis field' have helped identification of drugs to combat Hepatitis C. According to a report, four lakh people succumb to Hepatitis C infection every year.
Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Delhi's Covid surge: Blame it on laxity, pollution & festivities

The situation suggests that the national capital is inching towards its third peak

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 28: While the spread of Covid-19 seems to be subsiding nationally, its tally is burgeoning in the capital city consistently for the last few days. Delhi witnessed the highest single day spike till date Tuesday with 4,853 new infections and 44 deaths reported. The tally in the national capital has crossed 3.64 lakh.

Since Friday, Delhi has been reporting over 4,000 cases of COVID-19 daily. Over the last one week, the daily positivity rate - the percentage of people who test positive for the disease versus those who were tested - has also increased, faring above 8 per cent. The situation suggests that the national capital is inching towards its third peak, as stated by the head of the national task force for Covid-19, Dr VK Paul Tuesday.

Experts said that the situation will be challenging as the cases are expected to multiply in the coming weeks due to pollution, laxity and festivities.

Dr Prabhakaran Dorairaj, Professor, Epidemiology, Public Health Foundation of India, said the cases are bound to increase as the combination of pollution, overcrowding and winter is proving to be a triple whammy. "The viral infections thrive in winters. They remain suspended for a longer time in the air in cold weather conditions. Pollution aids the longevity to the suspension of the virus. On the top of it, the lack of social distancing during the festivals is instigating the spread further," he explained.



He said festivities have played a major role in the surge as well. "Durga Puja festival is celebrated majorly in eastern and northern parts of the country. And the surge in cases is also reported in these parts only," he observed.

Dr Manoj Goel, director, pulmonology at Fortis Memorial Research Institute, said lack of Covid appropriate behaviour and peak in pollution in the national capital have worsened the situation. "Cases in Delhi are rising with each passing day. This phenomenon will continue if people do not take necessary precautions. With lockdown being lifted, it is seen people are not observing those rules of social distancing, staying indoors and wearing masks."

He added that taking precautions is the only way forward to deal with the viral disease since Delhi is densely populated. "Due to festival season coming, more and more people have started to socialise and are seen shopping. Delhi has a dense population and extra measures have to be taken to observe

social distancing. People must realise that even when lockdown is not imposed, they have to set their own boundaries and not socialise, maintain social distance and always wear a mask," Goel added.

Dr HS Chhabra, medical director, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC), said coordinated communication to the public warning them of the risks posed by such lapses is required to bring about a change in their behaviour. "While relaxations under the unlocks have increased interaction among people during the festive season, lack of adherence to health measures such as use of masks and social distancing is contributing to the rapid increase."

Wednesday, the Delhi government ordered all schools in the city to remain shut till further orders after the surge in cases. An expert committee, led by Dr Paul, had cautioned a few days ago that city hospitals should be prepared for a surge of 15,000 positive cases a day with the change in season and movement of patients from other states.

Battle of prestige for Cong, BJP in civic polls

THE IMAGES OF CM ASHOK GEHLOT, UNION MINISTER GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT AND LOK SABHA SPEAKER OM BIRLA ARE AT STAKE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Oct 28: The prestige of both the major political parties, Congress and BJP, is at stake as six municipal corporations in three Rajasthan cities go to polls Thursday.

While the ruling Congress eyes to return to power in the urban bodies, riding on the confidence that the voters are satisfied with the state government's performance, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) faces a challenge to maintain its dominance.

More than 35.97 lakh voters will elect 560 ward councillors in two phases in the six newly-formed municipal corporations of Jaipur, Jodhpur and Kota (Jaipur Heritage, Jaipur Greater, Jodhpur North, Jodhpur South, Kota North and Kota South).

The first phase of polling will be held on Thursday in the Jaipur Heritage, Jodhpur North and Kota North municipal corporations, where over 16.54 lakh voters will cast their votes to elect 250 ward councillors. The second phase of polling will take place on November 1 and the counting of votes will be taken up on November 3.

In the last polls, the BJP had formed its board in the three local bodies, which increased to six corporation areas after a delimitation exercise carried out by the Congress government in the state.

The corporation polls are being seen as a battle of prestige for many Union and state ministers, including Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. Jodhpur is Gehlot's hometown and Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat also belongs to the city.

Kota is the hometown of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla as well as state minister Shanti Dhariwal.



Election officials leave for their respective polling stations after collecting Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), ahead of the municipal corporation elections, at Bhawani Niketan in Jaipur, Wednesday

The prestige of the Congress's chief whip in the Assembly, Mahesh Joshi, and minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas is at stake in Jaipur, along with state BJP president Satish Poonia.

All three cities are known to be strongholds of the BJP. In the last election, the saffron party had formed its boards in all three cities and it hopes to repeat the feat. According to Poonia, the Congress has failed to live up to its promises made in the run-up to the 2018 state Assembly polls and the voters will teach the party a lesson.

"Development works have come to a standstill, so the frustrated and troubled voters are ready to teach the Congress a lesson in this election. I am confident that people

have made up their mind to ensure the Congress's departure from the state with the local bodies polls," the state BJP chief said.

State Congress president Govind Singh Dotsara exuded confidence that the voters of the three cities will give a stamp of approval on the work done by the party.

The Congress has worked for development, be it in the corporation areas or in cities, he told PTL, adding that people are satisfied with the historic work done by the state government during its nearly two-year tenure, in spite of the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic.

"People are confident that the Congress is doing a good job by taking everyone along. They will

surely stand with the Congress and the party will form the boards," Dotsara said.

Joshi, who is overseeing the election management of the Congress in the Jaipur Heritage corporation, is also hopeful that the voters will go with the ruling party.

"Excellent plans for development, excellent management during the coronavirus pandemic and Chief Minister Gehlot's attempts to live up to the aspirations of the people... The boards will be formed by the Congress," he said.

It may be noted that the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP), a constituent of the BJP-led NDA at the Centre, is contesting the civic body polls on its own.

Only 'green' firecrackers in Delhi

The Delhi government will launch an anti-firecracker campaign from November 3 and request people not to burn crackers at all considering the pandemic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: Environment Minister Gopal Rai said Wednesday that only 'green' firecrackers can be manufactured, sold and used in the national capital.

He also said the Delhi government will launch an anti-firecracker campaign from November 3 and requested people not to burn crackers at all considering the seriousness of the situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Only 'green' firecrackers can be manufactured, sold and used in Delhi this Diwali as per a Supreme Court order issued in 2018," he told reporters.

In 2018, the Supreme Court had banned the use of polluting firecrackers and allowed the sale of 'green' firecrackers in a bid to control air pollution.



The 'green' crackers are not as polluting as the conventional types of firecrackers and they contain at least 30 per cent less particulate matters such as Sulphur Dioxide and

Nitrogen Oxide. The CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute was tasked with the job of developing 'green' crackers. But only a few varieties were

available in the market last year due to licensing requirements.

The minister said smoke from firecrackers and stubble burning make Delhi's air "hazardous" every year.

"The government will launch an anti-cracker campaign from November 3. Under it, 11 special squads of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee and city police will inspect firecracker manufacturing units to ensure that there is no old stock left," he said. Strict action will be taken against the violators under the Environmental Protection Act and Air Act, he said.

"In fact, I appeal to the people of Delhi to launch a 'no-crackers' campaign. They should try and avoid burning firecrackers completely considering the seriousness of the situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic," Rai said.

Raj Bill soon to make masks mandatory

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Oct 28: The Rajasthan government is planning to bring in a legislation that will make wearing masks mandatory in the state.

The desert state shall become the first such state in the country to bring such a law.

Monday evening, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot addressing a video conference said: "The state government is planning to make it mandatory to wear masks in the state to check the spread of Covid-19 infection."

"A bill shall be tabled in the forthcoming assembly session. Washing hands, wearing masks and maintaining social distance are the only ways to prevent from the spread of Covid-19 till a vaccine is launched," he said. Gehlot was discussing the success of 'No mask-No entry' campaign launched in the state October

2 with district collectors, college principals, corporation and council officials, district sports officials, NSS, Scout cadets amongst others in the video-conference.

He also called upon the NCC and NSS cadets to get connected to the campaign to defeat corona and help spread the message to every household.

"Till the time people are aware that those infected can spread covid infection to a healthy person without wearing masks, the campaign will not be successful," he added.

Gehlot also batted for a Diwali festivity without crackers. "Firecrackers increase pollution, which can be a threat to the lives of Covid-19 patients. Going with medical advisories, we should celebrate Diwali without firecrackers this time and should also inspire others to do the same," he added



Pilot 'missing' from Congress vision document

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Oct 28: The absence of former PCC president Sachin Pilot's posters and pictures from party's vision document released recently left many of the Congress workers surprised and shocked.

While the document carried the pictures of CM Ashok Gehlot, new PCC chief Govind Singh Dotsara and state Urban Development minister Shanti Dhariwal, there was no picture or mention of former deputy CM Sachin Pilot who was recently stripped of his portfolios after he revolted against Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot and camped in Delhi with his MLAs.

State minister Pratap Khachariyawas, questioned about Pilot's absence, said that Pilot is neither the deputy CM nor the PCC chief, so why should his pictures be put on the brochure.

He instead questioned the BJP for removing former CM Vasundhara Raj's pictures from the BJP's vision document for municipal corporation. "We carry the pictures of former CMs but BJP has removed Raj's pictures showing they are not happy with her work," he added. Meanwhile, Pilot has been assigned the task to campaign in MP by-polls and the Bihar Assembly elections.



Tuesday, Pilot was addressing an election rally in Morena supporting Congress candidate Pankaj Upadhyay.

Speaking to IANS, he refused to comment when asked why his posters were neither seen across the city nor in the vision document released by the party for the forthcoming municipal corporation polls. "I don't want to comment on the issue," he said while occupying the dais before starting his speech.

Pilot has been assigned the task to hold rallies in Gwalior, Morena, Shivpuri and Bhand which have been the stronghold of former

ON WARPATH



Police personnel detain AAP leaders and councillors during a protest against privatization of sanitation services by SDMC, at Civic Centre in New Delhi, Wednesday

ALL IS NOT WELL

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS TEAM IS CREATING AN IMPRESSION THAT ALL IS OKAY IN THE DESERT STATE AND THERE HAS BEEN A PATCH-UP

HOWEVER, THINGS ARE NOT AT ALL OKAY BETWEEN TWO FACTIONS AND ABSENCE OF PILOT'S PICTURES AND POSTERS REVEAL THE SAME STORY

A FEW DAYS BACK, THE RAJASTHAN POLICE REGISTERED AN FIR AGAINST PILOT'S MEDIA MANAGER LOKENDRA KUMAR SINGH AND A JAIPUR-BASED SENIOR JOURNALIST FOR FALSELY REPORTING THAT PHONES OF CONGRESS MLAs WERE TAPPED DURING THEIR STAY IN A HOTEL IN JAISALMER AMIDST THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN THE STATE

WHILE THE DOCUMENT CARRIED THE PICTURES OF CM ASHOK GEHLOT, NEW PCC CHIEF GOVIND SINGH DOTASARA AND STATE URBAN DEVELOPMENT MINISTER SHANTI DHARIWAL, THERE WAS NO PICTURE OR MENTION OF FORMER DEPUTY CM SACHIN PILOT WHO WAS RECENTLY STRIPPED OF HIS PORTFOLIOS AFTER HE REVOLTED AGAINST RAJASTHAN CM ASHOK GEHLOT AND CAMPED IN DELHI WITH HIS MLAs

Pilot is neither the deputy CM nor the PCC chief, so why should his pictures be put on the brochure

PRATAP KHACHARIYAWAS | STATE MINISTER

Congress veteran Jyotiraditya Scindia who has now joined the BJP and is serving as a Rajya Sabha MP from the saffron party at present.

Meanwhile, senior Congress workers in Rajasthan said that the national Congress team is creating an impression that all is okay in the desert state and there has been a patch-up. "However, things are not

at all okay between two factions and absence of Pilot's pictures and posters reveal the same story. Many of us are discussing his absence from Rajasthan during campaigning when the BJP has called its union ministers to campaign for local polls," he said on condition of anonymity.

A few days back, the Rajasthan police registered an FIR against Pilot's media manager Lokendra Kumar Singh and a Jaipur-based senior journalist for

falsely reporting that phones of Congress MLAs were tapped during their stay in a hotel in Jaisalmer amidst the political crisis in the state. However, the Rajasthan High Court October 16 stayed any coercive action by the police.

Singh had approached the Rajasthan High Court seeking quashing of the FIR lodged against him in connection with the phone tapping case. Hearing the case, a bench of Justice Govenhan Bardhan stayed any coercive action against Singh and directed the police to put up a case diary on the next hearing.

national

of the day quote

First phase of polling for Bihar assembly elections is being held today. I appeal to people to take part in the grand festival of democracy while keeping Covid-related precautions in mind

JP NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

There is no arrangement of beds in hospitals for Covid-19 treatment in Maharashtra and bodies of patients who die due to the infection lie on footpaths unattended

VIJAY RUPANI | GUJARAT CM

A comprehensive policy is needed regarding lifting of the export ban and stock limit of onion, and it should cover interests of all stakeholders

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

Six drown

Amaravati: A garden party with families and friends ended on a tragic note as six teenagers, all students, drowned in a swollen rivulet in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh Wednesday, police said. After the community lunch, the teenagers tried to swim in the nearby Pedavagu but drowned one after the other in the rivulet.

2 militants killed

Srinagar: Two terrorists have been killed in an ongoing encounter that started between terrorists and security forces at Mochua area in Central Kashmir's Budgam district, officials said. The firefight between terrorists and security forces started on Tuesday evening and took place after security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation on the basis of specific information about presence of terrorists.

Smriti Covid+ve

New Delhi: Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani Wednesday became the latest Union Minister to be infected by coronavirus. Taking to Twitter, Irani said: "It is rare for me to search for words while making an announcement; hence here's me keeping it simple - I've tested positive for COVID and would request those who came in contact with me to get themselves tested at the earliest."

Seven arrested

Hyderabad: Cyberabad police Wednesday arrested seven persons for kidnaping a city doctor for Rs 10 crore ransom. Hours after the doctor was rescued by police in Andhra Pradesh's Anantapur district, Cyberabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar announced the arrest of seven accused while six others, including the main accused, a relative of the doctor, are absconding. Behjat Hussain, a 56-year-old dentist, was kidnapped from his clinic in Kismatpur under the limits of Rajendranagar police station on Tuesday.

Body found

Gurugram: A doctor's charred body was found in his car Wednesday morning near Ghamroj village on the Sohna Road, around 10 km from Gurugram city. Deceased Kanwar Pal alias Sonu (35), a resident of Ghamroj, owned a private hospital in Sohna. According to the police, Sonu left for his home from hospital around Tuesday midnight.



Listening to his (Modi's) appeal, if you give the NDA one more chance to work in the state, then you take it for sure that he will transform it into a developed state. Bihar will march ahead

NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CM

ISRO TO OPEN 2020 LAUNCH ACCOUNT NOV 7

The Indian space agency is likely to open its rocket launch activity for this year November 7 with its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle C49 (PSLV C49) carrying a radar imaging satellite for the country



UTTARAKHAND CM MOVES SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun/Haridwar, Oct 28: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat moved the Supreme Court Wednesday against the Nainital High Court order for a CBI probe into the allegations by two scribes that money was transferred into the accounts of his relatives in 2016 to support appointment of a person as head of 'Gau Seva Ayog' of Jharkhand.

Amid rising clamour for his resignation by Congress party, Rawat, who was the Jharkhand in-charge for BJP in 2016, filed a special leave petition against the high court judgement through lawyer Divyam Agarwal. The counsel has not yet divulged the grounds of the challenge.

The high court verdict came Tuesday on two separate petitions filed by the two journalists - Umesh Sharma and Shiv Prasad Semwal - seeking quashing of an FIR lodged against them in July this year under various provisions of the IPC relating to sedition, cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy.

The FIR against Sharma was lodged for posting a video on Facebook alleging that one Amrithesh Chauhan from Jharkhand deposited money after demonetisation into the bank account of a couple, Harendra Singh Rawat and his wife Savita Rawat, who are allegedly related to the Chief Minister.

Harendra, a retired professor, had lodged the FIR at a police station in Dehradun against Sharma



Rawat, who was the Jharkhand in-charge for BJP in 2016, filed a special leave petition against the high court judgement through lawyer Divyam Agarwal

and also alleged that the journalist was blackmailing him. While quashing the FIR, the high court ordered a CBI probe into the allegations levelled against Rawat.

The apex court, on October 16, had dismissed a separate plea by Sharma seeking transfer of three criminal cases pending against him to Delhi from Dehradun on the grounds of being targeted by the Rawat government.

The top court observed that "credibility" of Sharma's "journalistic activity" was itself questioned by his member of the sting

operation team.

The top court had noted that Sharma faces 17 cases in Uttarakhand, four in Uttar Pradesh, five in West Bengal, two in Delhi and out of which one is under investigation of CBI, and another one at Ranchi, Jharkhand.

In its judgement, the Nainital High Court said, "Superintendent of Police, CBI Dehradun is directed to register an FIR on the basis of the allegations levelled in para 8 of the petition in WPCRL no. 1187 of 2020 and investigate the case in accordance with law, with promptitude."

"This Court is of the view that considering the nature of allegations levelled against Trivendra Singh Rawat, the Chief Minister of the State, it would be appropriate to unfold the truth. It would be in the interest of the State that the doubts are cleared. "Therefore, while allowing the petition, this Court proposes for investigation also. In view of the nature of the allegations, this Court is of the view that the CBI should be directed to lodge an FIR on the basis of allegations levelled in para 8 of the instant petition and investigate the case in accordance with law," the high court said. It also observed that criticizing the government can never be sedition and unless the public functionaries are criticized, democracy cannot be strengthened.

"In democracy dissent is always respected and considered, if it is suppressed under sedition laws perhaps, it would be an attempt to make the democracy weak," it said.

Rhea's accusations 'speculative': CBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 28: The CBI Wednesday told the Bombay High Court that Rhea Chakraborty's accusation that late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's sisters obtained a fake medical prescription for him was "mostly speculative".

Such speculation cannot be the basis of an FIR, the Central agency said in response to Rajput's sisters Priyanka Singh and Meetu Singh's petition seeking to quash the case lodged against them by Mumbai Police.

Chakraborty, Rajput's girlfriend, has alleged that a fabricated prescription was used to help him procure medicines banned under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act only a few days before his suicide in June 2020.

"The allegations in the present FIR are mostly presumptive and speculative in nature," the CBI said. The Central Bureau of Investigation also pointed out that it is probing the complaint filed by Rajput's father K K Singh against Chakraborty and her family members for allegedly abetting the 34-year-old actor's suicide.

Rajput's sisters filed the petition through advocate Madhav Thorat on October 6 seeking that the FIR filed against them by Bandra Police here be quashed. The CBI said the police should have conducted preliminary enquiry before registering the First Information Report.

52.24% voting in Bihar till 5 pm



People stand in a queue to cast their votes during the first phase of Bihar assembly polls, amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, in Gaya, Wednesday

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 28: The Covid-19 pandemic could not affect voters' enthusiasm in the first phase of polls in Bihar as the state registered 52.24 per cent turnout till 5 pm Wednesday, the Election Commission of India said here.

Mentioning that the turnout was more than "previous assembly elections as well as Lok Sabha elections", Deputy Election Commissioner Umesh Sinha said the first phase of elections concluded "very peacefully" with a few "stray incidents".

Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said a total of 52.24 per cent turnout was registered by 5 p.m. after the polling at 31,371 polling stations in 71 Assembly segments in 16 districts of Bihar, including 12 Left Wing Extremist (LWE) districts. The polling began at 7 a.m.

As the polling took place at different times depending upon the area, the turnout could be more as polling at some places was on till 6 p.m. The elections gathered momentum in the afternoon as the voting started at a sluggish pace due to technical glitches at some of the polling booths.

Violent incidents were reported in some parts of Bihar including in Kaimur district where two groups comprising more than 50 people attacked each other. They were dispersed by paramilitary force per-

sonnel. The situation is now under control. Tekari is another place apart from Ara where an altercation between supporters of two alliances was reported.

The Election Commission had established 31,380 polling booths in 16 districts. There are 1,066 candidates are testing their luck in the first phase. In all, 41,689 ballot units, 31,371 control units and 31,371 VVPATs were deployed in the elections.

Out of these, the replacement rate has been 0.18 per cent for ballot units, 0.26 per cent for control units and 0.53 per cent for VVPATs as per a report at 10 am, the ECI said. In the first phase, 1,066 candidates, including 114 women are in the fray.

However, the ECI claimed that the EVM problem was solved shortly after the fault was detected, voters have to wait in queues for over an hour and some even returned home without casting votes. Due to the technical snags, the functioning of over 75 EVMs or VVPATs in Munger, Arwal, Gaya and Nawada districts of Bihar got affected.

Voters in Gaya, Jahanabad, Aurangabad, Jamui, Bhabhua, Sasaram, Baka, and Kaimur also complained of technical and other errors in EVMs. Due to this, polling started late by 30 minutes to 2 hours at several places. In Munger, technical glitches in Electronic Voting Machines or EVMS were reported in polling booths 165 and 231.

NIA conducts raids in J&K, Bangalore

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 28: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Wednesday carried out searches at 11 locations in Jammu & Kashmir and Karnataka, including the residence of activist Khurram Parvez, in connection with its probe into a case pertaining to so-called NGOs and trusts raising funds in India and abroad in the name of charitable activities and then using those funds for carrying out secessionist and separatist activities in J&K.

An NIA spokesperson here said that the anti-terror probe agency carried out searches at 10 locations in Srinagar and Bandipora in J&K and one location in Bangalore.

The official said that searches were carried out at the residential and office premises of Khurram Parvez, who is co-ordinator of J&K Coalition of Civil Society, his associates Parvez Ahmad Bukhari, Parvez Ahmad Matta and Bengaluru-based associate Swati Sheshadri, Parveena Ahaner, chairperson of Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDPK) and offices of NGO Athrout and GK Trust.

During searches NIA seized several incriminating documents and electronic devices. The action comes in the wake of a fresh case registered by the NIA on October 8 under several sections of the Indian Penal Code and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act on receipt of credible information that certain NGOs and trusts are collecting funds domestically and abroad through so-called donations and business contributions etc and are then utilising these funds for secessionist and terrorist activities in J&K.

FARM WORK



Farmers harvest paddy crop in a farm, at village Walla near Amritsar, Wednesday

Bihar man gets death for killing 9

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Oct 28: A court in Telangana's Warangal district Wednesday sentenced a man to death for killing nine migrant workers by throwing them into a well after mixing sedatives in their food.

The court verdict came five months after the shocking incident as First Additional District Court magistrate found 24-year-old Sanjay Kumar Yadav guilty of the gruesome killings and sentenced him to death.

The police investigations had revealed that to hide the murder of a woman with whom the Bihar man, had a live-in relationship, Sanjay Yadav committed nine more murders by throwing the victims into a well at Gorrekunta village near Warangal town on May 20. Police on May 25 arrested Sanjay Yadav, who confessed to killing the nine people, including six members of one family, by mixing sleeping pills in

their food and then throwing them one by one into a nearby well. As all the victims were sedated after having their food laced with sleeping pills, the accused put each person in a gunny bag, dragged them one by one and threw them into the well, about 100 metres away from a godown of a gunny bag making unit where the family of a migrant worker from West Bengal and two Bihar youth were living.

Another migrant from Tripura, who was also present in the building, was also murdered. Police had recovered the bodies Mohammed Maqsood Alam (55), his wife Nisha (48), their sons Shabaaz Alam (20) and Sohail Alam (18), daughter Bushra Khatoon (22), Bushra's three-year-old son, all from West Bengal, Sriram Kumar Shah (26), Shyam Kumar Shah (21), both from Bihar and Mohammed Shakeel (40), a native of Tripura.

Yadav, who was also working at

the gunny bag unit, developed a relationship with Nisha's niece Rafiq (37), who had come from West Bengal with three children after separation from her husband and was employed in the same factory. Yadav had taken a room on rent and was living with her. After Rafiq admonished him for trying to sexually exploit her daughter, he hatched a plan to kill Rafiq.

He informed Maqsood's family that he is taking her to West Bengal to talk to her elders for marriage. They boarded the Garib Rath train to Visakhapatnam on March 6, but during the journey, he bought butter milk and after mixing sleeping pills, served it to Rafiq. After she fell asleep, he strangled her and threw the body from the train near Nidadavole in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.

The accused got down from the train at Rajahmundry and returned to Warangal.

UP products pose big challenges for China

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 28: Demand for local products of Uttar Pradesh has started increasing in the market. The Yogi Adityanath government's move on the path of 'Local for Vocal' and 'Self-reliant India' has proved to be a challenge for Chinese products ahead of Diwali.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has opened a new path of economic progress for the businessmen of his state with the 'One District One Product' scheme, as the products made in the home state are trending not only in the country but also abroad. Business of about 1,500 people has gained new momentum in Gorakhpur division's Deoria district. These products are getting a chance to be presented on a national-international forums under ODOP.

Pooja Shahi and Vivek Singh are among the thousands of people working under ODOP in



Deoria district. Shahi, who started a small handicraft job with her mother and aunt in 2008, is now employing 400 women at Pooja Shahi Enterprises.

Today, 5,000 women are part of their team after joining ODOP. From virtual fair to online platform, their products are making a big impact in the country and abroad. As Deoria is focusing on handicraft, there are 1,500 artisans working in 150 units in the districts. For the district, with a 50 per cent surge, the turnover has increased to Rs 1.5 crore which was Rs 1 crore last year.

Apart from other states, including Bihar, West Bengal, Lucknow, Varanasi and Delhi, products made in Deoria are being exported to Singapore and the US as well.

J&K land laws: Kashmiris fear dilution of identity, culture

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Oct 28: The new land laws notified by the Centre for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has stirred a public debate in Kashmir. Notwithstanding the various interpretations given to these laws by local politicians, the common Kashmiri believes that his identity and culture would get diluted once these laws are implemented.

Till Tuesday, one needed a Domicile Certificate which had replaced the permanent resident certificate after the abrogation of Article 370, to purchase or sell land in Jammu and Kashmir. This lim-

ited the transfer and inheritance of land to only those Indian citizens who had obtained their domicile certificates.

In addition to the purchase of land, the domicile certificate entitled one to apply for government jobs in J&K, which are still exclusively reserved for the local youth. After notifying new land rules, which came into force by repealing 11 existing land laws of the erstwhile state of J&K, any citizen of India can now purchase land in the union territory to take up residence or start a business here.

"With the already existing small land holdings, it is most likely that the land ownership scenario in J&K



would completely change in a decade or so. It is not just land that would be owned by outsiders, but the impact on the local identity, culture, businesses, etc. would be unavoidable", said Sajad Ahmad, 46, a resident of the old city Srinagar area.

Others believe that the predominantly Muslim identity of J&K would also get diluted. "Being the only Muslim majority state that joined the Indian union in 1947, J&K now stands to lose that central identity. Believing that the locals will not sell their lands after the market prices increase manifold due to the competing new buyers is believing too much", said Zafar Ahmad, 57, a

local businessman.

Ironically, while expressing fears about the likely dilution of their identity, the average Kashmiris also believe that there would be better industrial and tourism related prosperity once outsiders join these sectors.

"There is no doubt that hoteliers and industrialists from outside would look at J&K as an almost virgin investment destination now. They would not initially risk their capital by investing in the Valley, but the Jammu division would be their ideal initial investment destination.

"The new business and industrial houses who venture into Kashmir will definitely demand concessions by way of tax holidays,

etc. The authorities appear to have taken this into consideration especially in light of Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha's assertion that a new era of prosperity would dawn on J&K because of the new land laws", said Latif Ahmad, 67, a local hotelier.

There is a growing fear along the local business and industrial community that they would not stand the ground against investors and competitors from outside. The fear of the common man about the dilution of his identity and culture has got compounded because of the statements of almost all regional mainstream politicians that Delhi has a different roadmap in mind for the future of J&K.

of the day quote

The casino operations in Goa, which had been suspended on account of the Covid-19 pandemic since March this year, will restart on November 1 with 50 per cent capacity



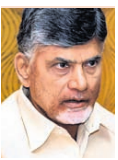
PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

BRICS countries need to intensify their collective fight against terrorism, which poses the biggest threat to mankind



OM BIRLA | LOK SABHA SPEAKER

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy broke the promise of setting up a Rs 4,000 crore disaster relief fund after coming to power



CHANDRABABU NAIDU | TOP SUPREMO

SHORT TAKES

MP bypoll: SP nominee joins BJP

Morena: Ahead of the November 3 bypolls to 28 Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh, a Samajwadi Party candidate from a seat in Morena district has joined the BJP.

Shiv Sena MP alleges threat

Mumbai: Shiv Sena MP from Parbhani Sanjay Jadhav has filed a police complaint alleging threat to his life and claimed a contract of ₹2 crore has been given to a gang to eliminate him.

Kin ransack hosp

Thane: Angry over the death of an HIV positive patient, his relatives allegedly ransacked a civic-run hospital in Navi Mumbai, where he was admitted.

Minor killed

Raipur: Two persons, one of them the son of a local Congress leader, have been arrested for allegedly driving a car into a group of villagers, killing a 4-year-old boy and injuring 12 others.

Boy detained

Thane: A 16-year-old boy has been detained for allegedly raping a girl in Maharashtra's Thane district, a police official said Wednesday.



This time for justice, employment, farmers-workers, your vote should be only for 'Mahagathbandhan' (grand alliance)

RAHUL GANDHI | FORMER CONGRESS PRESIDENT

TRAGEDY AVERTED

As the first phase of polling got underway in Bihar, two IEDs were recovered from the Maoist-infested Aurangabad district's Dhibra area, police said. Both were defused



Why BSP is a party prone to splits?

The first split in the BSP took place in June 1995, hours after the infamous state guesthouse incident where BSP MLAs were allegedly locked inside by Samajwadi Party leaders for almost 30 hours

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 28: The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has a tendency to split at regular intervals and the revolt of five MLAs Wednesday is the fourth in the series.

The first split in the BSP took place in June 1995, hours after the infamous state guesthouse incident where BSP MLAs were allegedly locked inside by Samajwadi Party (SP) leaders for almost 30 hours.

The BSP again witnessed a major split in October 1997 when Mayawati withdrew support from the Kalyan Singh government. The BJP-BSP government had been formed on a rotational basis with each party having the Chief Minister's post for six months.

Rajnath Singh, who was then the state BJP President, used his political skills to split the Congress and the BSP to save the Kalyan Singh government.



Each time the party faced a split, the breakaway leaders blamed Mayawati's arrogance and inaccessibility for their moving away. One such former BSP leader said, "There was never any problem in BSP till the time Kanshi Ram was active. Like a true leader, he remained connected to the party cadres, but things changed when Mayawati took over the reins."

"She stopped meeting party workers, did not listen to party legisla-

tors and even the ministers were subjected to humiliation. She invariably took major decisions without even informing the other leaders. You can run a household in this manner, but not a political party."

In between these splits, stalwarts like Barkhu Ram Varma, R.K. Chaudhary, Jung Bahadur Patel, Ram Lakhan Varma, Babu Singh Kushwaha, Daddu Prasad and Naseemuddin Siddiqui, who were leaders of their respective caste groups, have moved out of the BSP which now has no second rung leadership left.

On Wednesday, five legislators of the BSP withdrew their support to the BSP's official candidate, Ramji Gautam, for the Rajya Sabha biennial elections. The five legislators informed the returning officers that their signatures as proposers for Gautam were forged.

New Covid cases remain below 45K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: The new coronavirus cases reported in India in a span of 24 hours remained below 45,000, even as the total COVID-19 caseload inched closer to 80 lakh, the Union health ministry said Wednesday.

The country's COVID-19 caseload mounted to 79,90,322 with 43,893 fresh cases being reported in a day, while the death toll climbed to 1,20,010 with 508 new fatalities, the ministry data updated at 8 am showed.

A total of 72,59,509 people have recuperated from COVID-19 so far, pushing the national recovery rate to 90.85 per cent, while the case fatality rate stands at 1.50 per cent. The active cases of coronavirus infections remained below 7 lakh for six days in a row, it said.

There are 6,10,803 active cases of coronavirus infection in the



country as on date, which comprises 7.64 per cent of the total case-load, the data stated. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28 and crossed 70 lakh on October 11.

According to ICMR, a cumulative total of 10,54,87,680 samples have been tested up to October 27, with 10,66,786 samples tested on Tuesday

The 508 latest fatalities include 115 from Maharashtra, 58 from West Bengal, 44 each from Delhi and Karnataka, 36 from Uttar Pradesh and 27 from Tamil Nadu.

The total 1,20,010 deaths reported so far in the country include 43,463 from Maharashtra followed by 10,991 from Karnataka, 10,983 from Tamil Nadu, 6,940 from Uttar Pradesh, 6,625 from Andhra Pradesh, 6,604 from West Bengal, 6,356 from Delhi, 4,138 from Punjab and 3,695 from Gujarat.

Map row: Par panel raps Twitter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: A parliamentary committee Wednesday came down heavily on Twitter for showing Ladakh as part of China, saying it amounted to treason and an explanation must be tendered by the US-based parent of the social media platform in form of an affidavit, sources in the panel said.

Appearing before the joint committee of parliament on Data Protection Bill, chaired by BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi, representatives of Twitter India "begged apology", but they were told by the members that it was a criminal offence that questioned the sovereignty of the country and an affidavit must be submitted by Twitter Inc, not by its 'marketing arm' Twitter India, sources added.

They were questioned for more than two hours by the panel members, mainly on Ladakh being shown as part of China on the Twitter app. "The committee was of the unanimous opinion that Twitter's explanation on showing Ladakh as part of China was inadequate," Lekhi said after the meeting.

The Twitter representatives told the panel that the social media company respects the sensitivities of India, she said. "But, it is not only a question of the sensitivity of India or Indians. It is a question about national integrity and sovereignty of the country, and not respecting that is a criminal offence. And displaying Indian map improperly and incorrectly is an offence of treason and attracts imprisonment of seven years," she said.



Girl ends life in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Etah (Uttar Pradesh), Oct 28: A 16-year-old girl in Etah district of Uttar Pradesh allegedly ended her life by jumping from an under-construction building. She did not leave behind any suicide note.

Initially, the police suspected her father of pushing her off the building on Monday but later investigations indicated that she was being harassed by a businessman, who earlier lived as a tenant in her house. A few days before the incident, the girl had gone to the accused's shop that is in the market and was beaten up by her mother after her return. On Monday, her parents and younger brother went to the hospital for a check-up and the girl was alone at home.

When they came back, they found the house locked from inside and waited for her to open the door. It was then that some locals informed them of her death.

Gold smuggling: Blow to Sivasankar

SERIOUS SETBACK

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kochi, Oct 28: Minutes after the Kerala High Court Wednesday refused anticipatory bail to the former secretary of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, M.Sivasankar was taken into custody by the ED from an ayurveda centre in the state capital.

This is a serious setback for Vijayan in the gold smuggling case registered by the Customs and the Enforcement Directorate (ED). All along Vijayan has claimed to have no clue or knowledge of Sivasankar's links and that it was his personal business.

Ever since the gold smuggling case surfaced on July 5, Sivasankar's fate has been hanging in the balance and with the court denying bail in cases filed by the Customs and the ED, arrests by both these agencies was expected all along.

The 58-year-old was convalescing at an ayurveda hospital in Thiruvananthapuram, and moments after the verdict came, the key former official was picked up by financial probe agency officials and taken to Kochi. He will be subjected to detailed questioning.

The high court last week extended the status quo - asking both the ED and the Customs not to arrest Sivasankar till Wednesday ahead of the court passing its orders. Both these agencies have been strongly opposing the bail plea and the ED went a step further, when it handed over a sealed cover which is believed to contain strong evidences linking the senior IAS official's links with the accused in the gold smuggling case.

Reacting to the verdict, State BJP president K.Surendran said: "It was we who had first told about the role of Vijayan's office. Vijayan was washing his hands off by saying that this has got nothing to do with his office and Sivasankar's is personally responsible. All such arguments of Vijayan have now



PTI PHOTO

fallen flat and it's only a question of time, when the probe agencies now land in Vijayan's office," said Surendran.

Congress legislator K.S.Sabarinathan said there is nothing personal about Sivasankar at all. "He was the most powerful official and Vijayan's office cannot wash its hands off the case. If you look into all the steps taken by the government, it clearly shows they have something to hide," said Sabarinathan.

Batting for Vijayan was former Lok Sabha member and top CPI-M leader N.N.Krishnadas, who said it's for Sivasankar to deal with this case. "If he is innocent, he should prove it. The government has no role in it and there is no need to needle the state govern-

ment. The Solar case was different from this case," said Krishnadas. All eyes are on Vijayan, as all remembers the strong statement made by him in 2015 when the then Chief Minister Oommen Chandy came under a cloud when two of his staff members links with Solar scam accused Saritha Nair became known. They had demanded Chandy's resignation over it.

Ever since the gold smuggling case surfaced, both the Congress and the BJP have been up in arms demanding the resignation of Vijayan.

This is a serious setback for Pinarayi Vijayan in the gold smuggling case registered by the Customs and the Enforcement Directorate

FESTIVE CHOICE



A woman selects a clay idol of Goddess Lakshmi in Kolkata, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

CORONAVIRUS IMPACT

CIRCUSES ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 28: The lockdown due to coronavirus affected everyone's livelihood significantly. The lockdown has adversely affected the future of circuses as there is no audience for the shows. Many circus operators don't even have money to recharge their phones.

Clowns, who bring smiles to many people, animals like lions, tigers and elephants who perform on the directions of ring masters, motor-cycles running in the well of death, beautiful girls performing stunts etc might not be seen anymore which means the circus might become a history for the next generation.

Anil Kumar, manager of Asiad Circus, said, "Our circus has been closed since March 13. Some of the



people working have gone back to their homes while some are still living in the camp but they are working as daily wage labourers. They sleep here after coming back from their work."

"The situation was already bad for us, but the pandemic spread

has made it worst. Earlier, we hardly managed to earn bread and butter but now we don't even have money to recharge our phones," he said.

There used to be around 150-200 circuses in the country but due to the restrictions imposed due to coronavirus, they are on the verge

of closure. Some of the circuses closed down due to increasing cost while the remaining are closing down due to various restrictions imposed by the government.

Though there is a circus association in the capital but due to lack of members it is also not active. According to circus operators, around 10 to 15 circus closed down due to coronavirus while the remaining are struggling. According to Kumar, circus is no longer a profitable business and if the government does not pay attention, soon it will just be on papers.

However, the growth of multimedia has also affected the circus business as now children have a lot of options for their entertainment. Rambo Circus, one of India's most popular and oldest circus, has been

badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. In order to provide financial assistance to the members of this circus, it has started digital shows.

Rajesh Shah, a resident of Boroda, runs a consultancy which helps the circus companies. Shah said, "Out of 20 big circus across the country, only 10 big are existing now. All the artists have gone back to their hometowns because of Covid."

"It will be very difficult to get these artists back as they are very hardworking and they will find some other work for themselves." The Great Bombay Circus, which started from Mumbai in 1920, completed 100 years this year and witnessed a great success but currently its condition is bad. Two brothers run this circus.

HUGE SHOCK Mizoram records first Covid death

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Aizawl, Oct 28: A 62-year-old man died of Covid-19 Wednesday in Mizoram, the only state where until now there were no fatal cases even though India's tally touched 80,00,000 cases and 1,20,010 people succumbed to the virus since January 30, when the first case was reported in the country.

"The first Covid-19 related mortality in Mizoram comes as a huge shock to the entire state," Mizoram's Directorate of Information and Public Relations tweeted. "He was 62-years-old with existing co-morbidities and was under treatment at ZMC for more than 10 days," the statement said.

The health officials in Aizawl said that the man was suffering with various ailments and was admitted to the Zoram Medical College and Hospital (ZMCH) early last week, after he was tested positive for Covid-19.

Till Wednesday morning, Mizoram has recorded 2,607 positive cases, but 2,233 patients have recovered and there are 374 active cases. Of the total cases, including 563 women patients, 1,747 people were from Aizawl district alone.

With a surge in Covid-19 cases, a week-long total lockdown was enforced in the Aizawl Municipal Council area from Tuesday to check the spread of the disease in the state capital. A Mizoram government health official said that many Covid cases with untraceable contacts have been found in the past few days, forcing the government to take the step.

The official said that at least 34 people, including two infants, have tested positive for Covid-19 since Monday in Aizawl, Mamit, Siyaha and Lawngtlai districts with 30 cases alone found in Aizawl.

international



Donald is a fighter. He loves this country (US) and he fights for you (citizens) every single day
MELANIA TRUMP | FIRST LADY OF THE US

COVID-19 CHAOS

The World Health Organisation said countries globally reported more than 2 million confirmed coronavirus cases last week – the shortest time ever for such an exponential increase since the pandemic began



of the day quote

President Donald Trump has turned jealous of COVID-19 media coverage
BARACK OBAMA | FORMER US PRESIDENT

What we must do is ensure we have the nCoV testing and the tracing and the isolation and the quarantine options
SCOTT MORRISON | AUSTRALIAN PM

The so-called genocide is a rumour deliberately started by some anti-China forces and a farce to discredit China
WANG WENBIN | CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

SHORT TAKES

Trump campaign website hacked

New York: US President Donald Trump's campaign website was hacked Tuesday afternoon in an apparent cryptocurrency scam, a report said. "This site was seized," a fake FBI notice read, before claiming without proof to have gained access to Trump's private communications containing evidence of wrongdoing, reports the New York Times. The NYT added that the hackers appeared to be looking to generate cryptocurrency and invited visitors to donate cryptocurrency to one of two funds - "Yes, share the data" and the other labeled "No, Do not share the data".

Unrest rocks Philadelphia

Philadelphia: Scores of protesters in Philadelphia have marched through the city for a second night, demanding racial justice after police fatally shot a black man. The family of Walter Wallace, 27, say he was suffering a mental health crisis when officers opened fire on him, the BBC reported.

Nigeria to build 10 new airports

Abuja: The Nigerian government has said it aims to construct 10 new airports across the country, an endeavor seeking to boost civil aviation in the most populous African country.

UK under pressure

London: The British government is under pressure to develop a national strategy to combat a surge of COVID-19 cases and "rescue Christmas" as scientists warn that the number of people hospitalised with the disease in the UK could almost triple by the end of next month unless something more is done now.

US to open embassy in Maldives: Pompeo



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Male, Oct 28: The US will open an embassy in Maldives, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced Wednesday as he held extensive talks with leadership of the strategically located island nation in the Indian Ocean, weeks after the two countries clinched a key defence co-operation agreement.

"I am pleased to announce our plan to open an Embassy in Male. Since the establishment of our diplomatic ties in 1966, we've seen Maldives make great progress in supporting democratic institutions, and we are proud to partner with them on regional security issues," Pompeo tweeted.

US embassy services for Maldives is currently available from the US embassy in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The State Department earlier said that Pompeo will travel to Male to "reaffirm our close bilateral relationship and advance our partnership on issues ranging from regional maritime security to the fight against terrorism."

The top US diplomat, who arrived here from India and Sri Lanka after holding talks with the country's leadership, said he had a "great" meeting with the Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

"Great meeting with President @ibusolih in Male. I made a historic announcement regarding our plan to open a US Embassy in Maldives. We deeply value our friendship with the Maldivian people and look forward to taking our partnership to the next level," Pompeo said in a tweet after his meeting with President Solih. President Solih and Secretary Pompeo spoke on a

wide range of issues. Discussions pertained to strengthening bilateral relations and multilateral co-operation; trade and investment facilitation; environmental conservation; cybersecurity; combatting terrorism; and upholding the principle of a stable, open and peaceful Indian Ocean region, the Maldives President's Office said in a statement.

While welcoming Pompeo to the Maldives, the President thanked him for the US Government's generous assistance towards the Maldives and their increasingly active and positive engagement with the Maldives on many important bilateral spheres.

President Solih and Secretary Pompeo affirmed their mutual commitment to work towards strengthening Maldives-US ties, the statement said.

Maldives Foreign Affairs Minister Abdulla Shahid said the announcement of the opening of the first-ever US Embassy in Maldives, today is a significant milestone in our longstanding relationship.

In September, the US and the Maldives inked a defence cooperation deal with Maldives amidst the Chinese Navy's growing presence in the Indian Ocean.

China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in the South China Sea, and with Japan in the East China Sea. Both the areas are said to be rich in minerals, oil and other natural resources.

Beijing claims almost all of the South China Sea. Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have overlapping claims in the waterway.

CHINA CRITICISES US' INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY

AGENCIES

Beijing, Oct 28: China Wednesday said its border standoff with India in eastern Ladakh is a bilateral issue, and asked the US to "stop" its Indo-Pacific strategy, terming it as an attempt to impose American hegemony in the region.

The remarks by the Chinese Foreign Ministry came a day after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo assured India that the US stands firmly with it to confront threats to its sovereignty.

Pompeo's remarks came after the third edition of the Indo-US dialogue in New Delhi during which the two sides deliberated prominently upon the Sino-India border row and situation in the Indo-Pacific region.

Reacting to the US push for closer defence ties with India, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here Wednesday that "the border affairs between China and India are matters between the two countries."

"Now the situation across the border is generally stable and the two sides are in resolving relevant issues through consultations and negotiations," he said, in apparent



'US' vision of SL different from predator China'

Colombo: America's vision on Sri Lanka is "very different" from that of "predator" China, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said here Tuesday as he met the leadership here and reaffirmed US' commitment to the island nation's sovereignty and security. Addressing a joint press conference with his Sri Lankan counterpart Dinesh Gunawardena after bilateral talks, the top US diplomat said that the US and Sri Lanka shared a democratic vision. "Indeed, a strong sovereign Sri Lanka is a positive partner on the world stage. It can be a beacon for a free Indo-Pacific," Pompeo said in response to a question.

reference to the military and diplomatic level talks between India and China to resolve the standoff.

In a blunt criticism of China, Pompeo cited the killing of 20 Indian Army personnel in the Galwan

Valley in eastern Ladakh in a clash with the Chinese military and said the US stands firmly with India in confronting threats to its sovereignty. "Our leaders and our citizens see with increasing clarity

that the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) is no friend to democracy, the rule of law transparency. I am glad to say that the US and India are taking steps to strengthen our co-operation against all manner of threats and not just those posed by the Chinese communist party," Pompeo said. Wang sharply criticised the US' Indo-Pacific concept, saying "the Indo-Pacific strategy proposed by the US is preaching outdated Cold War mentality and preaching confrontation and geopolitical game. It is aimed to uphold the hegemony of the US. This runs counter to the common interest for the region and we urge the US to stop this." "In the meantime, any concept for regional development should be in line with the trend of the times for the peaceful development and win-win cooperation," he said. The Chinese military has been flexing its muscles in the strategically vital Indo-Pacific region and is also engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in both the South China Sea and the East China Sea. Early this month, India, the US, Japan and Australia agreed to step up co-ordination in creating a free and open Indo-Pacific.

FOR A CAUSE



A woman wearing a rainbow-themed protective face mask attends a protest against the ruling by Poland's Constitutional Tribunal that imposes a near-total ban on abortion, in front of the Parliament in Warsaw, Poland

US CONGRESS GRILLS TWITTER, FACEBOOK, GOOGLE CEOs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, Oct 28: A Congressional grilling of Twitter, Facebook and Google CEOs is quickly evolving into pre-election political circus around the social media content moderation dumpster fire and allegations that Big Tech companies show anti-conservative bias.

The US elections are barely a week away and Big Tech's outside influence is under intense scrutiny.

Twitter and Facebook are under fire for their efforts to police misinformation about the elections. Most recently, Twitter and Facebook slapped a misinformation label on content from US President Donald Trump.

The Senate Commerce Committee summoned Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and Google's Sundar Pichai to testify.

The CEOs agreed to appear remotely after being threatened with subpoenas. Section 230, a provision of a 1996 US law that serves as the basis of free speech on the internet, is at the heart of the hearings today.

Lawmakers jabbed at the three tech leaders by holding up examples of multiple standards of content moderation - which don't add up. Why are some tweets taken down and others allowed to stay up, multiple Senators asked.

Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey explained how Twitter's content moderation policy revolves around tweets that fall into three buckets and not others.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said that 35,000 people work with Facebook on content moderation and suggested that whatever falls between the cracks is because of the combinatorial formula of algorithmic mediation and human intervention.

UK expert warns first set of nCoV vaccines likely to be 'imperfect'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Oct 28: The first set of COVID-19 vaccines that clear clinical trials for rollout to combat the deadly virus are likely to be imperfect and might not work equally for everyone, the chief of the UK government's Vaccine Taskforce has warned.

Kate Bingham, Chair of the UK's Vaccine Taskforce set up earlier this year to coordinate global efforts in search of a viable vaccine against the novel coronavirus, said it is important to manage expectations as the early discoveries are unlikely to prove the "silver bullet" that the world is hoping for to get to grips with the pandemic. "The first generation of vaccines is likely to be imperfect, and we should be prepared that they might not prevent infection but rather reduce symptoms, and, even then, might not work for everyone or for long," Bingham writes in an article.

ERDOGAN'S CARTOON

Turkey vows to take 'legal action'

AGENCIES

Ankara, Oct 28: Turkey has vowed to take "legal, diplomatic actions" over a cartoon of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in French magazine Charlie Hebdo.

The cartoon depicts Turkey's president lifting the dress of a veiled woman.

State media say Turkish prosecutors have launched an official investigation into the satirical magazine, the BBC reported.

Tensions between France and Turkey are high after President Emmanuel Macron pledged a tougher stance against radical Islam. Erdogan has called on Turks to boycott French goods and said Macron needed "mental checks".

Macron pledged to defend secularism following the killing of a teacher who had shown his students a cartoon of the Prophet Muhammad.



State secularism is central to France's national identity. Curbing freedom of expression to protect the feelings of one particular community undermines unity, the state says. Presidential Communications Director Fahrettin Altun said: "Charlie Hebdo just published a series of so-called cartoons full of despicable images purportedly of our President. We condemn this most disgusting effort by this publication to spread its cultural racism and hatred."

Vice-President Fuat Oktay called on the international community to raise its voice against "this disgrace". "You cannot fool anyone by hiding behind freedom of thought," he said on Twitter.

In response, the Turkish pro-government satirical magazine Misvak posted a number of cartoons criticising Macron and Charlie Hebdo on its Twitter page.

In 2015, 12 people were killed in an attack on the offices of the magazine in Paris. It was targeted by Islamic extremists for publishing cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad.

The same year, Russia heavily criticised the magazine for two cartoons depicting the Sinai air crash in which 224 people, mostly Russians, died. In 2016, a cartoon depicting Italian earthquake victims as pasta dishes caused outrage.

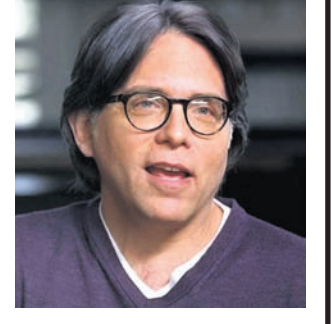
US self-styled guru jailed for 120 years

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

New York, Oct 28: A "self-help" guru convicted of running a cult-like organisation of sex slaves who were branded with his initials was sentenced to 120 years in prison by a New York judge Tuesday.

The effective life sentence for Keith Raniere, 60, comes after he was found guilty of coercing women into having sex with him as the charismatic leader of Nxivm, a life-coaching group that attracted a coterie of rich and famous devotees.

Followers signed up for \$5,000, five-day self-help courses, but some were then financially and sexually exploited and forced to follow a restrictive diet, as Raniere - known as "Vanguard" - exerted control, his six-week trial heard.



He established a faction within the group called DOS, a pyramid structure in which the women were "slaves" and "Grand Master" Raniere sat at the top.

Raniere was convicted in June 2019 on all seven charges brought against him, including racketeering, sex trafficking, extortion, criminal conspiracy and the sexual exploitation of a 15-year-old girl.

US early voting tops 70mn, continuing historic pace

AGENCIES

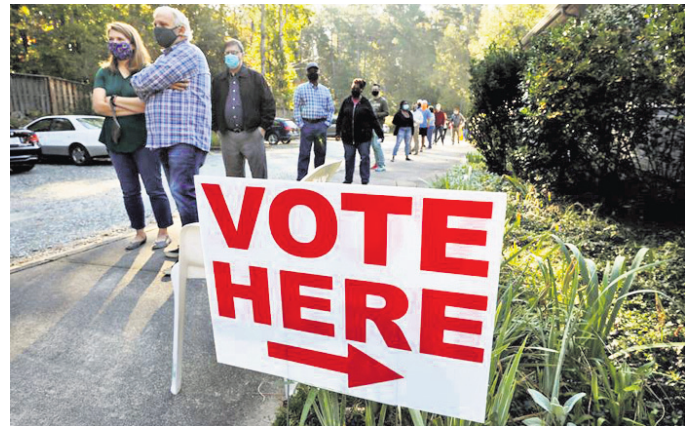
Washington, Oct 28: More than 70 million Americans have cast ballots in the US presidential election, more than half the total turnout of the 2016 election with one week to go until Election Day, according to a tally from the US Elections Project.

The tally, which shows a record-breaking pace that could lead to the highest voter turnout in percentage terms in more than a century, is the latest sign of intense interest in the contest between Republican President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden. It also highlights voters' desire to reduce their risk of exposure to COVID-19 as the pandemic re-

gathers strength heading into winter.

Democrats hold a significant advantage in early voting due to their embrace of mail balloting, which Republicans have historically cast in large numbers but have shunned amid repeated and unfounded attacks by Trump, who says the system is prone to widespread fraud.

Overall, Democrats hold roughly a two-to-one advantage in early voting numbers. However, Republicans in recent weeks have narrowed the gap in early, in-person voting, data shows. The high level of early voting has led Michael McDonald, the University of Florida professor who administers the US Elections Project, to predict a record US voter turnout of about 150 million, representing 65% of those eligible to vote, the highest rate since 1908.



US voters have already cast far more early votes during this presidential campaign than they did in all of 2016 when they passed the 47 million mark earlier this month, data shows.

Reacting to the voter percentage, Tim Murtaugh, a spokesman for President Donald Trump's re-election campaign, said: "The huge majority of President Trump's supporters are planning to vote on Election Day and Democrats are going to be short of the early vote marks they need in key battleground states. According to the latest Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll released October 21, Biden was in the lead with support from 49 per cent of registered voters, while Trump had the backing of 45 per cent. The Hill news agency reported.

An October poll conducted by Henson's organisation found Biden outperforming Trump among independents, 45% to 37%. In 2016, Hillary Clinton lost the same group

by nearly 30 percentage points. The US saw the lowest rates of eligible voter turnout at the end of the 18th century and beginning of the 19th century.

But trends changed in the mid-19th century, when the US began to see "astronomical" turnout, said Barry Burden, a political science professor and director of the Elections Research Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The turnout rate started to rise in 2004 and, in 2008, the US saw the highest rate of eligible voter turnout in a presidential election in the last 50 years: 61.65%. The 2016 election also saw turnout about 60%, and the 2018 midterm election drew the highest midterm turnout since 1914.

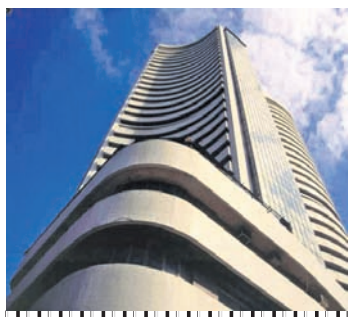


The education of thousands of children has been disrupted. We hope Amazon's contribution of 5,000 devices will grow into a national movement with the support of our customers

MANISH TIWARY | VP, AMAZON INDIA

BANKING, FINANCE STOCKS STUMBLE

The Sensex crashed 600 points while the Nifty slumped below the 11,750-mark Wednesday, in tandem with a deep global selloff as a second wave of coronavirus cases in Europe and the US stoked fears.



of the day quote

The FMCG sector has witnessed some green shoots of revival in consumer sentiment with the gradual easing of lockdown restrictions imposed to curb the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

SAUGATA GUPTA | MD & CEO, MARICO

The prolonged lockdowns have also dramatically transformed consumer buying behaviour while making them more health and socially conscious

RAJAT WAHI | DELOITTE INDIA PARTNER

In India, we had introduced the 'Power of Five' in 2018. It is a community-based global campaign to address childhood malnutrition

ANSHU BUDHRAJA | CEO, AMWAY INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Dr Reddy's Q2 profit falls 30%

New Delhi: Dr Reddy's Laboratories Wednesday reported 30.22 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at ₹762.3 crore for September quarter 2020-21. The company had posted a profit of ₹1,092.5 crore for the year-ago period, Dr Reddy's said in a filing to BSE. Revenue stood at ₹4,896.7 crore in the quarter under review. "We are pleased to report continued growth across all the markets," Dr Reddy's Laboratories Co-chairman & MD G V Prasad said.

Airtel's metrics positive in Q2

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel has delivered "solid" all round performance in the September quarter with revenue surpassing estimates, while its India mobile metrics logged improvement in key areas like growth in total subscribers without ARPU dilution, and 4G additions, according to analysts. ICICI Securities said Bharti Airtel's second quarter numbers underlined "superior execution" in India mobile and other segments. ICICI Securities believes that higher 4G subscriber base will enable the telco to better transfer tariff hike into Average Revenue Per User (ARPU).

Titan's profit declines 38 pc

New Delhi: Tata group firm Titan Company Ltd Wednesday reported a 37.81 per cent decline in its standalone net profit to ₹199 crore for the quarter ended September 30, on account of higher expenses. The company had reported a net profit of ₹320 crore in the corresponding period of the previous financial year. Its total income for the quarter was ₹4,389 crore, down 1.72 per cent as compared with the income of ₹4,466 crore previous year.

RBL Bank profit jumps two-fold

New Delhi: Private sector lender RBL Bank Wednesday reported over two-fold jump in its standalone net profit to ₹144 crore for the second quarter ended September 30. The bank had posted a net profit of ₹54 crore in the same quarter previous fiscal. Its total revenue grew by 6 per cent during July-September period of 2020-21 to ₹1,388 crore as against ₹1,310 crore a year ago, RBL Bank said in a regulatory filing. However, net NPAs improved to 1.38 per cent as against 1.56 per cent.

Airtel to stay away from 5G auctions

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 28: Lack of a reliable ecosystem and the high price of the coveted 5G spectrum will deter Bharti Airtel from participating in the auctions if they happen next year.

Bharti Airtel CEO Gopal Vittal said that the company would stay away from the 5G auctions, if they happened next year as the spectrum offered at the current prices were not affordable for the company.

"The 5G ecosystem is yet to develop here and the prices are very high and we can't afford them," Vittal said during the company's post earnings call.

He said that the company would not buy the airwaves at the current prices at the rates suggested by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

This is not the first time the company has expressed reservations over bidding for the 5G auctions. Bharti Airtel has maintained this stance since the time the regulator came out with its suggestions on spectrum pricing.

TRAI has recommended the auction of about 8,644 MHz of telecom frequencies, including those for 5G services, at an estimated total base price of ₹4.9 trillion.

Telecom companies including Vodafone Idea (VI) and Reliance Jio have said that the current prices are exorbitant.



Vittal also pitched for an increase in tariffs and said that the current prices were not sustainable.

Bharti Airtel on Tuesday posted a net loss of ₹763 crore for the July-September quarter (Q2). The company had posted a consolidated net loss of ₹23,045 crore in the same quarter last year, after provisioning for the adjusted gross revenues (AGR) dues.

The company posted the highest ever rise in revenue, mainly on account of customer addition and higher data consumption.

Revenues increased 22 per cent YoY to ₹25,785 crore compared to ₹21,131 crore a year ago.

Ebitda (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) margin was up 366 basis points (bps) YoY at 46 per cent - the highest in at least five quarters. EBIT margin improved by 768 bps YoY at 17.1 per cent.

In the India business, monthly average revenue per user (ARPU), an important matrix to gauge the telco's performance, rose to ₹162 from ₹128 a year ago and ₹157 in the June 2020 quarter.

Operationally, the quarter was good. Consolidated EBIT at ₹4,412 crore (up 121 per cent YoY) was much ahead of analysts' estimates of ₹2,616 crore. Likewise, cash profit from operations (before derivative and exchange fluctuations) surged 32 per cent YoY to ₹8,048 crore.

Airtel also announced its exit from Ghanaian telecom market, selling its 49.95 per cent stake to the Government of Ghana. Consequently, it took an impairment charge of ₹184 crore.

When asked about the suspension of interconnect usage charges, Vittal said, "All the operators are on equal footing as far as IUC charges is concerned, we don't mind if they are done away with."

US investors urge SEBI to reform rules

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 28: Investors and other market stakeholders from US have asked India's capital market regulator SEBI to bring in reforms in the regulations for initial public offering (IPO), a statement said Wednesday.

SEBI Chairman Ajay Tyagi, along with other SEBI officials, had an e-interaction Tuesday with various stakeholders including industry and investor associations from the US. The interaction was organised by US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).

In the statement, the SEBI said that the participants also emphasised the need for early finalisation of direct listing proposal, development of the corporate bond market, digitisation of processes, and showed interest in participating in innovative ideas under SEBI's regulatory sandbox framework.



Various queries raised during the meetings on multiple issues were clarified by the SEBI team, it said.

Tyagi said: "We interacted with various stakeholders including the investors in the Indian capital markets from the US. We briefed them about the key developments of the Indian economy as well as the recent trends in the securities market, especially in this Covid era."

Sugar consumption stagnant, says Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: The government Wednesday said there is a need to address myths and misgivings about sugar consumption in India, as the per capita consumption of the sweetener has remained stagnant for the last three years at 19 kilogram.



Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey, after launching industry body ISMA's portal 'httpmeetha.org' said India is one of the world's largest consumers of sugar but per capita consumption has remained stagnant at 19 kg, much lower than the world's average per capita consumption of 23.50 kg.

The country's annual sugar consumption stood at 25-26 million tonnes, while production reached 27.5 million tonnes in the 2019-20 season ending September.

There are a lot of myths going around about sugar and sugar consumption without scientific basis. This misinformation multiplies much faster than the truth multiplies. Therefore, it is very important to come up with scientific information so that people can make very informed decisions, Pandey said.

Pandey further said there is also misunderstanding about Indian sugar abroad.

Somehow, it has been created that Indian sugar industry or Indian sugar is not as good as perhaps the Brazilian sugar or Thai sugar which is not the case, he said.

To counter the false narrative, the Secretary said that Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) through its portal 'httpmeetha.org' and social media campaigns aims to educate people with right and scientific information about sugar.

He suggested the industry body to launch the portal in regional and foreign languages as well for better reach.

The Secretary also mentioned that sugar consumption depends on many parameters such as economic growth, consumption pattern and expenditure.

BIZ BUZZ

Microsoft & NSDC to empower 1L women

New Delhi:

Microsoft

Wednesday said it

has collaborated

with the National

Skill Development

Corporation (NSDC)

to impart digital

skills to more than

one lakh underserved

women in India over the

next 10 months. As part

of the collaboration, more

than 70 hours of course

content will be made

available free of cost,

covering topics such as

digital literacy,

enhancing employability,

nano entrepreneurship,

and communication skills.

This initiative is an

extension of Microsoft's

partnership with NSDC

to provide digital skills

to over 1 lakh youth in

the country. "The (latest)

partnership is focused on

enhancing women's

workforce participation

by equipping them with

skills," a statement said.



Micromax ties up with MediaTek for 'In' phones

New Delhi:

Homegrown phone

vendor Micromax

Wednesday

said it has partnered

with Taiwanese

chipset maker

MediaTek to design

and develop

smartphones for

its new "in" brand.

Earlier this

month, Micromax

announced

its new "in" sub-

brand and said

it was looking at

investing ₹500

crore over next

12-18 months

towards R&D,

marketing and

sprucing up

manufacturing

as it looks to

make a comeback

in the Indian

market and

take on Chinese

giants like

Xiaomi. The

company is

expected to

launch its

first device

under the new

brand in the

first week of

November. Micromax

is collaborating

with MediaTek

to design and

develop

smartphone

solutions

powered by

MediaTek

Helio G Series

with MediaTek

HyperEngine

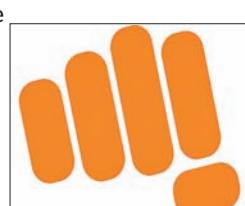
game

technology,

a statement

said

Wednesday.



Kolkata most affordable mkt for home purchase

New Delhi:

Kolkata has

emerged as the

most affordable

market this year

for home

purchase among

India's seven

major cities,

according to

property

consultant

JLL India. As

per JLL's

annual Home

Purchase

Affordability

Index (HPAI),

the

affordability

has improved

in 2020

across all

seven major

cities despite

a fall in

average

household

income. The

consultant

attributed

this decline

in both

housing

prices as

well as

interest

rates on

home

loans. HPAI

-- the

ratio of the

average

household

income to

the

eligible

household

income --

of Kolkata

is highest

at 203,

followed

by

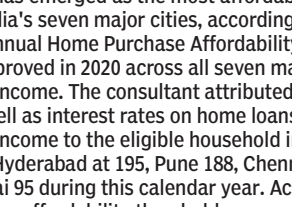
Hyderabad

at 195,

Pune

188,

Chennai



US: Spy agency ducks questions about 'back doors'

THESE SO-CALLED BACK DOORS ENABLE THE NSA AND OTHER AGENCIES TO SCAN LARGE AMOUNTS OF TRAFFIC WITHOUT A WARRANT

REUTERS

San Francisco, Oct 28: The US National Security Agency is rebuffing efforts by a leading Congressional critic to determine whether it is continuing to place so-called back doors into commercial technology products, in a controversial practice that critics say damages both US industry and national security.

The NSA has long sought agreements with technology companies under which they would build special access for the spy agency into their products, according to disclosures by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden and reporting by Reuters and others.

These so-called back doors enable the NSA and other agencies to scan large amounts of traffic without a warrant. Agency advocates say the practice has eased collection of vital intelligence in other countries, including interception of terrorist communications.

The agency developed new rules for such practices after the Snowden leaks in order to reduce the chances of exposure and compromise, three former intelligence officials told Reuters. But aides to Senator Ron Wyden, a leading Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, say the NSA has stonewalled on providing even the gist of the new guidelines.

"Secret encryption back doors are a threat to national security and the safety of our families - it's not a matter of time before foreign hackers or criminals exploit them in ways that undermine American national security," Wyden told Reuters. "The government shouldn't have any role in planting secret back doors in encryption technology used by Americans."

The agency declined to say how it had updated its policies on obtaining special access to commercial products. NSA officials said the agency has been rebuilding



trust with the private sector through such measures as offering warnings about software flaws.

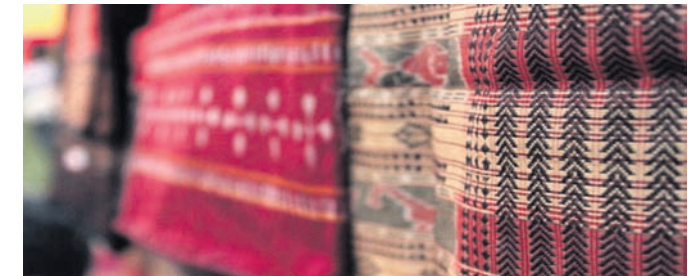
"At NSA, it's common practice to constantly assess processes to identify and determine best practices," said Anne Neuberger, who heads NSA's year-old Cybersecurity Directorate. "We don't share specific processes and procedures."

Three former senior intelligence agency figures told Reuters that the NSA now requires that before a back door is sought, the agency must weigh the potential fallout and arrange for some kind of warning if the back door gets discovered and manipulated by adversaries.

The continuing quest for hidden access comes as governments in the United States, the United Kingdom and elsewhere seek laws that would require tech companies to let governments see unencrypted traffic. Defenders of strong encryption say the NSA's sometimes-botched efforts to install back doors in commercial products show the dangers of such requirements.

Critics of the NSA's practices say they create targets for adversaries, undermine trust in US technology and compromise efforts to persuade allies to reject Chinese technology that could be used for espionage, since US gear can also be turned to such purposes.

1K Bargarh weavers trained under HMI



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: Over 1000 Sambalpuri handloom weavers from Bargarh have been trained in aspects of enterprise creation and business development under Project 'Handmade in India' (HMI) implemented by Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII).

EDII and Ernst & Young LLP (EY) have jointly undertaken the implementation of HSBC supported project "Hand-Made in India," intending to strengthen the handloom value chain, making the weavers self-reliant. Interventions such as credit linkage, capacity building, market linkage, design development, and enterprise the development were conducted at Bargarh handloom cluster.

Apart from Bargarh, around 3000 weavers in the handloom clusters of Bhuj and Surendranagar in Gujarat; Kamrup in Assam; Maheshwar in Madhya Pradesh and Salem in Tamil Nadu have been also been roped in the first phase of the project.

According to EDII officials, aim of the initiative is to develop entrepreneurial competencies in the weavers as they generally have a lesser inclination towards diversifying product. Most of the weavers and traders are not digitally savvy, so there is a challenge of using the e-commerce portals and social media platforms effectively.

"Due to Covid, the price of raw material has also increased which the weavers are unable to afford. Keeping this in mind, the project concentrates on product development to capture larger and high-end markets with a special focus on exports, according to EDII official statement.

EDII HMI Cluster teams have also conducted training sessions on Digital Marketing. The weavers were trained to open their accounts on Facebook, Instagram and other e-commerce portals.

Parliamentary panel summons Jio, Airtel, Uber, Ola, Truecaller

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 2

SkY too high for RCB

AGENCIES

Abu Dhabi, Oct 28: Suryakumar Yadav (79, 43b, 10x4, 3x6) played a splendid knock to help Mumbai Indians register a comfortable five-wicket victory over Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in their IPL encounter here, Wednesday.

Chasing a competitive 165, MI kept their pace intact with the required rate despite losing wickets at regular intervals. And all credit goes to SkY, who guided MI home. Mohammed Siraj (2/28) and Yuzvendra Chahal (2/37) bagged two wickets each for RCB.

Earlier, young Devdutt Padikkal (74, 45b, 12x4, 1x6) pummelled the Mumbai Indians (MI) attack into submission with a sublime knock before Jasprit Bumrah (3/14) stopped RCB at 164/6.


Put in to bat, Padikkal added 71 runs for the opening wicket with Josh Philippe (33). However, the RCB then suffered a middle-order collapse as Mumbai roared back into the game with lead pacer Bumrah doing the bulk of damage.

The two openers continued playing their shots, the highlight being Philippe's six over Trent Boult's head in the fifth over. Padikkal then went on the offensive against James Pattinson as RCB raced to 54 for no loss in six overs.

However, leg-spinner Rahul Chahar (1/43) pulled things back for Mumbai, removing Philippe, who was stumped by Quinton de Kock. Padikkal completed his fifty with



SURYAKUMAR YADAV



KL RAHUL
(KKIP)
595 runs
12 matches



KAGISO RABADA
(DC)
23 wickets
12 matches

TEAM	M	W	L	N/R	NRR	PTS
MI	12	8	4	0	1.186	16
RCB	12	7	5	0	0.048	14
DC	12	7	5	0	0.030	14
KKR	12	6	6	0	-0.049	12
SRH	12	5	7	0	0.396	10
RR	12	5	7	0	-0.505	10
CSK	12	4	8	0	-0.602	8

another four. Skipper Virat Kohli (9) perished early as RCB slipped to 95/2, but Padikkal continued his onslaught.

Mumbai then took four wickets in quick succession, removing AB De Villiers (15), Shivam Dube (2), Padikkal and Chris Morris (4), as RCB slumped to 138/6.

Gurkeerat Mann made a quick 14 but Mumbai, known for their effectiveness in the death, allowed RCB only 35 runs in the last five overs.

BRIEF SCORES: RCB 164/6 (Devidutt Padikkal 74, Josh Philippe 33; Jasprit Bumrah 3/14) lost to MI 166/5 (Suryakumar Yadav 79 n o; Mohammed Siraj 2/28) by 5 wickets.

CSK test ahead of KKR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 28: Already out of play-offs reckoning, a relaxed Chennai Super Kings (CSK) are ready to play party-poopers with an aim to foil Kolkata Knight Riders' (KKR) desperate bid for a victory in an Indian Premier League (IPL) game Thursday.

KKR with 12 points from 12 games would like to win the next two encounters to ensure a smooth passage while CSK, currently at the bottom of the eight-team table, are only playing for pride.

A possibility remains that multiple teams will end up on either 16 or 14 points and a comprehensive victory at this stage of the tournament, will bring the superior net run-rate into equation when the play-off spots are decided.

It won't get too easy for KKR against CSK, who handed an eight-wicket thrashing to Royal Challengers Bangalore in their previous outing.

KKR's unsettled batting order is a point of concern for Eoin Morgan, who would hope that former skipper Dinesh Karthik produces his 'A' game when it matters most.

Nitish Rana, who shone in the win over Delhi Capitals came a cropper in the subsequent loss to Kings XI Punjab. If the top order fires, KKR will be better served as inconsistency has hurt the team in the course of the season as has the constant chopping and changing.

The bowlers have done a good job



so far, with Tamil Nadu's mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy being impressive and earning a spot in the Indian T20 team.

They need to be at the top of their game against the CSK batting unit that has been frustratingly inconsistent but is more than capable of being destructive on its day.

Paceman Pat Cummins, the Knight Riders' costliest buy, has not been able to make the desired impact with the ball save for one game and would need to put his hand up in this crucial match.

Against CSK, which is missing out on the play-offs for the first time ever, Kolkata's batting faces a varmed attack which was boosted with

TODAY'S MATCH

CSK VS KKR

AT 7:30 PM

TELECAST: STAR SPORTS

the inclusion of Mitchell Santner in the last game and needs to step up. CSK, on their part, will be aiming to build on the win over RCB and end the season on a high, apart from hurting the chances of play-off hopefuls.

The batting showed some spark with the young Ruturaj Gaikwad coming up with an enterprising knock and skipper Dhoni will be hoping he keeps the good form going.

The CSK bowlers choked a strong RCB batting unit with a performance that reminded CSK of yore and that should be a worry for the KKR batsmen short on consistency. For CSK, any win would be welcome as they endured a forgettable season which is just about to wind down.

England's World Cup-winning captain Morgan will hope to lead from the front but that would call for a collective performance. There is a lot at stake for the Knights and they would settle for nothing less than a big win.

Reds hit 10,000th goal in CL victory



NIGHT TO REMEMBER: Diogo Jota celebrates after scoring Liverpool's historic goal against FC Midtjylland, Tuesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liverpool, Oct 28: Diogo Jota scored the 10,000th goal in Liverpool's 128-year history to lead the six-time European champion to a 2-0 win over FC Midtjylland in the Champions League.

Mohamed Salah converted a penalty in stoppage time to complete the win for the English champions, who have opened Group D with back-to-back victories — having beaten Ajax 1-0 last week.

Jota's historic goal came in the 55th minute when he tapped in from close range following a well-worked move involving Xherdan Shaqiri and Trent Alexander-Arnold.

The negative for Liverpool at Anfield was an injury to Fabinho which forced off the Brazil midfielder and deepened the team's

early-season defensive woes.

Fabinho has been filling in at center back for Virgil van Dijk, who is likely out for many months after damaging cruciate knee ligaments. With Joel Matip currently struggling for fitness, Liverpool has just one fit senior center back in Joe Gomez.

Midtjylland, the Danish champion playing their first away game in Europe's elite competition, troubled Liverpool at times and wasted two great chances — both of which fell to the same player.

Anders Dreyer was denied by goalkeeper Alisson in a one-on-one chance in the opening minutes, then chipped a shot into the side-netting when through on goal in the 89th, when the score was 1-0. Midtjylland opened the group campaign with a 0-4 loss to Atalanta.

Casemiro saves Real the blushes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Oct 28: With one point from their opening two games, Real Madrid are facing another fight to preserve their proud record of qualifying for the knockout stage in all of their seasons in the Champions League.

It could have been a whole lot worse for the record 13-time European champions Tuesday, though. Heading into the 87th minute against Borussia Monchengladbach, Madrid were trailing 0-2 and on course for four straight losses in the Champions League for the first time.

However, goals by Karim Benzema and then Casemiro — in the third minute of stoppage time — rescued a 2-2 draw for the Spanish champions, who opened with a 3-2 loss at home to Shakhtar Donetsk last week.



Casemiro (R) rushes towards his position after scoring the late equaliser against Lokomotiv Moscow, Tuesday

OTHER RESULTS

Atletico 3 - 2 Salzburg

Marseille 0 - 3 Man City

Atalanta 2 - 2 Ajax

FC Porto 2 - 0 Olympiacos

Next up for Madrid is a double-header against Inter Milan, the team who were supposed to be their toughest rival in Group B but which is also still without a win.

A 0-0 draw at Shakhtar, during which Inter hit the crossbar twice, came a week after a 2-2 draw with Monchengladbach.

Madrid are in bigger trouble, though, in their 25th campaign in the Champions League, in which the team have never been eliminated in the group stage.

Last season, Zinedine Zidane's side started in almost identical fashion, losing their opener — 0-3

to Paris Saint-Germain — and then drawing 2-2 in their second match against Club Brugge. The overall standard of their group is tougher this time round.

"This is going to be a difficult year for everyone," Zidane said. Defending champion Bayern Munich are having no such trouble, with a 2-1 victory at Lokomotiv Moscow extending its winning run in the Champions League to 13 games.

Also on a maximum of six points is Manchester City after a 3-0 win at Marseille, as the English team continue their latest bid to become European champion for the first time.

Liverpool is the other team to have won both of its games so far, with Diogo Jota scoring the club's 10,000th goal of its 128-year history to set up a 2-0 home win over FC Midtjylland.

Bayern scrape past Lokomotiv Moscow



JOSHUA KIMMICH

REUTERS

Moscow, Oct 28: Bayern Munich's Joshua Kimmich volleyed in a 79th-minute winner Tuesday as they battled past hosts Lokomotiv Moscow 2-1 in their Champions League Group A match to extend their winning run in the competition to 13 consecutive games.

Leon Goretzka headed them in front in the 13th minute but they squandered a string of chances to double their lead and also hit the post before Anton Miranchuk punished their wastefulness following a quick break from Ze Luis.

Bayern, winners of five trophies in 2020, are top of their group on six points, after also beating Atletico Madrid 4-0 last week in their opener.

The Russians, who have one point, had the first good chance through Fyodor Smolov's third-minute header but Bayern's

Goretzka did better, heading in a perfect Benjamin Pavard cross.

Kingsley Coman then struck the foot of the post 10 minutes later after an identical assist from Pavard with the Russians clearly struggling with Bayern's pace down the wings.

Kimmich should have done better when he fired at a defender from two metres out early in the second half but the midfielder then made amends 11 minutes from the end.

With Lokomotiv pressing for a second goal, he picked up the ball on the edge of the box and with his back to the goal, flicked it up, pivoted and volleyed in the winner.

Bayern next visit Salzburg while Lokomotiv, who have lost six of their last seven home games in the Champions League group stage, host Atletico.

CA arranges D/N warm-up game

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, Oct 28: The Indian cricket team will get an additional Day/Night warm-up game in Sydney as a tune-up to the series-opening Pink Ball Test against Australia in Adelaide from December 17, the host board announced Wednesday unveiling the full schedule of the 69-day engagement.

The tour will include a 14-day quarantine-cum-training period in Sydney starting November 12 for the Indians who will fly in after the IPL final November 10.

The Border-Gavaskar Trophy will begin with a day-night encounter at the Adelaide Oval December 17, followed by Tests at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (December 26), the Sydney Cricket Ground (January 7) and the Gabba (January 15).

As per BCCI's demands, there is a week's gap between the Boxing Day Test at the MCG and the New Year's Test at the SCG.

INDIA'S TOUR OF AUSTRALIA

FORMAT	DATE	VENUE
1st ODI	Nov 27	SCG (D/N)
2nd ODI	Nov 29	SCG (D/N)
3rd ODI	Dec 2	Canberra (D/N)
1st T20I	Dec 4	Canberra (N)
2nd T20I	Dec 6	SCG (N)
3rd T20I	Dec 8	SCG (N)
1st Test	Dec 17-21	Adelaide (D/N)
2nd Test	Dec 26-30	Melbourne
3rd Test	Jan 7-11	Sydney
4th Test	Jan 15-19	Brisbane

"India's squad will arrive in Sydney November 12 subject to Australian Border Force travel authorisation and the appropriate departure approvals. The team will quarantine in Sydney prior to the first match of the series November

27," Cricket Australia stated in a media release.

"...CA can also confirm dates for tour matches ahead of the Test series. India A will take on Australia A at Drummoyne Oval (New South Wales) (December 6-8), and India will play Australia A in a day-night match at the Sydney Cricket Ground (December 11-13)," the release stated.

Neither side have lost a day-night Test previously, with the Australians winning all four twilight Tests in Adelaide against New Zealand, South Africa, England and Pakistan, and India winning their only encounter at Eden Gardens versus Bangladesh.

Nick Hockley, CA's Interim CEO, said that the Boxing Day Test might feature spectators at the MCG as the board is coordinating with the Victorian State government on the issue. "We are working with the Victorian Government and the Melbourne Cricket Club on plans to safely host spectators at the iconic event with details to be confirmed in due course," Hockley said.

Malvika out of SaarLorLux Open tourney

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Saarbrücken (Germany), Oct 28: Indian shuttler Malvika Bansod suffered a straight-game loss to Kristin Kuuba of Estonia in the women's singles opening round of the SaarLorLux Open Super 100 tournament here Wednesday.

Playing her first match since the coronavirus-forced break, the 19-year-old Indian's campaign lasted a little over half an hour as she went down 12-21, 19-21 to Kristin.

Malvika was no match in the opening game as her experienced rival opened up a solid lead of 11-4 at the break and kept moving ahead to pocket the game.

In the second game, Malvika gave a better account of herself as she was 10-11 at the interval. After the breather, she grabbed five points on the trot to lead 17-15 but Kristin came back strongly to shut the match.

Bartomeu, Barca board quit

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Oct 28: Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu resigned amid the fallout of his feud with star Lionel Messi, and on his way out revealed the Spanish club wants to join a potential new super league of elite European teams.

After one of the club's worst seasons in more than a decade, Bartomeu announced that his entire board of directors also resigned, effectively avoiding a motion of censure vote that was scheduled for the coming weeks.

Bartomeu wanted to delay the vote, citing health concerns for the club's more than 110,000 members amid the coronavirus pandemic, but local officials earlier in the day authorized the vote to take place.

"We have to act responsibly," Bartomeu said. "For that reason we cannot hold the vote of censure in the current circumstances. It was necessary to do so in conditions that guaranteed everybody's



health. We cannot nor want to put ourselves in a position of having to choose between protecting people's health and exercising the right to vote. For that reason we have taken the decision to not call the vote and resign forthwith."

More than 20,000 Barcelona members had signed a petition for Bartomeu and his board to face a motion of censure.

The petition was made not long after Messi said he wanted to leave the club, and following the team's embarrassing 2-8 loss to Bayern Munich in the Champions League, a result that capped the club's first

season without a title since 2007-08.

Messi was critical of club directors last season and said he didn't like the direction the club was headed. He personally complained of Bartomeu for not keeping his promise to let him leave.

Bartomeu said on Monday that he explained to Messi and his family that he could not let the world's best player depart before the end of his contract, which expires at the end of this season. Bartomeu had also said that resigning had not crossed his mind.

He said "the desire of this board of directors has never been to hold on to power at the club," which will now be managed by an interim board until new elections are held.

Bartomeu added that the club had given its initial approval to a new competition. "I can announce that we approved the requirements to be part of a European Super League," Bartomeu said. "The decision to play the competition now must be ratified by the next (club) assembly."