

UNFLINCHING FAITH

Sanya Malhotra recalls the day she started shooting for Anurag Basu's 'Ludo' without reading its script LEISURE

RAJ FOLLOWS PUNJAB

Raj govt introduces three Bills in the Assembly to negate the impact of the farm laws enacted by the Centre TWO STATES

D

CAMPAIGN HEATS UP

Prez Trump accuses Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden of being a corrupt career politician

Cement

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in free vax promise: EC

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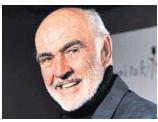
BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 | 2020

12 PAGES + SUNDAY POST ₹4.00



No, dear. You can't give statement which promotes enmity among people. You are an actor and not a politician or a news anchor.

Sean Connery, the first James Bond, dies at 90



AGENCIES

Edinburgh, Oct 31: Legendary actor Sir Sean Connery has passed away at the age of 90.

The news of the Scottish star's demise was communicated by his family, according to a report in bbc.com. No official reason has been shared for the death yet.

Connery, who is widely recalled as the original James Bond on Hollywood screen, had an active career as an actor spanning nearly five decades.

He shot to global superstardom as Bond in 1962, with the first film of the 007 series, 'Dr. No', and then went on to work in 'From Russia with Love' (1963), 'Goldfinger' (1964), 'Thunderball' (1965), 'You Only Live Twice' (1967), 'Diamonds Are Forever' (1971) and 'Never

Say Never Again' (1983) American Film Institute has voted James Bond as portrayed by Connerv as the third-greatest

After Nov 15, schools to reopen for Classes IX-XII

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: After a period of eight months, the state government is going to reopen schools for students of Classes IX to XII post November 15 in a graded manner.

In the Unlock 6.0 guidelines approved by Chief Secretary AK Tripathy for the month of November, the state government said, "School and Mass Education (S&ME) department will take appropriate decision on the date of reopening of schools for Classes IX-XII, in a graded manner, after November 15 in consultation with stakeholders and issue necessary guidelines and SOP." Saturday, the government first issued an order for reopening of all

schools for Classes IX to XII from November 16. Later, the order was revised saying that for Classes IX to XII, schools will be reopened after November 15 in a graded manner.

All other academic institutions across the state, however, would remain closed till November 30. Academic institutions, including coaching centres, have been closed since March in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The order said notwithstanding closure of academic institutions, the authorities are permitted to conduct examinations (academic, competitive and entrance tests), evalua-

tion and other administrative activities. Online/distance learning will continue to be permitted and encouraged, it said. adding, that the departments concerned may permit teaching and non-teaching staff to be called to schools for online classes.

Meanwhile. School and Mass

Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said the department secretary has been asked to hold discussions with all stakeholders regarding preparation of SOP for reopening of schools in the state. The exact date for partial reopening of the schools will be declared soon, he said.

Higher education institutions will be



Saturday, the state govt first issued an order for reopening of all schools for Classes IX to XII from Nov 16

• Later, the order was revised saying that for Classes IX to XII, schools will be reopened after Nov 15 in a graded manner

permitted to open only for research scholars (PhD) and post graduate students in Science and Technology streams requiring laboratory work, the order read.

TEMPLES & PLACES OF WORSHIP

With regards to reopening of temples and places of worship, the state government has empowered the district Collectors and local authorities to issue such permits with appropriate restrictions and safety protocols, based on assessment of the Covid-19 situation.

Similarly, cinema halls, swimming pools, entertainment complexes, theatres, auditoriums, assembly halls and similar places will continue to remain shut. On further assessment, appropriate decisions will be taken November 16 on reopening these establishments, the order said.

Open air theatres and similar places may be allowed to operate, subject to compliance of health protocols.

The government has permitted gathering of 200 persons for marriage-related ceremonies while maximum 50 persons are allowed at funerals, the order read. Earlier, gathering of 50 persons for marriage and 20 for funerals was allowed. Large social, political, sports and religious congregations are prohibited till November 30, except Election Commission of Indiaapproved meetings for by-elections.

during elections.

New Delhi, Oct 31: The BJP's promise of providing free coronavirus vaccine in its manifesto for the Bihar Assembly polls is not violation of the provisions of the model code, the Election Commission has held.

AGENCIES

Responding to a complaint by RTI activist Saket Gokhale, the commission said it has found no violation of the provisions of the model code in the issue. "...no violation of any of the provisions of Model Code of Conduct has been observed...," the commission said.

Gokhale had claimed that the promise is discriminatory and a misuse of powers by the Central government

be no objection to the promise of such welfare in election manifesto," one of the provisions quoted by the EC said. Trust of voters should be sought only on those promises which are possible to be fulfilled, the other provision cited by the EC said

According to sources, the

commission cited certain

guidelines for election man-

ifestos contained in Part

VIII of the Model Code of

Conduct to conclude that

the free vaccine promise

of State Policy enshrined in

the Constitution enjoin upon

the State to frame various

welfare measures for the cit-

izens and therefore there can

"The Directive Principles

was not violation of it.

Lingaraj to be revamped by Mahashivaratri 2021

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: To ensure hassle-free darshan to devotees on Mahashiyaratri next year, the state government targets to expedite the Ekambra Kshetra Yojana (Lingaraj Temple Redevelopment) works



80 PC LAND ACQUISITION ALREADY COMPLETED ACCESS TO THE TEMPLE WOULD

Northern gate of Lingaraj, it was earnt. The open space will give the devotees a divine experience of being able to see the temple and Bindusagar together.



hero in cinema history.

Although his avatar as the stylish superspy often defines Connery, he carved a successful Hollywood career with roles in films such as 'The Name Of The Rose' (1986), 'The Untouchables' (1987) and 'Indiana Jones And The Last Crusade' (1989), among many others. MORE P2

SHORT TAKES

Nirmala insisted 'on my transfer'

New Delhi: Former Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg has claimed that Nirmala Sitharaman asked for and insisted on his transfer from the Ministry of Finance in June 2019 itself, within a month of taking over as the Union Finance Minister. Garg wrote in a blog: "Quite frankly, I did not share a good and productive working relationship with the new Finance Minister..." P11

Odisha logs 11 more fatalities

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Friday reported 1,547 new COVID-19 cases, which took the tally in the coastal state to 2,88,646, while 11 fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 1,308, a health department official said. The state during the day registered recovery of 1,800 patients taking the number of persons cured of the pandemic to 2,73,838, which is 94.86 per cent of the state's total caseload. P4

	WEAT			
ĺ		BHUB	СТК	
	<mark>€</mark> MAX	33.8℃	34.0° C	
	<mark>⊭</mark> MIN	20.1°C	21.0°C	Forecast
-	Humidity	84%	73%	
	Rainfall	Nil	Nil	Mainly clear sky

Reviewing the project, 5T secre-

tary VK Pandian visited the Lingaraj area here in the early hours of Saturday. Works secretary, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) commissioner and other officials were also present during the review meet.

Mahashivaratri being the biggest festival of Lord Lingaraj, Pandian instructed officials to strictly follow the deadline for completion of many components of the overall plan for the benefit of lakhs of devotees visiting during that time. Pandian directed the officials to

expedite the work and complete

5T secretary VK Pandian (L) visits the Lingaraj area in Bhubaneswar in the early hours of Saturday

the land acquisition process by November-end. It was learnt after the review meet that 80 per cent land acquisition has been already completed. Pandian appreciated the officials for meeting the deadlines despite the Covid situation. Land of Gopaltirtha and Shankranda mutts have already

been acquired and after acquisition of remaining buildings and land, devotees will have a clear view of Bindusagar from the

Pandian reviewed the progress made on-construction of new road from Lingaraj market to Taleswar Chhak, connecting road from new Lingarai market to Bindusagar, development of eastern plaza in front of the temple and northern plaza at northern gate bus parking near Brajabandhu Kalyan Mandap, development of Badheibanka and also the drainage works. Widening of all access roads should get final touch before Mahashiyaratri, he stressed

On the occasion of Kumar Purnima, a girl browses through toys near Exhibition Ground road in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

2nd Covid wave, US polls to weigh down on rupee Lockdown to return in Belgium, England

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 31: Fears of a slower global recovery due to rising cases of Covid-19 infections in Europe and the US will cast pressure on the Indian rupee next week.

Additionally, the rupee is expected to get weaker on account of uncertainties prevailing on the back of upcoming US Presidential Election which will be held November 3.

"The continuation of the pandemic in absence of a vaccine is creating havoc and is playing out in the Forex market. The fear that ecocertainty of the US Presidential nomic conditions are going to get election outcome. So, next week worse before they get better, is keepthe chances of USDINR trading ing the dollar strong against EM curabove 74 are higher and expect the rencies," said Rahul Gupta, Head of Research-Currency at Emkay

spot pair to trade within 73.50-74.50." The Indian rupee closed last week at 74.11, its weakest level in two Global Financial Services The continuation of the pandemic in absence of a

vaccine is creating havoc and playing out in the Forex market. The fear that economic conditions are going to get worse before they get better, is keeping the dollar strong against EM currencies

RAHUL GUPTA HEAD OF RESEARCH-CURRENCY, EMKAY GLOBAL FINANCIAL SERVICES



'Adding to this mood is the unmonths

"Next week, US elections will take centre-stage. Democratic candidate, Joe Biden is projected to win the race comfortably based on the current polls and leads. Also based on the current polls there is likelihood that the Democrats could win both the House and Senate. This will be huge blue sweep for the land that will drive policy changes,' said Devarsh Vakil, Deputy Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities.

"Their stated economic positions suggest that Dollar could weaken in

BRUSSELS/LONDON: The Belgian government has announced that a national lockdown will be imposed Monday after the country was reported to have the highest Covid-19 infection rate in Europe. Under the new lockdown, non-essential shops and businesses offering personal services like hair salons will remain closed across Belgium until the middle of December, the BBC reported. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson was considering putting England on a month-long lockdown next week in the wake of a second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to official documents. The documents seen by the BBC suggest that new 'stay at home' order could be announced Monday, but schools, colleges and universities will be exempted.

the medium term, which could drive commodities and emerging market equities higher.

Besides, major economic data points such as automobile sales figures for October and 'Purchasing Manager Index' will further guide the currency's movement.

Centre splurged ₹ 713.20cr on ads in 2019-20: RTI reply



AGENCIES

Mumbai, Oct 31: The government of India spent a total of Rs713.20 crore on advertisements, with maximum share to the electronic media, during the financial year 2019-2020. a RTI reply to an activist revealed, Saturday.

"This comes to roughly ₹1.95 crore per day that was spent only for advertisements in the last fiscal which also saw the Lok Sabha and Maharashtra Assembly elections being held," said RTI activist Jatin Desai. In its reply to Desai's RTI query, the Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOR) of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said that the Centre

spent an amount of ₹713.20-crore on advertisements in the electronic, print and outdoor media.

This included advertisements worth ₹317.05 crore released to the electronic, ₹295.05 crore to the print and ₹101.10 crore to the outdoor media.

To a specific query, Desai said the BOR had no information on how much money was spent on releasing advertisements in the foreign \rightarrow media.

He said it is not clear what categories of ads were released on different media, for which specific campaigns or the kind of government schemes that were highlightedthrough this publicity blitzkrieg for the Centre and states.













BEYONCE SAYS 2020 HAS 'ABSOLUTELY CHANGED' HER

Singer Beyonce Knowles has shared how the year has brought about changes in her. The 39year-old opened up in an interview with British Vogue on how the events of 2020 'absolutely changed' her, reports billboard.com.

KLUM'S HALLOWEEN TREAT IS A HORROR SHORT STARRING HER FAMILY

Model Heidi Klum has released a horror film starring her family instead of throwing a Halloween party. She released the short in which she stars with her husband Tom Kaulitz and four children, whom she shares with ex-husband Seal -- Leni, 16, Henry, 14, Johan, 13, and Lou, 10.



FORTUNE **FORECAST** GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

> You will exhibit your worth in ample measure today. You will probably chalk out great plans and ideas at work, and this will be very beneficial But despite this, Ganesha says, if you don't get the deserved recognition, don't lose heart.

TAURUS

This day you will be compelled to be resigned to vour fate. Ganesha does not see your own will power in operation today. Though you would be surrendering

yourself to the whims of destiny, do not

expect anything good to come out of it.

GEMINI

It will not be hard for you to complete your tasks succesfully and without any delays or obstacles in your path, only if you first seek to fully understand and acquire the learning required to eprform it. The fruits of your labour will keep you happy and satisfied, says Ganesha

Dame Luck will patron-



get total support and co-operation from bosses and colleagues in the office. Ganesha indicates it as a very profitable day for you.

LEO



today. Your ego prevents you from express ing your true feelings at times. You need to keep this in mind when attempting to communicate with your beloved. It is a good day for romance, and for those seeking love, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Financial affairs will face a major obstruction today. Ganesha advises you to allow your mind to prevail over your heart. Take extraordinary care of your precious personal possessions, apart from your legal duties and new projects keeping in view their long-term effect on your mind.



BOND...JAMES BOND

APART FROM AN **OSCAR FOR HIS ROLE AS JIMMY MALONE IN** THE UNTOUCHABLES **CONNERY WON TWO BAFTA AWARDS AND THREE GOLDEN GLOBES IN HIS CAREER**

Edinburgh: While iconic James Bond actor Sean Connery's demise Saturday left film fraternity and fans across the globe in a state of shock, Hollywood immediately started paying tribute to the silver screen legend.

Bond producers Michael G. Wilson and Barbara Broccoli wrote via Twitter that, "We are devastated by the news of the passing of Sir Sean Connery. He was and shall always be remembered as the original James Bond whose indelible entrance into cinema history began when he announced those unforgettable words — The name's Bond... James Bond'

Author Stephen King chimed in, writing, "Sean Connery in his first starring role, as a washed-up boxer. He was a fine actor and by most accounts a good guy." Carv Elwes wrote, "RIP Sean Connery... the only Bond. From Scotland with Love and a broken heart." Elizabeth Hurley wrote, "RIP the glorious Sean Connery." Paul Feig "Few wrote. were cooler, few more suave, few more effortless. He showed us

all how it could be done. RIP Sir Sean Connery.' Kevin Smith

B-TOWN PAYS TRIBUTES

A string of personalities from the Indian film fraternity took to social media Saturday afternoon to pay tributes to legendary star Sir Sean Connery, who died at the age of 90

NEVER !!

IF YOU CALL ME NAMES, YOU HAVE TO START OVER AT THE

ABHISHEK BACHCHAN: We've lost another legend today. #RIP Sean Connery. There will never be a better Bond than you.

NIMRAT KAUR: Rest in peace Sir Sean Connery. They don't make them like you anymore ... #OGBond

SUJOY GHOSH: How does one even thank sean connery for all the films?

DO PIANO PLAYERS EVER MARRY

CRABBY GIRLS ?

Dad supported Mr. Connery's career his entire life, always taking me to see any movie his fave actor was in. So Sean Connerv's passing also feels like I'm losing Dad again. RIP, Dr. Jones.^{*} **MILKMAN TO 007**

was my Dad's James Bond, so

Connery was born August 25, 1930 in Edinburgh, Scotland, to Joseph Connery, a factory worker and lorry driver, and Euphemia McBain McLean, a cleaning woman. Connerv took up the job of a milkman, his first, as a teenager.



At 16, he joined the Royal Navy, and was discharged three years later on health grounds. He returned to the cooperative society where he took up his milkman job, and did several other odd jobs before starting backstage work at the King's Theatre in 1951. He landed a small part as a chorus boy a few years later. In 1957, Connery got his first film role, in No Road Back. The breakthrough role came five years later. As the first James Bond, a role that Connerv will forever be remembered for:

For his role as Jimmy Malone in Brian De Palma's The Untouchables, Connery won an Oscar as Best Supporting Actor. He also won two Bafta awards and three Golden Globes in his career.

Connery was knighted by the Queen at Holyrood

wrote, "He Palace in 2000.



Sanya all praise for Anurag

Mumbai: Actress Sanva Malhotra has spoken about why working with filmmaker Anurag Basu was an unusual experience. For the first time, Sanya recalled, she was working without a script.

Sanya is part of the ensemble cast of Basu's upcoming dark comedy anthology Ludo. 'I was approached

by him almost two years back for this film and the character. He explained the gist of the story and when I asked him about the script, he simply laughed it out. He said 'let's go on set and decide'. We did a meeting before the shoot. Dada explained to me what is going to happen to my character in the script, again in a

gist," Sanya recalled. "The first day on set was so refreshing for me as an actor, it was something new for me. I had never experienced this be-This fore.

process was very much new and extremely refreshing for me, to go on sets without script or preparation. I was so happy to see how Dada works, it is fun and it is a collaborative experience" added the Dangal actress.

IANS

Mukesh's 'misogynist' comment irks netizens

Mumbai: Actor Mukesh Khanna is being slammed by netizens for saying that the MeToo movement began after women started stepping out for work.

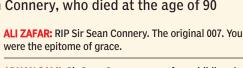
Talking about the movement in a video, which has gone viral on Twitter, Mukesh says: "The job of a woman is to take care of the house. The problem of #MeToo began when women started working. Today, women talk about walking shoulder-to-shoulder with men.

The comment made by the actor, best known for playing the desi superhero Shaktimaan on the small screen, has left many netizens furious.

"And that stupid shaktimaan added alue to the society eh? Wonder what kind of family he grew up in. Someone ask him why kids as young as 5-6 are raped then?" one wrote on Twitter. Another wrote: "Never ever heard of



such a disgusting misogynistic and patriarchal comment. Lost all respects for you.' "Such misogynist...Problem is your



ADNAN SAMI: Sir Sean Connery, one of my childhood favourite actors has passed away. He was the best James Bond EVER!! May his soul rest in peace

(OHLI: Goodbye Mr. Bond. #RIPSeanConnery.

enhance your personality and prove your talents to the world. Today you will be able to buy new clothes too. It is essential that you pay attention to people close to you. Today is the day you will spend in your dream world.



PEANUTS

Tele ele

The last states and st

CALVIN AND HOBBES

WHAT'S THE

REST OF THE PASSWORD

THINK FIVE

PLENTY. YOU

KNOW IT'S ME! LET ME UP!

ERSES EXTOLLING

NO.

OOH, WHY

YOU LOUSY

ROTTEN,

TINKING

My fav Bond's in order. 1. Sean Connery. 2. Pierce Brosnan, 3. Roger Moore, 4. Daniel Craig,

WELL, NO

WONDER WE'RE

SO CRABBY!!

VERSE SIX:

IGERS ARE NIMBLE

CONTINUALLY GROWS.

AND LIGHT ON THEIR TOES, MY RESPECT FOR TIGERS

YOU'RE NOT DOING THE DANCE.



mentality. #MeToo #metooindia problem arises be people like you exist in our society. Certainly no respect," wrote another netizen. IANS

SCORPIO

The day does not begin on a very good note as you seem to be in a bellig mood. Be calm and patient as your hot temper may spoil a good deal. Limit your conversations and discussions with colleagues and friends. advises Ganesha

SAGITTARIUS

It's time for you to sit back, relax and let your actions do the talking. After all, actions speak louder than words, they say. You will also wrap up with all the pending tasks today, says Ganesha

CAPRICORN

Confidence is the key to unlock the doors of success. Today, with your positive attitude you wil mark your presence and come one step closer to success, says Ganesha. You're not a carefree person.

You are a workaholic. With a lot of hard work you have achieved you targets. You are not somebody who will fail to differentiate between a pit stop and the final destination. Your success will motivate you to plan for bigger and longstanding goals





C'MON, HOBBES. LET DOWN THE ROPE LADDER.



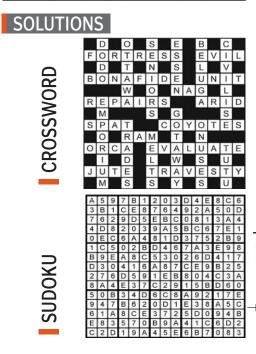


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

	3						4	8			Е			
				2			7	3				8		
D				8		С								A
		Е				6	2			7	8		1	С
		4				5			1	D			0	3
В			1	4	6		3						2	
5	4					0		9		2			Α	7
0	9			D		8	\mathbb{C}		3		4			
6		А			5		D							
					9	2		1		0	С		5	
9				3	D			А				0	4	
		1	9		Е			В						
Е	5		0		8				D		3			
							8			Е	0	6	D	1
	2						Е				5	9		

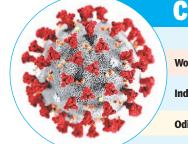






HOMAGE TO POET

People offer floral tributes to Ganakabi Baishnab Pani on his birth anniversary at Khannagar park in Cuttack, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
orld	4,61,22,438	3,33,78,742	11,96,817
lia	81,37,119	74,32,829	1,21,641
isha	2,90,116	2,75,749	1,320

Odisha joins digital Assembly league

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: The Odisha Assembly has now joined the league of a few Indian states which have adopted e-Assembly system, an initiative of the Union government to digitally transform the functioning of the state assemblies.

Facilities of wi-fi, computers, laptops, ipads and others have been given to the Assembly staffers as well as to the legislators. All of them have also been imparted training on use of digital technology in official works.

With the digitisation of the House, Odisha has become among the three Indian states which have worked towards this. Himachal Pradesh and Punjab have already adopted the practice. Assembly Speaker SN Patro told the media that the training as well as infrastructure has been created for the employees and the MLAs

He said, "The works which have been done in our Assembly include



facilities like wi-fi, SWAN, LAN, videoconferencing. Every assembly employee has been provided with computer system and all legislators have been given funds to buy computer/laptop. All of them have already bought them.' He also said that trainings for the same have also started. "The

progress. Funding between Centre

The Assembly has also created two different video conferencing halls. "All the employees who were

working with pen and paper have now been trained to work digitally through computers and online system," Patro said. As per earlier practice, the MLAs Union government is happy with our

and state for the same has been in

the ratio of 60:40," he added.

were provided with documents

E-PROCEEDINGS

With the digitisation of the House, Odisha has become among the three Indian states which have worked towards this

acilities of wi-fi, computers, laptops, ipads and others have been given to the Assembly staffers as well as to the legislators

All of them have also been Aimparted training on use of digital technology in official works

like question list of Question Hour, Zero Hour, Business of the Day documents and all other papers related to reports of different committees and others. With the inclusion of the digital initiative, the functioning of all such manual works are likely to get hassle free and less involvement of printing and papers and its cumbersome distribution process.



MOON WORSHIP

Girls worship the moon on the occasion of Kumara Purnima at Jagannath Nagar near Rasulgarh in Bhubaneswar, Saturday. (Inset) The Blue Moon in Bhubaneswar sky PICS: MANORANJAN MISHRA & BIKASH NAYAI

AG finds ₹37cr unwanted spending on road projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: The Accountant General (AG) of Odisha has found an unwanted expenditure of Rs 37.19 crore in execution of four road projects by the Works department. The contractors concerned have also got undue benefit of Rs 8 crore for the deviation from norms.

In a draft audit report, the AG said the Works department has technically sanctioned Rs 266.35 crore for widening and strengthening of four road projects to twolane with paved shoulder in March 2018. The works were awarded in between January and February 2019 against an amount of Rs 210.82 crore for completion between July and August 2020. The works were in progress with payment of Rs 25.74 crore as of March 2020, the auditor said.

During the audit, it was found that the government has deviated from the norms and allowed construction of two lanes with paved



Due to wrong estimate by engineers, the state govt had to bear an additional expenditure of ₹37.19 crore

shoulder in the four projects--

Gopalpur-Chhattisgarh border

road, Bisoi-Rairangapur stretch on

State Highway-50, Godobandha-

Kalanda road, Komtalpeta-

Kalayansingpur road. Due to this

wrong estimate by engineers, the

government had to bear an addi-

tional expenditure of Rs 37.19

of the government led to undue

benefit of Rs 8.01 crore to the

Similarly, the over estimation

crore, it said.

contractors.

POST NEWS NETWORK Puri, Oct 31: The chances of reopening Srimandir for the devotees in the month of November are said to be slim even though the

state government has authorised local administrations to take a call on easing restrictions on people's entry to shrines under the Unlock 6.0 guidelines. It is learnt that Srimandir authorities are reluctant to reopen

the 12th century shrine before the Nagariuna Besha of Lord Jagannath which would be held November 27. A majority of Srimandir servi-

tors had opposed the reopening of the shrine for devotees in the Hindu month of Kartika. They had urged the temple authorities to take a decision on the issue after the performance of Nagarjuna Besha ritual, sources said.

Srimandir, the abode of Lord Jagannath, has been shut for devotees since March 20 this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, all the routine as well as the special rituals of the shrine are being performed by the servitors without any interruption.

Srimandir chief administrator



Chances of Srimandir reopening slim

A shed erected at the North Gate of Srimandir for Mahaprasad sale during the holy month of Kartika

Krishan Kumar recently held dising of the shrine would only agcussions with the servitors on issues gravate the situation. related to the reopening of the

Moreover, Srimandir sub-committee on rituals and Chhatisha Niyog, the apex body of servitors, have recently decided that people would not be allowed to witness Nagarjuna Besha of Lord Jagannath.

Many devotees, meanwhile, welcomed the Unlock 6.0 guidelines of

Most of the servitors suggested that the temple should not be reopened for people before Nagarjuna **Besha ritual**

the state government and urged the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) to reopen the shrine.

"Devotees have been deprived of visiting Srimandir for last seven months. Now, the SJTA should allow people to enter the temple in strict adherence to Covid-19 guidelines," said Santosh Sahu, a devotee. Senior Daitapati servitor Binayak Dasmahapatra, however, said that the SJTA should take a call on the issue only after the completion of Hindu month of Kartika.

"The experts have warned that Covid-19 infection would go northward in the winter. We should be more cautious to keep the virus at bay. The SJTA should take a decision on the issue after the performance of Nagarjuna Besha ritual," Dasmahapatra added.

Decision to resume classes for IX-XII decried

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: The Confederation of Odisha Public Schools, in a letter to the School and Mass Education department, Saturday, said that the decision to reopen schools partially was taken in haste and that it involves risks.

The confederation cited order No. 6145 dated 31-10-2020 issued by the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) which stated that schools will be reopened from November 16, 2020 for Classes IX to XII in strict adherence to Covid-19 guidelines.

Confederation president BN Patnaik said, "We strongly feel that any decision of resuming regular classes should be taken only after an elaborate discussion with all the stakeholders like parents and teachers associations. school management representatives, medical experts among others. We request you to kindly defer the decision of reopening the schools from November 16 onwards for students of Class IX, X, XI and XII till such a collective opinion is arrived.

reopened for people before Nagarjuna Besha ritual. It was then argued that at least 500 Srimandir servitors and emplovees have been infected with

shrine. Most of the servitors had sug-

gested that the temple should not be

the novel coronavirus and reopen-

Ex–DM manipulating voters, says BJP

Bhubaneswar: Ahead of Tirtol bypoll, the state unit BJP Saturday alleged that former Jagatsinghpur Collector Sangram Keshari Mohapatra is trying to influence voters to support the ruling BJD and demanded action against him. "Even though the BJP had submitted a memorandum to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) 12 days ago against the ex-collector. the CEO is yet to take any action against him," said BJP leader Prithviraj Harichandan. The government has transferred Mohapatra from the post of Collector to another department. "Still, he continues to camp in Tirtol and forces the voters to vote for BJD," said the BJP leader. If no action is taken against the officer, the saffron party said, it would move the Election Commission of India (ECI) and Department of Personnel & Training.

Lady cop returns wallet, sets example

Bhubaneswar: Playing a Good Samaritan, a woman constable of Mahila police station here returned a wallet containing Rs 20,000 cash to its owner Saturday. She has won many hearts after she returned the lost wallet, which had fallen on the road at Unit I market here. According to a police source, the constable Bhanumati Mallick found the wallet with cash, ATM card and identity cards, which she later deposited at the Capital police station. After detailed scrutiny, police found that the wallet owner Amanprit Singh is an official at 120 Battalion here. Capital police handed over the wallet including all valuables to Singh. The wallet contained ATM card and identity cards apart from the cash.

Drug-and-loot gang busted in Capital city



THE COPS HAVE SEIZED HUGE CACHE OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES LOOTED FROM THE PASSENGERS COMING FROM OUTSIDE INDIA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Commissionerate Police Saturday arrested two dreaded criminals from Baramunda who used to loot their targets by sedating them.

The accused were identified as Simanchal Subudhi, 33, of Changuliapadar village in Ganjam and Susant Rout, 32, of Bhagabat Prasad village in Nayagarh.

According to sources, the police laid a trap to arrest the accused following receipt of several complaints of loot using spiked food and drinks at Baramunda bus stand. A team of Khandagiri police in mufti raided the place and nabbed the accused duo from the bus terminal

During interrogation, the duo revealed that they used to befriend the passengers travelling by trains and buses. After winning the trust of the gullible passengers, the miscreants sedate them by offering spiked food or drinks. Subsequently, they loot the stupefied victims baggage, mobiles and other be-

longings and dump them at isolated places in the city or the outskirts. They mainly target the passengers at railway stations and bus stands at various cities across

the state. The looters also targeted several passengers travelling by flight at Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA). The cops have seized huge cache of foreign currencies looted from the passengers coming from outside India, from the possession of the accused. This apart, the cops have seized Rs 1,08,620, four mo-

bile phones, a Bajaj Pulsar motorcycle, gold chain, locket, finger rings, eight trolley bags and five wrist watches. Khandagiri police found the

duo's involvement in around 16 cases of loot in the city alone. Police have launched a manhunt to arrest other members of the gang. Police registered a case (479/20) and presented them before court Saturday. They were later sent to judicial custody by the court that rejected their bail pleas.

Waiting for SOP to reopen schools, temples, says BMC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Soon after the state government issued guidelines for Unlock 6.0 Saturday, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary said that a decision to reopen temples and other religious places in the Capital city will be taken soon.

As part of Unlock- 6.0, the state government has authorised the local administration to take a call on reopening the religious institutions. Speaking to media, Chaudhary said that opinions of all religious institutions and general public will be taken for reopening of temples, mosques and churches

"Though the number of positive cases has dropped in the city in the last couple of days, over 100



Opinions of all religious institutions and general public will be taken before reopening temples, mosques and churches

Covid-19 cases are being reported every day. Since the infection may rise in winter, everyone should be

careful and follow the guidelines,' Chaudhary said.

With marriage season ahead, Chaudhary stated that only 100 to 200 guests will be allowed during marriages and all should follow Covid-19 guidelines. Regarding reopening of schools (Classes IX to XII) in the city, the BMC Commissioner said that it will be decided after School and Mass Education department issues the SOP.

"Any decision to reopen schools under BMC will depend on the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that will be issued by the state government. We will coordinate with schools once the SOP is issued that will mostly deal with the directions for the strict compliance of the Covid-19 norms issued by Centre and state Health and Family Welfare department," Chaudhary added.

The confederation said that the step involves risks as students and teachers would be exposed to the dangerous pandemic which is yet to subside.

Most of the parents of Class IX to XII students are not in favour of resuming regular classes from November 16, 2020 as the students as well as teachers will be exposed to the virus which is still very much virulent, said Patnaik.

'Once again we request you to look into all the risks involved in reopening of the schools immediately," he added.

Meanwhile, Odisha Parents Federation (OPF) also objected to the SRC's move of reopening schools saying that before Puja holidays the government had said that coronavirus pandemic will be high and effective in winter but now the SRC has given a guideline which is contradictory to the government's declaration.

The OPF demanded that the new academic calendar should consist of 180 working days from December and syllabus reduced upto 30 per cent.

Krushak Bazar yet to see light of the day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Oct 31: Shreekshetra Krushak Bazar, a mega complex to house wholesale godowns here, is yet to be made operational even though three years have elapsed to the laying of foundation stone for the ambitious project

The Pilgrim City often witnesses heavy traffic snarls as goods vehicles negotiate the narrow city roads to reach the wholesale godowns located across the nook and corners of the city. Shreekshetra Krushak Bazar was conceptualised to curb the traffic menace.

The then minister Maheswar stone for the project at Samanga



The godown halls of the Krushak Bazar in Puri

City here November 4, 2017. Mohanty had laid the foundation near Mangala Hata in the Pilgrim

first phase of the mega initiative has already completed around seven months ago, but the godowns are yet to start operations.

When asked, sub-collector Bhabataran Sahu assured that the mega project would start operating soon.

"At least 21 godown halls have already been constructed with the first phase allocation. However, work on its boundary wall and basement is yet to begin. The godowns will be made operational once the basement and boundary wall are built. These apart, 17 more receive the second phase allocation," Sahu said.









Sources said that work for the



downtown

Odisha ranked 2nd last in PAI 2020 'best governed states'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Odisha has been ranked among the last three states in the Public Affairs Index on the basis of the state's performance on equity, sustainable development and growth by a report on public affairs prepared by Bangalore-based think tank Public Affairs Centre (PAC).

OrissaPOST

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The report titled 'Public Affairs Index (PAI 2020)' claims to be a datadriven framework that measures quality of governance and ranks a state on a Composite Index taking into account equity, growth and sustainability as the goals of governance. "Measuring governance is a challenge. This issue becomes increasingly complex, especially in a diverse country like India where each state is socially, culturally, economically and politically different PAC, thus, identified three broad pillars namely growth, equity and sustainability that encapsulate governance. From a development perspective, it is axiomatic that there must be synergies between all these three pillars," Public Affairs Centre

said in a statement. In the overall rankings of the three themes of equity, growth and sustainable development. Odisha

IN THE OVERALL RANKINGS OF EQUITY, GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ODISHA HAS BEEN RANKED SECOND LAST WITH A SCORE OF -1.202 AMONG 18 BIG STATES OF INDIA

has been ranked second last among 18 big states of India. The state's score is -1.202. Uttar Pradesh was ranked last with -1.462.

The study has ranked Kerala as the best governed state on the basis of the above-mentioned three factors with 1.389 points, while Tamil Nadu was ranked second with 0.912 and Andhra Pradesh third with 0.531. "It is interesting to note that con-

The study has ranked Kerala as the best governed state on the basis of the abovementioned three factors with 1.389 points It is interesting to note that all the four top states in PAI 2020 are all from southern India

tinuing with the trend established in PAI 2019, the top four states in PAI 2020 are all from southern India. Harvana. Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh, which like in PAI 2019, feature at the bottom of the rankings,'

the study said. It added, "Interestingly, most of the Aspirational districts that have been identified by the NITI Aayog fall within this particular cluster.



Nikunja Bihari Dhal, Principal Secretary of the Energy Department, inaugurating a 132/33KV electrical grid sub-station - the first of its kind in the state, at Brajabiharipur near CDA in Cuttack, Saturday. The project, under the Chief Minister's State Capital Region Improvement of Power System (SCRIPS) scheme, is a grid sub-station executed by OPTCL and will help supply uninterrupted power to the residents of Cuttack city

BROWN SUGAR WORTH ₹1CR SEIZED



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: The Special Task Force of the state Crime Branch seized brown sugar weighing 1.17 kgs from a peddler near Baramunda bus stand in Bhubaneswar Friday night.

The value of the seized contraband in grev market is estimated to be Rs 1,00,00,000.

The peddler has been identified as Sk Hasim Bux of Sheikhpalarea under Jaleswar police limits in Balasore district. He has been arrested

Acting on a tipoff, the raid was conducted at a place near Baramunda bus stand. It was when he failed to produce any valid documents in support of possessing the contraband, he was arrested. Thanks to the sustained drive against contraband throughout 2020, the STF has so far seized 22.168 kgs of brown sugar and detected 24 cases, in-

₹1.75cr sanctioned for Bagala Dharmasala renovation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: The state government has approved a sum of Rs 1.75 crore for the renovation of the Bagala Dharmasala in Puri city, which has been in controversy during the last few months.

The state Works Department, in an official communication to the Chief Engineer (Buildings), has asked the latter to undertake the repair, retrofitting and renovation of age-old building in the current fiscal. The expenditure has been planned under the Augmentation of Basic Amenities & Development of Heritage & Architecture (AB-DAHA) scheme for the Pilgrim City. The latter has been asked to go ahead and invite tenders to commence the works and take other necessary actions accordingly.

"I am directed to request you to accord administrative approval for the work 'repair, retrofitting and renovation of Bagala Dharmasala building at Puri for the year 2020-21 at an estimated cost of Rs 1.75 crore...with stipulation that adequate fund provision should be ensured for the above project in the outcome budget of Works department for 2020-21 under the ABADHA

health department official said.

highest number of fresh cases (170).

Sundergarh (112), the official said.

under treatment in hospitals.

Sundergarh districts and two from

Four people also succumbed to the

virus in Jharsuguda, Ganjam, Puri

and Nuapada districts, he said.

Keonihar.

local contact cases.

PNN/AGENCY



has been planned under the Augmentation of **Basic Amenities & Development of** Heritage & Architecture scheme for the

In August, the state government had clarified that it was not planning to sell the land but wanted to renovate the site to boost facilities for the pilgrims. The renovation has been planned under the Augmentation Basic Amenities & Development of Heritage & Architecture (ABADHA) Scheme of the government in Puri. ABADHA envisions focused de-

velopment of basic infrastructure in Puri for augmentation of basic amenities and development of the heritage site. It aims to improving the infrastructure in areas close to the Sri Jagannath temple in the city.

Cuttack Vig Cell SP's service period extended

Bhubaneswar: The state government has extended the service period of M Radhakrishnan, an OPS officer and SP in-charge of Cuttack Vigilance Cell by another year. Radhakrishnan was scheduled to retire from the services October 31. The state government has approved the proposal sent by the Vigilance Directorate regarding the extension of service period of Radhakrishnan. The state General Administration (Vigilance) department has also approved his redeployment at his current posting for the next one year. Radhakrishnan, while speaking to Orissa POST, expressed his happiness over the decision and asserted that he will try to perform with utmost sincerity and honesty.

Police arrest youth for 'trafficking'

Bhubaneswar: Jajpur police Saturday arrested a youth on charges of trafficking girls to abroad. The accused identified as Sabir Ali is a resident of Murshidabad in West Bengal. Suspecting Ali's activities, some social activists boarded the same Kolkata-bound train he was travelling by. The activists informed the RPF officials. RPF and Jajpur GRP police arrested Ali and rescued a girl

Mercury dips in state

the MeT.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Temperature during the night has started dropping below the normal level in some parts of the state. However, there has been no cold wave-like situation at any place so far, local Meteorological Centre said here Saturday.

At the same time, No change observed in the maximum temperatures was observed across the state. The day temperature remained above normal at south coastal and north interior Odisha, while it has been normal in the remaining parts of Odisha, it said.

On the other hand, the minimum temperatures or night temperatures were below normal over south coastal Odisha and normal over rest of Odisha.

The lowest minimum temperature of 13.4 degrees Celsius was recorded at Sonepur, while it was

It further said a new low pressure area has formed over east-central Bay of Bengal off the coast of Myanmar: The associated cyclonic circulation extends up to 4.5 km above the mean sea level. The system is likely to move towards Bangladesh coast during the next 48 hours. Similarly, a trough runs from the cyclonic circulation associated with the above-mentioned low pressure area to Bangladesh across northeast Bay of Bengal and extends up to 1.5 km above the

14 degrees Celsius at Koraput and

15 degrees each at Daringibadi and

Angul towns. The mercury will

fall further in many places of the

state from November 5 or 6, predicts

mean sea level As there will be moisture in the atmosphere, there might be light to moderate rainfall in one or two places in the coastal areas in next two to three days, it added

'Rastriya Ekta Diwas' observed in City

cluding cases against the drug peddlers. So far STF arrested as many as 44 drug peddlers.

Scheme," the letter issued by the Works department said

Pilarim Citv

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: The DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar, Bhubaneswar, observed the Rastriya EktaDiwas on its premises to commemorate the 145th birth anniversary of the country's first Deputy Prime Minister and freedom Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who is fondly remembered as the 'Iron Man of India'.

As a mark of respect to the great patriot, the principal and teachers offered floral tributes to Sardar Patel and took the National Unity Day pledge. At a meeting organised on the occasion, the principal of the school Bipin Kumar Sahoo highlighted the great contribution and commendable efforts of Sardar Patel in securing India's freedom from the British rule and his decisive role in the unification of the princely states to form a strong Indian federation. Different online competitions were organised among the students to mark the occasion. The programme was smoothly conducted by the harmonious co-ordination of the staff members of the observing the guidelines of Covid-19 pandemic.

Rshtriva Ekta Diwas was also ob-

served at IIT Bhubaneswar on its campus. On this occasion, a floral tribute was offered by the director R V Raja Kumar and the staff members took pledge on this occasion to preserve unity, integrity and security of the nation. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. RV Raja Kumar emphasised the role played by Sardar Vallabhai Patel's in the national integration. Prof Kumar also reiterated that IIT Bhubaneswar has always believed in creating a feeling of 'One Nation' and the best example of this was the successful completion of "Ek Bharat, Shresht Bharat" programmes which were completed as per the mandate from the



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AFFIDAVI

Before the Executive Magistrate, Bhawanipatna, I, Tikimani Bag, W/o. Dibakar Bag, D/o. Daityari Naik, R/o. Anjali Nagar, Bhawanipatna, P.O./P.S.- Bhawanipatna Town, Dist.- Kalahandi do hereby declare that in my educational certificates my name mentioned as Tikimani Dei, D/o. Daityari Naik, in ROR Khata No. 91/559 mentioned as Tikimani Dei, W/o. Dibakar Bag, in Aadhaar Card mentioned as Tikimani Bag, D/o. Daitari Naik. That the names Tikimani Dei, D/o. Daityari Naik, Tikimani Dei, W/o. Dibakar Bag, Tikimani Bag, D/o. Daitari Naik, Tikimani Bag, W/o. Dibakar Bag belongs to one and same person.

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Odisha's Covid-19 caseload mounted to 2.90,116 after 1,470 persons tested positive Saturday, while 12 more fatalities pushed the death toll to 1,320, a Of the fresh infections detected in all the 30 districts, 853 were reported from different quarantine centres, while the remaining being Khurda district registered the

12 more nCoV fatalities, 1,470 fresh cases

As many as 53 other Covid-19 pafollowed by Cuttack (126) and tients have also died, but the department attributed the cause of Taking to Twitter, the Health these fatalities to other diseases.

and Family Welfare Department Ganjam district alone has so far said: "Regret to inform the demise reported 230 deaths followed by of 12 Covid positive patients while Khurda (229) and Cuttack (110).

The state has thus far conducted With the 12 fatalities, the state's over 45.55 lakh sample tests, in-Covid-19 toll mounted to 1,320, the cluding 47,750 Friday. The positivity rate stands at 6.37, the offiofficial said, adding, three deaths each were reported from Khurda and cial added.

81 new cases in Bhubaneswar As many as 81 new Covid-19 cases were detected under Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) limits in last

24 hours, BMC said Saturday.

While 19 of them are quarantine cases, remaining 62 are local contact ones. Meanwhile, 226 persons who earlier tested positive for the disease have recovered.

According to a notification issued by the civic body, as of Saturday, 29,153 persons have tested positive for Covid-19 in Bhubaneswar out of which 27,543 have recovered. While there are 1,423 active cases, 166 persons succumbed to the disease.

Another 1,911 Covid–19 patients recover

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Health department Saturday said that 1,911 patients who had tested positive for Covid-19 have recovered and are being discharged from hospitals and Covid Care Centres. Out of the 1,911 patients, 245 are from Khordha, 153 from Cuttack, 138 from Bolangir, 101 from Sundargarh, 96 from Mayurbhanj, 81 from Jagatsinghpur, 78 from Angul, 78 from Kalahandi, 76 from Nuapada, 74 from Balasore, 72 from Jajpur, 71 from Keonjhar, 63 from Bargarh, 52 from Kendrapara, 50 from Bhadrak, 50 from Puri, 50 from Sambalpur, 46 from Dhenkanal, 45 from Nabarangpur, 42 from Koraput, 36 from Jharsuguda, 33 from Nayagarh, 26 from Ganjam, 25 from Malkangiri, 24 from Kandhamal, 20 from Sonepur, 16 from Rayagada, nine from Deogarh, eight from Gajapati, two from Boudh and 51 from State Pool. With this, total recoveries in the state now stand at 2,75,749.









OrissaPOST SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1 2020 BHUBANESWAR

state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Oct 31: The state government had made an attempt to push industrialization on the outskirts of Bhadrak between 1985 and 1990. It attracted entrepreneurs by allotting houses and plots at Rahanaja. IDCO had made all efforts to boost industriliasation there. However, 31 years have passed though, these efforts have apparently gone futile in the area.

The government has envisioned Bhadrak as the new industrial corridor in the state.

According to reports, in mideighties, IDCO had allotted land to 21 industrialists to set up industrial units. The industrial estate was planned on 20 acres and 700 decimal of land. IDCO had made a provision of roads, water, electricity, houses, telephone and other facilities.

It had generated a lot of hopes among locals for scope of employment and ancillary business activities in the areas. However, lamented that, not a single industry has become a reality till date. All that is found here now are either auto garages or marble shops. The dream of industrilaisation vanished over vears.

The place has lost its identity amid overgrown bushes and wild creepers all over.

Landed properties worth crores of rupees given for industries are lying unutlised. The place, tagged

SHORT TAKES

Tusker tramples farmer to death

Pallahara: In another incident of man-elephant conflict, a tusker trampled a famer to death at a village here in Angul district Friday night. The deceased has been identified as Anadi Handiari, a resident of ShriRampur village. The incident has triggered tension in the locality with the villagers staging a roadblock on NH-149. They demanded compensation to the bereaved family and a government job to a family member. According to sources, Anadi had gone out of his house Friday night to his paddy field to check his crops. While going to his paddy field, he suddenly came face to face with a tusker. Before he could react, the tusker caught him by its trunk, pinned him down on the ground and trampled him, causing his death on the spot. As the news spread, it irked the

villagers who laid siege to NH-149, disrupting vehicular movement. On being informed, forest department officials and police reached the spot. The roadblock forest department officials promised them that their demands would be looked into.



ACCORDING TO It had generated a lot of hopes among locals for **REPORTS, IN** scope of employment and ancillary business MID-EIGHTIES, IDCO activities in the areas. However, lamented that, HAD ALLOTTED LAND TO not a single industry has become a reality till 21 INDUSTRIALISTS TO date. All that is found here now are either auto SET UP INDUSTRIAL garages or marble shops. The dream of UNITS. THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE WAS PLANNED ON 20 ACRES AND 700 DECIMAL OF LAND. IDCO HAD MADE A PROVISION OF ROADS,

AND OTHER FACILITIES

WATER, ELECTRICITY, HOUSES, TELEPHONE

The issue will be reviewed and necessary steps will be taken **GYANARANJAN DAS I BHADRAK COLLECTOR**

in government records as industrial estate, has turned out to be a haven for criminals while the industries department is doing very little to give impetus to the long awaited industrialisation.

Locals lamented that even the

industrilaisation vanished over years. The place has lost its identity amid overgrown bushes and wild creepers all over

district administration has not reviewed which industrial units have been functioning there. It has not even looked into the causes leading to the stalemate in industrialsation at Rahanja Even though industrialisation around Dhamara is gradually gathering pace after the port was set up, Rahanja industrial estate, set up three decades ago, has been pushed to the backburners.

"Had some industries been set up, scores of people would be benefitting and development of the area would have been quite different,' some conscious citizens said.

It was also alleged that some people have taken land worth crores of rupees from the government on subsidized rates years ago, apart from taking loans from banks in the name of industries, but nothing has happened in reality at the place. When asked about the miserable

condition of the industrial estate Collector Gvanaranian Das said the issue will be reviewed and necessary steps will be taken in this direction

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Oct 31: Amid fears of a second wave of Covid infection in the country with onset of winter chill, the Ganjam district will start a mega health screening from November 1 with special focus on Berhampur city. It is said that MKCG Medical and Hospital is still receiving a lot of Covid infection cases daily.

If the second wave starts, many people will be infected and those who have recovered from the disease are likely to be re-infected with winter chill gradually gripping some areas.

It is said that there is a need for extreme caution for the people of Ganjam district.

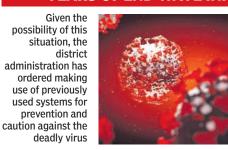
Given the possibility of this situation, the district administration has ordered making use of previously used systems for prevention and caution against the deadly virus.

A couple of days ago, Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange had directed sub-collectors and district level officials to implement the systems.

The Collector observed that the government was not mulling lockdown after the unlock, because lockdown will again adversely impact the life and livelihood of peo-

Caution and prevention is attached more importance amid fears of re-infection. It was also decided

FEARS OF 2ND WAVE INFECTION



Health condition of people in home isolation and under treatment at hospitals will be under scanner. Special attention will be given to patients with respiratory problems

Mask checking points will be made functional at different parts of the city. The Collector had directed taking up awareness drive to increase plasma donation. Sub-collectors will act as nodal officers in this exercise

that testing of swab sample will be intensified.

Though the number of Covid positive cases is decreasing, more infected cases are reportedly coming to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital.

The Collector had directed the health officials to draw up strategies to glean information about infected people coming the MKCG. Berhampur city will be under focus on health screening while BeMC Commissioner will pay heed to the problem

Health condition of people in home isolation and under treatment at hospitals will be under scanner. Special attention will be given to patients with respiratory problems.

An awareness drive will be intensified while mega health screening will be launched from November 1 with the help of teachers, Anganwadi workers, and ASHAs.

Teams to be involved in this exercise will paste postcard-size stickers on each house during the mega health screening drive. 'Panchasutri' norms will be in force while each shop will be is-

sued Covid safe certificates after necessary examination. Mask checking points will be made functional at different parts of the city. The Collector had di-

rected taking up awareness drive to increase plasma donation. Subcollectors will act as nodal officers in this exercise.

A bridge for 50 inaccessible villages in Chitrakonda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chitrakonda, Oct 31: People of Gunthawada and over 50 villages in neighbouring panchayats under Chitrakonda block of Malkangiri district have long been suffering from commuting woes in the absence of a bridge across Aragi river. Taking note of their plight, the government is going to set up a bridge at a ghat, fulfilling the long awaited dream of the people.

Reports said, the foundation stone for the project was laid Wednesday, bringing cheers to the people. Boats are the only means of communication in the region. It was said that people face a lot of problems while being ferried across the river. They had long been demanding a bridge that will be realized soon.

The foundation stone laying ceremony was held in the presence of Collector Minaskhi Agrawal, Chitrakonda MLA Purnachandra Baka.

Gupteswar Constriction

Miscreants attempt to loot Union Bank

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Oct 31: In a bizarre incident Friday night, looters made a futile attempt on Kadaligada branch of Union Bank of India under Rairakhol in Sambalpur district. The looters barged into the bank



premises by cutting open an iron grill near the entrance with the help of a gas cutter. They attempted to break open a locker and an iron chest in the bank premises, Rairakhol police said

The rogues had barged into the bank premises

by cutting open an iron grill with the help of a gas cutter. They attempted to break open a locker and an iron

chest in the bank

"After getting a phone call, I reached the bank Saturday morning. The iron chest was found intact and only the safe vault of the bank has been cut open. No cash has been stolen by the miscreants," the bank's chief manager, Nihar Kishan, expressed.

On being informed. Rairakhol police reached the spot and launched a probe into the matter. Details are still awaited as the investigation is

ple.

R FOR IOBS



Dumper helper stoned to death

Joda: A helper engaged in a dumper was stoned to death at Dubuna under Bamebari police limits in Keonjhar. The deceased was identified as Bipin Barik (22) belonging to Bonai in Sundargarh. He had been staying in the house of Suka Palei at Dubuna for about a year. His body was found in a field Sunday. He was stoned to death as his body had deep wounds. A stone was found nearby. Locals informed police about the body. Police started an investigation into the matter and came to know that Bipin was working in the dumper of Suka Palei and was staying at his house. Police also leant that Bipin had a past enmity with some people.

Body recovered from roadside

Harabhanga: Police Friday recovered the blood-soaked body of a youth lying by the roadside near Singanibida under Purunakatak police limits in Boudh district. The police have identified the deceased as Arjun Patra (35), a resident of Badikata village of Tileswar panchayat under Harabhanga block. Local residents first spotted the body in the morning and then they informed the police. After a while, a team from Purunakatak police station reached the spot, recovered the body and sent it for post mortem. A case has been registered. The deceased's family said he was working as a wielding mechanic with a crusher company. It is suspected that he was murdered over a love affair. According to police, some miscreants had killed Arjun Thursday night and dumped the body by the roadside.

However, police are yet to find any reason behind the murder.

However, the looters failed to take away cash from the iron chest.

underway, the Rairakhol police station sources said.

ANMs after being retrenched from their contractual service stage protests at Sambalpur Covid Hospital Saturday. They demand reinstatement and service regularisation OP PHOTO

100 MT of iron ores seized in Jajpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Oct 31: Mining officials seized 100 tonnes of illegally excavated iron ores at Neupur and Hardeipur under Dharmashala police limits of Jajpur Sunday

Later, the mining officials got to know that over 1000 tonnes of iron ore were dumped near Kaeme hill, till the last reports came in.

The huge dump of iron ore has pointed to the ongoing mining illegalities in the area.

However, the mines department officials have no clues about where the minerals were excavated and transported here. It is suspected that unscrupulous



Illegal iron ore dumped on roadside

officials of the mines department and Paradeep Port have been pushing illegal iron ore transportation through forged challans.

Admin urged to reopen Dhabaleswar shrine

POST NEWS NETWORK

Athagarh, Oct 31: Due to restrictions for Covid-19 pandemic, religious shrines are closed in the state. The holy month of Kartik is going to start. The servitors of Dhabaleswar temple in Athagarh area of Cuttack district demanded reopening of the temple in view of the holy Kartik month.

Špecial rituals are performed at Dhabaleswar shrine during the month of Kartika month. Gaja Bhoga is also offered to the Lord.

According to servitors, devotees do fasting in this holy month. It is one of the most important traditions. Thousands of devotees usually visit the

0.00

1.

shrine on the occasion. The government should come up with Covid-19 norms and allow devotees into the temple.

However, the administration has made it clear that the decision about reopening of the temple will be taken on the basis of the Covid guidelines which will be issued for the month of November. "We talked to the Collector about the temple reopening

as Panchuka falls next month. If the government changes its guidelines, we can take a call. However, no decision has been taken on reopening of the temples till date," said Athagarh sub-collector and endowment department chief Ajambar Mohanty

Semiliguda are has been awarded the contract for construction. The bridge will have nine pillars and be of 8.5 metres. The bridge will facilitate connectivity to over 50 villages and provide links to Sileru in Andhra Pradesh.

2 more held in Angul hooch tragedy

Angul: Purunakote police arrested two more persons including a woman for their alleged involvement in the hooch tragedy that took the lives of four persons at Pathargarh village under this police limits in Angul district. The number of arrests increased to four . According to the excise department, one of the arrested is Golapa Sahu. The identity of the other person is yet to be revealed. "A team of excise personnel raided the house of prime accused Kalia and recovered spurious spirit. Two persons have been arrested in connection with the case including Golapa Sahu," Excise Superintendent Ramendra Narayan Nayak informed.

Tent house owners seek cover

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kesinga, Oct 31: Like many others, tent house owners here in Kalahandi district are in a severe financial crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though lockdown restrictions have eased from June onwards, it has not benefitted the tent house owners

This is because of the restrictions on gatherings and conducting of social events. Hence the income of these tent house owners has not dropped.

The mainstay of the tent owners' is social functions. 'Though small, medium and big businessmen are presently doing business, we are still sitting idle," alleged Kalahandi District



Tent Owners' Association having problems to deposit advisor, Sushant Mohapatra. their EMIs. The tent owners "If government programmes are being allowed with public address system, why not the social programmes?" the dejected tent owners asked. They alleged many tent owners have taken loans

under the leadership of association president Rabi Narayan Mishra convened a meeting at Kesinga RMC Thursday afternoon after handing over a memorandum to block development officer Prafulla Kumar Odu. from banks and now they are The memorandum was

It may be noted her that after the in-

vestigation of the Shah Commission

in the multi-crore mining scam, mines

mafia had allegedly concealed huge

amounts of illegally extracted min-

erals. At that time, a special squad

had seized 23, 100 tonnes of iron ores

Some mines mafia had dumped iron

The state mines department and

the state government have resorted

to various measures to check illegal

mining and transport of minerals.

Despite this, such illegal activities

have been on the rise in the area, ex-

posing indifference of the mining

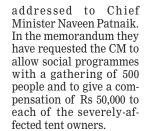
department, locals alleged.

ores at Kaema and Neulpur areas

at Haridashpur.

Friday night.

Even though lockdown restrictions have eased from June onwards, restrictions on gatherings and conducting of social events have not been withdrawn



2 3. 4. 5. 6.

	ORISSA WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOAR (A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking) Office of the Project Engineer, Project Management Unit-I, OWSS At- Collectorate Campus, Sambalpur-768001					
"e" Procurement Notice						
Bid Identification No. 01/PMU-I/OWSSB/SBP/2020-21						
. Name o	f the work	: Completion of balance works of the two nos. of Half Cor structed Buildings existing inside the land acquired at Dhanupali for construction of 40 MLD STP for Sewerage System of Sambalpur Town				
. Estimat	ed cost	: Rs.42,28,600.00				
Period c	of completion	: 4 (Four) Calendar Months				
	Time of availability ocument in the portal	: 05.11.2020 (11.00 Hours) to 17.11.2020 (17.00 Hours)				
	te I Time for receipt n the portal	: 17.11.2020 up to 17:00 Hours				
Name a	nd address of the O.I.T.	: Project Engineer, Project Management Unit-I, OWSSB,				

At- Collectorate Campus, Sambalpur-768001

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in"

A God who cannot smile. could not have created this

breezy in tone and out of place with our reality.

how many lives we are able to save.'

He makes the claim that India, the second

most infected nation in the world "is a world

model of public participation without any coercive enforcement." India actually had the worst

lockdown in the world, forced on it by the

Union government which invoked the Disaster

Management Act. People were punished and

jailed by the State for going back home with-

out work, food or shelter. People were run

over by trains because they walked on tracks

to avoid the police on the highways. This is what

coercive enforcement is. Perhaps the definition

That unprepared, arbitrary lockdown did not

save lives — there is no relation between the

spread of infections and the weeks India spent

in forced hibernation — but it did help skewer

the economy. The prime minister is confident

that August and September data shows that

the economy is 'back on track.' Back on track

to where? India's GDP growth was in se-

quential decline for two years before Covid hit.

It has been falling every quarter for 10 quar-

ters since January, 2018. Growth was 3 per

cent before Covid. What are we getting back

Also, if he seems to think that we will be

back to where we were in February soon, he

has the wrong advisors. One quarter of the

GDP fell off between April and June. The

best we can hope for in the July-September

quarter is that it doesn't decline further but

it will. Even if it doesn't, to recover the lost

quarter of GDP will take two years. Meaning

That is not 'back on track.

States. But why?

is different in Gujarat.

on track to?

SRI AUROBINDO

What back on track?

he prime minister has given an extraordinary interview to the busi-

ness newspaper the Economic Times. It is confident in outlook,

He assumes he had done not only the right thing in managing Covid but

done something other nations have not done. This, according to him, has saved

lives. He says: "I am no health expert but my assessment is based on num-

bers. I think we should assess our coronavirus fight against the metric of

public. India has the second most infections in the world and currently the

third highest number of fatalities. The one nation India is comparable with

in terms of population, China, controlled the epidemic in one stroke. Its peak

came on one day, 12 February, and then the spread was contained in some way.

Our sister nations around us, Bangladesh and Pakistan, culturally and

geographically comparable, have fared more than twice as well as us both

in terms of infections per lakh population and deaths. On what grounds can

we assume that the Modi government has done comparatively well? He

seems to think we should compare ourselves to Brazil, Italy and the United

He did not provide any numbers but he doesn't need to because they are

humorous universe

power post

FOCUS POLITICS

GIVE CENTRISM A CHANCE

urope's progressive intelligentsia have come to scorn political 'centrism.' A misguided focus on the middle ground, critics argue, precludes the formulation of political alternatives, leading to the rise of extremist parties on the left and right. Seen through this lens, the corollaries of centrism are populism, polarisation, and ultimately growing distrust of democratic principles.

> Left-wing political parties keen on sharpening their ideological profile face a dilemma.

advocates humanitarian generosity but has not called for decriminalising illegal border crossings. On climate change, while he champions carbon-neutral housing and is calling for the US power sector to be carbon-free by 2035, he has steered clear of fully embracing the Green New Deal favoured by his party's left wing. Likewise, Biden is shying away from calls to ban fracking, defund the police, and introduce universal single-payer

Biden's centrism is shared by his running mate, Senator Kamala Harris of California, who has faced criticism from within her own party for her allegedly weak progressive credentials. But Biden's commanding lead over US President Donald Trump in opinion polls suggests that the Democrats may have found a winning formula.

A similar story is unfolding in New Zealand, where Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern won convincingly in the country's October 17 general election. In progressive circles, Ardern is widely heralded as a global icon. She is only

Corbyn to step down. Corbyn's successor, Keir Starmer, used Labour's (virtual) annual conference in September to announce a comprehensive break with Corbyn's legacy. Starmer's 'new leadership' entails redirecting Labour toward family values, with a focus on security and economic prudence.

In his conference speech Starmer declared to disgruntled blue-collar voters that, "We love this country as you do." His repositioning thus includes a notion of left-wing patriotism – anathema to his staunchly internationalist predecessor and a clear break with previous Labour parlance.

officers serving their communities

the process of reinventing itself as

a more centrist political force fol-

lowing its disastrous defeat in the

December 2019 general election,

which forced far-left leader Jeremy

The United Kingdom's Labour Party, meanwhile, is currently in

Starmer's stated objective is to regain the confidence of working-class voters who abandoned the party under Corbyn. So far, the plan seems to be working. Although the UK's next general election is not scheduled to be held until 2024, recent opinion polls put Labour neck and neck with the ruling Conservative Party. The current momentum en-

joyed by political progressives who are consciously addressing the political centre holds important les sons for struggling counterparts elsewhere.

Progressives certainly should never be satisfied with the status quo. Offering political alternatives and a path toward a better future remains crucial - not least dur ing a pandemic. But with voters increasingly exhausted by years of polarisation, progressive parties that are serious about gaining and retaining power would be well advised to reconsider their opposition to centrism.

The writer is Director of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in New York and serves on the basic value commission of the German Social Democratic Party.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

VCs should be chancellors of values The selection and appoint-times, the VC is put into pressure rience in that particular pay scale Odisha government through a Cabinet dec

power of universities for appoint-

ment of senior faculty positions

is only suggestive of the lack of

cision has dive

health care.

the second prime minister in mod-

SPECTRUM UNIVERSITIES

that after two years, we may be back to where we were in February this year. He continues to speak of a \$5 trillion economy. On one hand, this is a banal thing. India's economy, at whatever pace, will reach there at some point (assuming no magical strokes like Demonetisation or lockdown are forthcoming to slow it down). But to assume that it will happen in 2024, as Modi does, is to be unaware of what has happened in the last three years. He said

sit among them, you will hear only things of despair and despondency." No, it is called being in touch with reality and being able to read numbers. It is hard to tell whether the prime minister is unable to confront the reality or so supremely confident in his abilities that he can convince the rest of us that the reality is different from our perception of it. If we pretend that China hasn't occupied the lands our army was patrolling till February, then they haven't crossed the Line of Actual Control. If we compare ourselves to Brazil and Italy and not China and Pakistan, our Covid numbers will look excellent. If we make up meaningless phrases like this one from the interview: "Aatmanirbhar Bharat is not just about competition but also about competence, it's not about dominance but about dependability, it's not about looking within but about looking out for the world" then that is a substitute for trying to right an economy that has been in the doldrums for thirty months.

in the interview: "Most people who are pessimistic remain in doubt. If you



Aakar Patel

for 10 quarters since January, 2018. Growth was 3 per cent before Covid. What are we getting back on track to?

Michael Bröning DESPITE

INCREASING POLITICAL **POLARISATION IN MANY COUNTRIES**, LARGE **NUMBERS OF VOTERS SEEM CONSIDERABLY**

MORE **COMFORTABLE** WITH CENTRIST **POSITIONS** THAN IS OFTEN ASSUMED

merit. Democracy requires candid and controversial conversations about the best way forward. Closing the door to political alternatives by blindly embracing the status quo is a recipe for disaster. "Debate is never finished," wrote the late Polish-born sociologist Zygmunt Bauman. "It can't be, lest democracy be no longer democratic." But this does not mean that left-

of-centre political parties should turn their backs on pragmatism and moderation. In fact, evidence from some of the world's current electoral hotspots suggests they should do the opposite. Despite increasing political polarisation in many countries, large numbers of voters seem considerably more comfortable with centrist positions than is often assumed.

Left-wing political parties keen on sharpening their ideological profile therefore face a dilemma. Whereas party activists frequently demand greater ideological clarity, voters are increasingly favour-

ing pragmatism over purity. So, the most promising course of action for progressive leaders is probably to combine a long-term ideological vision with the reality of incremental change

Consider Joe Biden, the US Democratic Party's presidential nominee. Although Biden's agenda clearly is more progressive than those of recent Democratic nominees, it appears significantly more centrist than those of two of his main challengers for the Democratic nomination, Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren.

Biden's platform is notable not only for what it endorses but also for what it does not. On immigration, the former vice-president

This analysis is not without

Whereas party activists frequently demand greater ideological clarity, voters are increasingly favouring pragmatism over purity. So, the most promising course of action for progressive leaders is probably to combine a long-term ideological vision with the reality of incremental change

> ern times to have given birth while in office, is known for her open and honest communication, and most recently was a serious contender for this year's Nobel Peace Prize. But, in contrast to her global image, Ardern's domestic suc-

cess has resulted from centrist flexibility rather than transformative ambition. Heading a threeparty coalition in her first term, Ardern was unable to implement her most far-reaching policy proposals – in particular, solving New Zealand's housing crisis. But she benefited from her effective management of the COVID-19 pandemic, and her compassionate and determined response to the March 2019 Christchurch massacre in which 51 Muslim

worshippers were killed. In its recent election campaign, Ardern's Labour Party focused on moderate reform proposals that appealed to centrist voters. These included limited increases in the minimum wage and slightly higher taxes for the wealthy as part of a responsible economic recovery, as well as law-and-order

policies such as increasing, not

reducing, the number of police



WISDOM CORNER

To travel is to discover that everyone is wrong about other countries. ALDOUS HUXLEY No one has ever become poor by giving ANNE FRANK Never mistake motion for action. ERNEST HEMINGWAY

WORDS**WORTH**

Upper crust

n trying to get to the root of this dismissive way to describe the upper classes, aristocracy or social elite, we have to start by clearing away the obscuring undergrowth of supposition. Many sources say it's from the US. That's because the Oxford English Dictionary says it is and cites as its first two examples works by Thomas Chandler Haliburton of 1836 and 1843, with a third from John Bartlett's Dictionary of Americanisms of 1848. However, Haliburton wasn't American but Canadian, from Nova Scotia. And as we shall see, the earliest example isn't from North America, but Britain. More disinformation comes from that splendid body of people, the guides who herd tourists around the ancient buildings of Britain. In the kitchens, they explain the old method of baking bread in an oven. This was heated by burning dry twigs in it. The ashes were then raked out and the bread dough was put in to bake. The bottom of the resulting loaf was over-baked because it was sitting on the hot oven floor and ashes stuck to it. The upper crust was properly baked, however, and was obviously more desirable. Tourist guides will explain that the upper crust was reserved for the master and mistress of the household and that the term upper crust was transferred to its consumers. The first part is probably true but the second isn't. There's no evidence for the term having evolved as a reference to better bits of bread being reserved for the highest-ranking members of a household, apart from a much-quoted oblique reference in John Russell's Book of Nurture of 1460, which reads, in modern English: "Cut the upper crust [of the loaf] for your sovereign". There have been other senses of upper crust. The most common in the eighteenth century was of the upper surface of the earth and by analogy the crust that forms on the surface of partially melted and refrozen snow or on the mud of a partially dried-out pond.



Half a year to live

woman hears from her doctor Athat she has only half a year to live. The doctor advises her to marry an economist and to live in



asks: will this cure my illness? The doctor replies: No, but the half year will seem pretty long.



Rup Narayan Das

SCHOLARSHIP AND ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS **NEED NOT BE MEASURED IN TERMS OF SCALE OF PAY OR GRADE PAY**

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

(VCs) at times attracted media attention for very many reasons. The latest instance is the suspension of the VC of Delhi University. Ironically he was appointed by the same regime. In the educational edifice of the country, VCs, being the heads of universities, occupy a pivotal position. They are called upon to perform a multiple of functions.

ment of vice-chancellors

In the first place, they are expected to be distinguished academicians and eminent scholars having contributed significantly to the body of knowledge. In the second place they should possess ample administrative experience to deal with men and material in a judicious and prudent manner. A VC's role as administrator has many parts. As far as faculty and the teaching fraternity are concerned he/she is like primus inter pares or first among equals. The deans of various faculties and professors are eminent people in their own right. Differences of views on different issues are bound to crop up from time to time and they need to be resolved amicably. The VC is also responsible for recruitments of both faculty and staff for various positions. In the selection of these positions at

political. In such situations, he/she has to ensure that not only the procedure is followed, but also merit prevails.

from various quarters including or grade pay, but otherwise is a

As per the well-established norm prescribed by the University Grants Commission, the VC being the academic and administrative head of the institution is expected to be a person possessing the highest level of competence, integrity, morals, and institutional commitment. It further stipulates that a distinguished academician with a minimum of ten years of experience as professor in a university, or ten years of experience in a reputed research or academic administrative experience with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership is eligible to apply for the position. It is often experienced that the ten years of experience is mechanically determined in a clerical manner. What the authorities decide is the criteria of pay scale and the grade pay. It is quite ridiculous that at times candidates who might have earned ten years of experience in that pay scale and grade pay without any demonstrative scholarly attainment or achievement may have edge over some other candidate who might not have the requisite years of expe-

highly accomplished scholar. An average professor of an obscure second rate university may get selected while a scholar of eminence or someone having requisite administrative experience may be ignored. The search committee needs to have a creative understanding of the candidates' claims of eligibility.

At a time when people from outside the civil services are hired for senior positions like joint secretaries to the Government of India on the scheme of lateral induction to the civil service, a similar practice should also be followed in the appointment of VCs of universities. What is so sacrosanct about ten vears of experience in a particular scale of pay or grade pay if a candidate has not produced scholarly output commensurate with the years of experience which reflects poorly on his/her academic achievements? This clerical criteria needs to change.

At a time when India or for that matter Odisha is emerging as a knowledge society, the VCs are poised to play a critical role in the educational edifice of the country and the state. The VCs are supposed to be of impeccable honesty and integrity. The fact that the faith and trust in the impartial and objective selection of candidates. Now, the Odisha Public Service Commission is entrusted with this responsibility. Similarly, the government should broaden the catchment area of the selection of VCs In the past, highly eminent scholars like Pranakrushna Parija, Dr Manmath Nath Das. Professor Mahendra Kumar Rout, to name a few, have had enhanced the prestige

of the university which they served

with great distinction. There is no

dearth of such candidates. What is

required is an open mind and shed-

ding the rigidity of criteria solely

on the basis of pay scale or grade

pay. Scholarship and academic ac-

complishments need not be meas-

ured in terms of scale of pay or

grade pay.

The writer, a retired joint secretary of Lok Sabha Secretariat, is currently a senior fellow of the Indian Council of Social Science Research at the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi.

Poor & pandemic

Sir, The most devastating ill-effect of the pandemic has undoubtedly been on children. Children of socio-economically well-off parents are in the loop to continue their studies via schools or the internet. But the plight of non-school going children of poor parents has become hellish. During the peak of the pandemic, several thousands of youngsters below the age of 18, mostly from north India, were reportedly pushed into child labour to secure two square meals for their families. Toiling day in and day out, the children were, and some continue to be, employed by different types of 'owners' who exploit their helplessness. Working for nearly sixteen to eighteen hours a day for pittance, the state of mind of these children is unimaginable. Poverty forces parents to push their wards to 'earn', but the role of unscrupulous sections in fostering child labour cannot be swept under the carpet. It is a crime to force children to work with tools when schools are their rightful place. Automobile workshops and garages, homes of the rich, eateries, that are classified under non-industrial hazardous occupations, abound with children below the age of 14.In the times of the pandemic, different sections under child labour, bonded labour and human trafficking need to be invoked against employers. The cynical attitude that child labour cannot be eradicated, but only regulated, has to be done away with.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

India in stagflation trap

Sir, In economics, stagflation is a situation in which both inflation and unemployment rates are high. This situation breaks the economic backbone of a country. Massive unemployment which India has been facing for a long time now has been doubled due to Covid-19, prices of goods are sky-rocketing and crores of people are out of job. The real problem is there is no money in the hands of the people. Unless the government has made available cash in people's hands, this situation will persist. And in the long run, this will lead to social chaos which will be a headache for the ruling class. We have not arrived at this situation all of a sudden but in a process due to the wrong economic policies of the government. Yes Covid-19 is a factor but the government cannot hold the pandemic solely responsible for the situation. Even in pre-Covid period our economy faced negative impacts on GST and demonetisation. The government is advised to bring inflation under control.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com rissapost B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

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Raj brings Bills to counter Centre's farm laws

THE MOVE COMES AFTER THE PUNJAB ASSEMBLY EARLIER THIS MONTH ADOPTED A RESOLUTION AGAINST THE FARM LAWS AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED FOUR BILLS TO NEGATE THE CONTENTIOUS LEGISLATIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Oct 31: The Rajasthan government Saturday introduced three Bills in the Assembly to negate the impact of the farm laws enacted by the Centre recently.

The move comes after the Puniab Assembly earlier this month adopted a resolution against the farm laws and unanimously passed four bills to counter the Centre's contentious legislations.

Rajasthan's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal introduced the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions and Rajasthan Amendment) Bill 2020, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill 2020 and the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation and Rajasthan Amendment) Bill 2020.

He also introduced the Code of Procedure (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill 2020 on the first day of the Assembly session.

A number of provisions to protect the interests of farmers, including sale or purchase of a crop under farming agreement on a price equal or greater than minimum support price and imprisonment of three to seven years for harassment of farmers, have been included in the bills.

The Congress leadership has suggested that states where it is in power should pass laws of their



own to counter the central legislations that had triggered farmers' protests in several parts of the country

In the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, a provision states, "Provided further

that no Farming Agreement for the sale or purchase of a crop shall be valid unless the price paid for such agricultural produce is equal to, or greater than, the prevailing Minimum Support Prices, announced by the Central Government for that crop.'

Apart from a few other amendments, three new sections have been added as special provisions for Rajasthan, providing for punishment for harassment of farmers



The bill proposes punishment of imprisonment from three to seven

vears with or without a fine of ₹five lakh if any person, company or corporate house or any other association or body of persons harasses farmers.

'There has been extraordinary outrage amongst the farmers, farm labourers and all others engaged in incidental and ancillary agricultural activities. Since the direct consequences of the Central Act would be to nullify the minimum support price mechanism that has stood the test of time and introduce several other infirmities and distortions operating to the grave detriment and prejudice of agri-

'Gehlot misleading farmers'

JAIPUR: Rajasthan BJP president Satish Poonia Saturday accused Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot of misleading farmers by opposing the farm laws enacted by the Centre recently. The state government Saturday introduced three bills in the assembly to negate the impact of the farm laws. The move comes after the Punjab Assembly earlier this month adopted a resolution against the farm laws and unanimously passed four bills to counter the Centre's contentious legislations. The Congress leadership too earlier suggested that states where it is in power should pass laws of their own to counter the central legislations that had triggered farmers' protests in several parts of the country. Reacting

sociated with it," the statement of the bill said.

"The Parliament has also introduced a mechanism for production. trade and commerce in agricultural produce through this Central Act, that is vulnerable to encroachment and manipulation by vested corporate interests through provisions such as contract farming minus a guarantee of minimum support price and leaving the farmer open to the vagaries of market forces for getting a remunera-

to the development, Poonia said Gehlot is misleading farmers of the state by convening the assembly session against the welfare laws of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre. It is a reality that the state government cannot bring any law against any legislation enacted by the Centre, he said. Poonia also constituted a panel for the election of mayors in Jaipur, Jodhpur and Kota. Leader of Opposition Gulabchand Kataria, Deputy Leader Rajendra Rathore, Union ministers Gaiendra Singh Shekhawat, Ariun Ram Meghwal and Kailash Chaudhary have been included in the election committee. The party also constituted a state-level election steering committee for the panchayat elections next month.

tive price for agricultural produce, fruits and vegetables. No check has been provided against exploitation of farmer." it said.

The Rajasthan government also introduced three other bills on the first day of the session -- the **Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases** (Amendment) Bill-2020, the Code of Civil Procedure (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill-2020 and the Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (Amendment) Bill-2020.

CPI(M), CONGRESS JOIN HANDS FOR **2021 BENGAL POLLS**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: The Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) has approved a tie up with the Congress for the upcoming Assembly election in West Bengal, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said In West Bengal, Saturday, adding that alliances the CPI(M) and the with secular Left Front will have an parties in Tamil electoral understanding Nadu, Kerala with all secular parties,

CPI(M), the move to all with the Congress is being seen as a 'tacti cal' one to gain some lost ground in a state which the Left ruled for an uninterrupted 34 years. The party is down to 26 seats in the state Assembly, which has a total of 294 seats, after the 2016 elections. The Left party, in a state-

ment, also hit out at the Centre over the handling of the coronavirus pandemic. It said while the US, India and Brazil including the Congress, continued to rewhich seek to defeat the port the highest **BJP and the TMC** number of COVID-SITARAM YECHURY I CPI(M) 19 cases and deaths, both the rate of growth in

positive cases as well as the number of deaths in India were 'alarming'

The party also extended its complete solidarity and support to the farmers protest call November 26-27 and the call of the central trade unions for a nationwide general strike November 26.

Centre flays WB's execution of Jal Jeevan Mission

The Modi government initiative aims to provide piped water to all rural households by 2024; of all states, Goa is the only one so far to provide piped drinking water to all rural households

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: West Bengal has shown 'dismal performance' in the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission by providing only 2.2 lakh tap water connections to rural households against a target of 55.58 lakh in 2020-21, the Centre has said.

Expressing concern, the Jal Shakti Ministry said 10 districts of the state are gripped by Japanese

culture and the communities as-Gujjar agitation call: NSA invoked in 8 Raj districts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

The state Home Department is-

sued directions to the district collectors of Bharatpur, Dhaulpur, Dausa, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur, Tonk, Bundi and Jhalawar to use the powers to invoke the NSA saying that the gathering called at Pilupura Sunday could turn vio-

lent



The state government is on high alert ahead of

Bhusawar and Zen tehsils October 17, Gujjar leaders gave an ultimatum to the state govern-

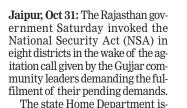
No change of BJP guard in Bengal

GENERAL SECRETARY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 31: BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijavvargiva Saturday said the party will fight the coming assembly polls in West Bengal with Dilip Ghosh as its president and re-





Gujjar Aarakshan

and Assam will

be forged.

30 and 31.

The decision

party held a vir-

tual meeting October

"In West Bengal, the CPI(M)

and the Left Front will have an

electoral understanding with all

secular parties, including the

Congress, which seek to defeat the

BJP and the TMC," Yechury said.

sembly elections are likely to be

held in May 2021 and within the

The high-stakes West Bengal as-

comes after the

Encephalitis and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome, affecting 42.96 lakh households, out of which only 2.34 lakh households (5.4 per cent) have been provided with tap connections.

The state has 1,566 arsenic and fluoride affected habitations which are to be covered with piped water supply by December 2020, it added.

The Jal Shakti Ministry recently held a mid-term review meeting on planning and implementation of JJM in West Bengal during which state officials presented the progress of the programme before the National Jal Jeevan Mission team.

West Bengal has decided to achieve the goal of providing tap water connections to all 1.63 crore rural households by 2024, it said. The

state has 22 districts, 341 blocks, 41,357 villages and 1.07 lakh habi-

tations "Jal Shakti Ministry reviews implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in West Bengal; state shows dismal performance and provides just 2.20 lakh tap water connections against a target of 55.58 lakh so far in 2020-21," the ministry said in a statement.

The Jal Jeevan Mission, a flagship initiative of the Modi government, aims to provide piped water to all rural households by 2024. Of all the states, Goa is the only one so far to provide piped drinking water to all rural households.

Sangharsh Samiti convenor Kirori Bainsla shrugged off any discussion and said that the community agitation will start from November 1. Internet services have already been suspended in parts of eastern Rajasthan ahead of the pro-

posed Gujjar protest November 1, although a section of the community's leaders left for Jaipur to hold talks with the government late Friday. Internet services were suspended

in parts of Bharatpur, Karauli, Dausa as well as Jaipur. In the capital city, internet was suspended for 24 hours in Kotputli, Paota, Shahpura, Viratnagar and Jamwaramgarh tehsils till 6 p.m. Saturday. For Dausa, suspension of internet services was ordered in

the November 1 protest, and has deployed additional police forces in the region

the entire district till 5 p.m. Saturday.

The state government, in fact, is on high alert ahead of the November 1 protest, and has deployed additional Central and state police forces in the region. Saturday, security forces were sent to Guijardominated areas to take control of the law and order situation.

A total of 300 GRP and 100 RPF personnel have reached Bayana. Also, internet service has been suspended in Bayana, Roopwas, Bair,

ment to accede to demands made by the community at a Mahapanchayat in Bharatpur or they would stage an agitation from November 1. The Mahapanchayat had been called by Gujjar leader Kirori Singh Bainsla, where he was joined by other leaders from the community, including Himmat Singh, who had broken off from Bainsla.

However, late Friday, leaders from the Himmat Singh faction left Bayana in Bharatpur to hold talks with the government. According to Singh, a delegation of as many as 40 leaders left Bharatpur for Jaipur

In Karauli, Bainsla addressed a press conference Friday and asked supporters to gather at Pilupura in Bharatpur Sunday morning.

There were reports in a section of the media that Ghosh might be removed from the party post before the polls as the central leadership is not happy with the inner squabbling in the state BJP.

futed media reports of his removal

"The reports are not only baseless but also misleading and politically motivated. I want to categorically say that West Bengal BJP will fight the assembly election with Dilip Ghosh as its state president. There is no question of replacing him," Vijayvargiya told PTI. West Bengal BJP general secretary Sayantan Basu, known to be close to Ghosh, said, "Dilipda was re-elected for three years this January, after completing his first term. There is no question of his removal." The speculation gained momentum after the party's

state unit witnessed a major or ganisational change recently. The incumbent state general secretary (organisation) Subrata Chattopadhyay was removed and his deputy Amitava Chakraborty was elevated to the post Wednesday. The change shocked many in BJP unit as Chattopadhyay, who had held the post for several years, was considered to be close to Ghosh. The change had come just a day after the BJP central leaders in charge of the state stepped in to resolve differences between its state Yuva Morcha president Saumitra Khan and Ghosh, who had dissolved all the district committees of the youth wing last week.

200-km 'Fit India' walkathon in desert

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Oct 31: In a first-ever endeavour towards the 'Fit India' movement, over 110 officials from almost all the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) Saturday began a foot march from Rajasthan's Jaisalmer to cover a distance of 200 km to promote the Narendra Modi-led Central government's 'Fit India Movement'.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) playing a key role in organising the event with the active support of Central government's 'Fit India' campaign under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

The three-day fitness awareness march was launched at a time when the National Unity Day (the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel) was being celebrated across India as a tribute to country's first Home Minister -- popular as 'Iron Man of India', and to spread the message of national unity.

Apart from ITBP, the march had representation of more than 110 officials of Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force,



route.

National Disaster Relief Force, Rapid Action Force, Assam Rifles and National Security Guard.

Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh Police officials also participated in (desert) of Sakhirewala, Bhuttewala, Katoch to complete the 200 km disthe event under the leadership of ITBP Director General S.S. Deswal. tance.

Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for march, the track runs along the Youth Affairs and Sports, was one of the Chief Guests at the launch International Boundary known for of the march, who flagged off the many battles and war. Kishangarh event from Nathuwala. fort is a prominent location en-

Actor and martial arts expert

The march is aimed at giving a push to the 'Fit India' movement and promote fitness among the masses in general.

The ITBP DG since the past couple of years by personally leading the speed marches from the front has inspired many citizens and force personnel to remain fit and healthy.

The ITBP is well known for long marches in the Himalayas and over a period of more than two years, its DG along with senior officials of the force have undertaken dozens of long route and speed marches in the Himalayas and on seaside areas of the country

The earlier routes include Vidyut Jammwal was also a part of Lipulekh Pass, Sangla Valley of 103 the event. After the start at km, Auli Tapovan, Gangotri Nathuwala village, the march took Tapovan, Bhuj, Konark-Puri, the route through sand dunes Rajasthan and Punjab borders, Mission 100 km in Jodhpur-Bikaner and Valley of flowers besides many other routes. These marches were For most of the part during the aimed at spreading the 'Fit India' mission and to promote the youth to engage in more physical exercises to remain fit. 'Fit India-Mission 200 km' is a landmark in Fit India campaign in the country.

ANTI-MACRON PROTESTS



Police try to stop Muslims who were staging a protest against French President Emmanuel Macron and republication – of caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad which they deem blasphemous, near French Consulate, in Kolkata, Saturday.









Those having socialist leanings decided to support the independent candidate for the Rajya Sabha so that people can come to know that the BJP and BSP are together

AKHILESH YADAV SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

INDIA'S FIRST 'TYRE PARK' TO COME UP IN WEST BENGAL

West Bengal will soon feature "India's first" 'Tyre Park', where artworks made from scrap and defective parts will be on display, a senior official said. The idea behind the park is waste can be converted into art



uote

In Ayodhya construction of Ram temple is on. After the end of pandemic. everyone will have 'darshan' of Lord

YOGI ADITYANATH UP CHIEF MINISTER

I have full faith in people and voters of the state, especially from these 28 seats. They are aware that the (BJP)

government, which came to power by trading people's mandate, has not been able to change anything in the last seven months

KAMAL NATH CONGRESS LEADER



SHORT TAKES

Woman killed as crane collapses

Mumbai: A woman was killed and two others were injured when a part of a crane collapsed on them after it accidentally hit a Metro rail pillar in suburban Andheri here, police said. The incident occurred in the early hours near Gundavali bus stop on Western Express Highway, an official said.

Online Rummy claims life of man

Coimbatore: A 28-year old bank employee in the city died by suicide reportedly upset over the financial loss incurred by playing online rummy game, police said Saturday. Madankumar, a resident of Seeranaicke-npalayam was found hanging in his house by the relatives early this morning. Preli-minary investigation revealed that the deceased had become an addict of the online game after making money in the initial stage. However, he is said to have suffered losses in the game later and become an

Plea in SC raises Kashi-Mathura issue

The plea argued that Centre has barred the remedies against illegal encroachment on the places of worship and pilgrimages and now Hindus, Jains, Budhists, Sikhs cannot approach High Court under Article 226

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 31: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the validity of a 1991 law which created "arbitrary and irrational retrospective cut-off date of August 15, 1947". It contends that as per the 90s law no suit or proceeding shall lie in court in respect of disputes against encroachment done by fundamentalist, barbaric invaders and law breakers.

The plea filed by BJP leader and advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay argued that Centre has barred the remedies against illegal encroachment on the places of worship and pilgrimages and now Hindus Jains Budhists Sikhs cannot file suit or approach High Court under Article 226. The plea argues that Hindus are

fighting for restoration of birthplace of Lord Krishna for hundreds

90-year-old

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

in Tripura

woman 'gangraped'

Agartala, Oct 31: A 90-year-old

woman has been allegedly gang-

raped by two men in her house

in Tripura, police said Saturday.

Barhaldi village in Kanchanpur

subdivision of North Tripura dis-

trict October 24 but her relatives

lodged a police complaint October

the woman are absconding and a

manhunt has been launched to

nab them, Superintendent of Police

call the woman 'grandmother',

who was living alone in her house.

On the night of the incident, he and

another man broke into the house

and raped the elderly woman,"

the officer said.

'One of the accused used to

Bhanupada Chakraborty said.

The two men accused of raping

29, a senior police officer said.

The incident took place at



of years and peaceful public agitation continues but while enacting the Act, Centre has excluded the birthplace of Lord Ram at Ayodhya but not the birthplace of Lord Krishna in Mathura, though both are the incarnations of Lord Vishnu, the creator.

"Therefore, they won't be able

to restore their places of worship and pilgrimage, including templesendowments in spirit of Articles 25-26 and illegal barbarian act of invaders will continue in perpetuity," contended the plea.

In June, Lucknow-based Vishwa Bhadra Pujari Purohit Mahasangh filed a plea in the top court chal-

SOAKED IN DEVOTION

lenging the validity of the provisions of the 1991 Act.

The move has gained significance, as there have been demands to begin litigation on Kashi-Mathura. connected to temples of Lord Shiva and Lord Krishna in Uttar Pradesh A suit in Mathura court has been already admitted.

Upadhyay argued that Centre neither can close the doors of courts of first instance, appellate courts, and constitutional courts for aggrieved Hindus, Jains, Budhists and Sikhs.

The plea contended Section 2,3,4 (of the law) not only offend right to pray practice prorogate religion (Article 25), right to manage maintain administer places of worshippilgrimage (Article 26), right to conserve culture (Article 29) but also contrary to state's duty to protect historic places (Article 49) and preserve religious cultural heritage (Article 51A).

Don't play dirty politics over Pulwama attack, PM tells Opposition

The truth of last year's Pulwama terror attack, in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed, has been accepted in Pakistan Parliament: PM Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kevadiya (Guj), Oct 31: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday said the truth of last year's Pulwama terror attack, in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed, has been accepted in Pakistan Parliament. His statement comes two days

after Pakistan's Science and Technology Minister Fawad Chaudhry admitted his country's role in the Pulwama attack during a debate in their National Assembly (Parliament).

Modi also said that when the entire nation was mourning the brave soldiers' death in Pulwama attack, some people indulged in "dirty politics" for their political gains.

Without mentioning China, the Prime Minister said that Indian soldiers are giving a befitting reply to those eyeing to grab the country's land.

He was speaking at Kevadiya in Gujarat's Narmada district after paying tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Statue of Unity on his 145th birth anniversary.

"The country cannot forget the unwarranted statements made after the Pulwama attack. Dirty politics laced with selfishness and arrogance was at its peak when the country was suffering from immense pain," Modi said.

"But the real face of such people has been exposed after the truth was accepted in the Parliament of our neighbouring country," he said in his address on the occasion of

Rashtriva Ekta Diwas During a debate in Pakistan's National Assembly Thursday, Chaudhry had said, "Humne Hindustan ko ghus ke maara (We hit India in their home). Our suc-



cess in Pulwama, is a success of this nation under the leadership of Imran Khan. You and we are all part of that success.

The PM said he remained silent despite all the "accusations and filthy words" used against him after the Pulwama terror attack.

"Politics done after Pulwama attack shows that people can cross any limit for their political gains. I want to urge such political parties not to indulge in this kind of politics as it affects the morale of our security forces," he said.

"For your political gains, you should not play into the hands of anti-national forces, knowingly or unknowingly," he added.

Against the backdrop of terror attacks in France and criticism being faced by its President Emmanuel Macron over a cartoon row. Modi said it was a matter of concern for the entire world how some people have come out in support of terrorism.

"In the present situation, all the nations, all the governments and people of all the faiths must get united against terrorism. Peace, brotherhood and respect for each other is the identity of humanity. Terrorism and violence is not good for anyone." he said.

Covid-19 caseload goes past 81 lakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: With 48,648



BIHAR ASSEMBLY POLLS Nitish, BJP differ on caste reservation

In recent days and

alcohol addict.

Man held for rape bid on 4-year-old

Hamirpur (UP): A 30-year-old man was arrested Saturdav for allegedly attempting to rape a four-year-old girl here, police said. According to . Kotwali SHO Vikramjeet Singh, the girl's father alleged that Ramkaran, who runs a motorcycle repair shop, took his daughter to a secluded place and tried to rape her. As locals rushed to the spot on hearing her cries. the accused, who was in an inebriated condition. fled.

PM launches seaplane service

Kevadiya (Guj): Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday launched a seaplane service between the Statue of Unity near Kevadiya in Gujarat's Narmada district and Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad. Modi inaugurated the service by boarding the twin-engine plane from pond-3 close to Sardar Sarovar Dam near here. Before boarding the plane, Modi spent some time at the water aerodrome.

BSF nabs 5 Bangladeshis

Kolkata: Five Bangladeshis and 12 Indian nationals were apprehended by Border Security Force personnel in separate incidents, for illegally crossing the Indo-Bangla border in West Bengal's Nadia district, a statement issued by the paramilitary force said. Five Bangladeshis and 12 Indian nationals, including one tout, were apprehended by the BSF.

weeks, the signs are piling up that the BJP is distancing itself from Nitish Kumar

AGENCIES

Valmiki Nagar, Oct 31: Here is yet another instance of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his key ally in the polls, the BJP, differing on important policy points.

Recently, as Kumar addressed the issue of population-based reservation for jobs and education opportunities in the state, he said that while his government was in favour of such an initiative it could only be implemented with fresh census data. The statements by Kumar were seen as an attempt to mobilise votes from marginalised

communities However, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad sought to temper



such statements by pointing out that while his party supported reservation it would not do anything unconstitutional.

The JD(U) chief was addressing voters in West Champaran district, where a by-poll for the Valmiki Nagar Lok Sabha seat is due November 7. However he likely also had one eye on the ongoing Bihar Assembly elections, the final two phases of which will be held November 3 and 7.

"... as far as the question of population (-based reservation) is concerned, this can only be decided after the census and that decision (on conducting the census) is not in our hands. We want reservation be proportionate to population of castes," Nitish Kumar said.

However, Kumar did not clarify if he was referring to caste-based census data. The Chief Minister has repeatedly demanded such data be part of that gathered by the census.

The Centre has postponed the first phase of Census 2021 - which was scheduled from April 1 to September 30 - because of the Covid-19 pandemic. A final decision on when it will take place has not been made but it is unlikely it will be held this year.

Meerut, Oct 31: Two men have been arrested in western Uttar Pradesh's Meerut after they allegedly cheated a city doctor of 31 lakh by selling him "Aladdin's lamp" - the magical artefact from the popular Middle Eastern folk tale that brings forth a wishgranting genie when it is rubbed.

AGENCIES

The con artists even managed to summon a "genie" from the lamp to convince their victim, according to the doctor who was cheated.

Dr LA Khan filed a complaint with local police October 25, describing in detail how he had been swindled by the now-arrested men - Ikramuddin and Anees. According to the doctor, he first met them when he began treating a woman they described as their "ailing mother".

"I started visiting their home to treat the supposed mother. The

about a baba (godman) whom they claimed also visited their home. They started brainwashing me and asked me to meet this baba, Dr Khan said in his complaint. The doctor said he met the godman "who seemed to perform

visits continued for over a month.

Gradually they started telling me

Con artists summon 'Aladdin',

sell his 'lamp' for ₹31 lakh

such rituals" "Eventually this group told me they would sell me a 'chirag (lamp)' for ₹1.5 crore but I could only offer ₹31 lakh down payment. They told me this lamp would bring wealth, health and good fortune. They said this

is 'Aladdin ka chirag' (Aladdin's lamp)," Dr Khan added. "During one visit "Aladdin" actually made an appearance in

front of me. I did not know who this person was at that time. I later realised (one of) the accused was dressing up as 'Aladdin',' he said.

fresh Covid-19 infections, India's caseload rose to 81,37,119 Saturday, while the number of recoveries crossed the 74-lakh mark, pushing the recovery rate to 91.34 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The country's Covid-19 death toll climbed to 1,21,641 with 551 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed. A total of 74,32,829 people have recuperated from Covid-19 so far, taking the national recovery rate to 91.34 per cent. The case fatality rate has dropped to 1.49 per cent. The number of active COVID-19 cases remained below 6 lakh for the second consecutive day.

There are 5,82,649 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country, which comprise 7.16 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated. India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark August 7. 30 lakh August 23 and 40 lakh September 5.

Hackers attack 100 key people to collect intelligence: Microsoft

PHOSPHORUS, AN IRANIAN THREAT ACTOR, TARGETED POTENTIAL ATTENDEES OF THE UPCOMING MUNICH SECURITY **CONFERENCE AND THE THINK 20 (T20) SUMMIT IN SAUDI ARABIA**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 31: Microsoft has detected and worked to stop a series of cyber-attacks from hackers masquerading as conference organisers to target more than 100 high-profile individuals, including former am-

bassadors and other senior policy experts, for intelligence collection

purposes Phosphorus, an Iranian threat actor, targeted potential attendees of the upcoming Munich Security Conference and the Think 20 (T20) Summit in Saudi Arabia.

The Munich Security Conference is the most important gathering on the topic of security for heads of state and other world leaders, and

it has been held annually for nearly 60 years.

Likewise, T20 is a highly visible event that shapes policy ideas for the G20 nations and informs their critical discussions.

"Based on current analysis, we do not believe this activity is tied to the US elections in any way," said Tom Burt, Corporate Vice-President, Customer Security and Trust at Microsoft.

The attackers have been sending possible attendees spoofed invitations by email.

The emails use near-perfect English and were sent to former government officials, policy experts, academics and leaders from non-governmental organisations.



"Phosphorus helped assuage fears of travel during the Covid-19 pandemic by offering remote sessions,"

Burt said in a statement Friday. "We believe Phosphorus is engaging in these attacks for intelli-

gence collection purposes. The attacks were successful in compromising several victims, including former ambassadors and other senior policy experts who help shape global agendas and foreign policies in their respective countries," he elaborated.

This activity was uncovered by Microsoft's Threat Intelligence Center, or MSTIC, which tracks the world's nation-state and cybercrime actors.

"We've already worked with conference organizers who have warned and will continue to warn their attendees, and we're disclosing what we've seen so that everyone can remain vigilant to this approach being used in connection with other conferences or events," Microsoft said.

The nation-state cyber attackers routinely pursue think tanks, policy organisations and governmental and non-governmental organisations, seeking information that an attacker can use for their benefit.

'We will continue to use a combination of technology, operations, legal action and policy to disrupt and deter malicious activity, but nothing replaces vigilance from people À who are likely targets of these operations," Burt advised.

As always, enabling multi-factor authentication across both business and personal email accounts will successfully thwart most cre-dential harvesting attacks like these, Microsoft said.

















Online functioning of courts, necessitated due to the coronavirus pandemic, created an unintended inequality as some people did not have access to digital technology

S A BOBDE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

NEW TREATMENT

The National Botanical Research Institute and Indian Institute of Toxicology Research have developed a herbal medicine that will dissolve kidney stones



YOGI'S WARNING ON 'LOVE JIHAD' uote day

Education Policy will contribute to a new system aligned with aspirational goals of the 21st century education while remaining rooted to India's value systems and ethos

The National

K KASTURIRANGAN | EMINENT SCIENTIST

I solemnly pledge that I dedicate myself to preserve the unity, integrity and security of the nation and also strive hard to spread this message among my fellow countrymen

AMIT SHAH UNION HOME MINISTER

Despite hurdles posed by Lt Governor Kiran Bedi, this government is implementing welfare schemes to

ameliorate the lot of the poor and the have-nots

V NARAYANASAMY PONDICHERRY CM

SHORT TAKES

Blockade continues

Aizawl/Guwahati: As the blockade on National Highway 306, the lifeline of Mizoram, entered the fourth day Saturday, the Mizoram government ferried fuel and cooking gas from neighbouring Manipur and Tripura. The fresh deadlock at its border with Assam has been continuing since Wednesday despite a series of top level meetings, officials said Saturday. In Guwahati, Assam Minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Himanta Biswa Sarma said Saturday that solving the vexed inter-state border disputes of Assam with other northeastern states is top of the agenda for the party. He said the Central government would take up the issue after the Assam polls that are five to six months away.

Jumbo electrocuted

Jalpaiguri (WB): An elephant was electrocuted to death after coming in contact with an electric fence in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaunpur / Deoria (UP) Oct 31: Welcoming the Allahabad High Court ruling that declared the conversion for the sole purpose of marriage as null and void, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Saturday said his government would deal with "love jihad" with a firm hand.

If the people do not stop "playing with honours of daughters and sisters" by concealing their identities, "the Ram Naam Satya journey will start", said the Chief Minister in a stern warning.

'The Allahabad High Court had Friday said the conversion should not be resorted to solely for the marriage and it should not be given validity," said Adityanath, adding his government is also "taking a decision to check love jihad sternly". The chief minister made the re-

marks while addressing a rally for the November 3 by elections for the Malhani assembly seat in Jaunpur and that of Deoria. "We will bring an effective law. It is my warning to those who play with the honour

ways, the Ram Naam Satya journey will start," said Adityanath.

"The posters of those involved in love jihad will be put on all road crossings," he said. Referring to the Mission Shakti programme of his government, the chief minister said the programme is meant to and dignity of sisters and daughters ensure the safety, security and hoby hiding their real names and nour of women, but if anyone still identities, if they do not mend their dares to indulge in any misadven-

ture, the Operation Shakti is underway. "The court's verdict will be followed and the honour and dignity of women will be ensured," he declared. In Deoria, he said, an attempt was made to illegally grab the ashram of renowned saint Devraha Baba following which he was forced to shift to Vrindavan.

This has prompted the BJP government to start building a hospi-

tal there in his name, he said, adding the academic work too will start there from the next session and the people of the area will also get expert medical treatment.

Claiming that the rule of mafia and goonda elements has come to an end in the state, the chief minister said the Samajwadi Party chief is today worried because he had sympathy for such elements but the government has launched a drive against them.

Attacking the Congress, SP and Bahujan Samaj Party, the chief minister said their governments had worked on the basis of caste while the BJP government is working for all sections of the society with complete sincerity, honesty and devotion.

The Chief Minister said seeing the massive support to his party, the Samajwadi Party, out of desperation, is conspiring to instigate riots in the state where no such incident has taken place for the past three and half years nor would it be allowed at any cost. Asserting that the government jobs are no longer up for sale in Uttar Pradesh, the chief minister said in three and half years during his governance, over 3.50 lakh youths have got government jobs.

Nath moves SC against EC order

Senior lawyer and Congress Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha said that the former Chief Minister has challenged the EC's decision on various grounds and an urgent hearing on his plea would be sought



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath has moved the Supreme Court challenging an order of the Election Commission to revoke the Congress leader's "star campaigner" status for violations of the model code during campaign for the bypolls in 28 assembly constituencies in the state.

Senior lawyer and Congress Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha said that the former Chief Minister has challenged the EC's decision on various grounds and an urgent

The plea has been filed through panel on Friday took note of alleged breach of "ethical and dignified behaviour" and revoked the Congress leader. While the politiother campaigners. In the order, and for completely disregarding the advisory issued to him, the Commission hereby revokes the status of leader of political party Ex-Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh, with immediate effect for the current Bye-elections of Legislative

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.

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". The commission referred to his remarks against Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

He had used the words "mafia" and "milawat khor" against a political rival at a recent campaigning event. Last week, the EC had asked Nath not to use words like "item" in campaigning.

He had used the jibe to hit out at state minister and BJP candidate Imarti Devi at a rally. The commission had announced the poll schedule on September 29 and the MCC came into immediate effect. Campaigning for the bypolls ends on November 1.

Sushil Modi stokes controversy INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE "This is bizarre to know that a person at a responsible post is involved

Patna, Oct 31: Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi has landed in a controversy after it emerged he was involved in election campaigning despite testing Covid positive 9 days ago. Modi was involved in road show

in Danapur in favour of the BJP candidate on Friday evening and he is also campaigning in Peerpaiti, Bhagalpur, Bakhtiyarpur-Khusrupur and Fatuha in Patna district on Saturday.

Sushil Modi tested Covid positive October 22 and was admitted in Patna AIIMS. As per Covid norms of health department any person found infected should undergo isolation for 14 days.

RJD leader and state spokesperson Chitranjan Gagan countered Sushil Kumar Modi and said: "Was he really infected with coronavirus or he was admitted in hospital to gain sympathy of voters? BJP leaders are one by one infected with coronavirus.

"As he claims that he was having coronavirus and hospitalised in



positive October 22 and was admitted in Patna AIIMS Patna AIIMS. The doctors have

asked him to undergo home quarantine for 14 days. Why he is doing election campaign and spreading the virus to others? Who gives him freedom to roam in public and put others' lives in danger?" Gagan said.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) went a step ahead and alleged that the BJP-led NDA government is responsible for "murder" of devotees of Durga and its leaders are spreading coronavirus to "kill" com-

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Oct 31: Around 125 local

terrorists killed during the anti-

125 terrorists' bodies

not handed over to kin

mon people

in spreading coronavirus in public. Sushil Modi doesn't care about common people. His irresponsible act is completely unacceptable. He himself declared that he had tested Corona positive. NCP urges the Election Commission to take cognisance in this matter and initiate immediate action against him,' said Sudip Pandey, Bhojpuri super

Mumbai Mahanagar. "He is a Deputy CM of Bihar and if he falls ill during campaign, he will get best medical facilities. But what about common people who may get infected after coming in contact with him? Everyone knows the kind of medical facilities available for common people," Pandey said.

star and NCP general secretary of

"During lockdown, the NDA government where he is holding Deputy CM's post had refused migrant labourers to enter into the territories of Bihar. On that occasion, he along with other NDA leaders were apprehensive about Covid-19 virus spreading in Bihar if they would allow them to enter inside." he alleged.

ther, Tamil Nadu government Saturday allowed schools, colleges cinemas, zoos and amusement parks to reopen from next month by following Standard Operating

Suburban train services, as per the Central government's decision, are "allowed" to resume. Schools, all colleges, research and other educational institutions, and hostels would be allowed to open from November 16, Chief Minister K Palaniswami said in an official release

As regards schools, classes for standards 9-12 alone shall be conducted, he said. Using upto 50 per cent seats, cinema theatres, multiplexes, zoos and amusement parks shall resume functioning from November 10. SOP should be followed, Palaniswami said adding the relaxations are not applicable to containment zones Swimming pools, beaches and tourist places would continue to be out of bounds for people.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Procedures.

TN GOVT EASES CORONA CURBS

Chennai, Oct 31: Easing curbs fur-

hearing on his plea would be sought. advocate-on-record Varun Chopra and the defects pointed out in it by the apex court registry have been cured, said Tankha. The poll

"star campaigner" status of the cal party pays for the expenditure of a star campaigner, the candidate pays for the expenditure of the poll panel said, "...for repeated violation of Model Code of Conduct

New Delhi, Oct 31: Former Assembly of Madhya Pradesh."

Saturdav. a forest officer said. Residents of Kherkata area spotted the carcass of the elephant in the morning and informed the officials concerned, he said. The elephant had come in contact with an electric fence erected by a man to protect his house from wild animals. the officer said.

Man killed

Mumbai: A 22-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death after he intervened in a scuffle between friends in the eastern suburb of Chembur here, police said Saturday. The police arrested four persons within a few hours of the incident that took place at Chembur camp on Friday night, an official said. The victim identified as Akshay Desai was on his way home with his brother Aditya and friend Vicky Shejul, when they came across four persons fighting, he said.

MAHA COVID **DEATHS FALL**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 31: Maharashtra Covid-19 deaths fell again to sub-100 levels with a drop in the number of 'active cases' while recoveries remained higher than fresh infections, indicating a flattening of the curve, health officials said Saturday.

terror operations were buried in Dropping below the 100-mark far-flung areas from their homes to May levels, the state witnessed this year so far in Jammu & 74 deaths - compared with the peak Kashmir. A total of 171 terrorists of 515 (September 15), and the state were killed in the hinterland in the fatalities shot up from 43,838 to valley till October 10 this year. 43.911 now. The state recorded 5.548 In April this year, the state adnew cases - around one-third comministration had taken a decision pared with the peak single-day

to carry out the burial of killed tally of 24,886 (September 11), and local terrorists in areas far from the state tally jumped from 16,72,858 their hometowns to help the seto 16,78,406 cases till date. The state curity establishment in mainrecovery rate increased from 89.85 taining law and order in the valper cent to 89.99 per cent - while the current mortality (death) rate

ley. The administration has also decided that they won't hand over bod-

ies to family members in order to stop pro-jihad gatherings.

"Burial procession of killed local terrorists had become a recruiting ground for Pakistan-based terror organisations," said an Indian Army officer.

The deaths of terrorists were often a public spectacle. Locals grieve the loss saying that the slain terrorists fought against the state's armed forces

Further, the burial processions used to attract huge local crowds and in every such procession, a minimum of two to three youth got deviated and joined the terror outfits. "It was a very challenging task for us to stop such recruitments," said another officer.

OUR DAY OUT

(Star Campaigner) of Kamal Nath.



Birds swim in a pond in New Delhi, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

LJP a headache for NDA in Bihar polls

EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE LJP HAD ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL CONTEST THE BIHAR ASSEMBLY POLLS INDEPENDENTLY, SEVERING TIES WITH ITS ONCE ALLY IN THE STATE, THE NDA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Oct 31: The Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) is turning out to be a headache for the ruling NDA, particularly the Janata Dal (United), in the ongoing Bihar Assembly elections as it has fielded rebellion candidates against the JD-U in majority of the constituencies.

Earlier this month, the LJP had announced that it will contest the Bihar Assembly polls independently, severing ties with its once ally in the state, the NDA. A lot of candidates, who were denied tickets following the seat sharing formula between the JD-U and the



stood stable at 2.62 per cent.

BJP, have joined the LJP and have been given tickets. Such a situation is likely to benefit the Mahagathbandhan in the state.

The Maharajganj constituency in Siwan is likely to witness the most interesting contest as JD-U has fielded Hem Narayan Singh while the LJP has fielded Deo Ranjan Singh, who turned rebel after the BJP denied him the ticket, whereas the Congress has given ticket to senior leader Vijay Shankar Dubey. The situation is similar in all

the eight Assembly constituencies in Siwan. Both Shah and Singh contested the 2015 Assembly elections on tickets of the JD-U and the BJP, respectively. Shah had defeated Singh by a margin of 20,000 votes

The poll campaigns in

Maharajganj are also turning out to be quite interesting with Shah slamming his opponents for washing hands and maintaining distance with the voters. Notably, Singh washes his hands every time he shakes hands with the voters in order to minimise the threat of coronavirus, while Congress candidate Dubey is campaigning from inside his SUV.

Taking a dig at both the candidates, Shah said one is continuously washing hands while the other is maintaining distance with the voters. This shows that both of them are avoiding the general public, he said.

Delhi witnesses coldest Oct in 58 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: The month of October was the coldest in 58 years in the national capital, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) data.

The mean minimum temperature in October this year was 17.2 degrees Celsius, the lowest since 1962, when it was 16.9 degrees Celsius, the IMD said. Normally, Delhi records a mean minimum temperature of 19.1 degrees Celsius in October.

On Thursday, Delhi recorded a minimum temperature of 12.5 degrees Celsius -- the lowest in the month of October in 26 years. The last time Delhi recorded such a low temperature was in 1994. The

national capital had recorded a low of 12.3 degrees Celsius on October 31, 1994, according to the IMD data. The normal minimum temperature for this time of the year is 15-16 degrees Celsius, the IMD said. Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the IMD's regional forecasting center, said the absence of cloud cover is a major reason for such low minimum temperatures this time.

Clouds trap some of the outgoing infrared radiation and radiate it back downward, warming the ground. Another reason is calm winds, which allow formation of mist and fog, Srivastava said. Delhi had recorded its all-time low temperature of 9.4 degrees Celsius on October 31, 1937, he said.

P10 OrissaPOST SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 1 | 2020 | BHUBANESWAR international



When urban communities are engaged in policy and decision making, and empowered with financial resources, the results are more inclusive and durable ANTONIO GUTERRES UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

IVANKA RAISES \$13MN

Ivanka Trump has raised \$13 million for US President Donald Trump's re-election campaign ahead of the November 3 elections. According to a government aide, Ivanka appeared at fundraisers in Mountain View and Beverly Hills, California October 25 and 26, where she managed to raise \$10 million



uote

lt's a lockdown (national lockdown), but a lockdown that allows factories to operate, that wil

allow schools to open cautiously FRANK VANDENBROUCKE HEALTH MINISTER, BELGIUM

With the arrival of second wave and continued wide scale violation of the SOPs, the NCOC has decided to seek

citizens help for SOP compliance ASAD UMAR CHAIRMAN, NCOC, PAKISTAN

We recognise the toll on Native American and Indigenous communities from centuries of injustice, and we take seriously our role in supporting education and development in these communities

MARC ALLEN CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER. SENIOR VP OF STRATEGY AND CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT, BOEING

SHORT TAKES

Crowd joins LGBT march

Taipei: A huge and festive crowd marched in Taiwan's capital Saturday in an annual LGBT Pride event. Turnout was down from last year, but organizers said it still topped 100,000 on a mostly sunny day in Taipei. Many participants did not wear protective masks, but others did, some in rainbow colours. While many Pride events elsewhere moved online this year because of COVID-19, Taiwan has largely kept the pandemic at bay.

Ardern secures **Greens' support**

Wellington: New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has secured the backing of the Green Party for her next term of government. Ardern announced Saturday that her

Turkey, Greek island quake: Toll reaches 27

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Izmir (Turkey), Oct 31: Rescue teams Saturday plowed through concrete blocks and the debris of eight collapsed buildings in search of survivors of a powerful earthquake that struck Turkey's Aegean coast and north of the Greek island of Samos, killing at least 27 people. More than 800 others were injured. The quake hit Friday afternoon, toppling buildings in Izmir, Turkey's third largest city, and triggering a small tsunami in the district of Seferihisar and on Samos. The quake was followed by hundreds of

aftershocks.Early Saturday, on-

lookers cheered as rescuers lifted

teenager Inci Okan out of the rub-

The earthquake, which the Istanbul-based Kandilli Institute said had a magnitude of 6.9, was centered in the Aegean northeast of Samos

and urban planning minister, told reporters. Some 5,000 rescue personnel

were working on the ground, Kurum said.

At least 25 people were killed in Izmir, including an elderly woman who drowned, according to Turkey's Disaster and Emergency



ble of a devastated eight-floor apartment block in Izmir's Bayrakli district. Her dog, Fistik, was also rescued, Sozcu newspaper reported. Friends and relatives waited outside the building for news of loved ones still trapped inside, including em-

ployees of a dentist's surgery that was located on the ground floor. In another collapsed building, rescuers made contact with a 38vear-old woman and her four children — aged 3, 7 and 10-year old twins — and were working to clear a corridor to bring them out, staterun Anadolu Agency reported.

Two other women, aged 53 and 35, were brought out from the rubble of another toppled two-story building earlier Saturday.

In all, around 100 people have been rescued since the earthquake, Murat Kurum, the environment Management Presidency, or AFAD. Two teenagers were killed on Samos after being struck by a collapsing wall. At least 19 people were injured on the island, with two, including a 14-year-old, being air lifted to Athens and seven hospitalized on the island, health authorities said. The small tsunami that hit the

Turkish coast also affected Samos, with seawater flooding streets in the main harbour town of Vathi. Authorities warned people to stay away from the coast and from potentially damaged buildings.

The earthquake, which the Istanbul-based Kandilli Institute said had a magnitude of 6.9, was centered in the Aegean northeast of Samos. AFAD said it measured 6.6 and hit at a depth of some 16 kilometers (10 miles)

CLASSIC COLLECTION



Sayed Sima, a 70-year-old Egyptian collector of vintage cars, stands next to a British Standard Flying Eight Tourer - 1948 automobile in his store where he also has his own exhibition of old cars, in the Giza suburb of Abu Rawash, Egypt RELITERS PHOTO

FRANCE CHURCH ATTACK

Assailant's family demands answers

AGENCIES

Sfax, Oct 31: A third suspect is in French custody Saturday in connection with an Islamic extremist knife attack that killed three people in a Nice church, as the family of the suspected Tunisian assailant demanded to see video footage of what happened.

Investigators in France, Tunisia and Italy are trying to determine the motive of chief suspect Ibrahim Issaoui and whether he acted alone and whether he premeditated Thursday's attack on the Notre Dame Basilica.

Authorities have labeled the attack, which took place amid growing tensions around cartoons published by a French newspaper mocking the Prophet Muhammad, an act of Islamist terrorism, Issaoui, who transited through Italy last



A 35-year-old man who had met with Issaoui in Nice was arrested overnight, a judicial official said Saturday, A 47-year-old man who had bringing the number of detained suspects to three. Their connec-

tion to the attack remains unclear. A previously unknown Tunisian extremist group claimed responsibility for the attack, and Tunisian and French authorities are investigating whether the claim is legitimate.

In Issaoui's hometown of Sfax, his family expressed shock and appealed for peace. But they also expressed bewilderment that this young man who drank alcohol and showed no outward signs of radicalism would flee to France and at tack a church.

'We want the truth about how my son carried out this terrorist attack. I want to see what the surveillance cameras showed. I will not give up my son's rights outside the country. I want my son, dead or alive," his mother Gamra told The Associated Press, her words often interrupted by tears.

Philippines evacuates 1 mn as strongest typhoon draws near

REUTERS

Manila, Oct 31: Officials have evacuated almost a million residents in the southern part of the Philippines' main island of Luzon as a category 5 storm - the world's strongest this year - makes landfall Sunday.

Typhoon Goni, with 215 kph (133 miles) sustained winds and gusts of up to 265 kph (164 mph), will bring violent winds and strong rains, state weather and disaster officials said.

It is among the strongest typhoons to hit the Philippines since Haiyan, which killed more than 6,300 people in 2013.

"We are having a hard time with COVID-19, and then here comes another disaster," Senator Christopher Go, the top aide of



President Rodrigo Duterte, told a virtual news conference. Local executives should ensure that the virus does not spread in evacuation centres, he said.

Officials have started pre-emptive evacuations, with Albay province bringing 794,000 residents to safety, Ricardo Jalad, executive director of the national disaster agency, told a news conference.

ISS marking 20 years of people living in orbit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cape Canaveral, Oct 31: The International Space Station (ISS) was a cramped, humid, puny three rooms when the first crew moved in. Twenty years and 241 visitors later, the complex has a lookout_ tower, three toilets, six sleeping compartments and 12 rooms, depending on how you count.

Monday marks two decades of a steady stream of people living

Biden has betrayed Americans for last 47 years, accuses Trump

month en route to France. is in critical condition in a French hospital after being wounded by police as they arrested him.

met with Issaoui the night before the attack was already in custody,

Labour Party entered a cooperation agreement with the Greens that gives the smaller party two ministerial posts outside cabinet in return for its support on matters of confidence and supply in parliament. Ardern will announce her new cabinet on Monday, with ministers to be formally sworn in November 6.

Iraq clears sit-in square

Baghdad: Iraqi security forces Saturday cleared out sit-in tents from the capital's central square that has been the epicentre of the anti-government protest movement, a year after the eruption of demonstrations against corruption led to months of clashes with authorities across Iraq. More than 500 people were killed during the monthslong protest movement, many of them demonstrators shot by Iraqi security forces.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 31: US President Donald Trump has accused his rival and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden of being a corrupt career politician who has done nothing but betray the Americans for the last 47 years.

Trump is known to make unsubstantiated allegations against his rival, often making untrue claims. There is no evidence of Biden ever being tainted by corruption.

Addressing a rally in Rochster in Minnesota Friday, Trump, 74, said Biden has obsession for power.

"Biden is a grimy, sleazy and corrupt career politician who has done nothing but betrayed you for 47 long years. He will look you in the eyes, and then turn right around and stab you in the back. The only thing



he cares about is political power,' Trump said.

A Democratic stronghold, Trump is seeking to wrest Minnesota for the Republicans for decades. He is currently trailing behind Biden with five percentage points.

Making a strong case for his reelection, Trump told his supporters that giving him a decisive victory on November 3 is the only way to defend their dignity.

"There is only one way to defend your family and your country. There

is only one way to preserve, protect and defend the American Way of Life: you must show up and vote on November 3," he said.

"On November 3, vote to defeat Biden and Save American Freedom," Trump said, alleging that his opponent will continue his 47 years of cruelly betraying African-Americans.

Biden called them super-predators, ripped apart their communities, and did everything in his power to wipe out the Black middle class, said the president.

Noting that Biden's plan will delay the COVID-19 vaccine, postpone therapies, crash the economy, and shut down the entire country, Trump asserted that under his plan, the administration will deliver a safe vaccine to the American People in just a few short weeks!

AGENCIES

Washington, Oct 31: Transmission of the novel coronavirus within households is high, occurs quickly, and can originate from both children and adults, according to a new study which assessed 101 houses in the US

COVID-19 spreads faster

within households: Study

The preliminary findings from the ongoing research, published in the journal Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, revealed that 51% of others living with someone who was positive for COVID-19 also became infected.

We observed that, after a first household member became sick, several infections were rapidly detected in the

household," said Carlos G. Grijalva, study co-author and associate professor of Health Policy at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in the US.

Those infections occurred fast, whether the first sick household member was a child or an adult." Grijalva said.

According to the research, at least 75 per cent of the secondary household infections occurred within five days of the first person in the household experiencing symptoms.

It also found that less than half of household members experienced symptoms when they first tested positive, and many reported no symptoms throughout the seven-day daily follow-up period.

Astronauts from 19 countries have floated through the space station hatches, including many repeat visitors who arrived on shuttles for short-term construction work, and several tourists who paid their own way.

The first crew — American Bill Shepherd and Russians Sergei Krikalev and Yuri Gidzenko blasted off from Kazakhstan on Oct. 31, 2000. Two days later, they swung open the space station doors, clasping their hands in unity.

Shepherd, a former Navy SEAL who served as the station commander, likened it to living on a ship at sea.

The three spent most of their time coaxing equipment to work; balky systems made the place too warm. Conditions were primitive, compared with now

'IS finds biological warfare best weapon amid pandemic'

WHAT MIGHT BE EVEN MORE TROUBLING, THE RESEARCH SHOWS, IS GRAVE CONCERNS THAT JIHADISTS WILL LEARN FROM THE HORRIFIC WORLD IMPACT OF COVID-19 AND "INTENSIFY THEIR EFFORTS TO SWITCH FROM THE USE OF COMPLICATED DEVICES, BOMBS, AND SUICIDE ATTACKS TO BIOLOGICAL WARFARE, AND BIOTERRORISM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

about by the US and its allies.

The new international study

published in the journal Global

Security: Health, Science and Policy,

analysed terrorist activity and

trends across the globe since the pan-

avirus is seen as a type of plague

sent by God that will kill the ene-

mies of Allah, sparing the believ-

"In this narrative, the coron-

demic began.

Russia's help Yerevan: Armenia's leader

Armenia seeks

urged Russia Saturday to consider providing security assistance to end the fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh, the biggest escalation in the decadeslong conflict between his country and Azerbaijan. Following more than a month of intense fighting in which Azerbaijani troops forged into the separatist territory, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian asked Russia's President Vladimir Putin to quickly discuss possible security aid to his country.

ing Muslims," the study authors wrote.

New York, Oct 31: The Islamic State and Al-Qaeda propagandists instead of blaming Western or Chinese powers for creating and spreading the virus as a bioweapon, claim that the coronavirus is a soldier of Allah sent to avenge the ple go," they noted. Muslim people's suffering brought

"In May, ISIS spokesman Abu Hamza al-Qurashi made a speech in which he compared the pandemic to the biblical story of Moses cursing Pharaoh with the 10 plagues until he relented and let God's peo-

What might be even more troubling, the research shows, is grave concerns that jihadists will learn from the horrific world impact of Covid-19 and "intensify their efforts to switch from the use of complicated devices, bombs, and suicide attacks to biological warfare, and

The study demonstrated evidence of doctoral-level scientists who had been recruited by ISIS to study sci-



bioterrorism".



entific journals about biological and chemical advancements.

"For both the jihadists and the far rights, the pandemic has offered new opportunities and methods for

unleashing violence against the objects of their hate," said study lead author Arie Kruglanski from the University of Maryland in the US "Though everyone's attention is

naturally drawn to the immense health and economic challenges that the pandemic poses, we cannot ignore the potential storm of intensified world terrorism that seems to be gathering in its shadows," Kruglanski added.

The uncertainty and confusion caused by the Covid-19 pandemic is being "widely exploited by terror groups for spinning a plethora of sinister schemes", which could lead to a new tide of violence against people and governments.

The team of experts noted "far from uniting humanity against a common threat," the pandemic has enabled -- or at least not stopped --

a vast range of incidents. These include: ISIS attacks in seven countries in March alone:

the Islamic State Khorasan Province carrying out a "devastating" attack in a funeral parlour in Afghanistan, Al-Qaeda-affiliated Al Shabab organisation reporting 37 attacks in Somalia and Kenya, and in Mali, al Qaeda-linked Jama'at Nasr al-Islam kidnapping a high-profile opposition leader.

"Terror organisations have used the pandemic as a golden opportunity to tie their messaging to information about the disease and intensify their propaganda for purposes of recruitment and incitement to violence," Kruglanski stressed

'The awe of the pandemic notwithstanding, extremist groups have not ceased sowing their ownbrand of horror." the authors wrote.







Buoyed by rising Cloud demand and to aid better disaster recovery and regulatory compliance, we made our second local cloud region available to customers just a few months ago. Our cloud business is growing well and is on the right track SHAILENDER KUMAR | REGIONAL MANAGING DIRECTOR, ORACLE

INDIA COULD CUT OIL IMPORT BILL FURTHER

India's oil import bill may fall further in the remaining period of the current fiscal with Saudi Arabia looking at giving discount in crude it sells to **Asian Buyers**



ICICI Bank Q2 profit zooms to record high as core income rises

i ICICI Bank



Mumbai, Oct 31: ICICI Bank Saturday reported over four-fold jump in consolidated net profit at ₹4,882 crore for September quarter driven largely by core income growth and lesser provisions for the pandemic-related impact. In the year-ago quarter, the profit stood at ₹1,131 crore.

On a standalone basis, the second largest private sector lender's profit after tax jumped to ₹4,251 crore as against ₹655 crore in the year-ago period, which is the highest quarterly growth in its history.

The core net interest income(NII) moved up 16 per cent to ₹9,366 crore despite a 0.10 per cent contraction in the net interest margin (NIM) to 3.57 per cent and credit growth being nearly half that of deposit growth at 6 per cent.

Its president Sandeep Batra attributed the high profit growth to NII, and credited the strategy of "risk calibrated growth" followed by the bank under new leadership over the last two years for delivering higher income.

NIM was lower because of the excess liquidity in the system, as the bank was not able to deploy the higher deposits it got for loans, the management said, making it clear that it will now be more open to lending across segments as the economic activity normalises, but follow the same strategy.

ED arrests man under PMLA in ₹750 cr bank loan fraud



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: The Enforcement Directorate has arrested a person in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged ₹750 crore bank loan fraud committed by misusing credit facilities, the central probe agency said Saturday. It said Sai Chandrasekhar was arrested under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act on Friday following which a local court here sent him to seven days ED custody. The money laundering case against Chandrasekhar pertains to a probe initiated by the agency against Virkaran Awasty, Vinod Sirohi and KPMG India Pvt Ltd, it said in a statement.

supply of 15K tonnes of imported red onions



New Delhi, Oct 31: Cooperative Nafed Saturday invited bids from importers for supply of 15,000 tonnes of red onions by November 20 in order to boost the domestic availability and check price rise. The cooperative has asked bidders to supply 40 to 60 mm size of red onions from any country of origin at ₹50 per kg by November 20. The bidding will close November

on the next day, it said. at Jawaharlal Nehru Port and

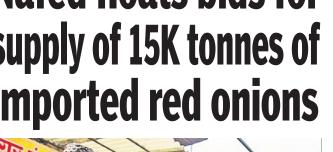
'We have floated tenders for supply of 15,000 tonnes of imported red onions. This will help increase the domestic supply situation," Nafed Additional Managing Director SK

Singh said. The bids will be evaluated based on volumes, quality and early date of shipment. Bidders have to supply fresh, well dried and cured onions, he added

To ensure better participation in the tender, Singh said it has been decided to keep the minimum bid quantity lower at 1,000 tonnes (instead of 2,000 tonnes) which has to be supplied in multiple lots of 100 tonnes.

Since the buffer stock of onion, which Nafed manages on behalf of the government, is gradually getting depleted, the cooperative has been asked to augment domestic supplies with imported onions to continue with ongoing market intervention.

Last year, Nafed had not only





asked bidders to supply 40 to 60 mm size of red onions from any country of origin at ₹50 per kg by November 20 imported on its own some quantities but also distributed onions im-

4 and received bids will be opened The shipments are to be delivered

Kandla ports, it added.

Even the size of onion Nafed has specified for supply is what Indians normally consume. Last year, big size onions were imported but there were hardly any takers for that. So far, Nafed has offloaded around 37,000 tonnes of onion from the buffer stock of nearly 1 lakh tonnes

ported by state-run MMTC.

This year, it wants to get the sup-

plies from importers so that ship-

ments could arrive fast and im-

prove the domestic supply situation.

in select mandis and retail markets so that to check retail prices which have skyrocketed to over ₹80 per kg in some parts of the country due to damage to the kharif crop in the wake of heavy rains in the key growing states.

On October 30, Commerce and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal had said that private traders have already imported 7,000 tonnes of onion and another 25,000 tonnes are expected to arrive before Diwali. The government hopes that the

several measures taken recently including ban on export of onion and stock limits on traders will help ease pressure on prices during the festival period.



Nafed floats bids for Nirmala wanted me out of **Finance Ministry: Garg**

Garg, who took VRS soon after being moved from the finance ministry, said Sitharaman, unlike her predecessor Arun Jaitley, had "a very different personality and knowledge endowment"

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 31: Subhash Chandra Garg, the former finance secretary who was shunted out of the finance ministry within three weeks of Modi-2.0 government's first budget last year, Saturday alleged that new Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman got him transferred out.

Garg, who took voluntary retirement soon after being moved from the finance ministry - where he handled the Department of Economic Affairs - to power ministry, said Sitharaman, unlike her predecessor Arun Jaitley, had "a very different personality and knowledge endowment".

Both Ministry of Finance and Sitharaman's office refused to comment on the blog Garg wrote on the day he said he would have in normal course retired from the government service but for the VRS.

Garg said he "did not share a good and productive working relationship" with Sitharaman, who came to the finance ministry "with some pre-conceived notions about me".

"She did not seem to have confidence in me. She was not quite comfortable working with me as well," he said adding differences over surplus RBI should give as dividend to the government and dealing with problems of non-banks had surfaced within months of her takeover.

40,522.10

40,145.50



Power and he applied for volun-

Praising her predecessor Jaitley

for his deep knowledge and un-

derstanding of the economy, he

said his successor "Mrs. Nirmala

Sitharaman, has a very different per-

sonality, knowledge endowment,

skill-set and approach for economic

policy issues and also for the offi-

cers working with her.

October 31, 2019.

"Serious difference also developed on some key issues like economic capital framework of RBI, a package for dealing with problems of non-banks, resolution of nonbanks, partial credit guarantee scheme, capitalization of non-banks like IIFCL and other financial entities and the like.

"Very soon, not only had our perofficial working relationship also be-

tary retirement within half an hour of receiving the order. "Mrs Sitharaman asked for and insisted on my transfer from the Ministry of Finance in June 2019 itself, within one month of her taking over as FM," wrote Garg, who exited the government after serving the mandatory notice period

sonal relationship soured, but the came quite unproductive," he wrote.

Sitharaman wanted him out in June 2019, ahead of the July 5 budget presentation. he said but did not say why her request wasn't immediately accepted by the government. Garg was transferred out on July

24, 2019, as Secretary, Ministry of



SENSEX in a Week 39,749.85 39,614.07



Modi's clarion call in May this Atmanirbhar and to creation of a Made

uote

We have

started opening our screens on the basis

of operational

readiness. We are

exhibition sector

We are

strengthen our

and today's

audience

MOTOR (INDIA)

year to be

focus on the

After PM

online presence in

the Indian market

continuously

announcement is another step in

this direction to connect and

communicate with our target

working to

OFFICER, INOX

gradually and steadily

yet to reach the usual operational

benchmarks, largely due to the absence of fresh content, which is a

key to the revival of the cinema

SAURABH VARMA CHIEF MARKETING

in India ecosystem, we felt that it's highly important to let users discover noteworthy Indian apps that are doing exceptional work to keep India running

SHIVANK AGARWAL CO-FOUNDER & CEO. MITRON

SHORT TAKES

BoB slashes lending rate

Mumbai: State-run Bank of

announced a 15 basis points

reduction in its repo-linked

lending rate to 6.85% from

November 1. The lender's

retail loans- home loan,

mortgage loan, car loan,

education loan and personal

loan are linked to its Baroda

(BRLLR). Earlier ahead of the

festive season, the bank had

announced concessions in

interest rates on home loan

Repo Linked Lending Rate

Baroda (BoB) Saturday

7% earlier, effective

and car loan. Mitron TV launches 'Atmanirbhar Apps'



New Delhi: Indian short-video platform Mitron TV Saturday announced the launch of an app discovery platform to promote homegrown apps. The platform-- 'Atmanirbhar Apps' -- hosts a wide array of apps from categories like egovernance, utility, agriculture, gaming, entertainment, lifestyle, elearning, among others, it said. "The vision is to strengthen homegrown technology on a grand scale by making it easier for users to identify Indian apps for their various needs." a

statement said.

Ather Energy opens payment window

Mumbai: Electric two-wheeler startup Ather Energy opened the full payment window for its 125-cc 450 Plus and 450X escooters for the customers in Bangalore and Chennai from Saturday. Bookings for the rest of the cities will open before Diwali, the company said in a release. The EV maker had recently announced an assured buyback scheme for the two variants of its Ather 450 model. Ather Energy has opened the full payment window for 450 Plus and 450X from October, the company said.

Dynamatic inks pact with CSIR-CSIO

Bangalore: Bangaloreheadquartered Dynamatic Technologies Ltd and Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIR-CSIO) have signed a MoU for jointly designing, developing and manufacturing futuristic solutions for the defence and aerospace, healthcare and agriculture industry.

PNB celebrates Vigilance Awareness Week

Bhubaneswar: Puniab National Bank. Cuttack Circle Office is celebrating Vigilance Awareness week from October 27 to November 2, 2020. A Quiz Competition has been organised among staff of the Cuttack Circle to create

general awareness. The winners were felicitated with prizes in the presence of Circle Head Sibananda Bhanja and other senior officials of the circle.

Air India appoints new chiefs in three subsidiaries

New Delhi: National carrier Air India has appointed new chiefs in some of its subsidiaries. Accordingly, Air India has appointed Aloke Singh as the Chief Executive in its international low cost subsidiary Air India Express. Besides, Deepak Khullar has been appointed as the CEO of Hotel



Corporation of India (HCI), another Air India subsidiary. HCI is best known for running the Centaur Hotels. Furthermore, Harpreet A De Singh, Executive Director, Air India, will hold the CEO's charge in the Alliance Air Aviation Limited till further orders. She will be relieved

of the charge of the post of ED, Flight Safety. Consequently, Captain Nivedita Bhasin, GM, Flight Safety, will hold the charge of the post of ED, Flight Safety, in addition to her own duties till further orders. Air India has also renewed the contract of Captain Ashvini Sharma, the current CEO of Air India Airport Services Limited (AIASL).

Manyavar to open 4000 sqft store in city

23 26 27 28 29 30

OCTOBER

GRAPHICS

Bhubaneswar: India's largest celebration wear brand Manyavar is all set to launch its flagship store in City. The brand has its footprints across 200 cities with over 600 stores in 4 countries. Manyavar offers a distinctive range of menswear which includes



sherwanies, Indo-westerns, Kurta jackets and Kurtas. From wedding wear to festive and celebration wear, the brand has a wide range of ensembles to choose from. Their new flagship store is brought to Bhubaneswar in association with the 'Kalamandir Family' and is located at Janpath, Ashok Nagar. The store is spread over 4000 sqft.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: India's largest and most preferred jewellery brand Tanishq Saturday announced exciting offers ahead of Diwali. Customers can now avail up to 25% off on making charges of gold iewellerv and on diamond jewellery value with offer being available for a limited time period.

The festive fervour with Tanishq's exclusive festive collection 'Ekatvam' has allured customers. The collection is inspired by the theme of 'Oneness' and is a true confluence of India's finest art forms, intricately knitted into one magnificent collection that brings alive the beauty of Oneness.

Ekatvam is an ode to the rich artistry of some of the India's best Karigars who have come together

in spirit of togetherness from around the country. The splendour of this collection lies in the integration of various regions across India featuring 15 different art forms, bound together as one masterpiece in each piece of jewellery.

Tanishq's exquisite festive collection 'Ekatvam' is available at starting price of ₹40,000 and the collection will be available across all Tanishq stores in India and on Tanishq's e-commerce platformhttp://www.tanishq.co.in.

VP Category, Marketing & Retail, Tanishq, Titan Company Limited Arun Narayan said, "The new exciting collection is a confluence of various art forms from around the country featuring the artistry of our nation's best karigars across craft centres bringing alive the central thought of the beauty of oneness."

The PMLA case was filed against them after studying an FIR registered by the economic offences wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police on the basis of a complaint received from Hassad Netherlands BV.

Hassad Netherlands BV, a subsidiary of Hassad Food Company was "induced" by Virkaran Awasty and Ritika Awasty, Directors of Bush Foods Overseas Pvt Ltd, to part with funds amounting to USD 120 million (about ₹750 crore) by misrepresenting the level of stocks/inventory, the ED alleged.

'Rise of monopolies is giving India a better deal'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 31: Monopolies are the main agents of positive change in Indian society, investment banker Saurabh Mukherjea said Saturday. Speaking at AIMA's LeaderSpeak programme, Mukherjea, who is the Founder and Chief Investment Officer of Marcellus Investment Managers tried to break the general thinking that monopolies may always be harmful.

"The rise of monopolies in India hair oil, cookis giving India a better deal," he ing said arguing that disapproval of pharma APIs, monopolies is a result of the sohealth diagcialist legacy but that would change nostics etc are as India embraces capitalism. among a whole

He said that most of the sectors host of sectors that of Indian industry are dominated have monopolies. by monopolies and the monopolists According to his re-

are the source of investment, innovation and wealth creation. The session was moderated by TV

Mohandas Pai, Chairman, Manipal Global Education, and was anchored by Rekha Sethi, Director General, AIMA.

Strengthening his case for monopolies, Mukherjea The pointed out out that rise of NBFCs, small cars, monopolies in India is paints, adhesives, giving India a better deal. biscuits, baby The disapproval of milk powder, monopolies is a result of the socialist legacy but that would oil. change as India embraces capitalism

> SAURABH MUKHERJEA I FOUNDER AND CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER, MARCELLUS INVESTMENT MANAGERS



search, the top rate sector and their share will only 20 companies in increase in the future.

India generate 70 He said that in 1992-93, the top 20 companies accounted for only 15 per per cent of the profits of cent of the total profits. In fact, the top two companies in most secthe corpo-

tors take 85 per cent of the sector's profits.

The reason they can do so is that they have larger free cash flows and they reinvest two-thirds of the profits into growth and building barriers against competition. "The large swathes of Indian economy are controlled by 20-25 families," he said.

He argued that price wars are not a route to a monopoly but having a secret insight into the market is. He said that the paint and the NBFC monopoly are actually data companies with superior market intelligence, which allows them to create and control segments and corner the best customers.

The monopoly builders are always quiet, focused people who shy away from media and do not buy sports teams or associate with film

stars once they get rich, according to Mukherjea.

Pai pointed out that monopolies were seen as a danger to the society that distort markets by destroying competition and often make obscene profits. He mentioned that IT companies were not monopolies and yet they grew fast and generated huge returns.

Mukherjea argued that true monopolists' strategy is to hold prices down to destroy their competitors. He said that most Indian monopolies raise prices by 1-2 per cent every year, at a rate much lower than the rate of inflation, which drains their competitors.

"By increasing prices slowly, monopolies suffocate the rivals," he said. However, he added, such mo-nopolies are great for the customers who get a much better deal.













sports

TODAY'S

MATCHESES

VS KKR

TELECAST: STAR SPORTS

SIPL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 31: They have just given their playoffs qualification hopes a lift and Rajasthan Royals will look to sustain the momentum against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in another must-win IPL game here Sunday.

Besides a victory in their last league game, the inaugural edition winners will also need other results to go their way if they are to make the playoffs of the lucrative event, in its 13th edition now.

The best-case scenario for RR would be Kings XI Punjab losing their last match and Sunrisers Hyderabad winning no more than one in their last two outings. In that case, RR will go through with 14 points, without net run rate coming into play.

However, RR's first task is to do what is within their control-win the match against KKR and then hope for the best. Given the tight situation, the bigger the margin of win, the better it will be for the Steve Smith-led side. The Rovals can certainly

look forward to their batting at the Dubai International Stadium. Their

talismanic England all-rounder Ben Stokes had made a breezy half century after picking up two wickets, in the team's win over KXIP, Friday.

The 2019 World Cup final hero getting his mojo back, at such a crucial juncture of the tournament, is great news for the Royals. And, needless to say, a bad one for KKR as the leading all-rounder can singlehandedly influence the outcome of a game.

Sanju Samson rediscovering his touch must have also gladdened the hearts of the RR team management. The wicketkeeper-batsman had started the tour-

nament on an explosive note before going off the rails midway, only to come back all guns blazing against KXIP.

Smith can play according to the situation and opener Robin Uthappa can put any attack to the sword on his day. No opposition takes Jos Buttler lightly and

then there is Rahul Tewatia and young Riyan Parag down the order, beefing up RR's batting. Jofra Archer has been the standout performer with the ball and he will again shoulder RR's responsibility in bowling. While they have as many points as RR and KXIP, KKR's road to the

playoffs looks the toughest, thanks to their abysmal net run rate. Their only chance of qualification is if they beat Royals and finish on 14 points, with none of the other contenders reaching that tally. That seems improbable, the last two successive losses badly hurting

their prospects. Nevertheless, the likes of Shubman Gill, Nitish Rana, captain Eoin Morgan in batting and Varun Chakravarthy, Pat Cummins and Kamlesh Nagarkoti with ball would like to give it their all.

Royals take on KKR in must-win tie KXIP face CSK in do-or-die game

a superior net run rate -- than KXIP, then

KL Rahul and his men will not qualify.

any match, then KXIP, who are currently

placed fourth with 12 points from 13 out-

ings with a net run-rate of -0.133, will

have a good chance of qualifying pro-

On the other hand, CSK, already out of

The MS Dhoni-led team, languishing

SRH keep play-off hopes alive

the reckoning for the first time ever, will

aim to end their dismal campaign on a pos-

at the bottom of the points table, head in

vided they win against CSK Sunday.

itive note

However, if Sunrisers are beaten in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Oct 31: Their play-off chances hanging in balance, Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) will

leave no stone unturned as they take on Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in CSK VS KXIP 🐻 a must-win Indian Premier League (IPL) game here unday KXIP's

chances of a top four finish took a serious hit after Rajasthan Royals handed them a seven-wicket loss, snapping their impressive five matchwinning streak.

The defeat means KXIP's fate is not solely in their hands as even a win against CSK will not ensure them a play-off spot. The Punjab outfit will need other results to go their way.

If Sunrisers Hyderabad (10 points from 12 games) win both their remaining matches and the loser of the Delhi Capitals (14) and Royal Challengers Bangalore (14) game finishes higher on the points table -either in terms of points or by virtue of to the clash after notching up back-toback wins over RCB and Kolkata Knight Riders. With skipper Rahul, the leading run-scorer of the tournament, and the flamboyant Chris Gayle coming good and the marauding Nicholas Pooran to follow at No.4, KXIP will fancy their chances at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

It remains to be seen if Mayank Agarwal, who has missed three games, returns to the side. KXIP's bowling has been instrumental in their recent wins. However, against the Royals they leaked runs and were unable to pick wickets and skipper Rahul will hope his

bowlers will be on top of their game against a CSK side, which cruised to a 10wicket win in their previous meeting.

For CSK, 23-year-old Ruturaj Gaikwad has shown a lot of spark, notching up back-to-back fifties to set up the wins against RCB and KKR. Ravindra Jadeja has been in fantastic form, smashing boundaries and sixes towards the end of the innings. The CSK bowling unit, boosted by the inclusion of New Zealand spinner Mitchell Santer, has done well in the previous two outings and will look to keep the momentum going.

MI ENSURE TOP-2 FINISH



MATCH-WINNING EFFORTS: (Clockwise) Jasprit Bumrah rejoices after dismissing a DC batsman: Ishan Kishan sweeps during his innings; Trent Boult (R) is congratulated by his teammates after taking a wicket in Dubai. Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

blows, Jasprit Bumrah (3/17) broke lost four on the bounce and with a the backbone of the DC middle match left, are in danger of miss-

nine out of 10 times and the pocket dynamo Kishan played a splendid knock to make the chase look like a walk in the park.

Not for once did DC looked like being in control as they made the Dubai strip and the MI bowling attack look doubly menacing with some of the best batsmen abdicating their responsibilities of playing fearless cricket

Boult was brilliant upfront removing openers Shikhar Dhawan (0) and Prithvi Shaw (10) in the powerplay which pegged the DC back. Captain Shreyas Iyer (25) and Rishabh Pant (21) then compounded their team's worries as they failed to regain the lost momentum.

Quinton de Kock effected an 'MS Dhoni-esque' stumping off Rahul Chahar to see Iver's return to the hut after which came Bumrah's devastating two-over spell.

A ball pitched on length was climbing up while moving a shade away which Marcus Stoinis edged to the wicketkeeper. Pant's misery ended when Bumrah came round the wicket and fired one from wide off the crease that came in with the angle to trap him leg before. He then tormented Harshal Patel, who played and missed a few before being adjudged leg-before.

If Delhi Capitals miss out on a play-off berth, Iyer-Pant duo will nave to accept their responsibility as premier international players in this DC line-up.

(Ishan Kishan 72 n o; Anrich Nortje



Sandeep Sharma reacts after dismissing Devdutt Padikkal, Saturday

AGENCIES

Sharjah, Oct 31: Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) moved to fourth position in the eight-team league standing after sealing a comfortable five-wicket win over Roval

Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in

the early departure of skipper David Warner. Later, Jason Holder (26 n o, 10b, 1x4, 3x6) gave the finishing touch

with a cameo, including the winning

six off Yuzvendra Chahal (2/19)

nership for the second wicket after

nerships, which is the vital for any team to post a decent total on the board RCB's struggle with the bat can be gauged from the fact that they hit only nine boundaries and a six in their entire innings despite having the likes of Padikkal. Kohli, De Villiers and Chris Morris up their ranks.

KKR 13 6 7 0 -0.467 12 CSK 13 5 8 0 -0.532 ets at regular intervals after opting to bowl. Young Devdutt Padikkal (5) and skipper Virat Kohli (7) departed in quick succession, falling to Sandeep Sharma (2/20).

0

POINT TABLE TFAM M W L N/R NRR

13 7 6 0

13 7 6 0

13 6 7 0

SRH 13 6 7 0

KXIP 13 6 7

RCB

DC

RR

1.296

-0.145

-0.159

0.555

-0.133

-0.377

12

12

12

AB de Villiers made a run-aball 24 before perishing and then Josh Philippe (32) again got a start but failed to capitalise. He was caught by Manish Pandey off Rashid Khan (1/24) in the next over as RCB slumped to 76 for four in 11.4 overs. Jason Holder (2/27) and T Natarajan (1/11 in 4 overs) also bowled well for SRH

RCB were done in by some incisive bowling from SRH bowlers upfront, resulting in lack of part-

Dubai, Oct 31: Mumbai Indians (MI) ensured a top-two finish in the IPL league table with a clinical ninewicket decimation of an already battered Delhi Capitals (DC), who wilted under relentless pressure from Trent Boult (3/17) and Jasprit Bumrah (3/21).

While Boult dealt telling opening

order, choking them to 110/9. The defending champions coasted to victory in 14.2 overs, taking their points tally to 18 and will have two shots in the play-offs to get into the final. Ishan Kishan (72 n o, 47b, 8x4,

3x6) was magnificent with the bat. DC, who had won seven out of their first nine games, have now

ing out on the play-offs with an ever deteriorating net-run-rate of minus 0.159.

While batting, DC consumed 62 dot balls, which effectively meant that more than half of their stipulated 20 overs had gone without scoring.

A target of 111 can't be defended

BRIEF SCORES Delhi Capitals 110/9 (Shreyas Iyer 25, Rishabh Pant 21; Jasprit Bumrah 3/17, Trent Boult 3/21) lost to Mumbai Indians 111/1

1/25) by 9 wickets.

their Indian Premier league (IPL) encounter here, Saturday. Chasing a paltry target of 121,

SRH notched up the win in the first ball of the 15th over. Wriddhiman Saha (39, 32b, 4x4, 1x6) and Manish Pandey (26, 19b, 3x4, 1x6) were fantastic throughout their 50-run part-

With this win, SRH moved ahead of KKR, RR and KXIP, who all have 12 points each, having 12 points. It was SRH's better net run-rate put them ahead of those three.

Earlier, SRH produced a brilliant bowling effort to restrict a battingheavy RCB to a modest 120/7. SRH strangled RCB by picking up wick-

BRIEF SCORES

Royal Challengers Bangalore 120/7 (Josh Philippe 32, AB de Villiers 24; Sandeep Sharma 2/20, Jason Holder 2/27) lost to Sunrisers Hyderabad 121/5 (Wriddhiman Saha 39, Jason Holder 26 n o, Manish Pandey 26; Yuzvendra Chahal 2/19) by 5 wickets.

Amit Phangal, Sanjeet strike gold Benzema scores brace



Karim Benzema (in white) strikes past Huesca goalie for a goal

AGENCIES

Madrid, Oct 31: Karim Benzema struck twice, while Eden Hazard scored his first Real Madrid goal for more than a year as the La Liga champions eased to a 4-1 win over Huesca here, Saturday.

Making his first league appearance of the season, the Belgium star opened the scoring in brilliant fashion before Benzema doubled the lead at Estadio Alfredo Di Stefano.

Federico Valverde scored the third after some fine interplay between Benzema and Hazard, who looked sharp throughout his hour on the pitch, before David Ferreiro's consolation.

Much of the pre-game talk had centred on Benzema and a recording of him appearing to tell Ferland Mendy not to pass to Vinicius PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: World silvermedallist Amit Panghal (52kg) and Sanjeet (91kg) struck gold in their first competition after a coronavirus-forced break, claiming the top honours at the Alexis Vastine International Boxing Tournament in Nantes, France.

Amit, also an Asian Games champion besides being Commonwealth Games silver-medallist, defeated American Rene Abraham 3-0 with a dominating performance, Friday.

Turin: Cristiano Ronaldo has

after 19 days and three missed

matches for Juventus, the club

swab test provided a negative

subjected to home isolation.

Ronaldo first tested positive

during the international break

Juventus' draws with Crotone

Champions League. The five-

time Ballon d'Or winner had

Turin, Ronaldo could return

Sunday for Juve's game at

League in Budapest.

while with Portugal. He missed

and Hellas Verona in Serie A as

well as a loss to Barcelona in the

been guarantined at his home in

Spezia in Serie A. or Wednesday

at Ferencyaros in the Champions

announced. Juventus said a

Sanjeet, a former India Open gold-medallist, too put up a clinical show to get past Frenchman Soheb Bouafia in his summit clash and secure a gold.

In the 75kg category, Asian silverwinner Ashish Kumar also claimed a gold after his opponent, American Joseph Gerome Hiks, gave him a walkover due to injury.

However, Asian silver-medallist Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg) settled for a silver medal after going down to local favourite Samuel Kistohurry in a split 1-2 verdict.

India had earlier secured three bronze medals through four-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa (63kg), Sumit Sangwan (81kg) and Satish Kumar (+91kg). All three of them lost in the semifinal stage

This was the first international competition that Indian boxers featured in since the Olympic qualifiers in Jordan in March.

In that event, nine Indians-five men and four women-qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, postponed to next year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Walker helps Man City down Sheffield United



Joao Cancelo (L) gives Kyle Walker a fist-bump after the latter's goal

AGENCIES

Manchester, Oct 31: Kyle Walker's goal against his hometown club secured a 1-0 Premier League victory for Manchester City over struggling Sheffield United.

Pep Guardiola, who had suffered his worst five-game start to a season after taking just eight points, saw his team's domestic frustrations alleviated by Sheffield-born Walker's 28th-minute strike at Bramall Lane.

City, buoyed by Tuesday's 3-0 Champions League win in Marseille, were on top from the outset and only a fine display from Aaron Ramsdale limited the damage.

The result leaves Chris Wilder's side still winless, while providing a confidence boost for a City outfit whose next top-flight clash is at

home to champions Liverpool.

Ferran Torres' glancing header from Joao Cancelo's cross forced a fine early stop from Ramsdale, who also saw Aymeric Laporte steer a closerange effort just past his near post.

Rodri's ferocious 25-yard strike was too hot to handle as the goalkeeper parried it over the crossbar in slick conditions amid heavy rainfall in Sheffield.

The Blades continued to rely on their last line of defence when Ramsdale thwarted Torres after the Spaniard slid in to connect with Raheem Sterling's cross.

Walker, a product of the Bramall Lane academy, forced the breakthrough with a low, skidding shot that nestled in the keeper's bottomright corner. It was the ideal way for -(Walker to mark his 100th Premier League appearance for City.

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Junior during the Champions League draw with Borussia Monchengladbach, and the striker should have scored his side's fourth when teed up by substitute Vinicius in what would have capped an improved Madrid display. Benzema eventually got his second in the 90th minute, nodding in from

Rodrygo's header across goal. Benzema and Isco missed chances for a fourth before Ferreiro scored a consolation, steering a finish past Thibaut Courtois from Rafa Mir's cross, but Benzema had the final word when he turned in Rodrygo's header from point-blank range. An obstinate Huesca kept Madrid

at bay for much of the first half, although Sergio Ramos - making his 500th appearance in La Liga saw a header saved by Andres Fernandez.

Djokovic stunned by 42nd-ranked Sonego **CR7 recovers from** virus, back for Juve

Vienna: Novak Djokovic won just three games in a lackluster quarterfinal performance at the Erste Bank Open, losing 2-6, 1-6 to 42nd-ranked Lorenzo Sonego. It was only Djokovic's third loss of the year, after being recovered from the coronavirus disgualified for hitting a line judge with a ball at the US Open and losing the French Open final to Rafa Nadal. "I came here with the intention to try to earn more points and secure the No.1 in the end of the year. I have done that, so I move on." Diokovic said. Diokovic will not defend his title at the Paris Masters next week. Sonego will play Grigor Dimitrov or result and Ronaldo "is no longer Daniel Evans for a place in Sunday's final.

Gayle fined for flinging his bat against RR

Abu Dhabi: The swashbuckling Chris Gayle has been fined 10 per cent of his match fee for breaching the IPL's code of conduct during Kings XI Punjab's (KXIP) match against Rajasthan Royals here. The IPL did not specify the exact incident for which he was penalised but it is understood the Jamaican was penalised for throwing his bat away in disgust after getting out for 99 Friday night. Gayle has admitted to the offence and accepted the sanction. Requiring a run to complete his century, Gayle was cleaned up by a Jofra Archer yorker in the last over and reacting to his dismissal, he tried to hit his bat on the ground in frustration but the willow slipped from his hand and landed a few metres across the pitch.

