

leisure



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

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ARIES
Flow with the tide today. This is Ganesh'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, trying 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 enemy. 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 Ganesh says that all worries will go away by evening, when you relax with friends.

LEO
You will be seized by a desire to do something new for a change today. Your mood will be 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 Ganesh.

VIRGO
Expenses will mount uncontrollably today, and they will be mostly wasteful in nature. However, positive energies are gathering momentum, and Ganesh says you would do well in making full use of them, both in your personal and professional spheres.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today is the right day to get closer to your loved one. You 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 compliments 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 Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
If at first you don't succeed, try again. Many people underestimate the power of perseverance 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 Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
You are in for a challenging day today. But, luck is by your side and you will be able to come out of the storm hale and hearty, assures Ganesh. If you are a businessman, you may enter into some major business venture, 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.

Sara Ali Khan is back in action

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 on-line video streaming platform Amazon Prime Video December 25. The film stars Varun Dhawan, Sara Ali Khan, Paresh Rawal, Jaaved Jaafari, Johnny Lever, Rajpal Yadav amongst others and is produced by Vashu Bhagnani, Jacky Bhagnani and Deepshikha Deshmukh.



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 maintained beard.

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

"Dutt's The Way ... AHAA-AHAA The Rockstar @duttсанjay 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 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



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 featured 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



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

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 rejected but the 22 year old hasn't. Teach us your way pls @ananya-panday," Suhana wrote. Actor Chunky Panday posted

a throwback picture of him hugging his daughter, Ananya.

"Happy happy birthday 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 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 biscotti my love! I love you."

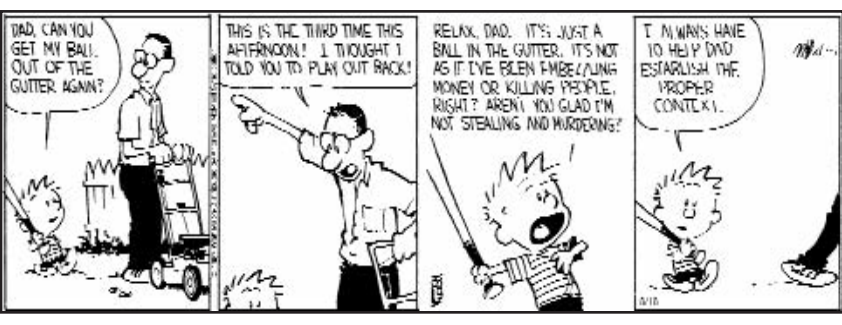
The 22-year-old's *Khaali Peeli* co-star Ishaan Khatter wrote on Instagram: "Happy birthday sunshine girl." Ananya made her acting debut in 2019 with *Student Of The Year 2*, and went on to star in *Pati Patni Aur Woh* and *Khaali Peeli*. IANS



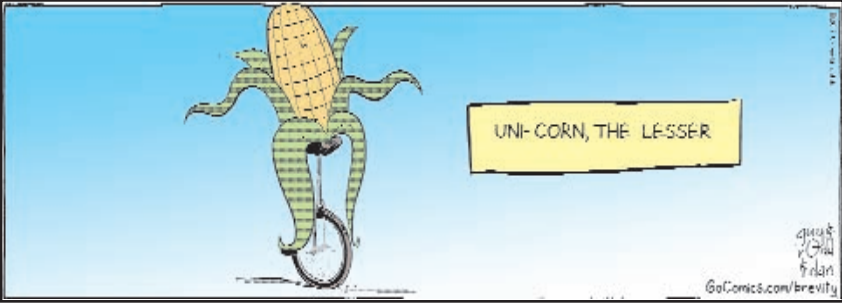
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

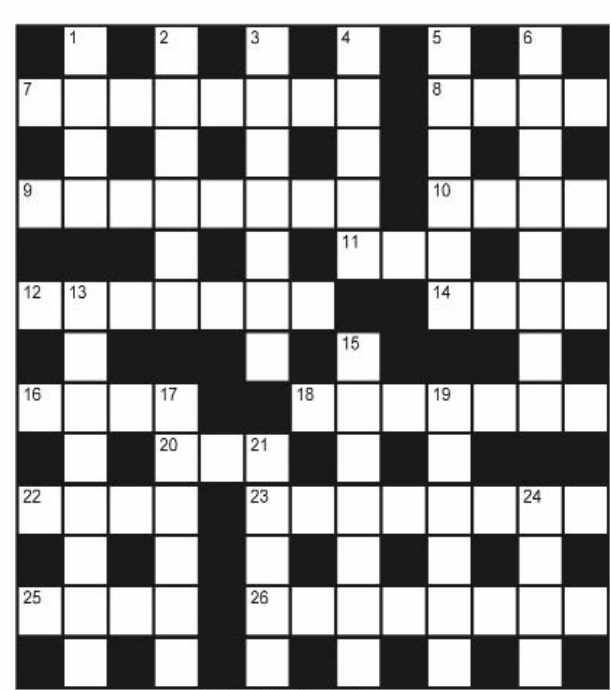


BREVITY



FUN post

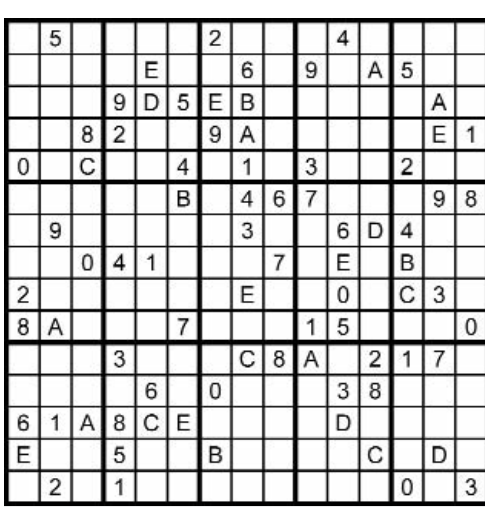
CROSSWORD



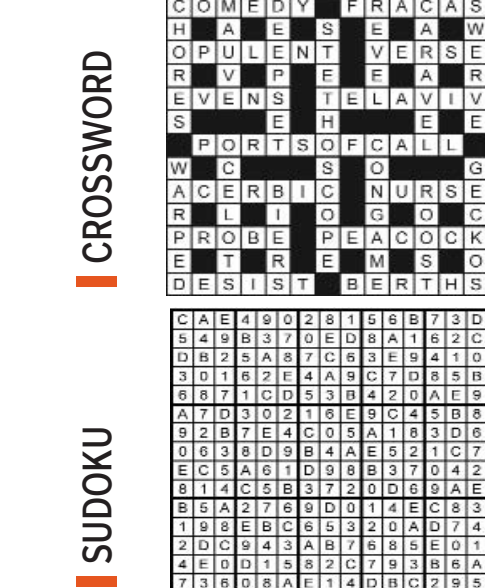
- Across**
- 7 Bastille, e.g.
 - 8 Wicked
 - 9 Authentic (4,4)
 - 10 Building block
 - 11 Shrew
 - 12 Fixes
 - 14 Like the Gobi
 - 16 Quarrel
 - 18 Prairie wolves
 - 20 Battering device
 - 22 Marine menace
 - 23 Appraise
 - 25 Burlap fibre
 - 26 Sham
 - 5 Small northern whale
 - 6 Refine, in a way
 - 13 Mercantile establishment
 - 15 Escaped (3,4)
 - 17 Swaps
 - 19 Burdens
 - 21 Thaws
 - 24 Ballet wear

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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-

OFFICIAL APATHY



THE SSEPD DEPT, IN JULY, HAD AMENDED THE RULES OF 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. DISTRICT SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICERS ARE ALLEGEDLY RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT ANY APPLICATION FROM THE TRANSGENDERS DUE TO LACK OF ANY SYSTEM AND PROVISION IN REALITY.

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 beneficiaries. 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.

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

vision in reality which can enable submission of their applications. "After almost three months since the announcement there is no scope

RSP gets new chimney

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: A 100-metre 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 Chatteraj 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-1 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.

State's Covid-19 toll goes past 1,300

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

PNN & AGENCIES

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

FRESH STATS



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.

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.

Cab drivers take pledge to respect City cyclists

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 aggregator 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 cycling-friendly 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 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 cycling-friendly city." The event was coordinated by general manager (Administration) of BSCL Kamaljit Das and was



CYCLES4CHANGE 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 cycling among all age groups and all walks of life. Cab drivers from taxi aggregator Ola took the 'Safe Cycling Pledge' near the Smart Park in Sahid Nagar. Bhubaneswar is taking part in the 'India Cycles4change' challenge along with 95 other cities which will run in two stages.

OBEY RULES OR FACE THE MUSIC



Traffic police personnel collect fines from a motorist for illegal parking near Rajmahal Square in Bhubaneswar, Friday

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 under the East Coast Railway (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-

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 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,

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 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.

CLASSIFIED LOST

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.

BMC campaign for waste segregation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 30: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Friday, launched a special campaign to orient citizens on importance of segregation of wastes at source. Following a trial campaign, Thursday, the special campaign was launched by BMC 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. With a color leaflet team members

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 for dissemination of information. The BMC has recently prioritized sanitation after the city took a nose-dive 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 awareness campaign," said Choudhary.

Khurda civic body turns waste into wealth

POST NEWS NETWORK

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



lakh at Mukundprasad Chachera Sahi by Housing and Urban Development department. The MCC has 14 (3.3 metre x 2.3metre x 1metre) tanks. Each tank can hold maximum five tonnes of garbage and, in turn, it will generate 500 kilograms of manure. 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

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. "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.

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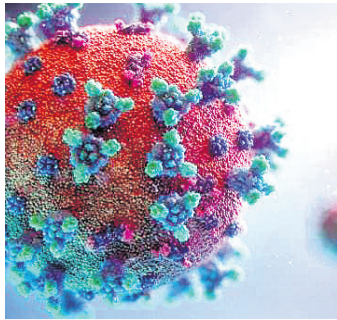


For those of you who are still deciding who to vote for Tuesday, I hope that what I have to say will prove to you that a vote for President Trump is a vote for a 'better' America

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



of the day uote

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

After more than 70 days the national Covid-19 positivity ratio was higher than 3 per cent yesterday (Thursday). (The) NCOC has tightened restrictions on some high risk public activities

ASAD UMAR | PAK'S MINISTER FOR PLANNING

VOTE FOR BETTER FUTURE



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

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

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, including 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 two-day 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.

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, raising 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 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 officers in riot gear. Carrying black 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.

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 Muslim-majority 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 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.

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

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 Republican who is seeking a second term, and his Democratic rival and former vice president Joe Biden make it a point in their public remarks to emphasise to their supporters 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

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. Get out and vote. This is the most important election that we've perhaps ever had," said the president at an election rally in Wisconsin this week.

"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 - to encourage 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-

US PREZ POLLS

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 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.

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.

