

# 

How will this app help me find COVID +ve people if it can't find out its own developer?!

### SHORT TAKES

### 7,000 tonnes of onion imported

New Delhi: As retail onion prices skyrocket to over ₹80 a kg in some parts of the country, **Consumer Affairs Minister** Piyush Goyal on Friday said private import of 7,000 tonnes and another 25,000 tonnes shipment before Diwali are expected to improve the domestic supply situation and check price rise of the commodity. Enough supply will be there in the market as cooperative Nafed will also commence imports. Not only onion, about 10 lakh tonnes of potato is also being imported.

### Spl counters for Mahaprasad sale

Puri: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) and the Puri district administration have made special arrangements for sale of Mahaprasad to people in the Holy month of Kartika. The SJTA and the district administration have initiated the process for opening two temporary counters for Mahaprasad sale at the North and South gates of Srimandir. "The places identified for the temporary counters were

### Victim compensation a far cry

A significant no. of female victims in the state have not been compensated under Odisha Victim Compensation Scheme

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: With a significant rise in incidents related to violence against women in the past few years, the state has been unable to compensate most of the victims thus far.

Experts as well as various courts have repeatedly stressed on the need to ensure proper rehabilitation and compensation to the victims who usually undergo huge physical, mental and financial trauma as a result of the crime. Adequate compensation to the victims is just as important as bringing the offender to justice.

Various state governments in the country have enacted Victim Compensation Schemes for the purpose to provide "funds for compensation to the victims or their dependents, who have suffered loss or injury as a result of the crime and who require rehabilitation.

However, a recent RTI reply revealed that the authorities have failed to provide compensations to more than half of the women victims under the 'Odisha Victim Compensation Scheme'(OVCS) in the state between 2013 and August 2020

6 die in Turkey

as earthquake

hits Aegean Sea



As per the OVCS (Amendment), 2018, a rape victim is eligible to get financial compensation between ₹4 lakh to a maximum of ₹7 lakh. Gang rape victims can be awarded a maximum of ₹10 lakhs. Similarly, an acid attack victim will get a maximum of ₹8 lakhs in fi-

**AUTHORITIES COMPENSATED 158** FEMALE VICTIMS IN 2015 WHILE THERE WERE 2286 RAPES, 109 GANG RAPES AND **SEVEN ACID ATTACKS DURING THE YEAR** 

AS MANY AS 751 WERE COMPENSATED UNDER THE SCHEME IN 2017 AS AGAINST 2221 RAPE, 92 GANG RAPE AND 13 ACID **ATTACK INCIDENTS IN** THE YEAR

### nancial aid.

In reply to a RTI query by human rights activist Himnshu Sekhar Nayak, Odisha State Legal Service Authority informed that only 77 victims received financial aid under the scheme in 2013. Meanwhile, the crime branch of

state police, while replying to another RTI query by Nayak, revealed that 1832 rape, 94 gang rape and one acid attack case have been registered in the state during 2013.

In 2014, as many as 176 women victims managed to get compensation as against 2011 rape, 91 gang rape and nine acid attack cases. The authorities compensated 158 women victims in 2015 while there were 2286 rapes, 109 gang rapes and seven acid attacks during the year.

As many as 373 in 2016 and 751 in 2017 were compensated under the scheme. There were 2221 rape, 92 gang rape and 13 acid attack incidents in the state during 2017. The number of victims getting compensations declined to 721 in 2018 from 751 during the previous year. The number further falls to 545 in 2019.

As per the RTI, as many as 424 victims received financial aid till August 31, 2020.

'The delay in disbursement of compensation to the victims is due to lingering court trials and snail-paced investigation by the police," said an official of Odisha State Legal Services Authority, the agency authorised to disburse compensations

### SW Cement Start Strong. Grow Stronger. 1800 266 266 1 (tollfree)

### 50% residents in City developed antibodies

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: Nearly half of the residents of Bhubaneswar have developed antibodies to fight novel coronavirus, Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) director Sanghamitra Pati said here at a presser Friday.

Informing about the results of the third Serological Survey conducted jointly by RMRC, Bhubaneswar **Municipal Corporation** (BMC) and Health department in the city between October 16 and 18, Pati said that as many as 1403 samples were collected from 25 wards on a random basis and the survey report shows that approximately 50 per cent of the population have developed antibodies.

Out of 25 wards, ward no-55 has the lowest percentage of antibodies (28 per cent) while ward no-16 has the highest antibodies (63 per cent). Apart from this, 10 wards have more 50 per cent and five wards have more than 60 per cent sero prevalence, she said. During

Parida warned. the survey, the medical team found that people irrespective of age group and gender have been exposed to the virus uniformly.

State 'examining'

re-infection cases

Odisha is also witnessing re-

infected cases and scientists

said Institute of Life Science

here Friday. The re-infection

cases in Odisha are very less

are examining the reason

behind such re-infection,

(ILS) Director Ajay Parida

in comparison to other

of Covid-19 cases may

ness a second wave of

should remain careful,"

states. "With the arrival of

winter season, the number

increase and state may wit-

Covid-19. Therefore, we all

Like many other states,

When a person is infected by Covid-19, it takes 2-4 weeks to develop antibodies. Going by this study, the findings of the antibody level in the third sero survey corresponds to the infection status of at least three weeks prior to survey, the director said



REUTERS

**P**3

Istanbul, Oct 30: Six people were killed in Turkey after a strong earthquake struck the Aegean Sea on Friday, bringing buildings crashing down and setting off tidal waves which slammed into coastal areas and nearby Greek islands

### Anubhay, Varsha mediation Nov 15

### POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 30: Following the direction of the Supreme Court, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Anubhav Mohanty and his wife Varsha Priyadarshini will meet November 15 to explore possibilities of mutual settlement of marital discord at the apex court mediation centre here.

Advocate Ashwini Dubey, counsel of Anubhav Mohanty, said that after a discussion with Varsha Priyadarshini's counsel, they have decided to hold mediation November 15 at the Supreme Court mediation centre. Dubey said that the mediator has not been finalised yet. The apex court likely to take up the

matter for hearing December 8. Significantly, the Supreme Court had



Court's mediation centre here. The bench had observed that the couple are high profile personalities of Odia cinema and asked them to ex- MUTUAL SETTLEMENT plore possibilities of amicable

settlement. Earlier, Varsha had moved the husband and always tried to give him

BJD MP had filed the divorce petition in Patiala House Court here July 7 and submitted that since the date of wedding, the marriage between them has not been consummated due to the selfish behaviour of Varsha

In the petition, Mohanty submitted that his wife Varsha stayed with him only for 18 months from the date of marriage and the said 18 months phase of married life was a period full of cruelty, tyranny, misery, harassment and suffer-THE SC HAD OCT 16 ing for him and his family ASKED THE COUPLE TO members at the hands of his EXPLORE

wife. Mohanty was married to Varsha Privadarshini in February 2014. He contended that his wife never treated him as her

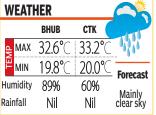


couple to appear before the Supreme **POSSIBILITIES OF** 

levelled today (Friday). Sub-Collector Bhabataran Sahu inspected the work, said an official of the district.

MARKET WATCH							
INDEX VARIATION							
RSES	SENSEX	39614.07	₽	135.78			
BOU	NIFTY	11642.40	₽	28.40			
CURRENCY BOURSES	DOLLAR	74.58		₹0.51			
CURR	EURO	87.38		₹0.37			
ION	GOLD	₹50,790		₹508			
BULLION	SILVER	₹60,820		₹648			

WEATHER C							
	BHUB	СТК					
d Max	32.6℃	<b>33.2°</b> C					
H MIN	19.8℃	20.0°C	Forecast				
Humidity	89%	60%					
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	Mainly clear sky				



People ran onto streets in panic in the coastal city of Izmir, witnesses said, after the quake struck with a magnitude of up to 7.0 at around 1150 GMT. Some neighbourhoods were deluged with surging seawater which swept a flood of debris inland and left fish stranded as it receded.

The Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) said six people died, one due to drowning, while 202 people were injured. There were various reports of collapsed buildings with people stuck in the rubble in some of districts of Izmir, one of Turkey's main tourist regions, and partial damage to property in other provinces, Turkish officials said.

Izmir mayor Tunc Soyer said around 20 buildings came down in the province. Izmir's governor said 70 people had been rescued from under the rubble.

October 16 asked the couple to explore possibilities of mutual settlement. A bench of Justice Hrishikesh Rov had heard the transfer petition filed by Varsha Priyadarshini and asked the

Supreme Court seeking transfer of the divorce petition filed by Mohanty at Patiala House court to the Family Court in Cuttack

It is to be mentioned here that the

mental and physical agony.

Mohanty contended that Varsha has been living separately since May 2019 and both of them are not having cordial relations with each other.



### Startup wins legal battle against Isro

US courts have jurisdiction over these cases as Antrix, Isro's commercial arm, engages in business across the United States

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 30: A US court has asked Antrix Corporation, the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation, to pay compensation of USD 1.2 billion to a Bengaluru-based startup, Devas Multimedia, for cancelling a satellite deal in 2005. As per the agreement in January

2005, Antrix agreed to build, launch and operate two satellites and to make available 70 MHz of S-band spectrum to Devas, which the latter planned to use to offer hybrid satellite and terrestrial communication services throughout India.

The agreement was terminated by Antrix in February 2011. Over the next several years, Devas approached various legal avenues in India. This included the Supreme Court, which directed for a tribunal.

In his order dated October 27, Judge Thomas S Zilly, US District Judge, Western District of Washington, Seattle, ruled that Antrix Corporation pay a compensation of USD 562.5 million to Devas Multimedia Corporation and the related interest rate amounting to a total of USD 1.2 billion.

In its lawsuit filed in the US District Court, Western District of Washington in September 2018,

Devas Multimedia said three separate international tribunals and nine different arbitrators have found the termination of the Devas-Antrix agreement to have been wrongful.

Antrix, in November 2018, had sought the dismissal of the lawsuit citing jurisdictional issues.

The court, however, asserted that it had jurisdiction over the issue, but stayed the matter for one year and asked the two to file a joint status

report by April 15, 2020. Devas, according to submissions, has argued that the US court has jurisdiction over these cases, as Antrix engages in business in this district and across the United States.

Antrix and Spaceflight Industries, which is headquartered in Seattle have an agreement to provide satellite launch services using India's PSLV rocket.

### No Baliyatra in Cuttack this yr



POST NEWS NETWORE

Cuttack, Oct 30: The famous maritime festival of the state Baliyatra will not be held in Cuttack this year, informed Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani Friday.

The decision was taken in view of the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, he added. Baliyatra is a hugely popular festival which attracts lakhs to the Silver City every year.

As huge public gatherings are detrimental to the fight against COVID-19, the district administration has decided to scrap the festival this year

"Amid COVID-19 outbreak, we will not allow any kind of congregation in Cuttack. Baliyatra attracts huge footfalls including tourists from inside and outside the state as well. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, congregations cannot be allowed. So the festival will not be held this

year," said Chaini.

"After COVID-19 guidelines for the month of November comes into force, a formal decision will be taken in this regard," Chaini added.

Notably, Durga Puja, Ganesh-Puja and Eid celebrations were also subdued in Cuttack this year.

### Xi's vision for 2035 sparks buzz about his future

### XI JINPING HAD EARLIER ROLLED BACK A CONSTITUTIONAL HURDLE THAT BARRED THE CHINESE PRESIDENT FROM SERVING MORE THAN 2 TERMS

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Oct 30: The Chinese Communist Party's unusual decision to outline its vision for 2035 at its four-day plenary has renewed buzz around President Xi's plans for himself

Xi has never spoken about his plans but dropped enough hints over the last few years that he does not intend to walk away after completing his two terms that end in 2022. One of them was the decision to scrap a constitutional bar introduced by Deng Xiaoping in 1982 that prevented China's president from serving more than two terms.

That move had sparked off speculation that 67-year-old Xi Jinping could end up becoming China's President-for-life

The 67-year-old Chinese President has already emerged as the communist party's most powerful leader after its founder Mao Zedong, holding the posts of party General Secretary, head of the military be-

sides the Presidency. In October 2017, Xi was only the second Chinese leader after Mao to have had an eponymous ideology included in the party's charter while in office.

President Xi firmly established his stamp of authority at that party global influence.

plenary when he got the party leadership to end the system of collective leadership, a safeguard introduced by Deng Xiaoping to protect Chinese people from an autocratic regime similar to Mao Zedong's years in power.

President Xi Jinping's government is trying to limit damage from the Trump administration's curbs on technology sales to China in a fight over security and spying. Those threaten to disrupt plans to create Chinese companies able to compete in telecoms, biotech and other fields, which communist leaders see as a path to prosperity and

'Science and technology should be self-reliant as a strategic support for national development,"

said a party statement. It promised to "accelerate the building of a science and technology power" but gave no details.

Five-Year Plans, issued since the 1950s, form the basis of regulation and industry initiatives in an economy where the ruling party still plays a leading role after four decades of market-style reforms.

The full plan is due to be released in March. Changes in regulations and plans for individual industries will be announced after that.

The party's statement promised to promote "green and low-carbon development" and to raise Chinese living standards. It called for un-

specified steps to strengthen the 2.3 million-member People's Liberation Army and to "improve our strategic ability to defend national sovereignty.

China's factories assemble most of the world's smartphones, personal computers and consumer electronics but need U.S., European and Japanese components. Its communist leaders see that as a strategic weakness

President Donald Trump's 2018 tariff hikes on Chinese goods over complaints Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology have raised pressure for greater self-reliance.









### **SCARLETT JOHANSSON** WEDS COLIN JOST

Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson has tied the knot with comedian Colin Jost in a private ceremony. The news was confirmed on Instagram by the charity Meals on Wheels. The newly-wed couple supports the group's initiative to aid the elderly during the Covid pandemic.

### **JESSICA, ANNE TEAM UP FOR MOTHERS' INSTINCT**

Hollywood stars Jessica Chastain and Anne Hathaway will be seen in the psychological thriller, Mothers' Instinct. The actors play best friends and neighbours, who live an idyllic traditional lifestyle with successful husbands and sons of the same age.



FORTUNE **FORECAST** 



ARIES Flow with the tide today.

This is Ganesha's tip pertaining to your relationships. You are assertive as a general rule but you can save it for later. Today is the day to be generous and accede to the wishes of your beloved. You may even propose to him/her.

### TAURUS

This day appears to be earmarked for a long shopping spree. Ganesh

sees you doing the rounds of malls, markets, dollar stores and bargain counters. You are likely to be happily busy in haggling over prices, try-ing to get the best deals for your purchases. Before you are done you would have bought tons of stuff.

### GEMINI

You will end up having an argument with people owing to your aggressive nature. These people could slander your reputation on account of your enemity. However you will be able to defeat them. They will have to give up against your intellectual superiority

CANCER

You will make new friends. You will have a jolly time with them, but some worry or tension will nag you. But Ganesha says that all worries will go away by evening, when vou relax with friends.

**LEO** 



bright throughout the day. You will be able to achieve success owing to your energy and enthusiasm. The planets are in your favour, hence you can accept the challenges coming your way and prevail over them, says Ganesha

### VIRGO

Expenses will mount uncontrollably today, and they will be mostly wasteful in nature. However, positive energies are gather ing momentum, and Ganesha says you would do well in making full use of them, both in your personal and profes sional spheres.



Sara Ali Khan is backinaction Mumbai: After Sara Ali Khan was

questioned by the Narcotics Control Bureau about the drug nexus in Bollywood, she had kept herself away from Instagram. Now, over a month later, she is back on the social networking platform.

Khan shared the news that she had begun promotions for David Dhawan's Coolie No 1, co-starring Varun Dhawan. The two did a photoshoot and also shot for The Kapil Sharma Show.

Coolie No. 1 is all set to premiere on the online video streaming platform Amazon Prime Video December 25. The film stars Varun Dhawan, Sara Ali Khan, Paresh Rawal, Jaaved Jaaferi, Johnny Lever, Rajpal Yadav amongst others and is produced by Vashu Bhagnani, Jackky Bhagnani and Deepshikha Deshmukh.

AGENCIES

Mumbai: Actress Ananya Panday celebrates her 22nd birthday Friday, and wishes have been pouring in from

friends and fans on social media. Sharing a photo of Ananya on Instagram Story, Kareena Kapoor Khan wrote: "Happy birthday beautiful girl."

'Happy birthday Ananya Wishing you heaps of love and cheer. Hope you always shine bright," posted Alia Bhatt on Instagram Story. Ananya's close friend Suhana Khan posted a cute video of the two. The clip also features Suhana's brother AbRam and Shanaya Kapoor, who is the daughter of Sanjay Kapoor. It showed all of them playing a game 'Put your finger

down' "When the 7 year olds been reected but the 22 year old hasn't. Teach us your way pls @ananyapanday," Suhana wrote. Actor Chunky Panday posted

PEANUTS

HERE'S THE WORLD

WOUS GROCERY

CLERK TAKING UP

HIS POSITION BY

THE CHECK-OUT COUNTER ...

CALVIN AND HOBBES

DAD, CAN YOU

GET NY BALL OUT OF THE

SUTTER AGAIN

BREVITY

a throwback picture of him hugging his daughter, Ananya. "Happy happy happy birth-

day my," he captioned with a heart emoji. Ananya is currently busy with Shakun Batra's untitled film co-starring Deepika Padukone and Siddhant Chaturvedi. Sharing a picture of the birthday girl on Instagram Stories, Deepika wrote: "My Baby

The 22-year-old's Khaali Peeli co-star Ishaan Khatter wrote on Instagram: "Happy birthday sunshine girl." Ananya made her acting debut in 2019 with

## Sanjay flaunts platinum blonde hairdo

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt has beaten cancer, and how! The 61-year-old star, who is currently spending time with his family, has opted for a new look to celebrate his recovery

Snapshots posted by the actor's close friend, hairstylist Hakim Alim, on social media show that Dutt is looking fit as a fiddle.

The highlight of his new look being a short-cropped platinum blonde hairdo he has opted for. The look is completed with a stylishly main-

In the frame, Dutt wears designer shades, ear stud and a blue T-shirt. He flashes a tattoo on his right bicep

Rockstar @duttsanjay With His New Platinum Blonde Hair Done By Shariq & Rhea : Hair Artists @Salon Hakim's Aalim," wrote Alim, as caption to the pictures that he posted on his verified Instagram account. Dutt was diagnosed with lung cancer but he announced on the birthday of his twins, Shahraan and

# Tara pairs opposite Tiger in *Heropanti 2*

Mumbai: Actress Tara Sutaria has been roped in to play the female lead in the second installment of Heropanti, starring Tiger Shroff.

Sharing the news among her followers, Tara, who fea-tured with Tiger in *Student Of The Year 2* last year, wrote on Instagram: "Reunited with my favourites. Thank you Sajid sir for believing in me... Heropanti 2, here we go. Can't think of a better way to kick start birthday month.

Choreographer-director Ahmed Khan will helm the film. He has earlier directed Tiger Shroff in Baaghi 2 and Baaghi 3.

The shooting of the film is expected to start in December. Heropanti, released in 2014, marked the debut of Tiger and Kriti Sanon. Sajid Nadiadwala, who produced the film, will also produce the sequel. IANS

tained beard. "Dutt's The Way ... AHAA-AHAA The

Iqra, that he had been cured. "I am happy to come out victorious from this battle and be able to give them the best gift I

### Ananya turns 22: Wishes pour in from B-Town friends

Girl... Words cannot describe the love I feel for you. And even though we've just met, I feel proud to see the smart, sensitive and witty girl you've grown into! Wishing you good health, happiness, super stardom and truck loads of biscoff my love! I love you."

HEY, FRED

HOW MUCH ON THE

PEANUT BUTTER TODAY

RELAX, DAD. IT'S JUST A BALL IN THE GUTTER, IT'S NOT AG IT I'VE BLEN FMBEZAUNG MONEY OR KILLING PESPIE, RIGHT: AREN'I YOJ GLAD I'M

NOT STEALING IND HURDERING

M

UNI-CORN, THE LESSER

0

(CTVALLY, I KNEW THE

RICE ... I JUST LIKE TO

YELL AT OL' FRED ..

T M WAYS HAVE

STARLISH THE

PROPER

CONTEXT

in

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0

will spend the evening with your beloved. Today you will be mentally very energetic too. Make the most of the day.

### **SCORPIO**

You may be bored with the same, old routine. In short, you feel like you are stuck in a rut and desperately need to do something exciting. Hanging out with friends of opposite sex may bring some respite to your restless soul.

### **SAGITTARIUS**

Your leadership qualities are likely to bag compli ments today. As you follow law and order and also make others follow it. You leave no stone unturned to get the work done, and that too systematically. However, make sure you also give them space and freedom to express themselves. It would earn you brownie points, says Ganesha

### CAPRICORN

If at first you don't succeed, try again. Many people underestimate the power of persever-

ance and patience. But, these qualities will lead you success. Rather than exploding with anger and anxiety, keep your faith in your plans intact, especially when the results are not as per your plans, advises Ganesha.

### 

You are in for a challeng ing day today. But, luck is by your side and you will be able to come out of the storm hale and hearty, assures Ganesha. If you are a businessman, you may enter into some major business ven ture, sign important contracts and take up new projects.

PISCES Your patience and capabilities will be on trial today and will be put to test with every work you undertake Even simple tasks and common goals will seem hard to achieve and will require a considerable amount of effort to complete.

Student Of The Year 2, and went on to star in Pati Patni Aur Woh and Khaali Peeli". IANS

TWO BREAD, THIRTY

NINE TWICE .. PEACHES

TWENTY-SEVEN... COOKIES

FORTY-NINE .. PEANUT BUTTER,

THIS IS THE THIRD TIME THIS

AFIFRINGON! 1 THOUGHT 1

TOLD YOU TO PLAY OUT BACK



Ac

### CROSSWORD

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

D

5 E

9

B

E 1

9 8

0

4

В

C 3

1 7

D

6

E

0

3

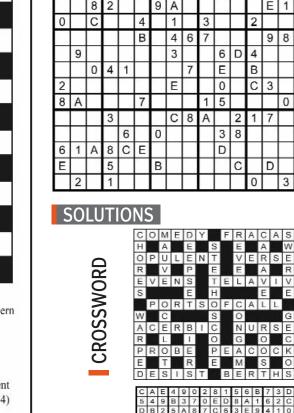
D

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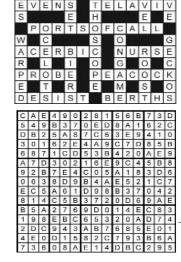
SUDOKU

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CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



SUDOKI







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GoComicS.com/brev



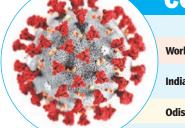






### GODDESS OF WEALTH

Goddess Laxmi being worshipped at a pandal in VSS Nagar area of Bhubaneswar, Friday



Spl counters for Mahaprasad during Kartika

### **COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
ld	4,55,72,562	3,30,86,085	11,89,288
a	80,88,851	73,73,375	1,21,090
sha	2,88,646	2,73,838	1,308

Lord Jagannath.

the pandemic.

the state.

month of Kartika in the wake of the

pandemic. It urged the Habisyalis

to stay home and offer prayers to

made it clear that the state gov-

ernment would not provide free

accommodation and other facili-

ties to Habisyalis this year due to

across the state usually throng Puri

to observe Kartika Brata. They

used to stay in mutts, Dharmashalas

and other religious institutions

In 2016, the state government

had launched a scheme to provide

free accommodation and other

The scheme benefitted at least

3,000 Habisyalis from across

**CM TO DECIDE ON** 

**REOPENING OF** 

SCHOOLS: DASH

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: School

and Mass Education (S&ME)

Minister Samir Ranjan Dash

Friday said that the department

is ready for reopening of schools

but the decision will be taken by

The department has taken steps

to make school infrastructure

clean. However, Chief Minister

Naveen Patnaik will take the final

The state government had ear-

lier announced closure of schools

till Durga puja. Meanwhile, schools

have already reopened in some

Sources said after Diwali the Chief Minister's Office can take

a decision of reopening the schools. Many schools meanwhile have started half-yearly examinations

by giving question-cum-answer sheets to parents and asking them

to send the papers back after the students fill the answers.

POST NEWS NETWORK

the Chief Minister.

call.

other states.

facilities to the elderly women.

during the month-long ritual.

Thousands of Habisyalis from

The district administration also

**State to seek donations for Puri Heritage Corridor project** 

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Oct 30: The state government is planning to collect donation from corporate bodies, organisations and individuals for the much talked about Shree Jagannath Heritage Corridor project.

The decision was taken at a meeting held recently under the chairmanship of Works secretary Krishnan Kumar recently.

The Works department has formed a technical committee to explore options for financing and execution of the project. Managing director of Odisha Building and Construction Corporation Ltd (OBCC) will be chairman of the committee while chief engineer (design), chief engineer (roads) and Works department additional secretary are the other members of the panel.

It is also possible that many people and organisations may give donations for the project. Therefore, the government has formed the panel to prepare a mechanism to take care of such possibilities in the contractual framework, a senior official of Works department told Orissa POST, Friday

Issues like who will accept the materials, how will it be used in the project by the selected contractor, valuation and deduction for same will be addressed in the document, he said. Asked whether the government has faced fund crunch for the project in view of Covid-19, the official said, "No there is no shortage of

fund. As many people and organisations have come forward to donate sources said.

The blueprint for Puri Heritage Corridor project

### TRANSFORMATIONAL MOVE

Works dept As many people and organisations have come has formed a forward to donate for the historic project, the dept is preparing modalities to receive such donations, said an official

Designs for the Shree Jagannath Heritage Corridor, Grand Road development, renovation of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration office building and Jagannath Culture Centre are being readied the project

for the historic project, we are preparing modalities to receive such donations.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had unveiled the draft plan for the project in December 2019. A major portion of the land for several structures, including a pilgrim centre. market complex and a bridge in Puri, has already been acquired. The land acquisition process for the whole project is likely to be completed in two-three months,

Similarly, designs for the Shree Jagannath Heritage Corridor, Grand Road development, renovation of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration office building and Jagannath Culture Centre are being

readied. The state government has earmarked ₹3,208 crore under the Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme in three years to transform Puri into a world heritage city

davs of campaigning. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Congress and the Biju Janata

Dal (BJD) are now banking on their senior leaders to tour around for the two bypolls.

Congress leader from West Bengal and son of former president Pranab Mukherjee also arrived from the neighbouring state to take part in the campaigning in the state. Party leaders like Suresh Routray, Satyaprakash Nayak and others were also seen hitting the cam-



this year due to Covid-19 pandemic. However, many devotees and elderly women who observe Habisa in Kartika month require Mahaprasad. We are making all arrangements to sell Mahaprasad to people in the holy month," said Srimandir Suar-Mahasuar Niyog secretary Krushna Chandra Pratihari. According to him, devotees can collect Mahaprasad

**BALASORE, TIRTOL BYELECTIONS** 

### Devotees can collect Mahaprasad after buying tokens from the temporary counters

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

paigned for his party at Tirtol and Balasore. He talked about con-

necting to the people on local is-

sues and also exuded confidence

that his party would emerge win-

ner in the upcoming bypolls. He

urged the voters during his cam-

paign to vote for the BJP candi-

Meanwhile, the BJD also roped

in its senior leaders for the last

phase of campaigning. BJD leaders

Debi Prasad Mishra and Pratap

Jena were also seen campaigning

Jena told the media that the sup-

port for the regional party has only

strengthened in the last few days and

the upcoming polls are most likely

to be in favour of the BJD

It is worth mentioning here that the district administration Thursday urged the Habisyalis not to throng the Holy City during the Hindu

### Star campaigners hit the campaign trail

### POST NEWS NETWORK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Oct 30: The Shree Jagannath

Temple Administration (SJTA) and

the Puri district administration

have made special arrangements for

sale of Maĥaprasad to people in

The SJTA and the district ad-

ministration have initiated the

process for opening two temporary

counters for Mahaprasad sale at

the North and South gates of

temporary counters were levelled

today (Friday). Sub-Collector

Bhabataran Sahu inspected the

work. The two sheds would be ready

by Saturday," said an official of the

"Srimandir has been out of

district administration.

"The places identified for the

the Holy month of Kartika.

#### paign trail to woo the voters.

During his interaction with the media he said that his party has demonstrates real participation of women in politics by fielding a woman candidate from Balasore. He also showed confidence of his party's performance in the bypolls.

At the same time, Rajya Sabha MP of BJP Ashwini Baishav cam-

Govt offices to remain closed on Saturdays

dates

for the party.

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: Like August and September, all government offices across the state will continue to remain closed Saturdays of November in view of Covid-19 pandemic.



said in an order issued Friday.

The departments/heads of offices in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack have been given power to decide the manner of selection of employees who will attend office.

However, essential offices and services such as Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) and Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA), police, fire



**10th Death** 

### **ELDERLY** LADY DIES **IN MISHAP**

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: A 64-yearold woman died in road accident near Dhauli on city outskirts Friday. The deceased was identified as Gitanjali Mohapatra, a resident of Jagamara area under Khandagiri police limits.

According to sources, the Mohapatra along with her two



technical committee to explore options for financing and execution of

bounds for devotees since March

Srimandir.

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: All the major parties in the state are now leaving no stone unturned to woo the electorate during the last few

sons had gone to Astarang to consult some Avurvedic doctor. Mohapatra who was suffering various age related ailments used to pay monthly visits to the doctor. Friday, she was returning home along with her sons by an auto-rickshaw when a speeding car hit their auto from behind. The auto suddenly turned turtle after losing balance

The locals rescued the injured and rushed them to Capital hospital where Mohapatra succumbed to injuries. Her sons and the driver who sustained severe injuries have been shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack.



People in large numbers throng Unit-II market in Bhubaneswar for shopping on the eve of Kumar Purnima festival, Friday. Many of them are seen violating the Covid-19 guidelines OP PHOTO



All the departments of state government and sub-ordinate offices in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack will function with 50 per cent strength of employees (all staff including Group-A officers) during November and ensure that the office work does not suffer, General Administration (GA) department

PR-309/L/20-21

services, health services, municipal services and others will function in full strength.

All government offices and employees have been instructed to strictly follow precautionary measures issued by the department, it said. In case of detection of any Covid case among the office emplovees, the concerned office will follow the protocol issued earlier. The officers/staff, who have been

provided with VPN will continue to work from home, when not assigned roster duty. They must be available to attend to any office work of urgent nature, at short notice and be available on telephone at all times, read the order.

You left us 10 years ago, but we still feel your presence. Your blessings are always with us. We deeply feel your remember you. You will remain immortal for us.

Birth: 15.08.1940

Death: Kumar Purnima, 2010

Wife: Surama, Son: Babi, Daughter-in-law: Shraddha, Daughters: Baby, Bubu, Rubi and Grandchildren

### WORLD CITIES DAY

### Here's how nCoV changed lifestyle in City

#### ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: Even as Covid-19 has dramatically changed the lifestyle of people in the last few months, on this World Cities Day, October 31, experts think it is pertinent to reflect on and understand what changes our lives have undergone and how to go forward from now.

Orissa POST spoke to some citybased experts about how they see the changes in city lifestyle. Health expert Prof. Dr. Viyatprajna Acharya said, "If you think one fine morning the Covid-19 pandemic will end bringing back normalcy then you are pretty mistaken. The way it gradually made ways into our lives, it would vanish but the new normal will see permanent changes.

Movies would be watched from the cool comfort of our drawing rooms. No more running for tuitions after school, online teaching has opened new avenues. Some permanent sanitation measures are going to stay longer than required. Social customs like marriage, thread ceremony, housewarming ceremony will have less



File photo of Rasulgarh square in Bhubaneswar during the coronavirus-induced shutdown

congregation and social wastage will be minimised. Even funeral ceremonies will be less cumbersome instead of 12 days, people will observe it for 2-3 days. Digitisation is going to take centre stage in most of the fields.

Urban planner Piyush Ranjan Rout said, "During this pandemic, most of the work is happening using online tools, within time schedule, and with-

out physical meetings. Nowadays, it's much better to participate in virtual meets rather than physical ones." Environment scientist Jaya Krushna Panigrahi said that cities of the world are now confronted with diverse challenges as these are undergoing rapid horizontal as well as vertical expansion and 56 per cent world population inhabiting in urban areas currently is going to reach 68 per

During this pandemic, most of the work is appening using online ools, within time schedule, and without physical meetings. Nowadays, it's much better to participate in virtual meets rather than physical

#### PIYUSH RANJAN ROUT I URBAN PLANNER

cent by 2050, as per an estimate by United Nations. "In such a scenario, the livability of cities will be guided by pollution-free, lush greenery environment along with contemporary facilities they offer," Panigrahi added.

Environment expert Shweta Agrawal said, "People have realised the real importance/necessity of family, community, emotions and environment.'

Social activist Naba Kishore Pujari said, "City people should respect and care for the labourers, daily wagers, construction workers and migrants who have contributed in making these cities beautiful or modern that we are witnessing."



- Please do not pay anything over and above the legitimate charges.
- Please insist on receipt/ticket for payment made by you.
- If you come across any employee of the railway demanding bribe or ⇔ indulging in malpractice, please send your complaint to Sr. Deputy General Manager (SDGM) and Chief Vigilance Officer, East Coast Railway, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751017, Telephone No. 0674-2300230, Fax No. 0674-2301328 and Email ID: sdgm@ecor.railnet.gov.in/Website: http://www.eastcoastrail. indianrailways.gov.in
- Please sign the complaint and give proper address. All such complaints are investigated and appropriate action taken. In case you want to keep your name secret then kindly mention the same in your complaint and send the complaint in a closed/secured envelope, addressed to The Secretary, Central Vigilance Commission, Satarkata Bhawan, Block-A, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110023 duly superscribing "Complaint under the Public Interest Disclosure" on the envelope.
- If you have any complaint regarding Corruption in Railways, you can ring up & inform on Vigilance Helpline No. 8455885031.

EAST COAST RAILWAY www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in VIGILANCE HELPLINE NO. 8455885031



### **OrissaPOST** SATURDAY | OCTOBER 31 | 2020 | BHUBANESWAR

### downtown

### **Transgenders still out of MBPY ambit**

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: Even though the state Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department had announced inclusion of poor transgenders under pension scheme, the plan is yet on paper only.

The department, in the month of July, had amended the rules of Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY) and added one more section to make financially vulnerable transgenders eligible for the scheme.

However, after more than three months since the announcement, the transgenders are flummoxed to find no option either online or offline to apply for the same.

The department website, which allows eligible pensioners to apply for pensions under MBPY, still does not have any option for the community to apply for the scheme. It is also said that the district so-

### RSP gets new chimney

### UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: A 100metre tall chimney and revamped process ESP-I and II of Sintering Plant-1 were inaugurated at the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) recently.

RSP CEO Dipak Chattaraj inaugurated it Thursday in the presence of senior officers and employees of Sintering Plant-1 Department adhering to Covid-19 norms.

The earlier 100-metre tall process Electro Static Precipitator (ESP) chimney of SP-I was commissioned in 1993 to handle process dust and to adhere to the statutory norms pertaining to environment management. However, in April 2018. a portion of the chimney got damaged due to heavy rain and wind. The unit was operating intermittently as per production requirement with the 70-metre of chimney in position. Hence, replacing the old chimney with a new one had become essential in view of both safety and environment norms.

ସାମାଜିକ ସ୍ୱରକ୍ଷା ଓ ଭିନ୍ନକ୍ଷମ ସଶକ୍ତିକରଣ ବିଭାଗ ାସ୍, ୟୂନିଟ୍-୬, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱ

HOWEVER, AFTER MORE THAN THREE MONTHS SINCE THE SSEPD DEPT, IN JULY, THE ANNOUNCEMENT. THE TRANSGENDERS ARE FLUM-HAD AMENDED THE RULES OF MBPY AND TO APPLY FOR THE SAME ADDED ONE MORE SECTION TO MAKE

TRANSGENDERS DUE TO LACK OF ANY SYSTEM AND ELIGIBLE FOR THE SCHEME PROVISION IN REALITY

cial security officers (DSSOs) are also reluctant to accept any application from the transgenders due to lack of any system and pro-

MOXED TO FIND NO OPTION EITHER ONLINE OR OFFLINE DISTRICT SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICERS ARE ALLEGEDLY RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT ANY APPLICATION FROM THE

**FRESH STATS** 

vision in reality which can enable submission of their applications. "After almost three months since the announcement there is no scope for us to apply. There is neither any option for us in the online application nor the DSSOs are accepting our applications," an applicant told this reporter.

The department officials, meanwhile, said that they are bringing necessary changes in the software to enable addition of beneficiaries for the pensions. The department assured that the matter would be sorted out soon.

The SSEPD department had earlier in July came up with a notification of amendment of the MBPY rules to add the new beneficaries. It was planned that they could have got between Rs 500 to Rs 900 based on their age and their condition.

The move was aimed to give assistance to around 6000 transgender population from the state. The department had also set some norms like lower annual income, no family members working as government servants and others



**PROMOTING FINANCIAL SECURITY** 

Cuttack Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani flags off 'Sanchaya Rath' at the Collector's office in the Millennium City on the occasion of World Thrift Day, Friday. The day is observed October 31 worldwide, though in India it is celebrated the day before, to promote savings and financial security of individual and nation as a whole

### State's Covid-19 toll goes past 1,300 Cab drivers take pledge to respect City cyclists

WITH DETECTION OF 1,547 NEW CASES, ODISHA'S CORONAVIRUS TALLY MOUNTED TO 2,88,646

### PNN & AGENCIES

FINANCIALLY VULNERABLE

TRANSGENDERS

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: State Friday reported 1,547 fresh novel coronavirus (Covid-19) cases, which took the tally in Odisha to 2,88,646, while 11 new fatalities pushed the death toll in the coastal state to 1,308, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

Of the new cases, 891 were reported from various quarantine centres and 656 people tested positive for the disease during contact tracing exercise, said the official

Khurda district, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, recorded the maximum number of fresh cases at 159, followed by Cuttack at 98 and Angul at 95.

Taking to Twitter, the H&FW department said, "Regret to inform the

Ganjam district accounted for 229 of the 1,308 Covid-19 deaths reported in the state so far followed by Khurda (226), Cuttack (110) and Puri (83)

demise of eleven COVID-19 positive patients while under treatment in hospitals (sic)."

Of the fresh fatalities, three were reported from Khurda, two from

Khurda district recorded the maximum number of fresh cases at 159, followed by Cuttack at 98 and Angul at 95

Of the fresh fatalities, three were reported from Khurda, two from Cuttack and one each from Angul Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Kandhamal, Nuapada and Rayagada

Odisha has conducted over 45.08 lakh sample tests for Covid-19, including 44,506 Thursday. The positivity rate currently stands at 6.4

Cuttack and one each from Angul, Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Kandhamal, Nuapada and Ravagada districts.

Ganjam district accounted for 229 of the 1,308 Covid-19 deaths re-

ported in the state so far followed by Khurda (226), Cuttack (110) and Puri (83).

The state has conducted over 45.08 lakh sample tests for Covid-19, including 44,506 Thursday, said the official, adding that the positivity rate currently stands at 6.4.

### City's virus tally breaches 29K

With detection of 87 fresh cases in the last 24 hours, the Covid-19 tally in the Capital city rose to 29,072, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) said Friday.

Of the fresh cases, 68 were local cases, while the remaining 19 were quarantine cases, the civic body said in a tweet.

The Capital city also registered 237 recoveries in the period, taking the total recoveries in Bhubaneswar to 27,313.

### POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar: Oct 30: Continuing

the 'Cycles4Change' campaign in order to promote cycling in Capital city, the Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) in collaboration with Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Friday organised an event in which nearly 100 cab drivers took the pledge to respect cyclists on city roads.

Following a mammoth response to a cyclothon organised as part of the 'Cycles4Change' Campaign October 9, the Temple City is witnessing a flurry of activities regarding popularising cycling among all age groups and all walks

of life. During the pandemic, when physical activities are emphasised to build immunity against the disease, the steps taken by the civic

authorities - BSCL, BMC and BD - have created a new craze among the citizens for better fitness and good health through cycling.

Cab drivers from taxi aggrega tor Ola took the 'Safe Cycling Pledge' near the Smart Park in Sahid Nagar. The pledge had the following lines: "Times may be hard but Covid-19 won't let my spirits down to build a cyclingfriendly Bhubaneswar. I pledge that through 'Cyclegiri' I will ensure the safety and well-being of every cyclist. I will respect the cyclists and show my support to promote this eco-friendly means of



### CAMPAIGN

Following a mammoth response to a cyclothon organised as part of the 'Cycles4Change' Campaign October 9, the Temple City is witnessing a flurry of activities regarding popularising

Cab drivers from taxi aggregator Ola

Bhubaneswar is taking part in the 'India Cycles4change' challenge along with 95 other cities which will run in two stages

attended by senior officials of BSCL, BMC and BDA and citizens of the nearby localities. The participants adhered to Covid-19 guidelines.

It could be mentioned here that Bhubaneswar is taking part in the 'India Cycles4change' challenge along with 95 other cities which will run in two stages. In October, 11 cities will be shortlisted and will receive Rs 1 crore award and guidance from national and international experts to further scale up the initiatives in stage two, which will be held until May 2021.

### ECoR rolls out 'Meri Saheli' for safety of women passengers

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: The Indian Railways has launched 'Meri Saheli' initiative for all zones with an objective to provide safety and

security to women passengers. 'Meri Saheli' was launched nder the East Coast Railway

Howrah Daily Special, Visakhapatnam-New Delhi Special AP Express, Bolangir-Bhubaneswar Special and Sambalpur-Puri Special trains.

Apart from this, Puri-New Delhi-Puri Purusottam Special Express, Puri-Ahmedabad Special, Howrah-Secunderabad

Visakhapatnam, Sambalpur, Bolangir and Cuttack.

A Google link has also been shared with all the stations to upload the data on Meri Saheli initiative

Till date, altogether 1.085 women passengers travelling alone in trains have been attended and

cycling among all age groups and all walks of life

took the 'Safe Cycling Pledge' near the Smart Park in Sahid Nagar



OBEY RULES OR FACE THE MUSIC

Traffic police personnel collect fines from a motorist for illegal parking near Rajmahal Square in Bhubaneswar, Friday OP PHOTO (ECoR) jurisdiction October 17. The initiative was first launched in New Delhi-bound Special Rajdhani Express. The initiative will ensure safety for women travelling alone in trains, ECoR sources said.

Altogether seven special trains are being manned by Meri Saheli Team that includes Bhubaneswar New Delhi Rajdhani Special, Bhubaneswar-Mumbai Konark Special, Puri-Durg Special, Puri-

Falaknuma Special, Howrah-Yesvantpur Duronto Special, Shalimar-Secunderabad AC Special, Howrah-Bhubaneswar Jan Shatabdi Special, Howrah-Trichirapalli Special and Korba-Visakhapatnam Special trains are also being attended by the Meri Saheli Team en route.

The ECoR has engaged 226 RPF personnel for seven such teams at various important stations like Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Puri,

POST NEWS NETWORK

made aware about drugging and snatching cases.

Meri Saheli teams are not only attending to the women passengers for their security but also making them aware about the precautions to be taken to restrict the spread of novel coronavirus during train journey

Besides, women passengers are being encouraged to contact helpline no. 182 in case of any untoward situation.

lakh at Mukundprasad Chachera

Sahi by Housing and Urban

2.3metre x 1metre) tanks. Each tank

can hold maximum five tonnes of

garbage and, in turn, it will gener-

ate 500 kilograms of manure.

The MCC has 14 (3.3 metre x

Development department.

transportation. It further reads, "I will make sure the roads are safer, the needs of cyclists are met and traffic rules are followed for a smoother commute. I will encourage everyone to take up cycling as part of their day-to-day activities and work towards making my city Bhubaneswar the No. 1 cyclingfriendly city.'

The event was coordinated by general manager (Administration) of BSCL Kamaljit Das and was

An official website- www.cyclegiribbsr.com- was also launched through which cyclists and public can get complete information about upcoming events and can give their suggestions and feedbacks.

### **CLASSIFIED**

I, Raghunandan Mittal, S/o.- Srinibas Mittal, R/o-Goshala. Burla. Sambalpur would like to inform the general public that I have lost my original Sale Deeds No-327, dt.11.02.1999 & 84/2003, GPA No.-41621001856, dt.01.10.2010, registered at SRO, Sambalpur and ROR (Patta) bearing Khata No.-330/124 of Mouza-Sansinghari. If anyone finds, kindly contact me at 9437541773.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar. Oct 30: The Bhuhaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Friday, launched a special campaign to ori-

ent citizens on importance of segregation of wastes at source. Following a trial campaign. Thursday, the special campaign

launched by BMC was Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary in Ward No-32. The campaign which covered Jharpada and other adjacent market places saw door-to-door visits with about 150 households and 50 vendors approached to follow and practise source segregation.

oriented the local people to keep two dust bins, one for dry and other for wet waste. Moreover, a dedicated tableau announcing on source segregation and its benefits moved on the streets

BMC campaign for

for dissemination of information. The BMC has recently prioritized sanitation after the city took a nosedive in recent Swachh Bharat Survekshan rankings. "It is not only COVID19, the BMC gives equal importance to sanitation. In fact, a few MCC are ready to function and one at Temporary Transit Station is already functioning. However, in order for MCCs to be successful it is important that the waste be segregated into wet and dry waste at source. And

thus, we have launched this aware-

ness campaign," said Choudhary.

With a color leaflet team members

### waste segregation Khurda, Oct 30: At a time when most civic bodies are struggling to find a way out to deal with tonnes of garbage generated in their areas, Khurda municipality is all set to earn from the waste.

Sources at Khurda municipality revealed that the town with a population of over 47,000 generates 14 to 16 tonnes of garbage every day. Of the total waste generated, 40 per cent comprises dry wastes while the remaining 60 per cent is wet. The municipality is converting wet

garbage into organic manure. For this, a micro composting centre (MCC) and a segregation centre were constructed and were inaugurated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik through videoconference August 31. The centre was constructed at an investment of Rs 56

### MICRO COMPOSTING TECH

Khurda civic body turns waste into wealth

The municipality is converting wet garbage into organic manure by constructing a micro compost centre and a segregation centre

The centre was constructed at an investment of `56 lakh at Mukundprasad Chachera Sahi by H&UD department

After one and a half months since its inception, the MCC has started producing organic manure which would be sold in the market

According to sanitisation expert, Khurda municipality, Debashis Baral, the wet type of garbage is dumped in the tanks in three layers. "A tank takes at least 21 days to fill to its capacity and it takes another 21 days to produce manure. In total, the entire process takes 42 days," Baral explained. Meanwhile, after one and a half

months since its inception, the MCC has started producing organic manure. The municipality is presently planning to sell the manure. "In the first phase, we have produced 100 kg manure. This manure will soon be available in the market in 5-kg packets by the name of 'Mo Khata'," said Khurda mu-nicipality executive officer Swetapadma Satpathy.

"We are yet to decide the price of a packet of 'Mo Khata'. Once decided, they will be available in the market. We hope 'Mo Khata' does not have problems to get buyers as organic manure is in demand. There is a plan to set up a second unit near Gurujanga Navodaya Vidyalaya in the second phase but it largely depends on the success of our first unit," she added.

#### VERTISEMENTS CONTA<u>CT OUR</u> CLASSIFIED AD FOR **BOOKING STATIONS**

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 (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion-Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373









### state

### BJD bid to split BJP's 'sympathy vote'

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Oct 30: Even as the bypoll for Balasore Sadar Assembly constituency gets nearer, the three major political parties - BJD, BJP and Congress have been changing their respective electioneering strategies

The ruling party has eyed on splitting 'sympathy vote' of the saffron camp. Possibly, it is going to be a bipolar contest here, sources from the ground zero said.

Congress party has fielded Mamata Kundu as its candidate from the Balasore Sadar Assembly constituency segment. In the meanwhile, the party's erstwhile candidate for Balasore Sadar Assembly constituency seat in 2014 and 2019 elections Manas Ranjan Das Patnaik has joined the BJD along with hundreds of supporters.

However, Manas had lost the 2019 election with 19,704 votes in his favour. A lion's-share of his votes may go in favour of BJD, political analysts opine. Coming to the BJD, party heavyweights are camping in the Assembly constituency for several weeks. They have been carrying out door-to-door campaigns seeking votes in favour of BJD's Swarup Kumar Das. On the other hand, the Communist Party of India (CPI) candidate Benudhar Barik is being regarded as a dummy candidate of the BJD, and has reportedly been fielded to divert BJP's sympathy votes

Banking on the sympathy votes, BJP has fielded Manas Kumar Dutta from this Assembly constituency who happens to be the son

MIDDLEMAN PAWNS SIBLINGS FOR ₹80,000

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Koksara, Oct 30: In a shocking incident, a middleman has put two siblings from Koksara area of Kalahandi district on mortgage with a contractor in Madhya Pradesh and taken away Rs 80,000 from the latter.

This was alleged by parents of the siblings identified as Bharat Majhi (35) and Chatur Majhi (30) of Raengunda.

Their father Digambar Majhi has filed a complaint against the local middleman, Krushna Durga, at the Koksara police station Thursday.

In the complaint, it was alleged that Krushna lured two brothers on the promise of giving them work at a bore-well drilling company in Indore October 16. The middleman has taken Rs 80,000 from the

#### gard was received and the matter is being investigated. the two brothers and action will contractor after leaving the two be taken against the middle-

# BALASORE ASSEMBLY BYPOLI

Possibly, it is going to be a bipolar contest in Balasore sadar assembly seat, sources from the ground zero said

Another strategy is that, all the Athree major political parties have intensified their campaigning with their eyes set on women voters. They are leaving no stone unturned to appeal to that voter base

hief Minister Naveen Patnaik in Bhubaneswar had addressed a virtual rally of party workers in Balasore Thursday



Farmers of Paschima Odisha Krushak Sangathan Samanwyay Samiti take out a rally protesting the Centre's new agriculture Acts at Padmapur in Bargarh Friday

### **DGP REVIEWS SECURITY IN**

TIRTOL: Ahead of the Tirtol Assembly by-poll in, Director General of Police (DGP) Abhay Friday visited the area and reviewed the security arrangements. After attending a review meeting at the office of the superintendent of police, he said he is satisfied with the security measures taken for the coming by election. "The election will be held in a peaceful manner," he observed. Informing about the security arrangements, ADGP (Law and Order) Yashwant Jethwa said 21 platoons of police force and three companies of central armed force have already reached Tirtol. This apart, 150 inspectors, sub-inspectors and assistant sub-inspectors have been pressed into the job. There will be deployment of eight SP and DSP rank officers. Flying squads and mobile teams have also been formed. "In a nutshell, all measures have been taken to make sure the by-poll is smooth and peaceful," he added. When asked about the security arrangements for sensitive polling booths, he said, "As per the direction of CEO and ECI, all the booths have been classified into non-sensitive, critical and vulnerable categories and arrangements have been in place accordingly." About steps taken to maintain law and order, he added that 75 warrantees had been arrested and court forwarded. Similarly, 1,500 anti socials have been detained.

of deceased BJP MLA Madan Mohan Dutta.

Madan Mohan Dutta had defeated BJD candidate Jiban Pradip Dash with a margin of 13.406 votes in 2019 general elections. The late leader's son Manas is said to have a good rapport among young voters and the party's organisation. Another strategy is that, all the

Parents of the vouths

The two brothers intimated their

family members over telephone

that the contractor has been tor-

turing them without food. "We

were mortgaged for Rs 80,000 at

The parents of the two broth-

ers pleaded with police for rescue

of their sons. Koksara IIC Basudev

Chhatri said a complaint in this re-

"Steps will be taken to rescue

the contractor," they alleged.

intensified their campaigning with their eyes set on women voters. They are leaving no stone unturned to appeal to that voter base. All the three parties are trying to woo members of the women SHGs for their candidates. Women vot-

various ways by the parties.

POST NEWS NETWORK

to be the masterminds.

from them.

Berhampur, Oct 30: In a major

breakthrough, Berhampur police

Friday busted an online Indian

Premier League (IPL) betting racket

and arrested two people who are said

Police have seized hard cash,

"Over Rs 33.61 lakh, mobile

ATM cards and mobile phones

phones and ATM cards were seized

from the possession of the accused.

During interrogations, it was known

that some more persons are involved in illegal online betting ac-

tivities. We have launched a man-

hunt to nab them," Southern Range

Deputy Inspector General of Police

The network of betting racket

spreads across the country and

overseas as well. The modus

The MLA said that observing

Satyabrata Bhoi informed.

three major political parties have ers are allegedly being motivated in

The BJD has stepped up its campaign in full force by roping in ministers and frontline leaders. The ruling party has deployed efficient leaders and assigned responsibility of convincing voters to them in 31 wards under the Sadar Assembly constituency so as to ensure win of its candidate Swaroop Das.

### Jumbos trample man to death; another hurt

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Oct 30: Elephants trampled a person to death in Angul district while another was wounded in an elephant attack in Dhenkanal district Friday.

The deceased was identified as Maguni Behera (50), a resident of Bajrakot village under Rengali police limits of Angul district.

Reports said, elephants attacked Maguni while he had been to a pond near his house to attend the nature's call at around 5 am. His family members rushed him to Kaniha CHC (Community Health Centre) in critical condition where he succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment. Forest depart-

android phones and personal computers, Berhampur police

Berhampur police are poised to

track down betting rackets that are

active in the city. The rackets will

be completely uprooted as a large

number of youths have been falling

Acting on a tip-off on online betting activities, separate teams

were formed to nab the kingpins

October 29. During a raid, the

racket was busted under

Gosaninuagoan police limits and

two persons namely R Lalie Achary

and K Prasant Kumar Subudhi

Police also seized Rs 33,61,200

along with mobile phones and

other incriminating articles from

the possession of the arrested.

The racket has agents in differ-

ent cities like Kolkata. Mumbai

were apprehended.

sources added.

prey to it.

ment officials rushed to the spot and took stock of the situation. They assured the bereaved family of compensation amounting to Rs 4 lakh. They have been given Rs 40,000 as assistance for last rites of the deceased.

Sanctuary in Dhenkanal district. Locals said, they have been fac-The arrested poachers were identified as residents of ing elephant menace, particulalry Rameikhamar village under Gondia during rhe harvesting time.

police limits. The forest department In another incident, a septuawas tipped off that two poachers genarian encountered an elephant were inside the Kapilas Wildlife while he was on his way to an-Sanctuary with an intention to hunt swer the nature's call. The 75-yearanimals. The two poachers were old man, identified as Sananta nabbed from camp no-12. The team Navak, of Meramandali village also seized a country-made gun and sustained critical injuries after eight arrows from their possession. allegedly being attacked by a The duo was produced in court and jumbo. The injured was admitted remanded to judicial custody as to Meramandali hospital. their bail pleas were rejected.

2 poachers arrested

**DHENKANAL:** Two poachers were

arrested from Kapilash Wildlife

in Dhenkanal

### IPL betting racket busted in **BEES STING YOUTHS** DURING SELFIE IN CAVE Berhampur; ₹33.61L seized



POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Oct 30: Shooting a video for social media and then clicking selfies at a cave in Mayurbhani district proved costly for some youths as six students were attacked by a swarm of bees Friday. One of them is stated to be critical.

Dt. : 27.10.2020 Name of the Work ; EXECUTION OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS IN THE SECTION BETWEEN KORAPUT (EX) TO SINGAPUR ROAD (EX)

According to sources, some stu-OF WALTAIR DIVISION dents from a nearby village had gone to a cave at Bangiriposi ghat. While some of them were report-

(2) Notice No. eT-North-WAT-19-2020

Name of the Work EXECUTION OF P.WAY ZONAL WORKS IN THE SECTION BETWEEN THERUBALI (EX) TO DONKINAVALASA (IN)

STATIONS INCLUDING BOBBILL-SALUE

SECTION FOR THE PERIOD UPTO 30.09.2021 UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF

ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER

RAYAGADA ON RAIPUR-VIZIANAGARAN LINE OF WALTAIR DIVISION.

Approx Cost of the work : ₹ 2,27,72,655.75



tact. The racket carries out be

Gond's wife Chaiti, who is a

### EAST COAST RAILWAY

STATIONS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30.09.2021 UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ LAXMIPUR ON KORAPUT-RAYAGADA LIN

Approx Cost of the work : ₹ 1,87,42,441.40,

operandi has no physical con- ting activities online through

Delhi and Dubai.

### MLA busy harvesting paddy during pandemic

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Oct 30: He is a Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MLA, but it hasn't stopped him from working on his agricultural field and sowing paddy saplings along with other workers. MLA Nitvanand Gond is a lawmaker from Umerkote Assembly seat in Nabarangpur district. In a bid to boost the morale of the farmers of Odisha during this COVID-19 pandemic, he is setting an example by harvesting paddy from the field along with his wife in his farmland.



"I have been farming even before I became a legislator. Since my fathat only agriculture can fill stomther died last year, I am active this achs during COVID-19 outbreak, time. Though I work as a politician he urged youths to focus on farmto do social service, agriculture is ing. The legislator also said that my profession and source of inone can earn a good amount from come," Gond said. farming crops than a regular job.

teacher by profession, has been assisting him in farming. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, schools are closed, so to spend the leisure time Chaiti is helping out her husband in the farm work. On the other hand Gond said

'farming will help us alleviate poverty and become self-sufficient. So I advised government employees to devote some time to farming".

"I have no passion for publicity. My people are my strength. They know me and I work for them," he said.

### Man, grandson killed in **Keonjhar road mishap**

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Anandpur; Oct 30: A man and his grandson were killed after the motorcycle they were riding on was hit by a speeding truck on NH-20 near Barpada Square under Anandapur police limits in Keonjhar district Friday.

The deceased were identified as Kirtan Nath and his grandson Keshav, residents of Haripur village. A truck ran over the duo while they wer going on a motorcycle at Barpada Chowk.

Il villages in Motu panchayat Aare on the downhill of the Peta

stone mine. Owing to mining, the

hill is being hollowed out, creating

craters. In the monsoon, water will

gush into all villages and hundreds

of farmland in the downhill areas

Due to the Polavaram project of

peripheral areas near Godavari

river face water logging in the

monsoon

Andhra Pradesh, Motu and its

edly busy shooting a video, some were clicking selfies. Their acts might have disturbed bees on hives nearby. As a result,

a swarm of bees came rushing towards them and attacked the students leaving little time to run for cover. However, all but two managed to

escape the bees. Of the two, one suffered the maximum stings and became critical. On being informed, fire personnel reached the spot and rescued the students.

While the critical student is undergoing treatment at Bangiriposi community health centre (CHC), other injured students are recuperating at a nearby government hospital, it was learnt.

MD: ₹2,63,900/ Completion period of the work : upto 30.09.2021 for both tenders). Tender closing date & time : at 1330 hrs. o 26.11.2020 (for both tenders). No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders. Complete information including e-tende documents of the above e-tender is available in /ebsite:http://www.ireps.gov.in Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes corrigenda issued for this tender. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) PR-326/1 /20-21

### **FOREST GUARD GOES MISSING FOR WEEK**

### People up in arms against mining in Malkangiri

FEARS RAISED OVER POSSIBLE WATER-LOGGING IN DOWNHILL AREAS OF MOTU

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Kalahandi, Oct 30: A forest guard of Sikerkupa forest division in Kalahandi district went missing from the forest for more than a week and is yet to be traced.

The forest guard has been identified as Suhag Ranjan Panda. On not being able to trace him, other forest officials lodged an FIR with the police October 21.

According to forest officials, Panda was last seen in Dhanbahali on Kalahandi-Kandhamal border as he was discharging his duty in the forest. Even though his duty time was over he didn't return from the forest.

The family members then informed forest officials in this regard. When forest officials failed to find Panda from the forest even after a rigorous search operation, they informed the police officials of Narla police station. The police registered a missing person's complaint in this regard and investigation is underway.

### POST NEWS NETWORK

MV 79, Oct 30: People of many villages in Pusuguda and Motu panchayats of Malkangiri voiced concern that a stone mine being operated in the area will cause massive water logging in downhill areas.

They opposed the stone mines being operated in the area. Hundreds of people from nearby areas gathered in the area by observing Covid safety guidelines, held a meeting at Muraliguda village and deliberated on the impact of the stone mining.

The meeting was attended by Motu sarpanch Muna Sodi and a number of ward members, who expressed their concern over the issue.

"All villages in Motu panchayat are on the downhill of the Peta stone mine. Owing to mining, the hill is being hollowed out, creating craters. In the monsoon, water will gush into all villages and hundreds of farmland in the downhill areas. After the hill is reduced to craters,



problems of people will multiply," they lamented. On the other hand, due to the Polavaram project of Andhra Pradesh, Motu and its peripheral areas lying close to the Godavari river face water logging in the monsoon for days together. The villagers and the people's representatives demanded that the

government should pay heed to the safety and plight of people living in low-lying areas in the region. The sarpanch told media persons that stone mining should be immediately halted.

They warned if the government does not take any steps to halt stone mining, a massive agitation will be held in the coming days.

They said that they would submit a memorandum to the state government through the Collector.

Notably, a few weeks ago, people of Ammakund under Khairaput block staged protests against a bid to lease out a stone quarry to an Andhra Pradesh-based company. Residents of seven panchayats had submitted a memorandum to the local tehsdildar to restrain the company or any other entity from extracting stone from sites near Ammakund. People of this tribal dominated district mostly depend on forest produces for their livelihood. The mining area spreads over 600 acres and if allowed, it will affect the eco-tourism spot, some villagers alleged.

**CITY HEALTH SOCIETY** 22 BERHAMPUR Advt.No.02/20 Date: 29.10.2020

### WALK IN INTERVIEW

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up vacancies of various staff under National Urban Health Mission, under City Health Society, Ganjam, Berhampur on part time basis, subject to approval as per Odisha State Health & Family Welfare Society terms and conditions.

- 1. O&G part time Specialist-01
- 2. Medicine part time Specialist-02
- 3. Physiotherapist-2
- 4. Eye Specialist-1

Eligible candidates for the above post, who are interested, may appear for the walk-in-interview against the vacancy, at the Office of the Chief District Medical & Public Health, Ganjam, Berhampur on 20.11.2020. Registration timing will be from 10.30 A.M. to 12.00 Noon only on the mentioned Walk-in-Interview dates. No application will be received after scheduled timing of registration.

Interested candidates may log on the https://www. ganjam.nic.in for know the details of vacancy, eligible criteria & application form etc. Candidates fulfilling the eligibility criteria are to appear before the undersigned on the date & time fixed for the Walk-In-Interview.

The undersigned reserves the right to cancel any or all the applications without assigning any reason thereof. Sd./- CDM&PHO-cum-District Mission Director, Ganjam





### power post

as a global supplier of PPE, phar-

maceuticals and ventilators; India

has seen a 13 per cent increase in

inward FDI in April-August which

However, other disturbing in-

dicators are emerging at the same

time. Only three months ago a

number of global agencies had

forecast a 5 per cent decline in

India's GDP this year. Today they

have forecast a 10 per cent con-

traction. GDP per capita or in-

per capita is a measure of the in-

and June 2020. However, our key

declined by 50 per cent, leather

35 per cent.

is highest ever.

Bharat

Ihunjhunwala

**THE RESULT** 

**OF INCREASING** 

**IMPORT DUTIES** 

WILL BE THAT

WILL INCREASE

**IN DOMESTIC** 

**THE PRICE** 

**OF GOODS** 

MARKET

### FOCUS ECONOMY

The best way to express one's gratitude to the Divine is to feel simply happy. THE MOTHER



### Crunch time for babus

The countdown to the annual Budget for 2021-22 has started amid the urgency to push economic growth badly mauled by the Covid-19 pandemic. There is already talk of a third stimulus soon, going by the recent utterances of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The Budgetmaking babus led by Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey have their work cut out.

Sources say that the first meeting of the budget preparing exercise took place with officials of the Department of Financial Services as well as MSME, housing, steel and power ministries in attendance. The almost onemonth long exercise to finalise the Revised Estimate (RE) for 2020-21 and Budget Estimate for 2021-22 will conclude on November 12 after Expenditure Secretary TV Somanathan completes discussions with other secretaries and financial advisors. This year, however, due to Covid, the number of participants for the pre-budget meetings may be restricted to a maximum of five officers for each meeting from a Ministry/Department, not below the rank of Director. For the Modi sarkar, the next Budget will be crucial since it will have to deal with the impact of the pandemic on revenue collection, disinvestment, expenditure, export and food prices. The indications are gloomy with the IMF forecasting that the economy will shrink by 10.3 per cent. Even the Reserve Bank of India has similarly opined that it will shrink by 9.5 per cent. The Budget will have to address critical issues pertaining to growth contraction and subdued revenue collection due to the pandemic.

### MAHA'S BIG IPS MUDDLE

As many as 36 IPS officers in Maharashtra are awaiting new postings and the unprecedented delay has given the Opposition BJP a handle to criticise Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. Among the officers on the 'wait' list are 15 SP-rank officers besides high-profile top cop Deven Bharti.

Bharti, a 1994-batch officer has not been assigned a new posting but continues as ADG (Anti-Terrorism

Squad) since he has not been relieved despite being transferred! Sources say that this situation has created unease in the force, since the state government's refusal to clear the air. has only led to more rumours. It is well-known by now that



Thackeray wasn't too pleased with the transfer of cops effected by the Mumbai Police Commissioner in July when he reshuffled 10-DCP rank officers in consultation with the government. Later, the transfers were put on hold.

Clearly, there is uncertainty and perhaps sharp differences on the issue within the government, even as the wait grows longer. The government says the 'exercise' will be completed soon, but that may be little relief to the cops forced to cool their heels waiting for a decision.

### IAS VS OTHERS IN HARYANA

The tussle between the IAS and other services is a constant factor in any government. The resignation of Jagdeep Dhanda, president of the Haryana Civil Service Officers' Association, has blown the lid off the resentment among a section of Haryana IAS officers. They feel that the Manohar Khattar government is allowing the 'usurping' of IAS cadre posts by other services. Sources inform that Dhanda resigned to express his resentment over the appointment of HCS officers in the State Transport Department.

This feeling has peaked after the latest round of transfers issued by the state government. While an IPS officer was posted as the Principal Secretary and another was given the charge of Managing Director of one of the two power utilities in the state, an IFS officer was also posted as the Principal Secretary. Further, the state government has posted DSPs and Employment Officers against the post of District Transport Officers (DTOs), causing heartburn among officers of the state civil services.

Apparently, after confabulations, a senior officer has been deputed to write to the Chief Minister on posting officers of other services against IAS cadre posts.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.



Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has warned India should not adopt the path of protecting domestic industries by raising import duties as has been done recently

son to re-examine the way forward. come per person is a better indicator of the state of an economy We have before us two paths because while GDP is a measure here onwards. Former RBI of total income of a country, GDP Governor Raghuram Rajan has warned that India should not adopt come of a citizen of the country. the path of protecting domestic The International Monetary Fund industries by raising import duties as has been done recently for some has assessed that India's GDP is likely to be \$1877 per capita against products. Protectionism means Bangladesh at \$1888 per capita. that we increase import duties We have slipped behind Bangladesh. Global rating agency collected on foreign goods entering India so that their price in-Moody's has downgraded India's creases; and the price of domestic sovereign rating to Baa3 which is production becomes less in comthe lowest investment grade rating. parison; leading to sale of the lat-A further downgrade would make ter. He has warned that we had it difficult for the Government of followed the same protectionist India as well as Indian companies policy before the economic reto access foreign funds. Our manforms of 1991 with disastrous reufactured exports are slipping. sults. A license permit raj was Our exports of iron ore increased prevalent that enabled selected by 63 per cent and of rice increased big domestic companies to extract by 33 per cent between June 2019 monopolistic profits and the politician-bureaucratic alliance to exmanufactured exports of jewellery tract huge corruption money. At that time the government not only products by 40 per cent and textiles had prohibitive import taxes of up to 150 per cent but also quan-India stands at 94th rank in the titative restrictions. One was not World Hunger Index which is lower allowed, for example, to import than Bangladesh at 75th, Myanmar cars even by paying the 150 per at 78th, Pakistan at 88th rank. Our cent import duty. The domestic performance in containing Covid businesses could sell their goods is dismal. As of 29.10.2020, we have at high prices and they shared the had 87 deaths per million populabounty with the politician-bution against 1 for Sri Lanka, 22 for reaucratic alliance. Say, the cost of Myanmar, 26 for Bangladesh, 30 production of a tube light in India for Pakistan and 31 for Nepal. These as well as China was Rs 500. Now, the government at that time imnegative indicators give us a reaposed an import duty of Rs 200. This led to increase in the cost of imported tube light to Rs 700. The domestic manufacturers increased the sale price to Rs 700 because they were 'protected' both from foreign competition due to high import taxes and from domestic competition because license permit raj. They made a windfall of Rs 200 per tube light that they shared with the politician-bureaucratic alliance. Rajan has done well to draw attention to this peril in increasing import duties. However, governments have utterly failed to put an end to the extortion by the politician-bureaucratic alliance. Thus, we need a Plan B. Here, pro-

The present situation is different than the pre-reform period on three counts. The first difference is that we had quantitative restrictions or prohibitive duties on imports previously. One, for example, could not import a car even by paying a 150 per cent import duty. Presently we can increase import duties by a relatively small amount. For example, if the government imposes an import duty of Rs 200 on tube light, then the politician-bureaucratic alliance will be able to extort only Rs 200. Imports will come in if they extort Rs 300. The first difference is that there is presently an upper limit to the extortion. Second differ-

tectionism comes back.

ence is domestic monopolies held sway in the eighties. For example, the Tatas reportedly wanted to manufacture cars but the government did not give license to them in order to protect the monopoly of the Birlas. This monopoly was broken only when Sanjay Gandhi jumped into the fray. At present we have dismantled the license permit raj and competition prevails among big businesses-both domestic and foreign. Therefore, chances of extortion of monopolistic profits are much less today. Third difference is the exposure of our businesspersons to global manufacturing and marketing practices was limited. Today a number of Indian businesspersons have set up manufacturing facilities in China and they are importing into India the goods made by them in China Thus, our businesspersons have acquired frontline technologies. An increase in import duties today will not lead to the situation of the eighties because competition among big businesses will reduce the extraction of monopolist profits; and imports will set an upper limit to the extortion.

The result of increasing import duties will be that the price of goods will increase in domestic market. The price of tube light will increase from Rs 500 to Rs 700. The extortion by politician-bureaucratic alliance will increase behind the protectionist barriers. say, by Rs 100. Yet, competition between big businesses will prevent the extraction of monopolist profits. I estimate that the price of a domestically produced tube light will be Rs 600 while that of the imported tube light will be Rs 700. As a result, the Indian businessperson who is presently manufacturing tube lights in China and importing them into India will shift his manufacturing facility to India and 'Make in India' will succeed. Therefore, we should not be bound by our past experiences and increase import duties as a second-best path within the present dismal political situation.

> The writer is a former Professor of Economics at IIM Bangalore.

### SPECTRUM POLITICS Will fascism win the US election?

Tany Americans can see that this election must be understood as peal of an authoritarian personal-treatment of immigrants under

WISDOM CORNER

66	If you only have a hammer, you tend to see every pr	oblem as a nail. ABRAHAM MASLOW
66	He who knows others is wise. He who knows himsel	f is enlightened.
66	The art of a people is a true mirror to their minds.	JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

### WORDS**WORTH**

### Up to snuff

he snuff here is tobacco: nothing to do with the verb meaning to extinguish. Several colloquial phrases are recorded that used the word snuff, most of which date from the early part of the nineteenth century in Britain, when snuff-taking was still common, but less fashionable than it had been fifty years before. The first meaning of up to snuff was somebody who was sharp, not easily fooled. This may have come from the idea of snuff being itself a sharp preparation, but perhaps because it was mainly taken by men of adult years and some affluence (it was expensive) who would be able to appreciate the quality of snuff and distinguish between examples of different value. The evidence isn't there to be sure about its exact origin, though an early form of the phrase was up to snuff and a pinch above it, which at least confirms it did indeed relate to tobacco. Whatever its origin, the meaning of the phrase shifted slightly after a while to imply somebody who was efficient and capable: later still it often meant that something was up to standard, or of the required quality. It was in this sense very similar to another expression of the time, up to scratch.

### Up to speed

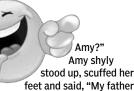
hese days, up to speed mostly often appears in non-technical writing in the figurative sense of being fully informed or up to date on some matter: "Kids know much more about these technologies than their parents, and it's heavy lifting to get the adults up to speed"; "Following the private meeting, the board now is up to speed on the investigation". To bring up to speed was reported by the New York Times in 1974 as a new jargon term, in the sense of "to brief", that had been used during the Watergate hearings the previous year. It seems to have been around earlier than that - there's a example in April 1970 in a report about the ill-fated Apollo 13 moon shot in which John Swigert was a last-minute replacement for another astronaut: "It's really a compatibility sort of thing to get him up to speed, in language and responses.

### LOL

### Where does he work?

grade school teacher was asking Agrade school council and students what their parents did for a living. "Tim, you be first. What does your mother do all day?" Tim stood up and proudly said, "She's a doctor."

"That's wonderful. How about you,



is a mailman. "Thank you, Amy," said the teacher.

"What does your parent do, Billy?" Billy proudly stood up and announced, "Nothing. He's an economist."

Federico Finchelstein, Pablo Piccato, & Jason Stanley

**BY NORMALISING** ANTI-DEMOCRATIC **SPEECH AND IDEOLOGY, TRUMP** HAS INCREASINGLY **NORMALISED AUTHORITARIAN** RULE

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

voting for President Trump L is tantamount to endorsing white nationalism and the kind of conspiracist, magical thinking that denies real threats like pandemics and climate change. But it also must be recognised that failing to vote against Trump in this year's election is itself a form of collaboration with an attack on democracy that is already underway.

America today is threatened not just by authoritarianism but by fascism, which operates as an explicitly anti-democratic cult centered around a leader who promises national restoration in the face of humiliation supposedly caused by minorities, liberals, and Marxists. Because fascism glorifies violence and the militarisation of politics, we should be wary of the fact that Trump has refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power. Even if his regular use of anti-democratic rhetoric is merely a tactic to divert attention from his failure to manage the pandemic, such language from an elected leader is shocking.

But many Americans are not shocked at all. By normalising antidemocratic speech and ideology, Trump has increasingly normalised authoritarian rule, too. That is why

a struggle for the survival of American democracy itself.

To be sure, whereas fascism typically offers a grand vision of "national restoration," Trump has no such vision to speak of. But that does not mean America is safe from fascism. Trump's attacks on democracy are a response to challenges that his personality cult is facing, both from nationwide mobilisation of resistance against its main ideological pillar, white nationalism, and from the Democratic Party which seems more unified than ever.

These two threats are not coordinated, as Trumpian propaganda would have it. But they have created a pretext for Trump to deploy the fascist playbook even more aggressively than he has before. As with the classic fascist movements of the past, this new, more dangerous phase of Trumpism features a campaign that has doubled down on messianic leadership, the subornation of violence, and open attacks on the constitutional order.

Trump embodies whatever his supporters want, even when they themselves don't know what that is This is all too typical of fascist leaders, who usually function as a father figure for those susceptible to the ap-

ity. In this context, other forms of authority (be it scientific or legal) are seen as direct threats to an aspiring fascist leader. It is no wonder Trump responds with immediate anger when he is contradicted by Anthony Fauci, the top US infectious-disease expert. When Trump himself fell ill with Covid. he used the occasion not as a wake-up call but an opportunity to demonstrate his physical strength (with the help of powerful steroids).

Finally, with Trump occupying the position of the father, there is a strong religious dimension to Trumpism. In this context, one must not take lightly Trump's cynical and clumsy displays of religiosity. The more that Trump's followers regard him as a kind of divine authority, the more justified they will feel in using violence to defend him. The armed civilians who threaten and even shoot protesters in streets are not 'defending property.' Rather, they are claiming the right to use violence against the leader's enemies.

With the approach of Election Day, Trump has elevated the risk of fascism. He routinely depicts those who oppose him in brazenly racist terms, and his administration has supercharged its mis-

its control, including by allegedly allowing a 'silent pandemic' to spread through an immigrant detention centre in Georgia.

Trump has also been stepping up his campaign to undermine the public's trust in electoral institutions. Here, he has been building on Republicans' long history of efforts to disenfranchise African-American voters and gerrymandering to reduce the weight of votes in more diverse, left-leaning urban centres. The point of all this is to head off the possibility of an electoral loss by claiming a broad, anti-democratic cabal of media elites is 'rigging' the system to block the will of the people.

If Trump does not accept an electoral defeat. he will have nowhere else to turn but toward a distinctively fascist form of authoritarianism. The implication is clear: failing to vote against the Trump cult is no different than joining it oneself.

Finchelstein is Prof of History at New School for Social Research and Eugene Lang College. Piccato is Prof of History at Columbia University. Stanley is Prof of Philosophy at Yale University. © PROJECT SYNDICATE

Pangs of poverty

Sir, It is disheartening to see a

month and seven days old baby

sold for a meagre amount of Rs

15,000 due to poverty in

Sambalpur, Odisha (Orissa POST,

28-Oct-2020). We can rightly imag-

ine that poverty has led the

child's parents to do so. Poverty

also has forced a couple to give

their ward in child marriage

that took place in Lucknow, Uttar

Pradesh, two days ago. The gov-

ernment must rethink before

promising free Covid-19 vaccine

and provide basic necessities to the poverty-stricken citizens of

the country.

### Perform or perish

#### Sir, A government job is a service and not a profit making business. It is praiseworthy that the state government has decided to award voluntary retirement to inefficient officers and promote deserving ones. Many babus are inefficient, incapable, insincere and impervious to the concerns of the public. Government service is not a licence to loot the taxpayers' money from the state exchequer. Government officers should be answerable to the public for every act of omission and commission. Corrupt babus should be shown the door. There should be zero tolerance for corruption in government service. Government servants are the trustees and not the owners of $\,public\,money\!.\,Every\,government$ officer should take an oath to serve and not to loot public money during his/her initial appointment. Similarly, honest, sincere, punctual and efficient babus should be suitably rewarded and given promotion and included for foreign tours. Performance appraisal should be made mandatory for the next level promotion. Reforms are necessary in government service to fulfill the aspirations of the common man. Perform or perish.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

### Despicable act

French city of Nice on Thursday which left a woman beheaded and two other people killed is a despicable act. The attacks come at a time of growing Muslim resentment at France's defence of the right to publish cartoons of Prophet Mohammed. Protesters are up in arms in several Muslimmajority countries, whose leaders have also slammed the French government. Though the attack deserves the strongest condemnation, France would do well to pull out the cartoons considering that religion is a sensitive issue. N J Ravi Chander.

Sir, The church attack in the

Anna M Kisku, MANGALORE

(0)



BANGALORE



### Punjab power situation grim LeT behind killing of 3 BJP men

Thermal plants are nearly running out of coal stock as movement of coal rakes in the state has remained suspended for about a month in view of the farmers' stir

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 30: Power situation has turned grim in Punjab with thermal plants nearly running out of coal stock as movement of coal rakes in the state has remained suspended for about a month in view of the farmers' stir and authorities Friday said imposing power cuts may be unavoidable.

Railways Minister Piyush Goyal had a few days ago sought the Punjab government's assurance on the safety of trains and their crew members to restore freight services, after Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had asked him to intervene to resume the same. Goods train services had resumed

in the state after farmer unions October 21, announced exempting them from their weeks-old 'rail roko' agitation over the Centre's new farm laws.

However, the Railways later decided to extend its suspension of goods train operations, saying protesting farmers are still blocking the tracks.

"The Centre is targeting Punjab by suspending the goods trains in the state because farmers and the government here have opposed their anti-farmer laws," Punjab Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa said on Friday.

He further said, "Let the Government of India officials them-



The Centre is targeting Punjab by suspending the goods trains in the state because farmers and the overnment here have opposed their anti-farmer laws SUKHJINDER SINGH RANDHAWA PUNJAB MINISTER

teracting with journalists, said,

"for last month, there has been no

movement of coal rakes in the state

and coal stock of Nabha Thermal

Plant at Rajpura and Talwandi Sabo

Power Limited in Mansa has com-

stock available will last only for 2-

3 days and for emergency purpose

or critical events we have kept that.

In view of the situation, we are

purchasing 1,500 megawatts to 1,700

"In three other power plants,

pletely exhausted."

selves go and check if the farmers are still squatting on rail tracks. Barring one track in Jandiala Guru, where too train can be diverted via Tarn Taran to reach Amritsar, other tracks are free. On Jalandhar-Pathankot section, in Bathinda and in Ferozepur, tracks are free.'

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited chairman-cum-managing director A Venu Prasad Friday said, out of five thermal plants, only one is running.

Projecting the current power sit-MW from power exchange, but it is uation as 'grim', Prasad while inunpredictable, sometimes we get,

sometimes we don't and at what rates we are going to get we don't know. Whenever we buy power from the exchange, we have to make an advance payment, nearly Rs 5-10 crore daily, for which we need a huge amount," Prasad said.

He said they have requested the State's Finance Department for release of Rs 200 crore immediately, but they too are facing financial constraints.

"Therefore, as of today, the situation has assumed serious proportions. So, if current uncertainty continues, power board and power consumers may face difficulties, he said.

Prasad said for the farming sector and industry, as of now cuts were not being imposed, but for domestic categories, minor cuts have been imposed and in days ahead it will depend on how the situation unfolds.

"Also, this year there was not enough rainfall during monsoon and as a result water level in reservoirs has gone down due to which hydel power generation has also come down... And if the coal crisis continues, some problems will be faced." he said.

Prasad, however, said luckily, power demand, especially during night-time has come down in view of change in weather condition and fall in temperatures. "But during daytime the demand is around 6.000 to 7.000 MW." he said

*Earlier this year, five* other BJP workers were killed in Kashmir, prompting the police to move hundreds of village leaders who are close to the party to high-security zones

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 30: Terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was behind the killing of three BJP leaders in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir Thursday, Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar said and appealed to the protected persons in the valley not to move around without their security.

Three BJP workers -- Fida Hussain, Umer Hajam and Umer Rashid Beigh - were shot dead by militants in the YK Pora area of Kulgam district in south Kashmir late on Thursday evening. The Resistance Front (TRF), which is believed to be a shadow group of LeT, claimed responsibility for the killings.

IGP (Kashmir) Kumar said police have seized a vehicle used in the attack and that such killings were being executed at the behest of Pakistan. "Three militants came in a local car belonging to a local militant identified as Altaf. Fida (Hussain) was with his two col-



leagues in a car and the militants fired indiscriminately on them from close range. They received grave injuries and succumbed on the way to the hospital," the IGP told reporters.

Kumar said after the attack, the militants fled in the same car towards Achbal area, from where the car was seized this morning. A team of forensic science laboratory (FSL) has gone to Achbal

to inspect the car, he added. The IGP said LeT was behind the killings. "The names of LeT militants -- a local militant from Dooru, Nisar Khanday; and Abbas from Khudwani who was previously associated with HM (Hizbul Mujahideen) and is now with LeT and also claims to be from TRF -- are cropping up. The involvement of these two is there, but there may be a FT (foreign terrorist) involved as

well (in the attack)," he said. The IGP asserted the security forces will neutralise them soon. Kumar said Hussain was one of the 1,619 vulnerable persons who were lodged in secure locations before the Centre's decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and

Kashmir on August 5 last year

"We had made a list of 1,619 vulnerable persons before August 5 (last year) and we had kept them in different hotels in secure areas. We had kept Fida (Hussain) in a hotel in Pahalgam where he stayed for three weeks. Recently, he gave an undertaking and left the hotel. We are investigating what they were doing in a car in an area far away from home," he said.

Asked whether the attack was pre-planned, the IGP said it was possible. "It seems so to us as well because what were they doing away from home, waiting for someone or not, then militants came, attacked them and then ran away to Achbal. There is a chance that it was a pre-planned attack and we are investigating it and will soon solve it." he said

As a countermeasure to such at tacks, Kumar appealed to the protected persons to follow the standard operating procedures (SOP) laid down by the security agencies for their movement and not to move around in vulnerable areas especially without their security.



A health worker collects a swab sample of a commuter on National Highway for Covid-19 test, in Jalandhar, Friday.

Experts clear the air: Punjab

### NC flays 'curbs' on Farooq's movement

Abdullah had informed about his visit to the Hazratbal shrine but the authorities stationed a truck outside his residence preventing him from leaving his house

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 30: The Jammu and Kashmir administration prevented former chief minister and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah from leaving his residence to offer prayers at the Hazratbal shrine here on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi Friday, his party said.

Abdullah had informed about his visit to the Hazratbal shrine but the authorities stationed a truck outside his residence preventing him from leaving his house.

Political parties in Jammu and Kashmir condemned the action and termed it a 'violation' of rights. "J-K administration has blocked the residence of party president Dr

able for comments. Abdullah, who represents Srinagar in the Lok Sabha, was supposed to visit the Hazratbal shrine, on the banks of the Dal Lake, to offer prayers on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi.

Milad-un-Nabi marks the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad and it is observed in the month of Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar

Former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti condemned the action and said it exposed 'deep paranoia' within the government.

In a tweet, she said, "Preventing Faroog sahab from offering prayers on Milad Un Nabi SAW at Hazratbal exposes GOI's deep paranoia and their iron fist approach towards JK. It's a gross violation of our rights and is highly condemnable." The recently cobbled People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) comprising regional and some national mainstream political parties including the NC and PDP termed the action a "new low in curtailment of fundamental rights" of the people of Jammu



and Kashmir. In a statement, PAGD spokesper-

ident of the PAGD.

Lone said, "Abdullah was slated

to go to Hazratbal in order to par-

ticipate in the religious congre-

gation on account of Eid-Milad-

Un-Nabi, however (he) was barred

tions of the state administration

which are tantamount to inter-

ference in the religious rights of Dr

"We strongly condemn the ac-

from leaving his house.'

Farooq Abdullah. This marks a new low in the curtailment of fundamental rights of the people of Json Sajad Lone condemned the state administration for putting a K. We demand that the blockade be blockade outside the resident of removed so that Dr Faroog Sahib Abdullah and demanded that it be is able to perform his religious du removed. Abdullah is also the presties," he said.

The PAGD also "unequivocally and unambiguously" condemned the killings of three BJP workers by militants in Kulgam district of south Kashmir Thursday. "Political differences cannot justify use of violence. Violence has always and will crowd out sanity. We will always fight aggression in all its forms irrespective of the source of ag gression," Lone said.

### smog unlikely to reach Delhi

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Oct 30: Smog produced due to burning of paddy stubble in Punjab fields is highly unlikely to travel 300-400 km to adversely impact Delhi's air quality, Ludhiana-based Puniab Agricultural University's (PAU) experts said Friday.

The inference by researchers at the Department of Climate Change and Agriculture Meteorology is based on the wind speed in Punjab during October and November between 2017 and 2019.

Prabhjyot Kaur Sidhu, who has compiled the study, told IANS that if smog from Punjab were to move towards Haryana and Delhi, the wind speed should be more than 4-5 km per hour and its direction north-westerly or at least westerly.

She said that in the three years under study, on only one day did the wind speed exceed 5 km/hr to 5.9 km/hr November 7, 2019.

"In fact, the wind direction that day was southeast easterly, which means wind from neighbouring states like Haryana and Delhi was blowing towards Punjab," Sidhu explained.

The southeast easterly wind from Punjab is thus highly unlikely to affect the air quality in neighbouring states, she said.

With the fall in mercury in October and November: there is reduction in the formation of air currents.

"A stable atmospheric condition is created during these two months in which only a little vertical movement of air current occurs while horizontal movement of air is also reduced. Dust and smoke particles added to the atmosphere due to straw-burning and other pollution sources get entrapped," Sidhu said. "It is like a closed-room situa-

tion in which hardly anything comes in from outside or goes out.

### LOCAL PROBLEM, LOCAL SOLUTION

The creation as well as avoidance of smog In the plains of northern India, especially paddy-growing in any area is in the hands of residents states, each state is saddled Concerted local efforts are the key to with its own pollutants

solving this problem



This situation starts building up over the days until a low-pressure weather system or a western disturbance moves in and relieves the situation in the form of horizontal wind drift or some rainfall which sort of washes the lower parts of the atmosphere," the researcher said.

In the plains of northern India, especially paddy-growing states, each state is saddled with its own pollutants. The creation as well as avoidance of smog in any area is in the hands of residents. Concerted local efforts are the key to solving this problem, she said.

Her fellow researchers, including Sukhjeet Kaur and Sandeep Singh Sandhu, compiled average wind speed at 10 stations -- Gurdaspur, Ballowal Saunkhri, Chandigarh, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Patiala, Ambala, Bathinda, Faridkot and Abohar.

For the northern states, October is very critical as the temperatures are reduced and the air pollution level goes up due to stubble-burning and bursting of firecrackers

during Dussehra and Diwali. The study revealed that the number of smog days in Punjab over the years had increased.

In 2012, smog was recorded for two days -- November 11 and 14. Diwali was celebrated November 13 that year. In 2017, smog was recorded for 12 consecutive days. Diwali was celebrated October 19. But the smog was concentrated from November 1 to 13. November 14-15 the smog dissipated when the wind speed in-

creased up to 4-8.5 km/hr. Next year witnessed smog for 11 days, i.e., three consecutive days during the end of October and eight consecutive days in November. Diwali was celebrated November 7 in 2018. November 14, smog dissipated when the wind speed in-

creased to 5.7 km/hr. Last year, smog was witnessed for 10 days, i.e., five consecutive days during the end of October and five consecutive days in November. Diwali was celebrated October 27 last vear

November 6-7, the smog scattered when the wind speed increased by 8.9 to 10.5 km/hr.

Sidhu said that it was evident that the formation of smog in the lower atmosphere occurs when the wind is calm. As soon as the wind speed increases, automatic dissipation of smog occurs.

Faroog Abdullah and stopped him from offering prayers at Dargah Hazratbal. JKNC condemns this infringement of fundamental right to pray, especially on the auspicious occasion of Milad Un Nabi SAW," the NC said on its Twitter handle.

No one from the Jammu and Kashmir administration was avail-

PM urged to reopen Kartarpur Corridor

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 30: Ahead of the 551st birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal Friday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to direct the Lands Port Authority of India (LPAI) to reopen the Kartarpur Corridor.

The corridor -- which allows Indian pilgrims to undertake visafree travel to the Kartarpur Sahib gurudwara -- was closed on March 16 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Badal, in the letter, said easy access should be given to the pilgrims while enforcing health protocols keeping in view of the 551st birth anniversary of the Sikhism founder on November 30.

The four-km long corridor links Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur in India to Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan - the final resting place of Sikh faith's founder Guru Nanak Dev.

India has said that a decision to reopen the Kartarpur corridor will be taken in accordance with the protocols relating to COVID-19 and easing of restrictions. Badal, in

PARTY AND ADDITION OF

his letter, said that there was an overwhelming sentiment in the Sikh community that the Kartarpur Corridor should be reopened at the earliest so that devotees could pay obeisance. "The Pakistan government had opened the corridor for travel and permission for the same was only awaited from the Indian government," he said.

The SAD president said prominent pilgrimage sites across the world, which were partially or fully closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have been reopened. Badal said history was made last year when the Indian government decided to open the corridor and it was inaugurated by the prime minister on November 9 on the eve of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev

"Thousands of devotees visited the final resting place of Guru Sahib in the months following this before the corridor was closed temporarily March 16 this year. I will be grateful if you could intervene in this matter considering that restrictions on paying obeisance at places of worship have been relaxed across the country. This will also be in keeping with the wishes of the Sikh community," the letter added.

### 15K devotees to be allowed per day at Vaishnodevi shrine



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 30: The Jammu and Kashmir administration Friday said 15,000 pilgrims will be allowed per day to pay obeisance at the cave shrine of Mata Vaishnodevi from November 1.

Earlier, only 7,000 pilgrims were allowed to visit the shrine due to COVID-19 restrictions.

In a fresh SOP, the administration said, "As such, in exercise of powers conferred under the disaster management act, the State Executive Committee hereby orders that the guidelines and instructions shall continue to remain valid till 30.11.2020, subject to the following modifications that instead of a ceiling of 7000, the upper limit for permissible number of pilgrims to SMVD Shrine, Katra, shall be 15000, w.e.f. 01 .11 .2020." The shrine atop the Trikuta hills was reopened August 16 after a gap of nearly five months due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Initially, the administration im-posed a cap of 2,000 pilgrims daily, including 100 from outside J&K.









People should consider masks as a vaccine till there is one. The spread of the virus can be stopped to a large extent if everyone wears a mask SATYENDAR JAIN | DELHI HEALTH MINISTER

### **UP SETS RECORD IN** SANITIZER PRODUCTION

Uttar Pradesh has set a record of sorts by producing over 1.7 crore litres of sanitizer since March when the lockdown was imposed following the Covid-19 pandemic





government has directed all district magistrates and the Delhi Police to ensure that only green firecrackers are manufactured, stored and sold in the national capital through licensed traders

The city

GOPAL RAI DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

The youth of the country should not shy away from politics and actively engage in governance

MANISH SISODIA DELHI DEPUTY CM

I have heard about the speculation that Urmila Matondkar will be nominated by the government to the Council. It is the prerogative of the state cabinet, which has authorised CM Uddhav Thackerav to take a decision

SANJAY RAUT SHIV SENA LEADER

### SHORT TAKES

### 10 jawans injured

Giridih (Jharkhand): Ten CRPF personnel were injured, some of them critically, when a truck carrying them overturned after losing control while trying to save some bovine animals in Jharkhand's Giridih district on Friday, police said. The incident took place in Madhuban police station area when around 25 jawans of the Central Reserve Police Force's 154th Battalion were being transported from Madhuban to Nimiaghat, a police officer said.

### Naxal held

Raipur: A Naxal carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh on her head was arrested from Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Kanker district, police said Friday. Acting on a specific input, Dashri Korsa alias Samita was apprehended from her native village Gattakal under Koyalibeda police station limits or

### Cong to observe 'Kisan Adhikar Diwas' Oct 31

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 30: Stepping up its support to the farmers in the wake of enactment of three contentious agriculture-related central laws, the Congress Friday said it would observe October 31 -- the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and death anniversary of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi -- as 'Kisan Adhikar Diwas'.

Party's state leaders and activists will hold 'satyagraha' between 10 am and 4 pm at district headquarters to protest against the farm laws brought forth by the Narendra Modi government. "During the 'satyagraha', party

leaders will highlight the special contribution of independent India's first Union Home Minister Sardar Patel to the farmers' cause and their rights, particularly in the context of Bardoli farmers movement and how the Modi government is blatantly attacking what the Sardar fought for, as also undoing the 'Green Revolution' ushered in by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi that made India self-sufficient in food," said AICC General

Secretary KC Venugopal. Several Congress-led state governments have been in the process of passing laws to negate the central farm laws. The Punjab assembly has already passed a Bill in this regard.



dates in the second phase of elec-

tions, wherein it is in direct contest

with the BJP on 27 seats and with

the ally turned foe JD-U on 25 seats.

The BJP is contesting 46 seats and

the JD-U 43 seats. The prestige of 27

MLAs of the Grand Alliance is on

stake in the November 3 elections.

future of RJD leader Tejashwi

Yadav from Raghopur seat and Tej

Pratap from Hassanpur seat in

Samastipur district. In the 2015

elections, the Rashtriya Janata Dal

of Lalu Prasad had bagged 33 of

these seats, the JD-U 30 and the

Congress seven whereas the NDA

flown down the rivers ever since.

However, a lot of water has since

had won only 22 seats

On the line will be the political



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Oct 30: With the second phase of Bihar Assembly elections slated to be held next week in 94 segments, both the ruling Janata Dal-United of the National Democratic Alliance and the opposition RJD of the Grand Alliance will have to sweat it out as they face a tough battle to retain their respective seats. Elections for 243 Assembly seats were slated to be held in three phases. Polling for 71 seats has already taken place on October 28.

Voting for 94 seats will be done on November 3 and the remaining 78 seats on November 7. The results will be announced on November 10. The RJD has fielded 56 candi-

FESTIVE SHOPPING

Congress, whereas the NDA had Ram Vilas Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party and Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP) in its camp. In this poll fray, the JD-U has moved to the NDA camp, the LJP is fighting its own battle and the RLSP is a part of the Grand Democratic Secular Front. Other prominent faces in the fray in the

second phase are RJD leaders Alok Kumar Mehta from Ujiyarpur and Shailesh Kumar from Bihpur, former parliamentarian Anand Mohan's son Chetan Anand from Sheohar. former parliamentarian Rama Singh's wife Beena Singh from Mahnar, and Congress leader Shatrughan Sinha's son Luv from Bankipur.

in 2020 as compared to the 2015

polls. Five years ago, Nitish Kumar's

JD-U fought the elections in al-

liance with the RJD and the

So, even as a tough task seems ahead for the RJD to repeat its 2015 performance in the absence of JD-U by its side, leaders of the JD-U along with the BJP are also sweat ing it out to wrest the initiative from Tejashwi's party. As both alliances slog to woo voters ahead of the November 3 elections, only time will tell who succeeded in this political game.

### Modi inaugurates tourism attractions at Statue of Unity

Kevadiya (Gujarat), Oct 30:

The Prime Minister inaugurated Arogya Van, Ekta Mall, Sardar Patel Zoological Park/

Modi first inaugurated Arogya Van (`health forest'), spread over 17 acres with a wide range of medicinal plants. The sprawling garden, which boasts of five lakh plants of 380 species, also high-

# Akhilesh poses challenge to BJP

"Akhilesh's mistake of an alliance with BSP had led to losses in last year's Lok Sabha elections but he has more than made up for it now," said a senior SP leader

### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 30: The spat between the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) over the Rajya Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh may have reopened the chapter of acrimony between the two parties but the situation now seems to be working to the advantage of SP.

The SP is now emerging as the main challenger to the ruling BJP in the state. Even the staunchest critics of SP president Akhilesh Yaday within the party confess that his 'masterstroke' has given a push to the party ahead of Assembly elections

"Akhilesh's mistake of an alliance with BSP had led to losses in last year's Lok Sabha elections but he has more than made up for it now," said a senior SP leader, known for his proximity to party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav. BSP president Mayawati un-

wittingly walked into the SP trap on Thursday when she announced - apparently in a fit of rage-that she would not hesitate to support the BJP to defeat SP in the next legislative council elections.

"She has finally revealed to the world that she is hand-in-glove with the BJP. All these years, she had misled the minorities in particular but now she stands completely exposed," said a senior party functionary.

He further said, "Our independent candidate's nomination may have been cancelled without a valid reason but we have gained politically. Leaders in the BSP who are against the BJP, are now sending us feelers.

The Samajwadi Party is also



elated over the fact that it is now the main challenger to the ruling BJP in UP and the division of anti-BJP votes in the 2022 Assembly elections will be 'minimal'. The Congress, which had initially claimed to emerge as a major force in the opposition in UP, meanwhile, has started imploding and infighting within the ranks is at an all-time high

In her resignation, former Congress MP Annu Tandon, on Thursday, finally belled the proverbial cat when she blamed Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for the state of affairs in UP, albeit indirectly. Priyanka, who is in charge of UP affairs, is being blamed for propping up 'ineffective and non-Congress leaders' at the cost of committed party cadres, which is leading to an exodus from the party.

"The Congress state leaders are expelling party workers while senior leaders have either withdrawn completely from party activities or are leaving. The Congress graph is slipping down and we now have no hope left for 2022," said a former party MLA. He admitted that most of the party leaders who were upset with the prevailing state of affairs, were inching closer to SP because that is emerging as the only alternative to the BJP-more so, after the BSP revealed its intentions to support BJP.

No face mask? Get ready to clean up roads in Mumbai!

# PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a two-day visit to Gujarat, inaugurated four new tourist attractions near the Statue of Unity at Kevadiya in Narmada district Friday.

Children's Nutrition Park and Jungle Safari. He was scheduled to launch 17 new projects, including a seaplane service, on Friday and Saturday.

Thursday when she had arrived there to visit her family, an official said.

### Minor gangraped

Pune: A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped by four persons, two of whom have been arrested, in Pune district of Maharashtra, police said Friday. According to the police, the girl had left her home in Hadapsar following a tiff with her parents on October 26, and when she did not return the next day, the police were alerted and a case of kidnapping was registered. The girl was handed over to the police in Saswad on Thursday and during inquiry she revealed that she had been raped by four persons, an official said.

### Man arrested

Palghar: The police Friday arrested a 32-year-old man from Vikramgad taluka of Maharashtra's Palohar district for allegedly raping women and uploading obscene videos of them on the internet, an official said. Acting on a tipoff. a team from the local crime branch laid a trap and nabbed Milind Zade from Pachmad, Palghar police PRO Sachin Navadkar said.

### Nigerian held

Korba: A woman from Chhattisgarh's Koriya district was allegedly duped of Rs 24 lakh by a Nigerian national who got in touch with her through a matrimonial website, police said Friday. Ajide Peter Chinaka (30) was arrested from Noida, Uttar Pradesh and brought to Koriya district on Thursday, an official said.

Shoppers visit Sarojini Nagar Market during the festive season, amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, in New Delhi, Friday PTI PHOTO

### Three held for terror links

### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Oct 30: Security forces have arrested a person for alleged links with proscribed terror outfits Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) at Awantipora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district and two others for LeT links in north Kashmir's Handwara, officials said Friday.

Firdous Ahmad Dar of Dangerpora Noorpora area was arrested in Awantipora and incriminating material, including arms and ammunition, seized from his possession. "He is involved in providing shelter, logistics and other support to active HM terrorists, besides transporting arms and ammunition in Awantipora and Tral areas," police alleged.

Earlier in the day, officials said Jammu and Kashmir Police had arrested two persons on charge of links with Lashkar-e-Taiba from Handwara and seized arms and ammunition from them. Police said that Handwara police, Army and CRPF troops had set up checkpoints



Firdous Ahmad Dar of Dangerpora Noorpora area was arrested in Awantipora and incriminating material, including arms and ammunition. seized from his possession

at different locations in the town after a specific input and searched vehicles and pedestrians.

"During checkings at Chinar Park, two persons riding a twowheeler were found moving around in suspicious circumstances, who tried to escape on seeing security forces but were chased and apprehended," police said.

Earlier in the day, officials said Jammu and Kashmir Police had arrested two persons on charge of links with Lashkar-e-Taiba from Handwara and seized arms and ammunition from them

A search of accused Liyakat Ahmad Mir <del>and</del> Aqib Rashid Mir, both residents of Hyen Trehgam in Kupwara, led to the seizure of arms and ammunition, police claimed. The duo allegedly told police they were working for LeT and were out to deliver arms and ammunition to terrorists operating in south Kashmir.

lights the importance of Yoga, Ayurveda and meditation, an official release said.

The Prime Minister then inaugurated Ekta Mall, a unique store near the Statue of Unity where tourists can buy handloom and handicraft products from various states. The two-storev airconditioned complex is spread over 35,000 square feet and houses 20 emporia, said the government release.

The PM next inaugurated a Children's Nutrition Park, dubbed as the world's first such technology-driven theme park developed over 35,000 square meters. Its primary objective is to make children understand the importance of nutritious food, officials said. The park has 47 attractions providing "infotainment" to children with the underlying theme of "Sahi Poshan Desh Roshan".

Modi then inaugurated Jungle Safari, a state-of-the- art Zoological Park spread across 375 acres and seven levels. It houses over 1,100 indigenous and exotic birds and animals of more than 100 species including tigers, lions, giraffes, zebras and leopards. The Safari also boasts of two world's largest geodesic dome aviaries.

The Prime Minister visited the aviaries and allowed parrots to sit on his arm.



#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 30: Cracking the whip against people who don't wear face masks in public and refuse to pay the fine, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has warned that they will have to sweep the city roads as a punishment.

In the past two days (Thursday-Friday), over a hundred persons caught without face masks who refused or were unable to shell out the Rs 200 fine, were handed brooms or mops and made to sweep or clean up stretches of roads in the city.

Interestingly, the stringent action came even as the BMC announced on Friday that in 212 days, it had collected a whopping Rs 3, 49,34,800 since April, including Rs 18,21,400 only in October.

Despite repeated appeals by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Health Minister Rajesh Tope and other leaders, many Mumbaikars apparently

failed to heed the warning and can be still seen driving or moving around in public without a face masks or not wearing the face mask properly, covering the nose and mouth.

Hoping to rein in the growing menace, this week, BMC Commissioner I.S. Chahal set a target of registering at least 20,000 cases against violators daily by civic teams. "The state government and the BMC have been repeatedly requesting people to wear face masks, but many are not adhering to the new protocols, some refuse to pay fines and others are unable to pay up. So, we make the errant citizens do a clean-up job on the roads in the vicinity as a deterrent," said a BMC official.

The simple - but embarrassing - punishments are handed out as per the BMC's Solid Waste Management Department's byelaws that empowers the civic body to ask people to do community services for offences like littering, urinating or spitting on roads.

years and through that, we assume

that as awareness grows and through

our actions, more and more peo-

ple are able to speak up as they

know they will get help through

the number and not land in trouble,"

The official said that in several

instances, a child who is in a "vul-

### 40 pc of calls received by CHILDLINE since 2018 were 'silent calls'

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 30: Forty per cent of calls received by CHILDLINE helpline number '1098' since 2018 were "silent calls", an official said, indicating that in many cases these may have been "muted" cries for help from people who could not muster the courage to report abuse or violence at that time.

In a "silent call" the receiver can hear background noise, but the caller, who remains on the line, does not speak, the official, who is with the service, said. CHILDLINE '1098' is a round-the-clock helpline number that covers 595 districts and 135 Railway child help desks to help children in distress.

Of the 2.15 crore calls received by CHILDLINE between January 2018 and September this year, as many as 86 lakh were "silent calls", according to data shared by the service. "Mostly these calls mean that somebody is actually trying to call

or wants to seek help, but doesn't

have the courage at that point in time to speak up, we do not disconnect such calls," the official said.

On many occasions a person speaks after counselling by staff members, he said. Sometimes calls are made from the same number several times, but the caller does not speak, "but finally after 100 calls they spoke up in the 101st call", the official said. However, the number of silent calls have reduced in the past three years, he said.

In 2018, 42 lakh or 42 per cent out of 1.01 crore calls were silent calls. while in 2019, 27 lakh or 39 per cent

of 69 lakh total calls were silent calls, according to the data. In 2020, till September, 16 lakh or 36 per cent of 43 lakh calls were silent calls, it stated.

The reason behind the drop in the number of silent calls could be attributed to people becoming more aware of CHILDLINE's services and actions, the official said, adding that with more awareness people are "gathering the courage to speak up". "The number of silent calls has been reducing in the past three

nerable environment" tries to "test the waters" by calling the helpline number and know "what happenswhen I call". "Now many of them are able to speak up," he added.

he said.











India has dealt with the worst crisis in decades along its border with China with firmness and maturity despite facing the challenge of the coronavirus pandemic HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA FOREIGN SECRETARY OF INDIA

### **MOBILE GAMING GAINING POPULARITY**

Seven in 10 urban Indians are now playing video games or mobile games on any device, taking the country into the top 10 gaming countries in the world, a new report revealed





Foreign forces are trying to destabilise the **BJP-led coalition** government by opposing its decisions

PRAMOD SAWANT GOA CHIEF MINISTER

A digital studio will be launched in Vijayawada soon to update farmers about the modern agricultural techniques

KURASALA KANNABABU ANDHRA PRADESH AGRICULTURE MINISTER



compared to the UPA's tenure reflecting commitment towards transforming the state

### SHORT TAKES

### 2 cops hurt in **Maoist ambush**

Lohardaga (Jharkhand): Two police personnel were critically injured in an ambush by activists of the banned CPI (Maoist) outfit in Jharkhand's Lohardaga district Friday, police said. During a search operation in Shahi Ghat area, Maoists exploded an IED and fired upon a police team, in which two personnel were critically injured, a senior officer said.

### Coal miner found dead

Hyderabad: A worker of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), who was trapped under a coal rock, died Friday. Rescue team pulled out the body of Rapolu Naveen (26) from Vakeelpalli coal mine in Peddapalli district. Officials said after 12-hour of rescue operation, the body was retrieved from the mine under Ramagundam Region-II of SCCL. 

### TN Guv clears 7.5% NEET quota bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai. Oct 30: Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit has assented to a bill envisaging 7.5 per cent reservation to government school students who have cleared the National Eligibilitycum-Entrance Test in admission to undergraduate medical courses. A day after the state government

took the executive route to implement the quota regime from the current 2020-21 academic year itself and issued a government order to facilitate it, the Raj Bhavan said "this is to inform the people of Tamil Nadu that the honourable Governor has given his assent to the bill." The Governor sought legal opin-

ion from the Solicitor General of India (SGI) on September 26 and the opinion was received on October 29, the release said. "As soon as the opinion was received, honourable Governor has given assent to the Bill," the statement said.

Amid accusations that Purohit delayed clearing the quota bill, the Raj Bhavan, pointing out that the bill was approved soon after the receipt of legal opinion -that the Bill is in sync with Constitution- assumes significance.

Chief Minister K Palaniswami said efforts were afoot to implement the reservation from the cur-

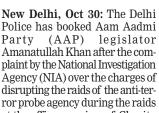


rent year. DMK president M K Stalin claimed Purohit gave his assent to the quota bill as he was left with no other choice and

thanked him for giving his nod. His party's protest and the hope expressed by the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court were behind Purohit's "change of heart." In a twitter post, Stalin said the approval came after 45 days and when the time for medical counselling was nearing and the Governor had to approve in view of such factors. Hearing a batch of public in-

terest litigation petitions, a division bench had on Thursday hoped that the Governor would take a decision at the earliest, BJP's Khushbu Sundar said. "We deliver when we promise." PMK chief S Ramadoss said Purohit's consent was the victory of the people.

SPREADING AWAREN



AAP MLA booked

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

at the office premises of Charity Alliance headed by former Delhi Minority Commission chief Zafarul Islam Khan.

An NIA official said: "A complaint was shared by our Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) with the Shaheen Bagh police station." Based on the complaint, a case was registered against Khan under several sections of the IPC for obstructing the work of the government officers.

According to NIA sources, Khan along with his supporters gathered outside the office of Charity Alliance, which is headed by Zafarul Islam Khan in Jamia Nagar area of south Delhi on Thursday afternoon and tried to block the way of the NIA officers. The NIA raids were a part of its action for the second consecutive day in connection with a case against NGOs allegedly using funds raised in name of charitable activities, for secessionist and separatist acts in Jammu and Kashmir.

The NIA Thursday carried out searches in J&K and Delhi at the office premises of six NGOs and Trusts, which also included Charity Alliance

### **'Form committees** for vaccine drive'

Vaccia

nism for achievement of best per-

forming district/block/urban ward,

etc."The COVID-19 vaccine intro-

duction will span over a year with

multiple groups being included se-

quentially starting from HCWs.

Therefore, it is important to create

strong advisory and coordination

mechanism at state and district

level to guide the process of COVID-

19 vaccine introduction while en-

suring minimal disruption of other

routine health care services in-

cluding immunisation," the letter

by the STF includes providing guid-

ance, including funding and oper-

ational guidelines, fixing timelines

for districts to plan and implement

COVID-19 vaccine introduction

whenever a vaccine is made avail-

able and identifying vaccinators

across government and private sec-

tors so as to minimise disruption

of routine immunisation services.

and mapping of vaccination ses-

sions where HCWs will be vacci-

nated during the 1st phase and

mapping human resources across

departments that could be deployed

for vaccination sessions for verifi-

Activities also include planning

The activities to be conducted

issued on October 26 stated.

COVID

Vaccine

COVID-19

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 30: The Centre has asked states to constitute committees for coordination and overseeing COVID-19 vaccination drive while ensuring minimal disruptions in other routine healthcare services, and stressed early tracking of social media to dispel rumours which could impact the community acceptance of coronavirus inoculation.

Stating that COVID-19 vaccine introduction will span over a year with multiple groups being included "sequentially starting from health care workers", the Health Ministry has sought constitution of committees at state and district levels which will review preparatory activities in terms of cold chain preparedness, operational planning, strategies for state-specific challenges in terms of geographical terrain and hard-to-reach areas. etc.

In a letter to states and union territories, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan has suggested setting up of a state steering committee (SSC) chaired by the chief secretary, a state task force (STF) led by additional Chief Secretary or principal secretary (health), and a district task force (DTF) to be headed by the district magistrate.

An annexure attached with the letter outlines the terms of references for the committees according to which the SSC will ensure active involvement of all departments concerned and devise innovative strategies for improving community engagement ('Jan Bhagidaari') for improved coverage of COVID-19 vaccine once it is available.

"Ensure early tracking of social media and other platforms for possible misinformation and rumours around COVID-19 vaccine that could impact the community acceptance for the vaccine," it said.

The SSC will also have to institute a reward/recognition mecha-

Navy's missile hits target with accuracy cation of beneficiaries, crowd management and overall coordination at the session site and The STF will also track districts for adherence to timelines for overall implementation of vaccine introduction.

VACCOR

0310

The DTF will monitor progress of database of beneficiaries on COVID-19 vaccination, ensure training of all concerned HR on COVID-19 vaccination Beneficiary Management system (CVBMS), monitor progress on key activities such as microplanning, communication planning, cold chain and vaccine logistics planning. Accountability to be fixed for each activity at all levels.

The DTF will develop a robust communication planning at all levels to "address rumour mongering" as well as vaccine eagerness", track blocks and urban areas for adherence to timelines for various activities required for introduction of COVID-19 vaccine, besides ensuring timely disbursal of funds at all levels and sharing feedback at state level for review. The terms of references mention that SSC should meet at least once a month, STF once a fortnight, and DTF

### Seven killed in Andhra Pradesh -

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

once a week

Rajamundry, Oct 30: Seven memwhen a goods carrier auto- rickshaw carrying 16 passengers rolled down from a hilltop outside a temple at Thantikonda village of East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh, police officials said Friday.





ANURAG THAKUR UNION MINISTER

### Two killed in cylinder blast

Meerut (Uttar Pradesh): A local Congress leader Asim Khan and another person were killed and seven others injured in a fire triggered by an LPG cylinder blast at a firecracker-making unit in the Sardhana area of Meerut. The incident happened Thursday. The impact of the blast was so strong that the house of the Congress city unit chief. where the illegal factory was allegedly being run, came down and several adjoining houses and shops were also damaged.

### Man ends life

Ghazipur (Uttar Pradesh): A trader allegedly committed suicide and left behind a note saying that he was taking the extreme step because the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has not given him a ticket to contest the 2022 Assembly elections



Doctors and volunteers participate in a pink car rally during their breast cancer awareness programme in Patna, Friday

### Kamal Nath no longer a star campaigner

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 30: Taking serious note of breach of "ethical and dignified behaviour", the Election Commission Friday revoked the "star campaigner" status of Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath for repeated violations of the model code during campaign for the bypolls in  $2\overline{8}$ assembly constituencies in the state.

In an order, the Commission said, "...for repeated violation of Model Code of Conduct and for

completely disregarding the advisory issued to him, the Commission hereby revokes the status of leader of political party (Star Campaigner) of Kamal Nath, Ex-Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh, with immediate effect for the current Bye-elections of Legislative Assembly of Madhya Pradesh."It said no permission

will be granted by authorities to Nath as a star campaigner. "However, if any campaign is done by Kamal Nath from now onwards, the entire expenditure related to travel, stay and visit will be completely borne by the

candidate in whose constituency he carries out campaigning," it said

While the political party pays for the expenditure of a star campaigner, the candidate pays for the expenditure of other campaigners.

The EC said it has carefully considered the matter and has observed with "displeasure that Kamal Nath despite being a leader of a political party is repeatedly violating the provisions of Model Code of Conduct and breaching the ethical and dignified behaviour".

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 30: The Indian Navy Friday successfully test fired an anti-ship missile from its guided missile corvette INS Kora in the Bay of Bengal as part of a drill that reflected its combat readiness in the strategic sea lanes around India. officials said

The Navy said the missile hit the target at maximum range with precise accuracy. "Anti-ship missile fired by Indian Navy's Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora hits the target at max range with precise accuracy in Bay of Bengal. Target ship severely damaged and in flames," the Navy tweeted. Last week, the Navy released a video of an anti-ship missile destroying a sinking ship with "deadly accuracy" somewhere in the Arabian Sea.

The missile was fired by frontline corvette INS Prabal as part of a mega drill involving aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya and a number of warships, attack helicopters, aircraft and other assets of the Navy. The Indian Navy has significantly increased its deployment in the Indian Ocean Region

THE NAVY SAID THE **MISSILE HIT THE TARGET AT MAXIMUM RANGE** WITH PRECISE ACCURACY

in an attempt to send across a message to China in the wake of escalation in tension between the two countries over the border standoff in eastern Ladakh.

The Indian Navy has participated in a number of joint maritime exercises in the last few weeks, including a three-day drill with Japanese navy from September 26-28. Last month, Indian Navy also carried out a two-day mega exercise in the Indian Ocean Region with the Australian Navy that featured a range of complex naval manoeuvres, anti-aircraft drills and helicopter operations.

In July, the Indian Navy carried out a military exercise with a US Navy carrier strike group led by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Nimitz off the coast of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The USS Nimitz is the world's largest warship.

Nearly 10 other people suffered injuries in the accident. "The autorickshaw carrying around 16 passengers was returning from a wedding function when it rolled down at around 2.30 a.m. on Friday. Seven persons died in the acci-Shemushi Bajpai, dent." Rajamundry Urban Superintendent of Police (SP), said

The deceased have been identified as Yalla Sridevi, 35 and Yalla Naga Sri Laxmi, 10, from Divancheruvu, Kambala Bhanu 35, (Gokavaram), Chaganti Hemali Srilatha, 18, (Gadarada), Simhadri Prasad, 25, (Takurpalem), Pachikuri Narasimha Dora, 35, (Gangampalem) and S. Gopala Krishna, 65, (Chebrolu).

Bajpai said the accident took place because of the negligence of Dora, the auto-rickshaw driver. The auto rolled down the steps leading to the hill temple.

The accident took place at the beginning of the return journey, even as two to three versions are doing the rounds about the cause. According to the police, Dora was at the top of the Thantikonda Venkateshwara Swamy temple during the wedding, which started at around 11 p.m. on Thursday night.

The temple is around 130 km northeast of Bhimavaram. He had parked the vehicle on the hill and got ready for the return journey around 2.30 a.m.

To reach the foot of the hill, there are steps as well as a ghat road beside them. The steps are a short distance from the parking place.

Some of the injured told the police that the driver also tried to accommodate some luggage in the vehicle and must have steppedon the throttle instead of the clutch mistakenly in that process.

Covid after-effects an emerging challenge for docs, patients

#### INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Oct 30: At a time when the Covid-19 graph seems to be showing a slide the nation, another trend is giving sleepless nights to patients as well as health experts -- the after-effects reported among the patients who have recently turned Covid negative.

Dr. Sudhir Bhandhari, principal and controller, SMS Medical College Hospital, says: "We have observed a new trend wherein the patients who turned negative are complaining of respiratory distress, mental trauma of stress, transitory diabetes, cardiac issues, problems in kidney, pancreas and body fatigue."



"On the basis of our team's advice, trict headquarter," he said. In these the state government on October clinics, patients who turned Covid-19 will be registered and their phys-21 issued orders to set up post-Covid clinics across the state in each disical evaluation shall be done in three

stages, including physiotherapy, collecting references based on cardiology, nephrology and psychiatry and diagnostic work-up.

Thereafter, advice will be given to such patients on treatment, breathing exercise, daily activity and mental health. If reports in Jaipur are to be believed, the number of recovered patients falling sick is increasing as they are complaining of respiratory distress, stress, among others.

SMS Hospital in Jaipur had set up a post Covid OPD in September where over 11,000 patients came up complaining of different problems. Out of them, many patients had to be admitted to the ICU, officials said.

Another senior medical practitioner Dr. Virendra Singh confirmed that post Covid complications are being reported in the state. He said that many patients who turn negative have pulmonary shadows left out which can have an impact on the normal functioning of the body.

Also because of clotting and inflammation, the lungs contract due to which intake of oxygen gets reduced. "I have been receiving four to five such patients daily, who basically are pulmonary patients. However, other than pulmonary side effects, the patients also suffer weakness, headache, stress disorder, mood swings and

sleeplessness," Dr. Singh said. Cases of paralysis, heart attack, irregularity in pulse and memory

loss are also being reported by patients, he added. However such patients recover although slowly with proper treatment. Out of 700-800 patients admitted in our hospital, 5 per cent have developed these symptoms, he added.

The cumulative number of Covid-19 patients in Rajasthan till Thursday evening was 1,93,419 while the total recovery was1,75,977. The active cases in the state were 15,554 till Thursday. In Jaipur, the cumulative number of patients is 32,696. while the recovered patients were 27,890 till Thursday.







### **OrissaPOST** SATURDAY | OCTOBER 31 | 2020 | BHUBANESWAR international



For those of you who are still deciding who to vote for Tuesday. I hope that what I have to say will prove to you that a vote for President Trump is a vote for a 'better' America MELANIA TRUMP US FIRST LADY

### SHOCKING REVELATION

Researchers have claimed that dementia and other cognitive disorders now appear to be the risk factors for developing severe COVID-19





Since you have blamed all Muslims and the Muslims religion for what was done by one angry person, the Muslims have a right to punish the French

MAHATHIR MOHAMAD FORMER MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER

I felt the pain of division on the Korean Peninsula and the separation of families since the Korean War

JOE BIDEN DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE



yesterday (Thursday). (The) NCOC has

tightened restrictions on some high risk public activities

ASAD UMAR PAK'S MINISTER FOR PLANNING

### SHORT TAKES

### 11 courts sealed in Pakistan

Islamabad: Eleven courts in Pakistan's capital Islamabad have been closed after their judges and staff tested positive for COVID-19, a media report said Friday. The sealed courts are three courts of additional and sessions judge, the court of a senior civil judge and seven courts of civil judges. Islamabad **Bar Association Secretary** Nabil Tahir Mirza told the Dawn that there are 70 courts working under the District and Sessions Court of which 11 have been sealed after 12 judges and staff were diagnosed with the disease.

### Israel to partially reopen schools

Tel Aviv: Israel's special cabinet on the Covid-19 pandemic has decided to

## **VOTE FOR BETTER FUTURE**



Vice President Mike Pence and his wife Karen, cast their ballots during early voting in Indianapolis

### **Thousands of Muslims** protest French cartoons

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, Oct 30: Thousands of Muslims, from Pakistan to Lebanon to the Palestinian territories, poured out of prayer services to join anti-France protests Friday, as the French president's vow to protect the right to caricature the Prophet continues to roil the Muslim world.

Demonstrations in Pakistan's capital Islamabad turned violent as some 2,000 people who tried to march toward the French Embassy were pushed back by police firing tear gas and beating protesters with batons. Crowds of Islamist activists

hanged an effigy of French President Emmanuel Macron from a highway overpass after pounding it furiously with their shoes. Several demonstrators were wounded in clashes with police and authorities deployed more security forces to protect the embassy. In Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore, thousands of worshippers celebrating the Mawlid, the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, took to the streets, chanting anti-France slogans, raisofficers in riot gear. Carrying black



and demanded that Pakistan sever ties with France and boycott French goods. In Jerusalem, hundreds of Palestinians protested against Macron outside the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam, chanting, "With our souls and with our blood we sacrifice for our

prophet, Muhammad. Some youths scuffled with Israeli police as they exited the esplanade into the Old City. Israeli police said they successfully dispersed the gathering and detained three people. A few hundred demonstrators in Lebanon's capital Beirut flocked toward the Palais des Pins, the official residence of the French ambassador to Lebanon, but found their way blocked by lines of police

Anti-France protests in Lebanon are an embarrassment for Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri, who is trying to form a new government that would implement a French plan for reform in Lebanon. France, Lebanon's former colonial ruler, has been helping chart a course for the country out of its severe economic and financial crisis. The protests come amid rising tensions between France and Muslimmajority nations, which flared up earlier this month when a young Muslim beheaded a French school teacher who had shown caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad in class

Those images, republished by the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo to mark the opening of the

### **UNSC agenda discussed:** India, US to work together

The consultations between India and the US are reflective of the efforts on the part of the two countries to coordinate on a host of global issues that would come up before the powerful organ of the United Nations next year

### AGENCIES

PTI PHOTO

Washington, Oct 30: India and the US have held wide ranging discussions on issues on the UN Security Council agenda and agreed to work closely given their shared values of democracy, pluralism and rule-based international order, officials here said.

Earlier this year, India, along with Mexico and Ireland, was elected a non-permanent member for a two-year term starting January 1, 2021. The consultations between India and the US are reflective of the efforts on the part of the two countries to coordinate on a host of global issues that would come up before the powerful organ of the United Nations next year.

"Both sides held wide ranging discussions on issues on the UN Security Council agenda and recent developments," the Embassy of India here said in a statement on Thursday. "They agreed to work closely together given their shared values of democracy, pluralism and rule-based international order, during India's upcoming term as non-permanent member of the UNSC during 2021-22," it said.

India has been pushing for reforms of the United Nations, in-

### New arrest after France church attack

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nice (France), Oct 30: A new suspect is in custody Friday in the investigation into a gruesome attack by a Tunisian man who killed three people in a French church, as France heightened its security alert amid religious and geopolitical tensions around cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad.

The attacker, Ibrahim Issaoui, was seriously wounded by police and hospitalised in life-threatening condition.

France's anti-terrorism prosecutor said the suspect is a Tunisian born in 1999 who reached the Italian island of Lampedusa, a



cluding the Security Council, stating that its composition doesn't reflect the current realities and is not representative enough. The UNSC has 15 members, including five permanent members - the US, the UK, France, Russia and China. China is the only permanent member of the UNSC which is opposed to India's inclusion into the powerful organ. Half of the 10 non-permanent members are elected every year

for a two-year term. Indian delegation for the twoday consultations on Wednesday and Thursday was led by Vinay

Kumar, Additional Secretary (International Organisation and Summits) in the Ministry of External Affairs. The delegation included senior officials from the Ministry of External Affairs, the Permanent Mission of India in New York and the Embassy of India in Washington, DC.

The US delegation was led by Pamela D Pryor, Acting Assistant Secretary for State Department's Bureau of International Organisation Affairs, and included other senior State Department officials.

### 'Vacuum cleaner bags best for face masks'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ceeded the N95 performance in some respects.

HEPA stands for high-efficiency particulate air. "There was an initial panic around PPE [personal protective equipment] and other types of face masks, and how effect tive they were. As an engi neer. I wanted to learn more about them, how well different materials worked under different conditions, and what made for the most effective fit." said Eugenia O'Kelly from the University of Cambridge Department of Engineering.

partially reopen elementary schools from Sunday onwards, as part of easing the full nationwide lockdown. The Israel's Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Health, and **Ministry of Education** announced in a joint statement Thursday that schools in Israel will reopen for classes from the first to fourth grade, for at least four days a week in each grade, reports Xinhua news agency. It was also decided that the number of students in each class should not exceed 20.

### 'Gruesome' crash kills 21

Lagos: Nigeria's President is expressing sadness over a "gruesome vehicle accident" in which 21 people, most of them young school children, were killed. The accident occurred Wednesday in Awgu, Enugu state, when a truck lost control and hit a school bus conveying 61 children. A teacher also was among the dead. The children were with the Presentation Nursery and Primary School, which is run by the Catholic diocese of Awgu.

📕 NK blames SK

Seoul: North Korea Friday blamed South Korea for the death of a fisheries official killed at sea last month because Seoul "failed to exercise proper control" over its citizen. The 47-year-old fisheries official was fatally shot by the North's military while adrift in the North Korean side of the Yellow Sea, Yonhap news Agency reported. He went missing the previous day while on duty near the western border island of Yeonpyeong

ing banners and clogging major roads en route to a Sufi shrine. In Multan, a city in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province, thousands more burned an effigy of Macron

and white flags with Islamist insignia, the Sunni Islamist activists cried, "At your service, oh prophet of God." Some slung stones at police who responded with tear gas.

a scenario where every vote counts,

Trump even asks his supporters

to take their bosses, friends and

neighbours to the polling booths

to vote. "Go out and vote. Bring

your friends. Bring your family,

your neighbours, your co-workers.

trial for the deadly 2015 attack against the publication, have stirred the ire of Muslims across the world who consider depictions of the prophet blasphemous.

key landing point for migrants crossing in boats from North Africa, September 20 and traveled to Bari, a port city in southern Italy, October 9.

### 'Get out to Vote' is the common theme in rallies

POLLS

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 30: Be it the Trump or the rival Biden campaign. "Get out to Vote" is the common theme driving all the rallies and meetings for the November 3 US presidential elections. President Donald Trump, a

porters how important it is for them

to go out and vote next Tuesday.

"Whatever you do, you have to go

out and vote," Trump said at an

election rally in the Bullhead City

of Arizona on Wednesday. With

just days to go for the polls and in

Get out and vote. This is the most important election that we've perhaps ever had," Republican who is seeking a second term, and his Democratic rival and said the president at an elecformer vice president Joe Biden tion rally in Wisconsin make it a point in their public rethis week. marks to emphasise to their sup-

"Get out and vote," Trump, 74, told his cheering supporters at Tampa, Florida on Thursday. Former vice president Biden, 77, too has been making the same appeal to his voters. "Go out and Vote," he says in his public meetings, which because of coronavirus has

been restricted to a few people or drive-in car rallies. Over 81 million out of nearly 240 million eligible voters have already cast their ballots, taking advantage of the early voting facility in view of the raging COVID-19 pandemic.

The Democrats and the Biden Campaign have been aggressive in urging their supporters to mail in their

votes or do early voting. They have also developed mobile apps and website-www.iwillvote.com-toencourage their supporters to vote. The Biden Campaign has been spending a significant amount of resources and has deployed hundreds of people, who are writing emails and making phone calls to people ap-

pealing them to go out and vote.

"History shows that the easiest way to make sure that you and your friends vote is to make a plan. And when it comes to voting this year. having a plan has never been more important," former president Barack Obama said in a recent video to his supporters

In the several public rallies that he has addressed so far, including the battleground States of Pennsylvania and Florida, Obama makes it a point to underscore the importance of going out and voting. On Wednesday, the Biden Campaign held a special event involving American celebrity Oprah Winfrey, during which they urged people to get out and vote, if they want to make the change.

coronavirus infections, a new UK study has found that reusable vacuum cleaner HEPA filter bags are among the most effective fabrics to use.

London, Oct 30: As homemade

face masks become an essen-

tial accessory around the world

to protect against the spread of

The University of Cambridge and Northwestern University research, reported in the journal 'BMJ Open' this week, also found that masks made of multiple layers of fabric and those which also incorporated interfacing, which is normally used to stiffen collars in shirts, also showed a significant improvement in

performance. The team tested the effectiveness of different fabrics at filtering particles between 0.02 and 0.1 micrometres about the size of most viruses - at high speeds, comparable to coughing or heavy breathing.

They also tested N95 and surgical masks, which are more commonly used in healthcare settings. The research notes that N95 masks were highly effective, although a reusable HEPA vacuum bag even ex-

"A mask which blocks particles really well but restricts your breathing isn't an effective mask. Denim, for example, was quite effective at block ing particles, but it's difficult to breathe through, so it's probably not a good idea to make a mask out of an old pair of ieans. N95 masks are much easier to breathe through than any fabric combinations with similar levels of filtration,<sup>2</sup> she explains.

Previous studies have mostly looked at a small selection of fabrics when the wearer is breathing normally, when particles are expelled at a lower speed.

### After 20 years, no equality for women in peace talks: UN

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

United Nations, Oct 30: The head of the UN agency promoting gender equality told the 20th anniversary commemoration of a resolution demanding equal participation for women in peace negotiations that its implementation has failed, declaring that women still remain "systematically excluded" from talks to end conflicts where men make decisions affecting their lives.

Despite some good initiatives, UN Women's Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka told the Security Council Thursday that in peace negotiations from 1992 to 2019 only 13 per cent of negotiators, 6 per cent of mediators, and 6 per cent of signatories to peace agreements were women.

She said negotiations elevated and empowered "the actors that have fueled the violence." instead of empowering women and others who are peace-builders - and women were either confined to "informal processes or relegated to the role of spectators.'

Germany's Foreign Office Minister of State Michelle Muntefering called the UN resolution adopted October 31, 2000 "a little revolution" because a united Security Council made clear for the first time that women's equal participation "is required to maintain



world peace and security.'

It also affirmed that gender equality is also about security and conflict prevention, and that sexual and gender-based violence in war is a crime that must be punished and abolished, she said, But Muntefering said: "20 years and nine hard-won Security Council resolutions later...

women are still excluded from peace processes, their rights and interests continue to be ignored when building post-conflict societies."

She was blunt in pointing at who Is responsible: "As a global community, we have not lived up to our commitment." Too often, the German minister said, sexual and gender-based violence in conflicts remains unpunished and "even worse, in the past years we have seen a global push-back on women's rights." And she expressed doubt that the principles in the resolution on women, peace and security adopted in 2000 would be approved today. "Let me be clear." Muntefering said. "We have a joint responsibility to implement what we have agreed upon, And that is: without watering down any of the commitments we have signed up to." Last year, the Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution urging all countries to implement the provisions of all previous resolutions on women, peace and security "by ensuring and promoting the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes.

This year, Russia which currently holds the council presidency, has called a vote on a draft resolution which some diplomats say weakens the previous resolutions, especially on issues of human rights and the participation of civil society organisations which have been key in promoting gender equality and participation.

The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity because email voting is taking place. The result is expected to be announced on Friday afternoon and it's unclear whether Russia will get the minimum nine 'yes" votes required for adoption. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reiterated to the council that "gender equality is first and foremost a question of power, and wherever we look, power structures are dominated by men," starting at the top where women lead only 7 per cent of countries.





India stands out as an essential component to a concrete global action plan being readied to fight COVID-19, including for large-scale vaccine manufacturing, KLAUS SCHWAB FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN, WEF

### **15TH FINANCE COMMISSION TO SUBMIT REPORT NOV 9**

The 15th Finance Commission will submit its report for fiscal years 2021-22 to 2025-26 to President Ram Nath Kovind November 9. The commission under Chairman NK Singh Friday concluded its deliberations on the report.



### uote 77 No interest waiver for farm loans

Used cars, with their attractive pricing and good quality, remain a viable alternative for a large section of

customers looking to purchase a car, especially in a challenging economic environment ASHUTOSH PANDEY MD & CEO, MAHINDRA

FIRST CHOICE WHEELS LTD

We are extending the festive treats campaign for even the entire small and medium merchants in our network

across the country. This programme is not just for merchants based in metros, but also in semi-urban and rural markets

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improve operational efficiency, while accelerating the pace of digital transformation in all aspects of the business

VIJAY K THADANI VICE CHAIRMAN & MD, NIIT

### SHORT TAKES

### 10-fold jump in **IOC net at ₹6,227cr**

New Delhi: India's top oil firm Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) Friday reported a 10-fold jump in its September quarter on the back of inventory gains and better margins. The company reported a standalone net profit of ₹6.227.31 crore. or ₹6.78 per share, in the July September quarter, as compared to ₹563.42 crore net profit in the same period a year back, IOC said in a stock exchange filing. Fuel sales at 17.7 million tonnes was 16 per cent higher than the preceding guarter but was 12 per cent lower than 20.17 million tonnes of products sold in July-September 2019, IOC's refineries processed almost 14 million tonnes of crude oil in Q2, up from about 13 million tonnes in April-June. but lower than 17.5 million tonnes a year ago.

### AGENCIES

Mumbai, Oct 30: In what may be a severe hit for farmers and other stakeholders in the country's agricultural sector, crop loans, tractor loans and other agriculture loans will not be part of the scheme for ex-gratia payment of difference between interest on loans up to ₹2 crore

In an additional list of frequently asked questions (FAQ), the Department of Financial Services (DFS) said: "Crop loans and tractor loans, etc are agriculture and allied activities loans and are not part of the eight segment/classes eligible under the scheme.' Under the scheme, the ex-gratia

payment -- the difference between compound interest and simple interest for six months -- will be made to borrowers whose aggregate loan sanctions and outstanding is not more than ₹2 crore as on February 29, 2020

The finance ministry wants all payments to be credited in the accounts of borrowers well before Diwali by November 5. The scheme can be availed by designated class of borrowers for the period of March 1 to August 31, 2020.

Housing loans, education loans, credit card dues, auto loans, MSME loans, consumer durable loans and consumption loans come under the ambit of the scheme. The additional list of FAQs said



The Union finance ministry wants all payments to be credited in the accounts of borrowers before Diwali by November 5 for the period from March 1 to August 31, 2020.

that credit card dues outstanding as of February 29 would be considered for giving relief to the borrowers and the benchmark rate applicable for such relief would be the contact rate, as on February 29, which is used by the credit card issuers for the purpose of EMI loans.

As per the scheme, the lending institutions shall credit the difference between compound interest and simple interest with regard to the eligible borrowers in respective accounts for the said period irrespective of whether the borrower fully or partially availed the moratorium on repayment of loan announced by the RBI on March 27, 2020.

The lending institution after crediting the amount will claim the reimbursement from the Central government, All banks and NBFCs are covered under the scheme.

The government has clarified that the payment does not constitute a legal, contractual or equitable liability of the Central government and is only an ex-gratia payment to borrowers in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Tencent ends access** to Pubg Mobile users

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 30: Chinese company Tencent Games Friday said it is terminating all services and access for Pubg Mobile users in India to comply with the government order last month. On September 2, India banned 118 mobile apps with Chinese links, including popular game Pubg Mobile, citing data privacy concerns and a threat to national security.

This took the total count of Chinese-linked mobile apps banned by India to 224. "Tencent Games will terminate all service and access for users in India to Pubg Mobile Nordic Map: Livik and Pubg Mobile Lite, together "Pubg Mobile" on October 30, 2020. The rights to publish Pubg Mobile in India will be returned to the owner of the Pubg intellectual property," Pubg Mobile India page on a social media website said.

Pubg Mobile is an action themed online game originally developed by Pubg Corporation based in South Korea. Tencent has the right to publish mobile versions of the game in India. While the mobile version is blocked in India. the website is still accessible as it is operated by the South Korean firm and owner of the game.

"Protecting user data has always been a top priority and we always complied with applicable data protection laws and regulations in India.

### Will pursue self-reliance, welcome investment: Niti

### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 30: India will pursue self reliance and give domestic entrepreneurs the best possible environment to go forward while ensuring that the country remains open for investors, Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said Friday.

Kumar while addressing a virtual event organised by industry body FICCI further said India is committed to the global economy and opening trade order. "We will pursue self reliance, we will give our domestic entrepreneurs the best possible environment to go forward. We will, while attracting FDI, also repose our faith and trust in those who have already invested in India," he said.

Kumar also noted that the government will give more space to private entrepreneurs, because without them whether domestic or foreign, India will not be able to achieve the kind of sustainable growth that the country wants. "Yes, we will do all of this, as all other nations have done. But it will be done in the global context. It will be done in India, remaining open.

"It will be done with India trying to regain its share in global and regional production chains, it will be done with the respect to multilateral trading orders, and rule



bound orders" he emphasised. Kumar also pointed out that if any support to domestic industry will be given by the government through tariffs then it would have an in-built sunset clause.

"And it will not imply in any sense, any form of isolation or protectionism," he said. Kumar also pointed out that the government has introduced production linked incentive (PLI) schemes for 9-10 sectors and in case of 4 sectors, government decisions have already been taken. "The objective of PLI schemes is to incentivise investors in this country to put up globally comparable capacity in scale and in competitiveness," he said. Noting that the government has taken COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity Kumar said,"we have rationalised the labour laws, we have liberated our farmers, we have liberalised the FDI scheme." He stressed the need to increase the share of trade.

### **APPLE SEES RECORD** SEPT QTR REV IN INDIA

units in the region during the July-September 2020 quarter.

A Counterpoint report had noted that Apple led the premium segment (over ₹30,000) surpassing OnePlus even before its flagship launch, driven by strong demand for its iPhone SE 2020 and the iPhone 11. Its latest offering, iPhone 12 will fur-

### YouTube generates \$5bn in ad revenue for Google in Q3

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 30: YouTube brought in \$5 billion in advertising revenue in the third quarter of 2020, signaling that there has been a rebound in advertising revenue for both Google and YouTube.

YouTube now has over 30 million music and premium paid subscribers, and over 35 million including those on free trials. YouTube



has more

### **BPCL puts Bina refinery** expansion plan on hold $\stackrel{\scriptstyle \leftarrow}{}$

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 30: India's Bharat Petroleum Corp has put on hold its plans to expand its Bina refinery and install a secondary unit at its Mumbai refinery to boost efficiency pending privatisation of the company, its head of finance N Vijayagopal said.

The federal government wants to sell its 53.29% stake in BPCL, the country's second-largest state-run refiner, to raise funds to rein in a ballooning fiscal deficit.

"It is for the new owner to decide whether they want and have the flexibility to add refining capacity." Vijaagopal told an ana-



It wanted to expand the Bina retions could prevent foreign playfinery in central India to 300,000 ers from traveling to do due dilibarrels per day from 156.000 bpd gence of the assets

highest-ever share in the overall India smartphone market, con-

Apple has posted a record Apple, in its state ternational sales accounted for 59 per cent of the revenue (USD 64.7 billion) for the fourth quarter ended September 26, 2020. "Despite the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, Apple is in the midst of our most prolific product introduction period ever, and the early response to all our new products, led by our first 5G-enabled iPhone lineup, has been tremendously positive," Cook said in the statement. He added that Apple capped off a fiscal year defined by innovation in the face of adversity with a September quarter record, led by all-time records for Mac and Services. "We also achieved new September quarter records in the vast majority of countries that we track, including among others the US, Canada Brazil, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Turkey, Russia, India, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam, Apple CFO Luca Maestri said on the investor call. Apple's products revenue was at USD 50.1 billion, while services set an alltime record of USD 14.5 billion.

ble-digit growth to nearly 8,00,000

ther strengthen its position in the December quarter, it had noted. India's smartphone shipments in the premium segment (priced above ₹30,000) was one of the least affected segments and reached its

### tributing more than 4 per cent in total smartphone shipments, as per Counterpoint.

### Voda shares jump

New Delhi: Shares of Vodafone Idea on Friday gained over 7 per cent after the company reported significant narrowing of losses to about ₹7,218 crore for the September quarter, and said signs of recovery were visible with gradual improvement in economic activities. The stock rose by 6.44 per cent to ₹8.92 on the BSE. On the NSE, it jumped 7.18 per cent to ₹8.95. The company's losses in Q2 FY20 had been at a staggering ₹50,921.9 crore after it provisioned for Supreme Court mandated statutory dues. The gross revenue for the quarter ended September 30, 2020, came in at about ₹10,791 crore, marginally lower than the same period of the previous year.

Sebi has imposed a total

penalty of ₹65 lakh on 13

share price of Jaisukh Dealers Ltd. The Sebi

entities for manipulating the

conducted an investigation

into the trading activities of

between February 2014 and

Jaisukh Dealers Ltd (JDL)

July 2016 to ascertain the

possible violation of PFUTP

and Unfair Trade Practices)

manipulated the price of JDL

booked gains by selling their

trading amongst themselves

have manipulated the price

norms," the Sebi said.

of JDL in violation ... of PFUTP

and of these entities, two

shares at artificially high

prices. "Noticee 1 to 13 by

The regulator

(Prohibition of Fraudulent

found that 13 entities

norms.

September quarter revenue of USD 64.7 billion, with strong performance across markets including India.

AGENCIES

'Geographically, we set September quarter records in the Americas, Europe and Rest of Asia Pacific. We also set a September quarter record in India, thanks in part to a very strong reception to this quarter's launch of our online store in the country," Apple CEO Tim Cook said in an earnings call.

New Delhi, Oct 30: Tech giant

In September, Apple launched its first online store in India - a market that is dominated by Android smartphones.

Apple, which competes in the premium smartphone segment in India with players like Samsung and OnePlus, has been aggressively ramping up its presence in the Indian market. The US-based company, in collaboration with partners like Wistron and Foxconn, had recently started assembling iPhone 11 in India.

According to research firm Canalys, the tech giant's renewed focus on India paid off with a dou-

paid subscribers. "As a sign of the times, views for guided meditation videos are up 40 per cent since mid March, while DIY face mask tutorials have been viewed over 1 billion times," informed Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai.

lyst conference.

BPCL wanted to install a residue fluid catalytic cracker at the Mumbai refinery and connect the plant with a new site where it wanted to build an ethylene cracker.

### KVIC launches muslin fabric masks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: Keeping in view the Diwali festival. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Friday launched a limited edition of two-layered "Happy Diwali" printed face masks made of pure muslin fabric, a high quality and ultra-fine cotton handmade fabric. KVIC will also launch Christmas and New Year special masks in the coming days.

The muslin face masks have been developed following overwhelming public response to two layers of khadi cotton and three layers of silk masks. So far KVIC has sold over 18 lakh such face

masks across the country in less than six months.

The Diwali Muslin face masks are priced at ₹75 a piece and are available for sale through Khadi outlets in Delhi and online through KVIC's e-portal www.khadiindia.gov.in. The face mask consists of two layers of pure white muslin fabric.

KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena said the double-layered Diwali face mask has a small price but great value. "These muslin fabric face masks have added variety to our range of face masks that also include cotton and silk masks. At the same time, this is creating additional employment for Khadi artisans." Saxena said.

along with a petrochemical plant.

Vijayagopal said BPCL privatisation by March 2021 looks "challenging" as the initial bid submission deadline has been extended to mid-November and any spurt in coronavirus infec-

The company, which has a robust retail presence in key Indian cities, aims to set up 6,000 retail outlets in three years with a focus on rural areas to raise its market share in diesel and gasoline sales to about 32% from 29%, he said.

### MCL bags five **Coal India awards**



### BSE to consult SEBI on Future-Reliance deal Sebi fines 13 firms New Delhi: Markets regulator

#### AGENCIES

Mumbai/New Delhi, Oct 30: The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) will consult the market regulator and seek clarifications from Future Retail and Reliance Industries about their \$3.4 billion transaction, following Amazon's objection to the deal, an exchange source said.

Amazon October 25 won an injunction from a Singapore arbitrator to halt Future's deal to sell retail assets to Reliance, arguing the Indian retailer group breached certain contract provisions it entered into last year in a separate deal with the U.S. firm.

Both Indian firms reacted to the decision by saying they want to complete the deal "without any delay". Amazon has now written to



capital markets regulator SEBI, as well as the BSE and the National Stock Exchange, to put the deal on hold in light of the arbitration order, two separate sources said.

A BSE source said it will consult SEBI about its stance on the deal and the exchange later on Friday also plans to seek clarification from Future and Reliance Retail.

SEBI and the stock exchanges did not respond to requests for comment. Amazon declined comment, while Future and Reliance did not immediately respond.

The dispute centres around

Future's decision in August to sell its retail, wholesale and some other businesses to Reliance for \$3.38 billion, including debt

Amazon argues that a 2019 deal it had with a Future unit had clauses saying the Indian group couldn't sell its retail assets to anyone on a "restricted persons" list including any firms from Reliance chief Mukesh Ambani's group. Amazon has shared a copy of the Singapore arbitrator's interim order with SEBI and the two stock exchanges, hoping they would step in to stall the approval, the second source said.

People familiar with the case have previously told Reuters the Singapore arbitrator's order is not automatically enforceable in India and Amazon may need to get a bind ing order from an Indian court.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: The Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) bagged five Coal India awards at the 46th foundation day ceremony of Coal India. Out of five, MCL received two corporate awards for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and quality. MCL CMD BN Shukla presided over the prize distribution ceremony.

MCL has bagged first prize for CSR implementation in Coal India. Corporate award for quality awareness in the category best opencast mine producing more than 3 MTPA has been won by Samleswari OCP, under Ib Valley Area of the company.

MCL, a subsidiary of Coal India Ltd, produced 105.807 lakh tonne in

the month of September, 2020 amid the COVID-19 outbreak. The coal producer had targeted a production of 130.780 lakh tonne in September, 2020.

According to date available at MCL website, MCL produced 0.407 lakh tonne of coal from underground mining while the company produced around 105.399 lakh tonne from open cast mining. On the other hand, MCL also fell short of achieving its monthly target in August of the ২ current fiscal.

The coal producer has set a target to produce 173 million tonne of coal during the financial year of 2020-21 in Odisha. the company has expected to extract around 5lakh tonne of coal per day and 15 MT coal in a month.









### sports

TODAY'S

MATCH

🝯 ) RCB 🔽 SRH 🤕

TELECAST: STAR SPORTS

MI VS DC

### Mumbai look to spoil DC party | RCB eye play-offs; face SRH

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 30: Their play-off berth secured, defending champions Mumbai Indians would look to add to the woes of Delhi Capitals, who are on a three-match losing streak, and consolidate their position at the top when the two teams face each other in their penultimate IPL league game here Saturday.

Chennai Super Kings six-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders Thursday sealed MI's play-off berth. The defending champions are currently on 16 points and with an excellent net run-rate (NRR), are almost certain to finish in the top two

Despite three defeats on the trot against Kings XI Punjab, KKR and Sunrisers Hyderabad, DC are placed third with 14 points from 12 games, courtesy their consistent run in the first phase of the league.

The three defeats should come as an eye opener for DC as they can illafford to take things lightly and need at least a win to seal

90

their play-off place. But it won't be an easy task as their last two games are against the top two teams on the table – MI and Royal

Challengers Bangalore. If DC lose their last two games, it is entirely possible that KXIP will go past them on NRR even if they finish on 14 points and in such a case, the Delhi side could be eliminated if other teams on 14 have a higher NRR.

Going by paper, MI definitely have a clear-cut edge over DC and having confirmed their last four berth, the title holders would be playing without any pressure.

MI are unlikely to tinker with the playing XI, with their top order firing on all cylinders. Quinton De Kock would be hoping to continue his sublime form despite a rare failure against RCB and so would Ishan Kishan, who has been a revelation. Suryakumar Yadav too is in sublime form.

Hardik Pandya, stand-in captain Kieron Pollard and Krunal Pandya are known for their six-hitting prowess. 20) (56) MI bowlers made a spectacular comeback against RCB after the

hammering they received against Rajasthan Royals.

Jasprit Bumrah (20 wickets) and Trent Boult (17 wickets) have been lethal both upfront and at the death, while James Pattinson (11 wickets) and spin duo of Rahul Chahar (14 wickets) and Krunal (5 wickets) has provided great support in the middle overs.

DC, on the other hand, need to pull up their socks quickly after a hat-trick of defeats. Their batsmen crumbled under pressure against SRH in their last game and

SIPL

were bundled out for 131 while chasing an imposing 220-run target. Shikhar Dhawan(471

runs) has been in blazing form for DC, with two centuries but needs support from others. Skipper Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant, Shimron

> Hetmyer and Marcus Stoinis are struggling for runs.

The South African pace duo of Kagiso Rabada (23 wickets) and Anrich Nortie (15) have been exceptional for DC, barring an off day for the latter against SRH. Tushar Deshpande and Ravichandran Ashwin have been erratic off late and need to come good.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sharjah, Oct 30: An IPL Play-offs spot at stake, Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) need to shrug off the disappointment of two back-to-back defeats and put up a strong challenge against strongwilled Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) when the two teams clash, here Saturday.

But it would be easier said than done since SRH are brimming with confidence after their crushing win over Delhi

Capitals. Chennai Super Kings, which is the only team to be out of the reckoning, has spiced up the play-off race with their last-ball win over Kolkata **Knight Riders** Thursday night.

**Duthoo** 

Going by current standings, RCB are better-placed at number two and they need

to win one of their remaining two games against SRH or DC - to make the cut.

And even if RCB lose both their matches and stay on 14 points, they can still qualify. But for that they need favourable results from other games. RCB can ill afford to lose both their last two games as it will affect their NRR, resulting in their elimination if other teams on 14 points have higher run rates.

SRH, on the other hand, have nothing to lose. Sitting on the sixth spot with 10 points from 12 games, the Hyderabad outfit need to win their remaining two matches – against RCB and MI-to reach 14 points to stay in the reckoning.

Just winning both the games might not be enough for SRH. They would be hoping that at least one out of RCB, DC (14 points) and Kings XI Punjab (12 points) don't reach the magic figure of 16.

If that happens, SRH will progress to the play-offs because of a superior NRR than all the teams which can finish on 14

points.

RCB need to regroup as their confidence definitely took a beating after crushing defeats at the hands of MI and CSK. While CSK battered Kohli's men by eight wickets in Dubai, MI defeated RCB by five wickets in their last tie.

For RCB, batting has been their strength with the likes of Virat Kohli, young inform opener Devdutt Padikkal, AB de Villiers and Aaron Finch doing the job.

Young Josh Philippe, who replaced Finch in the last match, scored handy 33 up front but the team's lower-middle order, which has the likes of Shivam Dube, Chris Morris, Gurkeerat Mann needs to take more responsibility.

Their biggest challenge will be to counter Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan, who remain an unsolved mystery for batsmen in the 2020 IPL season. The pressure he builds with dot balls has helped SRH in big way. On the bowling front, RCB has been hit hard

by a split webbing of Navdeep Saini, who missed their last game.

SRH, on the hand, were clinical in their 88-run win over DC and would look to continue in the same vein. Skipper David Warner, Wriddhiman Saha and Manish Pandey are in fine touch, where Rashid-led bowling attack was excellent in their last

game

# **BIG BEN SCRIPTS RR VICTORY**



### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Oct 30: Ben Stokes (50, 26b, 6x4, 3x6; 2/32) had a night to remember as he shone with both bat and ball helping Rajasthan Royals (RR) script a comprehensive seven-wicket win over Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) in their IPL encounter here, Friday.

Chasing 186, Stokes, who opened with Robin Uthappa, scored a quickfire half century to set the platform for RR. Then Sanju Samson (48, 25b, 4x4, 3x6) and skipper Steve Smith (31 n o, 20b, 5x4) guided the team home in 17.3 overs. With this win, RR moved up to fifth position in the eight-team table. Jos Buttler (22 n o, 11b, 1x4, 2x6) also played a cameo.

Earlier, Chris Gayle (99, 63b, 6x4, 8x6) continued his menacing form steering KXIP to 185/4. Gayle and captain KL Rahul (46) stitched 120 runs for the second wicket in 13.4 overs to help KXIP post a challenging total after being put in to bat. Nicholas Pooran played a late cameo of 22 off just 10 deliveries with the help of three sixes.

Gayle was dismissed just two balls before the end of the innings and he showed his disappointment of missing out on a hundred by throwing down his bat. During his knock, Gayle took his tally of sixes to 1001 in his glittering T20 career. KXIP lost their first wicket in the opening over itself when Mandeep Singh got dismissed for a first-ball duck with Stokes taking a brilliant





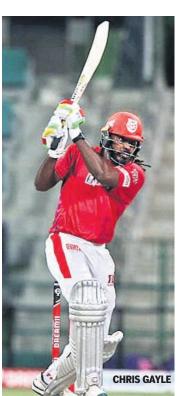
### **POINT TABLE** TEAM M W L N/R NRR PTS MI 12 8 4 0 1.186 16

RCB	12	7	5	0	0.048	14
DC	12	7	5	0	0.030	14
KXIP	13	6	7	0	-0.133	12
RR	13	6	7	0	-0.377	12
KKR	13	6	7	0	-0.467	12
SRH	12	5	7	0	0.396	10
CSK	13	5	8	0	-0.532	10

diving catch off an equally superb delivery by Archer.

But Gayle and Rahul maintained a high scoring rate, reaching 53/1 at the end of powerplay. Gayle reached his third fifty in six matches in this IPL in style as KXIP cruised along to reach the 100-run mark in the 13th over.

Stokes finally got the breakthrough



took the catch near the boundary

## OFC to begin ISL campaign vs HFC

POST NEWS NETWORK

SC) Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: Odisha FC (OFC) will lock horns with Hyderabad FC (HFC) November 23 to kick off their campaign in the Indian Super League (ISL). The fixtures of the first 11 rounds were announced by the Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL),

OFC have made several changes to their squad this season. Appointing Stuart ODISHA Baxter is the biggest change OFC have made. The appointment came after last season's coach Josep Gombau stepped down of his post sighting family reasons.

Friday

All eyes will be on new signing Marcelinho because of his exploits in the

ISL in previous seasons. Shubham (Vasco).

defending champions ATK Mohun Bagan squaring off against Kerala Blasters FC,

> November 20. at the GMC Stadium in Bambolim, Goa. New entrants SC East Bengal will make their ISL

debut playing in one of the oldest rivalries in Asian football – the Kolkata Derby. For the first time in ISL, SC East Bengal

> ball November 27, at the Tilak Maidan

> Stadium. ISL embarks on a inique season with the entire league to be played behind closed doors under a bio-se cure bubble in Goa Stadium

across three venues-JL Nehru (Fatorda), GMC Stadium (Bambolim) and Tilak Maidan The schedule for the remainin



FC

face ATK Mohun Bagan in the

biggest spectacle of Indian foot-

by getting rid of tournament's top run-getter Rahul in the 15th over to put brakes on KXIP innings. Rahul, who was playing second fiddle to Gayle, could not clear the ropes as Tewatia

**BRIEF SCORES: KXIP 185/4** (Chris Gayle 99, KL Rahul 46; Jofra Archer 2/26, Ben Stokes 2/32) lost to RR 186/3 (Ben Stokes 50, Sanju Samson 48, Steve Smith 31 n o) by 7 wickets.

Sarangi, one of the only two Odia players, will also look to carry on his impressive form. Marking the return of the first

55 league matches will be published in December post clarity on calendar dates of Asian Football major live sporting action in the Confederation (AFC) Competitions country, ISL will kick off with the matches.

### La Liga: Barca seek AC Milan, Arsenal win; Spurs suffer loss change in fortunes ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barcelona, Oct 30: After finally winning a match at Juventus. Barcelona will be looking to turn things around in La Liga.

The Catalan club have a good chance to build on their Champions League success in Italy when they visit Alaves Saturday after going winless in three straight league games, including last Saturday's loss to peren nial title rivals Real Madrid.

Barca are already six points behind second-placed Real, and another slip would open up a worrying gap - despite having a game in hand.

Barcelona had never won in six previous visits to Juventus. But the team put in what coach Ronald Koeman called their best performance this season in the 2-0 victory Wednesday.

The club had started well under Koeman, winning two matches by



a combined 7-0 score. Then came a dip in the Spanish league, with a 1-1 draw against Sevilla, a 0-1 loss at Getafe, and a disappointing 1-3 home defeat to Madrid.

Barcelona have endured big losses in the knockout rounds of the Champions League over the past four seasons, like the 2-8 drubbing they took against Bayern Munich last season. There is a long way to go before reaching that critical stretch of the competition, but the

victory in Turin gave Barcelona reason to be hopeful. The defense held up without the suspended Gerard Pique even after

the injury to Ronald Araujo, when Frenkie de Jong shifted back from midfield to help Clement Lenglet. In the attack, Messi is now sur-

rounded by multiple weapons that Koeman constantly shifts to find the perfect fit — and keep opponents guessing.

Paris, Oct 30: AC Milan cruised past Sparta Prague 3-0 for their second straight win in the Europa League, while Tottenham fell to a surprising 0-1 loss at newcomer Antwerp. Milan Thursday easily overcame

a missed penalty by Zlatan Ibrahimovic to remain unbeaten in 23 games in all competitions, dating back to last season.

Tottenham saw their 10-match unbeaten run end, despite having Gareth Bale in the starting lineup for a second straight time in the competition. Fellow Premier League clubs captured their second straight win. Leicester beat AEK Athens 2-1 away while Arsenal scored three goals in a four-minute span either side of halftime in a 3-0 victory over Irish club Dundalk.

Benfica and Rangers earned their second straight victories while Hoffenheim and Wolfsberg cruised to big away wins.

#### **SPURS TAMED**

Antwerp took the lead in the 29th minute when Dieumerci Mbokani stole a sloppy pass from defender Ben Davis before passing to fellow forward Lior Refaelov to score the winning goal. Also in Group J, LASK defeated Ludogorets 4-3.

### **MILAN MARCH ON**

Ibrahimovic didn't score but made his presence felt in the first 45 minutes of the game in Group H. The 39-year-old veteran crossed for Brahim Diaz from the right to net the opening goal with a shot between the legs of Sparta goalkeeper Milan Heca in the 24th minute.



THREE MUSKETEERS: (From L) AC Milan scorers Brahim Diaz, Rafael Leao and Diogo Dalot rejoice after a goal against Sparta Prague

Ibrahimovic wasted a golden opportunity to add another later in the first half. After he was fouled in the area. Ibrahimovic hit the crossbar from the penalty spot in the 36th.

He was replaced by Rafael Leao for the second half, and the substitute made it 2-0 from close range after he was set up by a precise cross from Diogo Dalot. Dalot added the third after a solo run in the 67th.

#### **QUICK GOALS BY GUNNERS**

Pressing from the start, Arsenal looked frustrated as Dundalk's defense held firm. Then, they fell apart late in the first half.

Eddie Nketiah netted the opening goal in the 42nd from close range following a corner after the ball hit a defender's back and dropped in front of the striker. Two minutes later. Joe Willock collected the ball after Nicolas Pepe's shot was blocked by

Andy Boyle to score high into the net to double the lead. Just half a minute into the second half, Pepe curled in a strike from the edge of the area. Norway's Molde shares the lead of

Group J with Arsenal after beating Rapid Vienna 1-0 for their second win.

#### **IMPACT OF INFECTIONS**

After AZ Alkmaar overcame a slew of coronavirus cases to upset Napoli 1-0 last week, the Dutch side earned a comprehensive 4-1 victory over Rijeka in Group F Thursday. Albert Gudmundsson scored two goals for Alkmaar.

Napoli recovered from the home loss with a 1-0 away win at Real Sociedad, ending a four-game winning streak for the hosts.

Piotr Zielinski and Elif Elmas were back in the Napoli squad for the first time in almost a month after the midfielders tested posi-



HAVING FUN: Arsenal players in jolly mood after Nicolas Pepe's (L) goal against Dundalk, Thursday

tive for the coronavirus.

#### **OTHER GROUPS**

Jamie Vardy put Leicester ahead in Athens after earning and converting a penalty in the 18th minute. An unmarked Hamza Choudhury made it 2-0 for Brendan Rodgers' team before substitute Muamer Tankovic pulled one back for AEK in the 49th. In the other Group G game, Braga won 2-1 away at Zorya Luhansk.

Villarreal went a goal down at Qarabag in the 78th minute before coming back for a 3-1 victory in Group I, where Maccabi Tel-Aviv also won 2-1 away at Sivasspor.

Wolfsberg has a perfect record in Group K after winning 4-1 at Feyenoord, with Michael Liendl scoring a hat trick. His first two

goals came from penalties CSKA Moscow played to a 0-0 draw with Dinamo Zagreb.

Benfica atop Group D. PSV won 2-1 at Omonoia after Donyell Malen scored his second goal in injury time in Group E, where Granada was held 0-0 by PAOK.

Hoffenheim overcame a couple of

coronavirus cases to beat Gent 4-1

away in Group L. Red Star Belgrade

outplayed Czech club Liberec 5-1.

Roma was held 0-0 by CSKA Sofia

in Group A while Cluj drew 1-1 with

from a 6-2 loss to Leverkusen in the

previous round with Amine Gouiri

scoring the winner. Also Slavia

Prague took its first three points by

Pizzi two goals for Benfica while

a penalty in the second half as the  $\rightarrow$ 

Luca Waldschmidt also converted

hosts beat Standard Liege 3-0 to

earn their second win in Group D.

Rangers defeated Lech 1-0, joining

defeating Leverkusen 1-0.

In Group C, Nice bounced back

Young Boys Bern.

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