

JOY OF WORK
 Actor Katrina Kaif says she is extremely happy to resume work amid the Covid pandemic
LEISURE P2

3RD WAVE IN DELHI
 CM Arvind Kejriwal terms the sudden spike in cases in the national capital as the 'third wave'
TWO STATES P7

US EXITS 'PARIS DEAL'
 The US exited the Paris Climate Agreement amid uncertainty over Presidential elections
INTERNATIONAL P10

US VOTE HANGS ON SWING STATES

Democrats were denied their 'Blue wave' as President Trump & Republicans defy predictions to make races for the White House and Senate too close to call

AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 4: From Ford Model T cars that popped off the assembly line in just 90 minutes to 60-second service for burgers, the United States has had a major hand in making the world a frenetic and impatient place, primed and hungry for instant gratification.

So waking up to the news Wednesday that the winner of the US election might not be known for hours, days or weeks — pundits filled global airwaves with their best guesses — came as a shock to a planet weaned on that most American of exports: speed.

"We have to have a little patience, almost certainly a lot of patience," said the European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, as the nail-biting contest for the White House increasingly focused on three states — Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania — that could prove crucial in determining whether President Donald Trump or challenger Joe Biden wins.

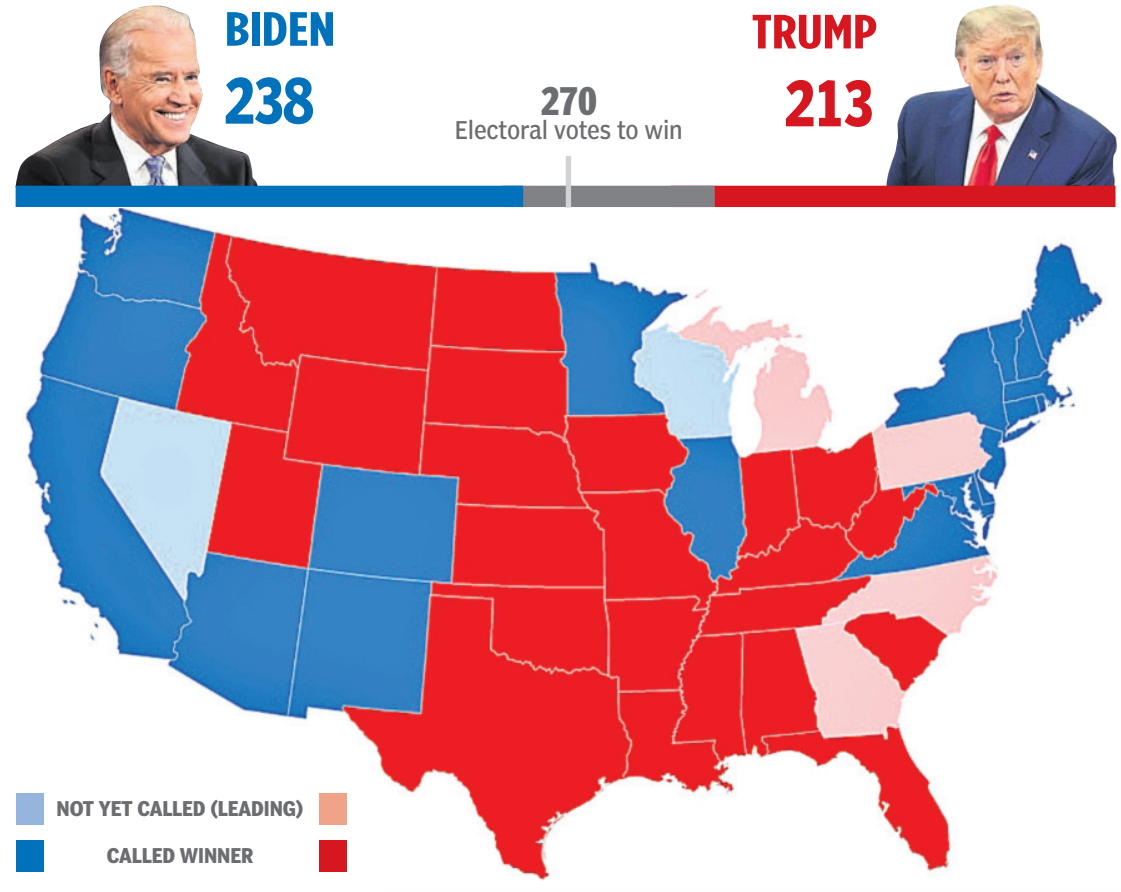
"In the American system, the last vote counts, and maybe the last vote changes the result," Borrell told Spanish National Television.

But as world leaders generally refrained from commenting on the outcome until it was clear, the particularly fractious and contested nature of the vote was already sparking concerns overseas that the superpower's sharp divisions and internal conflicts exposed by the election might endure long after the winner is declared.

"The battle over the legitimacy of the result — whatever it will look like — has now begun," said the German defence minister, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer.

"This is a very explosive situation. It is a situation of which experts rightly say it could lead to a constitutional crisis in the US," she said on ZDF television. "That is something that must certainly worry us very much."

In financial markets, investors struggled to make sense of it all, sending some indexes up and others down. Overall, uncertainty ruled. In the vacuum of no immediate winner, there was some gloating from Russia, Africa and other parts of the



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- BIDEN, TRUMP CLAIM VICTORIES**
 As the US map was getting painted in a sea of Red and Blue, both the candidates came out in public to address their supporters, claiming they're on a path to victory.
- ARIZONA FLIPS BLUE**
 The only key state that Biden managed to flip was Arizona, which accounts for 11 electoral votes.
- BOOST FOR 'SAMOSA CAUCUS'**
 An informal grouping of Indian-American lawmakers in the US Congress remains strong with all 4 Democratic Indian-Americans retaining their districts.
- BALANCE OF POWER REMAINS**
 As expected, Democrats are set to retain majority in the House of Representatives, ensuring that the balance of power remains unchanged.
- TWITTER FLAGS TRUMP'S TWEET**
 Twitter has pinned a warning on a Trump campaign tweet declaring victory in the battleground state of South Carolina, saying it was premature and not confirmed.

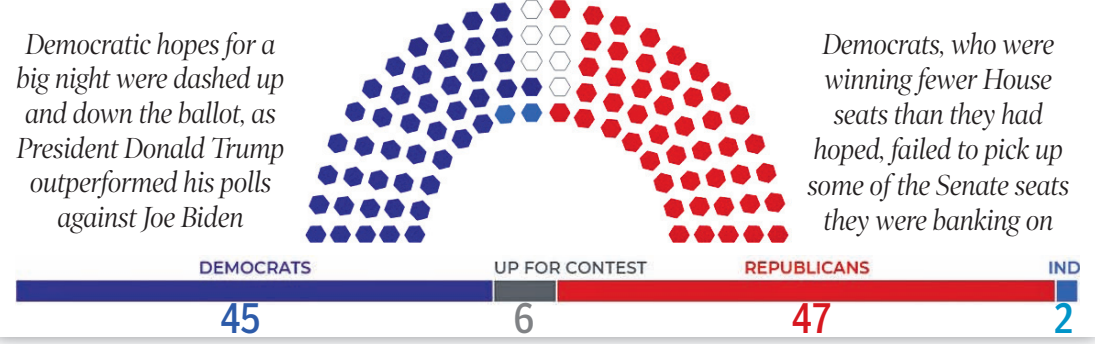
world that have repeatedly been on the receiving end of US criticism, with claims that the election and the vote count were exposing the imperfections of American democracy. "Africa used to learn American democracy. America is now learning African democracy," tweeted Nigerian Sen. Shehu Sani, reflecting a common view from some on a continent long used to troubled elections and US criticism of them.

Traditional US allies clung to the belief that regardless of whether Trump or Biden emerged as the winner, the fundamentals that have long underpinned some of America's key relationships would survive the uncertainty and the US electoral process. "Whatever the result of the election, they will remain our allies for many years and decades, that is certain," said Thierry Breton, the EU's commissioner for the internal market.

MORE ON P5 & 10

SENATE SETBACK FOR DEMOCRATS

The party was confident of snatching majority from the GOP in the US Senate. However, those hopes are now fading. Republicans swatted down an onslaught of challengers and fought to retain their fragile majority in the upper house. Several races remained undecided into Wednesday and at least one headed to a runoff in January. While Democrats picked up must-win seats in Colorado and Arizona, they suffered a setback in Alabama, and Republicans held their own in one race after another - in South Carolina, Iowa, Texas, Kansas and Montana, dramatically limiting the places where Democrats hoped to make inroads. The outcome of races in Alaska, Maine, Michigan, North Carolina is still awaited. Republicans are leading in all these states, with an eye at retaining control of the House.



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As 2nd wave looms, Naveen urges caution

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: With Europe and other western countries witnessing the second wave of Covid infection, the state government expects Odisha experience the same after the second week of December. This was discussed during the weekly meeting chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to review the Covid scenario in the state.



Collectors and SPs to ensure strict implementation of the prohibition order across the state.

"Many countries have gone into new lockdowns due to resurgence of the virus. Lockdowns can be harsh on the livelihoods of many sections of the society. To avoid such situation, we need to strictly follow the Covid protocols and advisories all the time. There is no room for any relaxation or lowering the guard, Naveen told officers.

Expressing satisfaction on the continuous declining trend in the Covid positive cases and high recovery rate (95%), Naveen thanked the people for their responsible behaviour and discipline during Dussehra. However, he said, the festive season is not yet over. "We need to be cautious during Diwali and winter season. As a precaution, the state government has prohibited sale and use of fire crackers during this month from 10th to 30th. This will avoid harmful consequence for vulnerable people," the CM said. Naveen asked the

He further instructed to maintain the momentum of livelihood activities in MGNREGA, Mission Shakti, urban wage employment etc. The departments concerned directed to ensure credit is available to farmers, Mission Shakti groups and MSMEs.

Speaking at the meeting, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy said that the Covid cases reduced in the state and a good number of ICU beds are available in the hospitals. A Task Force has been formed to prepare standard protocol for post-Covid care, he said, adding advance steps are being taken for vaccination programme.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	40616.14	↑ 355.01
NIFTY	11908.50	↑ 95.0
DOLLAR	74.79	↑ ₹0.27
EURO	87.50	↑ ₹0.28
GOLD	₹51,280	↓ ₹319
SILVER	₹62,095	↓ ₹590

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.8°C	32.5°C
TEMP MIN	23.1°C	21.5°C
Humidity	88%	75%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky

Supplementary Budget to be presented on 1st day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: The winter session of the State Assembly will commence from November 20 and continue till December 31, said a notification issued by the Assembly Secretariat Wednesday. Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari will present the first supplementary statement of expenditure for the year 2020-21 on the first day of the session.

Of the total 40 working days, 31 days have been earmarked for official business including the first day while the House will discuss the demand for grants on November 26,

27 & 28 and the Appropriation Bill on the first supplementary statement of expenditure will be tabled, November 29.

The Private Members' Business (Bills and Resolutions) will be tabled on five days—November 25, December 4, 9, 11 & 18, the notification said.

Like last Monsoon session, the Assembly will sit on Sundays. However, it will remain closed November 30 for Rasa Purnima and December 25 for Xmas Day. With the Covid pandemic affecting the economy, the state government has planned to revise its budget in accordance with the availability of limited resources.

Arnab held in 2-yr-old suicide case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 4: Police Wednesday arrested Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami here for allegedly abetting the suicide of a 53-year-old interior designer in 2018, a police official said.

The official said a team of Alibaug police picked up Goswami from his Lower Parel house in the morning. Goswami, who was seen being pushed into the police van, claimed he was assaulted by police at his home, before being taken away. "Alibaug police arrested Goswami under sections 306 (abetment of suicide), and 34 (acts done by persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code. This (arrest) pertains to the 2018 case of a man and his mother commit-

Congress and its allies have shamed democracy once again. Blatant misuse of state power is an attack on individual freedom
AMIT SHAH
 Union Home Minister



Police can take action against anyone if they have evidence. The state government hasn't acted out of revenge
SANJAY RAUT | MP

ting suicide. We have evidence (against Goswami)," the police official said. "When we gave the intimation (of arrest) to Goswami's wife, she tore up the paper," he added. The architect and his mother committed suicide over alleged non-payment of dues by Republic TV, police said.

In May this year, Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh announced he has ordered a fresh

probe in the case after a complaint by Adnya Naik, daughter of the architect Anvay Naik. Deshmukh said Adnya alleged that the Alibaug police had not investigated the alleged non-payment of dues from Goswami's channel, which she claimed drove her father and grandmother to suicide in May 2018.

Police said Goswami was taken to Alibaug in Raigad district in connection with the suicide case.

Short of funds: Govt wants soldiers to serve longer

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 4: The Indian government wants soldiers to serve longer as it faces shortage of funds along with rising manpower cost. While that may temporarily address a burgeoning fiscal hole, it will increase the age-profile of the military.

The newly created Department of Military Affairs headed by General Bipin Rawat has proposed to increase the retirement age of officers of the Indian armed forces and to cut down pension of officers opting for premature retirement.



The proposal stated that DMA is reviewing the pension entitlements because the loss of high-skilled manpower results in a void

in the services skill matrix and is counterproductive to the armed forces. As per the proposal, only those

who do more than 35 years of service will be entitled for full pension that is 50 per cent of the last pay drawn. The proposal also pointed that there will be no change of pension entitlements of battle casualties.

An officer with 20-25 years of service will get 50 per cent of 'entitled pension'. In other words the pension will be halved. The existing entitled pension is 50 per cent of the last pay drawn. Currently there are 3,235,370 defence pensioners, and approximately 55,000 pensioners are added every year.

A letter sent out by the DMA office on October 29 says that a draft

of the Government Sanction Letter (GSL) "may kindly be processed for the perusal of secretary DMA by November 10, 2020." Secretary DMA is General Bipin Rawat.

Giving reasons for cutting down on pension, the letter stated that there are a large number of personnel who boarded out in view of lesser vacancies and some service restrictions.

It stated that at the same time there are several specialists or super specialists who are trained for high-skill jobs in the services that leave the service to work in other sectors.

Jilted lover stabs two college girls in Nuapada; held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Nov 4: Two girl students of a local college sustained critical injuries after being attacked with a knife by a clerk of a local high school in Boden here Wednesday.

The injured girls were identified as Chandrika Majhi and Premalata Jagati students of Biju Patnaik College in Boden and residents of Chikalchuan village under Boirgaon panchayat of the district.

The incident occurred when the girls were going to the local market to buy clothes Wednesday morning. Meanwhile, the clerk of Boirgaon High School, Lalit Naik waylaid them and allegedly demanded ₹200 from Chandrika.

Chandrika initially refused to pay the clerk but later succumbed to his demand and paid him ₹200 after he kept on pestering. The two girls had hardly walked for few metres when the clerk waylaid them again.

He reportedly professed his love for Chandrika in the presence of Premalata. This infuriated Chandrika as she opposed the clerk. Subsequently an argument ensued between them on the road near the local market in Boden.

Lalit then took out a knife and attacked Chandrika and Premalata on the road injuring them critically. Locals rushed to the spot and admitted the two girls to the Boden hospital.

leisure



DANIELS DISCUSSES TWO PHASES OF HIS CAREER

Hollywood actor Jeff Daniels says there was a time when he was picking projects to support his family, and is glad that he has reached a point where he can risk failure and challenge himself.

KANYE HINTS HE WILL RUN AGAIN FOR US PRESIDENT IN 2024

Rapper Kanye West did not have a successful run in the US presidential election this year, but it seems like he will give the White House another shot in 2024. "KANYE 2024," he wrote on Twitter Wednesday, seemingly suggesting a future presidential run, reports usatoday.com.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today will be as agreeable as any day can be. You are satisfied with what you have, says Ganesh. Besides, you have already planned on what you desire and are moving towards it.

TAURUS
This day is meant for taking some time out from your busy schedule, and seeking some fun and relaxation. So says Ganesh. It is possible that you will be getting together with your friends and family members for a fun filled evening followed by a great dinner and a late night movie.

GEMINI
You face a hectic and demanding day today. You will spend your entire day wondering how best to channelise your energy and enthusiasm. You may be prone to extreme mood swings as well. Meditative techniques should help you keep your mind calm, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will tend to try new recipes at home. Family members will take advantage and enjoy it. You will indulge in pastimes. Arrival of guests will bring in an air of festivity and happiness, says Ganesh.

LEO
You will be filled with extra-ordinary self-confidence and will be able to take on huge risks. Sportspeople will be able to make a lot of progress in their fields. You will square off against any obstacles in your way using your entire might.

VIRGO
In all likelihood, you will be eager to grab the monetary challenges that come your way, as they only enhance your desire for success. You will bring up new ideas and better methods of tackling the challenges on hand.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that today you will get worried over petty matters and be tense. To get mental peace keep yourself occupied with religious or spiritual activity. Along with that if you go to some religious place you will gain mental peace, which will stay with you for a long time.

SCORPIO
You may be in a mood to build castles in the air today, says Ganesh. You may be caught up in a whirlpool of thoughts and nostalgia. However, you will soon realise that the time once gone, never comes back and so, you make up for the lost time by beginning the new chapter of your life from today itself.

SAGITTARIUS
A day full of caution, warns Ganesh. There are chances that your heart will find its partner, forcing you to fall in love. You may be cupid's next prey. However, watch your steps, as the initial stages of a relationship may be fragile and need to be handled with care.

CAPRICORN
You are busy as a beaver. It is extremely difficult for you to think for yourself as you are all tied up by the demands of your work. You want to be creative, but again, the workload will not let you have that freedom, says Ganesh. You have learnt the art of time management.

AQUARIUS
You will hit the bull's eye, today. From the smallest to the biggest, all of your plans will turn into reality. Don't get disheartened if there are some obstacles on your path; you are fully armed to face the challenges and come out triumphant.

PISCES
For those looking for a promotion at the work-place, now is the time to ask for it. Freelancers could find interesting projects falling into their laps. Businesses are likely to see a surge in profits. No conflicts in personal life are indicated.

Katrina glad to be back in action



Mumbai: Actress Katrina Kaif is elated to resume her work amid the Covid pandemic.

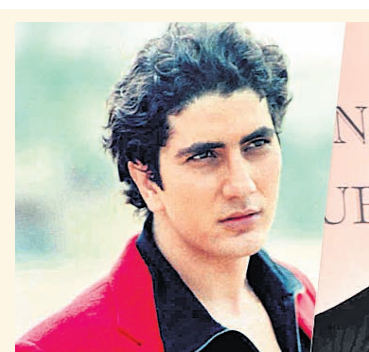
In her new Instagram picture, Katrina flashes her big smile in a bright yellow dress. She is happy to be back on the set, going by her latest post.

"Mood.. sooo happy to be getting back to working with my team everyday ...(missed everyone in person as lovely as zoom is)," she wrote.

A few days ago, she even posted a picture in a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kit.

"Safety first...outfits not bad either," she had written.

On the film front, she will be seen in Rohit Shetty's cop action drama Sooryavanshi, starring Akshay Kumar, and the horror comedy Phone Bhoot, co-starring Siddhant Chaturvedi and Ishaan Khatter. IANS



Fareb actor Faraaz Khan dies at 46

Mumbai: Actor Faraaz Khan who played the lead in *Fareb* is no more. The actor was battling for his life after being diagnosed with a brain infection. He was 46.

The news was confirmed by actress-filmmaker Pooja Bhatt on social media.

"With a heavy heart I break the news that #FaraazKhan has left us for what I believe is a better place. Gratitude to all for your help & good wishes when he needed it most. Please keep his family in your thoughts & prayers. The void he has left behind will be impossible to fill," Pooja tweeted.

Pooja had shared that Faraaz was showing signs of improvement October 22. "Gratitude to all you truly special, generous people who spread the word & contributed towards the medical treatment of #FaraazKhan..."

Am told he is showing improvement & that the family managed to raise ₹14,45,747 of ₹25,00,000 as of today," she tweeted while thanking contributors. IANS

Ananya slams rat race culture

Mumbai: Pop star Ananya Birla feels anyone can get consumed by the mindless rat race and lose sight of true goals.

She wants her new track *Everybody's Lost* to act as a reminder to not be harsh on oneself in a circumstance of misplaced purpose.

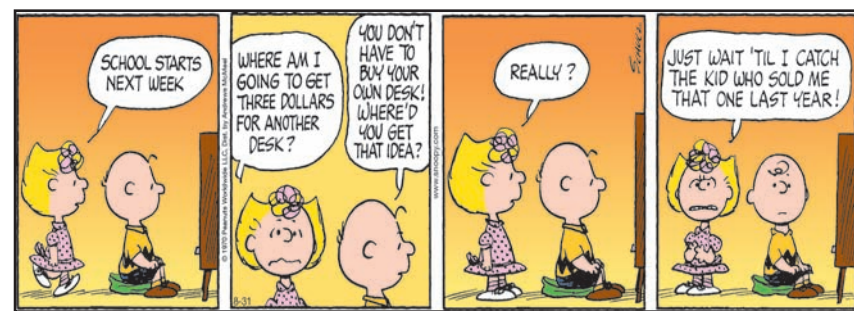
"We tend to get consumed by the mindless rat race and sometimes we lose sight of our life's true goals. This track is a reminder call to let loose and not be harsh on oneself in a circumstance of misplaced purpose," Ananya said.

"Sometimes we are all lost, and it's more than okay to be directionless and enjoy the moment for what it is. You've got to be in the right kind of groove to figure out your purpose successfully, to not get annoyed by the long stretches of never-ending roadblocks, the bone-tiredness that overcomes you when you're midway to your destination, and the inevitable soul-searching over life decisions," she added. IANS

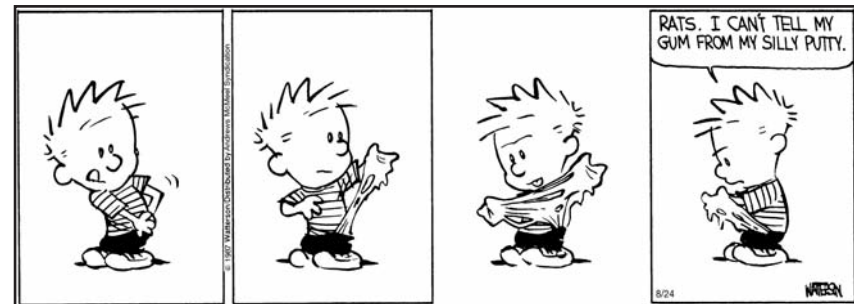
cess-fully, to not get annoyed by the long stretches of never-ending roadblocks, the bone-tiredness that overcomes you when you're midway to your destination, and the inevitable soul-searching over life decisions," she added. IANS



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

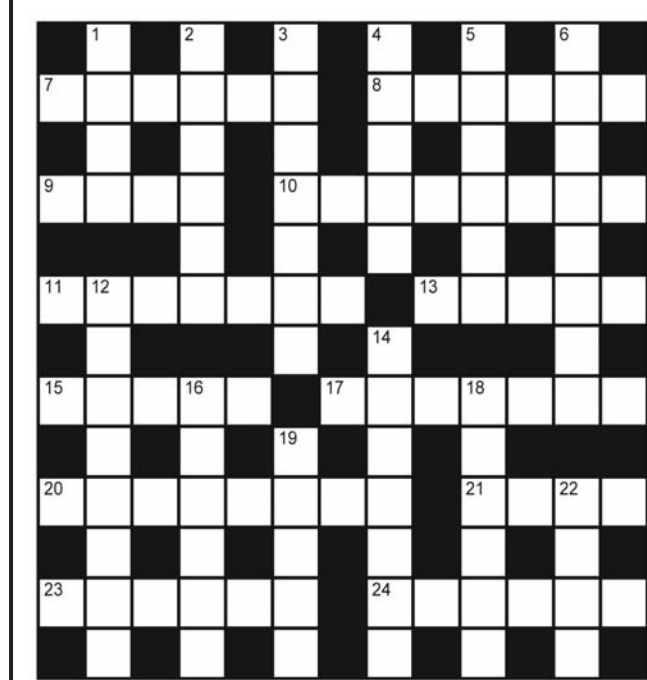


BREVITY



FUN post

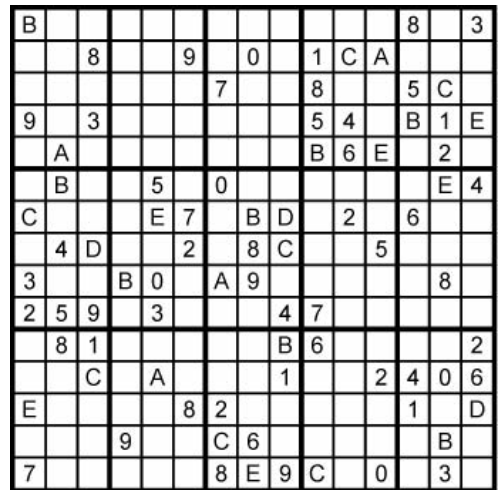
CROSSWORD



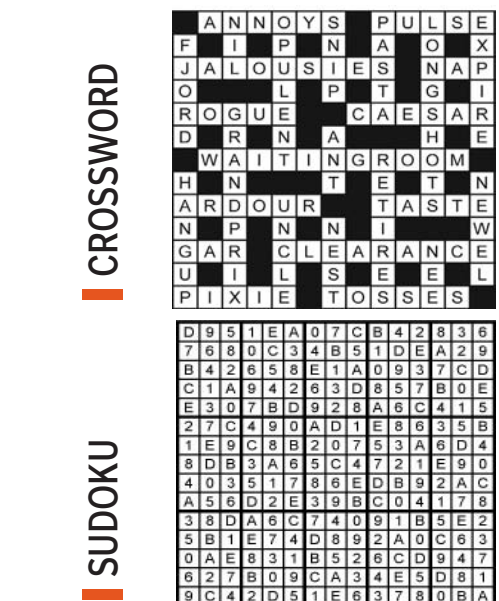
- Across**
- 7 Small drum
 - 8 Stay out of sight (3,3)
 - 9 Road turn
 - 10 Type of golf shot
 - 11 Famous Irish stone
 - 13 Baby bird?
 - 15 Pocketbook
 - 17 Prison guards
 - 20 Darling
 - 21 Mane controller
 - 23 Bouquets
 - 24 Western US state
- Down**
- 1 Bistro
 - 2 Mull over
 - 3 Amusement park features
 - 4 Smacks
 - 5 Vacation spot
 - 6 Wizard
 - 12 Washes
 - 14 King Arthur's kingdom
 - 16 Skeddaddles
 - 18 Small ornamental case
 - 19 Vast chasm
 - 22 Like some points

SUDOKU

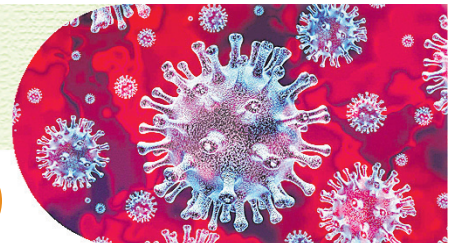
To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Parents jittery on sending kids to schools

Dwindling Covid-19 cases might have brought some respite to the state administration, but most of the parents of city-based school students are apparently apprehensive of sending their wards to attend classes physically in the schools, thanks to the virulence of the foreign virus...

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

BHUBANESWAR: Even though the School and Mass Education department is gearing up to reopen schools, especially preparing to resume classes for Class IX to XII students from November 16, most of the city parents are nervous and apparently not ready to send their children to schools amid Covid-19 pandemic. **Orissa POST** took the reactions of the parents of several schools in the city.

that the school authorities and the government extend the dates of all examinations.



Baijayanti Sahoo, parent of a DAV School student, said, "Education has suffered a lot as classes have remained suspended for the last seven months. If the school is ready to reopen with all precautionary measures for safety of students, we should send our kids. For, online teaching is not a foolproof measure to ensure quality teaching. My children are facing difficulties during online classes and have in half-yearly exams.



Smita Kanungo, mother of a Class X student at DAV Public School, said, "We aren't ready to send our children to school until the vaccine for Covid-19 is available. The situation is still critical and we can't risk our kids' lives sending students to schools. Even though precautions would be taken and premises are sanitised, there is still risk of infection during travel or from school teachers or anyone else who he/she would come in contact with. This much of time has already passed and we can extend the academic year to next year. We want the schools reduce the syllabus and make the exam a little flexible in terms of evaluation so that students feel less pressured."



Priyanka Singhdeo, mother of a student of KIIT International School, said, "No... I don't think it would be wise to send our kids to schools at this moment. They are



Pallavi Priya Jain, mother of a Class X Loyola School student, said, "I can't afford to take the risk of sending my child to school. The pandemic is still at a critical stage. We can't sign any document (indemnity) saying that the school authorities won't be held responsible if the kids get infected. We hope

not matured enough to take all necessary precautions to keep the deadly virus at bay. If malls and markets are opening, it is for the reason that the economy needs to bounce back from the slump and the issue of unemployment is addressed. But that does not mean the pandemic is over. And kids are managing it well with online studies. They have accepted it as a new normal. We have elders at our home who are vulnerable to the deadly virus. Though academic progress is not very remarkable, we as parents cannot accept any kind of negative repercussion on their health. So it's better to avoid schools now."



Purna Chandra Senapati, father of a Class X student of Gopabandhu High School in Capital city, said, "Education is very much necessary. There is no substitute to classroom teaching. I will send my ward to school and I think the government would take necessary measures before reopening the school. We must trust the government."



Arun Swain, parent of a Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir student, however, said, "Until the government takes full responsibility of the safety of all the students, we will not send our children to school. At one point, the government is saying that Covid cases will rise during winter and on the other it is trying to put the kids at risk."



Prasanna Kumar Bisoi, a parent and the co-chairman of Odisha Parents' Federation, stated that resumption of classes for Class X and XII students is okay as their board exams would be held next year. If everything goes well, Classes IX and XI could be resumed with a maximum of 20 students per class to ensure distancing, he said. "The government should provide masks, other sanitary kits and equipment to the schools," Bisoi added.

CITY SCHOOLS READY TO GREET STUDENTS

BHUBANESWAR: Although most of the parents are unwilling to send their wards to school, many educational institutions have claimed that they have thoroughly sanitized the school premises and have ensured all the safety measures to resume classes.



Loyola School authorities said that they have thoroughly cleaned the school premises and are regularly sanitising the classrooms and other infrastructure. They are ready to divide each class into small groups for maintaining social distance. "We have a very spacious school area and are waiting for guidelines from the state government. We are in talks with parents and most of the parents wants online classes and don't want to send their kids to the school. We will start online exam for all students. We are just waiting for instructions from the government about the reopening of schools. It will be very tricky for us to physically conduct classes at school for half of the students and online classes for another half," said the sources at Loyola School.

SAI International School Principal Nilakantha Panigrahi said, "The school will issue a consent form to be duly signed by the parents allowing their wards to attend classes at the school. Maintaining social distancing in classrooms by having flexible, staggered and reduced timings has been planned. Disinfection of classrooms and furniture, in between and before and after classes, would be mandatory." Asking only a certain percentage of students to attend the school depending on the enrolment, rotationally on alternate days, or every two days in a week and combining with home assignments could be another mechanism, said Panigrahi. Alternatively, he said, there could be a

ODM Public School Principal S Minaketa said, "Closure of schools due to pandemic has affected the teaching-learning, examination and co-scholastic activities for around eight months across India despite all efforts of alternative on-line provision. The students, their parents and teachers-all are facing unprecedented challenges, constraints, limitations and hazards due to this."



The students are the worst hit as their scholastic and co-scholastic growth is being adversely affected and interrupted. The government has issued the guidelines for reopening of schools in phases adhering to the SOP (standard operating procedure), which I welcome. However, all the stake-

holders—the schools, parents, teachers and students—must have to abide by the government guidelines with sincere support, responsibility and cooperation ensuring utmost safety and security on the school campus, Minaketa added.

St. Xavier International School Chairman BN Patnaik, said, "We strongly feel that the present situation is not conducive to reopening of schools. The school infrastructure would not support the measures to be taken

teacher community to the dangerous Covid-19 pandemic which is still virulent."

A majority of the parents of the students of Class IX to XII is not in favour of resuming regular classes by November 16, 2020 as we will be exposing the students as well as teachers to the deadly virus. Any decision of resuming regular classes should be taken only after an elaborate discussion with all the stakeholders like Parents Association, Teachers Association, School management representatives and medical experts is held," Patnaik added.



to prevent students from novel coronavirus infection. The decision should not be hasty and should not expose student and



BJEM School Principal Sandhya Jena said, "We are cleaning the school precincts fully and had successfully conducted the NEET at our school, as per initial SOP. We are also in talk with parents and will seek consent of every parent before allowing their kids to the school. We will also focus on Class X and XII more because of Board exams. We believe that the schools would reopen after November."



weekly class-wise timetable for attendance. All classes need not attend school every day. Odd-even formula for classes could be worked out, he added.

Further, there would be different entrances for different classes during the entry and exit to avoid crowding, he suggested. A separate isolation room in the school and the hostel with infrastructure like oxygen cylinders, trained nurses and doctors on call will be kept handy. In case of emergency, parents would be informed and ambulance would be called. In the hostel, adequate distance would be maintained while placing beds. Frequent cleaning and sanitisation of commonly touched surfaces like doorknobs and latches inside and outside the classrooms may be carried out, said Panigrahi.

"If we adhere to the SOPs strictly, then school re-opening will surely be a success," he added.

Onus on govt to ensure safety of children, teachers: Experts

POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: The state government's decision to reopen schools that have been shut for last several months due to Covid-19 pandemic has invited reactions from several quarters. Some experts opine that the onus of safety and security of children as well as teachers should be on the government.

The prolonged school closure and detention at home have affected children's study and their mental and physical wellbeing.

Data claimed that over 1.5 million schools in the country have been shut due to the pandemic. Shutting down of schools has affected around 24 crore students across India.

The Union government has dele-

gated the responsibilities to the state governments to decide on reopening of schools by assessing the Covid-19 situation. However, many parents are apprehensive about sending their children to schools due to the fear of contracting the deadly virus.

Odisha Right to Education (RTE) forum convener Anil Pradhan argued that schools cannot be closed forever in the name of Covid-19 pandemic.

"The state government must ensure all facilities such as hand-washing, drinking water and sanitisation at schools. Moreover, infrastructure upgradation should be undertaken at schools. This will encourage parents to send their children to schools," he said. The government should assess the



BJEM School in Bhubaneswar being sanitised

OP PHOTO

FAST FACTS

DATA CLAIMED THAT OVER 1.5 MILLION SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN SHUT DUE TO THE PANDEMIC

SHUTTING DOWN OF SCHOOLS HAS AFFECTED AROUND 24 CRORE STUDENTS ACROSS INDIA

THE UNION GOVERNMENT HAS DELEGATED THE RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE STATE GOVERNMENTS TO DECIDE ON REOPENING OF SCHOOLS BY ASSESSING THE COVID-19 SITUATION

additional infrastructural requirements at schools in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, said Anil. "However, the decision on school reopening should not be decided at the top level. There should be committees at panchayat and block levels to take decision on the issue by assessing the local situation," Pradhan added.

"Safety and security of children as well as teachers are very much important in this scenario. The government should take necessary steps to ensure all precautionary measures against the deadly virus at schools. Steps should be taken for availability of sanitiser and hand washing facility at schools. Use of facemasks should be mandatory at schools," said educationist Anjan

Pradhan. Besides, the government can reopen schools gradually in areas having zero or very less number of Covid-19 infection, he added.

Pradhan opined that education sector has been a non-priority sector with regard to planning and implementation aspects. Lacunae in our education system have led to lopsided growth in this sector.

"Many of our schoolchildren are from disadvantaged communities, lacking the internal capacity to improve. Most of the time, we fail to offer them quality learning experience which affects the education system as a whole. Our education system must embrace quality combined with equity to become a high-performing sector," he said.

161 Covid +ve persons voted in by-polls

National Monsoon Mission would turn a multibagger in 5 yrs: Report

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: As many as 161 Covid positive and suspected persons exercised their franchise in the bypolls to Balasore Sadar and Tirtol Assembly constituencies, which were held Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters here Wednesday, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sushil Kumar Lohani said, "The bypolls are over peacefully. The final voter turnout was 70.69 per cent in Balasore and 69.66 per cent in Tirtol."

The voting percentage is comparatively low than the last general elections held in 2019. The polling in 2019 was 71.29 pc in Balasore and 74.09 pc in Tirtol.

In view of Covid-19 pandemic situation, the Election Commission has allowed senior citizens (above 80 years), persons with disabilities and Covid infected/ suspected voters to cast their votes through postal ballot system, he added.

As many 3,193 people, including 127 Covid positive/ suspected patients voted in Tirtol, while 1,631 people including 34 Covid positive/ suspected persons have cast their votes through postal ballots in Balasore, he said.

The polled EVMs are safely stored



Blood sample being collected at a camp in Cuttack as part of a sero survey to estimate the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19

in strong rooms in Balasore and Jagatsinghpur and Central Armed Police Forces have been deployed in the inner cordon while the State Armed Police have been engaged in the outer cordon.

The strong rooms are under CCTV surveillance and political parties have been allowed to watch this through their representatives outside the strong rooms through CCTV monitors 24x7, the CEO added.

The by-polls were necessitated following the deaths of the BJP's Balasore MLA Madan Mohan Dutta and the BJD's Tirtol legislator Bishnu Charan Das.

The BJP has fielded Manas Kumar Dutta, the son of Madan Mohan Dutta, in the Balasore seat, while Swarup Das was the ruling BJD candidate and the Congress put up Mamata Kundu as its nominee for the seat. Besides, three independent candidates are in the race.

Similarly, the BJD fielded Bijay Shankar Das, the son of Bishnu

Charan Das, for the Tirtol seat, while the Congress and the BJD nominated Himansu Bhushan Mallick and Rajkishore Behera respectively, for the constituency. Apart from the three candidates, the fate of one CPI and five independent nominees are sealed in the EVMs.

New 1,474 nCoV cases, 12 deaths

Khurda reported the highest new cases at 175, followed by Cuttack at 120 and Sundargarh at 104

Three fresh fatalities each were reported from Malkangiri and Mayurbhanj, two from Khurda and one each from Jharsuguda, Jajpur, Keonjhar and Rayagada

Khurda has so far reported the maximum number of coronavirus fatalities at 236, followed by Ganjam and Cuttack at 230 and 113 deaths respectively

Odisha has so far tested 47.36 lakh samples for Covid-19, including 48,947 Tuesdays

The positivity rate in the coastal state currently stands at 6.25

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 4: For every rupee spent on the National Monsoon Mission and High-performance Computing programs of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), the country would gain economic benefits worth fifty rupees, over the next five years, a report said.

A report by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), an independent economic policy research and think tank based in Delhi, stated that the National Monsoon Mission launched by the Union government in 2012 to develop dynamic monsoon prediction system would benefit farmers in economic development.

The report launched by the Union Minister of Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan affirmed that for every rupee spent by the government on the National Monsoon Mission and High-performance Computing programs of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), the country would gain economic benefits worth fifty rupees, which is 50 times more benefit on the investment over the next five years period.

In a face to face survey, the NCAER claimed to have interviewed 463 farmers, 151 livestock owners and 150 fishermen in 15 districts of Odisha. Similarly, the NCAER con-



In a face to face survey, the NCAER 'interviewed' 463 farmers, 151 livestock owners and 150 fishermen in 15 districts of Odisha

In total, the NCAER conducted surveys of 6,098 respondents including 3,965 crop farmers, 757 marine fishermen, and 1,376 livestock owners in 173 districts across 16 states in the country

ducted a face-to-face survey of 6,098 respondents including 3,965 crop farmers, 757 marine fishermen, and 1,376 livestock owners in 173 districts across 16 states in the country.

The report referred to economic benefits as direct monetary gains to crop farmers, livestock rearers, and fishermen in the country. According to the report, the coun-

try's investment of nearly ₹1,000 crore in the National Monsoon Mission and High-Performance Computing (HPC) facilities would provide benefits worth ₹50,000 crore to nearly 1.07 crore below poverty line (BPL) agricultural households and 53 Lakh BPL fisher-folk households in the country.

Significantly, the National Monsoon Mission was launched by Ministry of Earth Sciences in 2012 with an aim to develop a state-of-the-art, dynamic monsoon prediction system for short, medium, and long-range forecasts. According to the ministry, the augmentation of the National Monsoon Mission with High-performance Computing facilities has helped the country in achieving a paradigm shift in weather and climate modelling for operational weather forecasts.

NGT notice on state govt over Balasore sand mining survey



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notice to the state government and Balasore administration in connection with the recent interim District Survey Report (DSR) for sand mining.

The petitioners—Haripada Manna and others—have moved the environment watchdog seeking its intervention into the case alleging that the Balasore administration has violated several rules and faulted in preparing the report. DSR acts as a pre-requisite for sand mining activities.

In the case of Balasore, the sand mining activities are mostly restricted to mining in the banks of Subarnarekha river. In the petition before the NGT, the petitioners had alleged that the DSR was prepared in violation of the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016 and others norms.

The NGT has asked the Balasore Collector and others to respond to the charges and file their statements on the issue within six weeks.

"In the meanwhile, we deem it necessary to call for a report from a committee comprising of the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at Bhubaneswar and the District Magistrate of Balasore in Odisha, in respect of the allegations contained in the original application before next date," the written order of the NGT said.

The petition before the NGT on the issue said, "The report does not identify the feasible mining sites, deposition sites, erosion-prone sites and sites of ecological importance. More importantly, this report has been prepared without any ground survey. The members of District Level Expert Committee haven't visited site prior preparation of report."

This apart, the report was allegedly prepared without any joint field visit by the Water Resources department, Mining department and teshildar to assess the ground situation at a time when the same is a pre-requisite for preparation of the report.

Pension at doorsteps till next May: Govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: The state government Wednesday directed to disburse pensions for the first time without the physical presence of pensioners or family pensioners.

The government has made some relaxations in the existing pension disbursement provisions to facilitate smooth doorstep service to pensioners amid COVID-19 pandemic.

A statement issued by state government said, "In recognition of the need to bring service delivery closure to the doorsteps of the pensioners under the policy initiative of 5T and Mo Sarkar during the Covid-19 challenges, the state government has made special arrangement for disbursement of pensions in treasuries or banks in the existing pension

disbursement process."

Physical presence of pensioners will not be mandatory till May, 2021 in the banks or treasuries. Similarly, disbursement of gratuity payment order or commuted value of pension (CVP) can be availed without physical presence of pensioners or family pensioners till the same period of time.

The government also asked to avoid visiting treasuries or banks for periodic submission of life certificate, periodic submission of marriage/ re-marriage declaration and submission of non-employment certificates till the above mentioned period.

The facilities will be applicable for all pensioners/family pensioners of state government and aided educational institutions drawing pensions from treasuries or authorised public sector banks within the state.

BJP workers protest in front of Ekamra Kanan

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: The Bhubaneswar unit of the BJP Wednesday staged a demonstration in front of the Ekamra Kanan farm here opposing the state government's move to construct a building on its premises.

The BJP workers led by Dillip Mohanty raised slogans against the government 'for planning to destroy the farm'. "When the whole world is thinking about protection of the environment, the state government's move to construct a building in the farm land is highly un-



fortunate," said Mohanty. Over 10,000 medicinal and useful plants are there in the farm, so, it will not be wise to wipe out those, he added.

The BJP demanded the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary to take strong action against the officials concerned.

On Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy's statement, the BJP leader said, "I think there might be some misunderstanding. We are talking about Ekamra Kanan Farm not the park or garden."

In a statement, Tripathy had said that no part of Ekamra Kanan is being taken back by the government. He stated that Ekamra Kanan is a place of pride for Bhubaneswar and the government is committed to improve it further.

"The government attaches the highest importance to the regional plant resources centre functioning in the Ekamra Kanan with its wide ranging activities in biotechnological research. The place will be kept up and maintained as a public place of prominence," Tripathy had said.

The Horticulture department is surrendering some of its unutilised land lying vacant for five decades in mouza Jayadev Vihar and Paika Nagar. The land will be put to more productive use. This land is no way related to Ekamra Kanan land, the CS had stated.

5-member ASI team visits Srimandir

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Nov 4: A five-member team of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Wednesday carried out a thorough inspection of the 'Baisi Pahacha' and the Mahalaxmi temple at Srimandir here Wednesday.

Earlier, a four-member team of the national conservator visited the 12th century shrine to inspect the 'Baisi Pahacha', a flight of 22 steps leading into the temple complex from the Lions' Gate, and the sanctum sanctorum of Mahalaxmi temple on the shrine premises October 27.

The ASI team had conducted a

thorough inspection of the age-old stones used in the flight of steps and took detailed measurements of the same. During inspection, the ASI team had detected some stones to have worn out due to wear and tear, leading to seepage of water which could damage the structure.

The ASI had decided to replace the worn out stones with new ones and undertake grouting with chemicals to fill the gaps between the stones to prevent seepage of water.

Meanwhile, the temple authorities have decided to silver coat the newly-built 'Satapahacha' door.

Tourism industry 'will soon overcome' nCoV shock

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: The tourism and hospitality industry will soon overcome the shock of Covid-19, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy said.

Addressing a workshop on tourism here Wednesday, Tripathy said though tourism and hospitality industry were the worst hit during the current Covid pandemic, new positive trends have started coming up.

He advised all the stakeholders to attach utmost importance to providing excellent experience to the guest visitors.

The Chief Secretary said, "Tourists coming to the state will be the real ambassadors and promoters of Odisha Tourism if they return back with best experience."

He asked all hoteliers, tour operators and hospitality providers to make no compromise in the matters of health, hygiene, safety and security of the guest visitors.

Tripathy added, "Along with international tourism, Odisha is an attractive place for domestic tourism. All stakeholders should also focus on attracting more tourists from different states."

He said with 39 per cent of the geographic area under forest coverage,



Odisha with 19 sanctuaries, one national park, two tiger reserves, the

largest lake, significant number of Irrawaddy dolphins, largest mi-

Tourists coming to the state will be the real ambassadors and promoters of Odisha Tourism if they return back with best experience
ASIT TRIPATHY | CHIEF SECRETARY, ODISHA

grating birds and long seashore of fers vast opportunities for nature and eco-tourism.

Because of the facilitating sup-

port of the state government, tourism activities in these areas have also surged up in the state in recent years, he said.

Odisha Hotelier and Secretary Hotel Association of India Jitendra Kumar Mohanty expressed confidence that with successful containment of the pandemic in the state, government would facilitate the hotel, hospitality and tourism industry to open up with all new normal conditions.

He assured that the hoteliers and restaurant owners would ensure all Covid-19 prevention norms and adhere to good hygienic practices.

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IT IS THE HONOUR OF A LIFETIME TO REPRESENT A BOROUGH FILLED WITH ESSENTIAL WORKERS WHO HAVE RISKED THEIR LIVES SO THAT NEW YORK CITY COULD LIVE, SAYS THE AFRO-LATINO

DEMOCRAT RITCHIE TORRES BECOMES 1ST GAY BLACK ELECTED TO CONGRESS



AGENCIES

Washington: Democrat Party's Ritchie Torres has made history by becoming the first openly gay Black man elected to the US Congress.

Torres, 32, a New York City Council Member, won the election from New York's 15th Congressional District, defeating Republican Patrick Delices to become the next representative, New York Daily News reported.

"Tonight, a new era begins for the South Bronx," Torres said in a statement. "It is the honour of a lifetime to represent a borough filled

with essential workers who have risked their lives so that New York City could live.

"The Bronx is essential, and the vibrant, loving and talented people who live here have shown time and again their power, fortune and perseverance. The Bronx is the heartbeat of New York City," he said.

Torres, who identified himself as an Afro-Latino, has served in the City Council since 2013.

He defeated nearly a dozen other Democrats in the June primary after Republican Jose Serrano announced his retirement earlier this year.

Torres is expected to be joined by another Black gay man, Mondaire Jones, in the US House of Representatives as results were pending in the race to replace retiring Republican Nita Lowey from Westchester county.

The seat is expected to go to 33-year-old Jones, a Harvard Law School graduate and former Westchester County attorney, who was leading Republican Maureen McArdle Schulman as of midnight, the report said.

Annise Parker, the former mayor of Houston and the president and CEO of the LGBTQ Victory Fund, a group that endorsed both Torres and Jones, applauded the pair.

"Mondaire and Ritchie have shattered a rainbow ceiling and will bring unique perspectives based on lived experiences never before represented in the US Congress," Parker said in a statement.

"As our nation grapples with racism, police brutality and a pandemic that disproportionately affects people of colour and LGBTQ people, these are the voices that can pull us from the brink and toward a more united and fair society," he added.



1st South Asian woman in NY State Assembly

New York: A 38-year-old Indian American lawyer has become the first South Asian woman to be elected to the New York State Assembly. Jenifer Rajkumar, a Democrat, defeated her Republican rival Giovanni Perna.



"Congratulations to @JeniferRajkumar on becoming the first South Asian woman elected to NY state office!" the Indian American Impact Fund tweeted Wednesday.

Rajkumar, a Stanford-educated lawyer and an immigrant rights advocate, will represent New York City in the New York State Assembly, representing the 38th Assembly district, which includes Woodhaven, Ridgewood, Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and Glendale. There are 150 seats in the Assembly and the members serve two-year terms without term limits. Rajkumar is a lawyer and a professor at the City University of New York. She is also a former New York state government official. According to her profile on her website, her parents immigrated to the United States from India and settled in the Queens neighbourhood of New York.

Shutting of industries causes massive job losses in Keonjhar

Coastal erosion blow to Olive Ridleys

MASSIVE EROSION IS TAKING PLACE ON THE RUSHIKULYA COAST WHICH HAS CAST DOUBTS ON THE MATING AND MASS NESTING OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 4: Closure of industrial plants due to various reasons in Keonjhar district has resulted in loss of livelihood of thousands of workers, a report said Tuesday.

According to data available from the district industries centre (DIC), the closure of these plants has left over 3,141 persons out of job in the district. However, the actual figure of jobless persons might be more as the number of closed down plants is much more than what has been stated by the DIC. Keonjhar being a mineral rich district is home to many small, medium and large scale industries.

The actual number of jobless workers could be much more than what is being officially stated. Moreover, the number of employees in these defunct plants might be much more than what has been stated by the government agency. This apart, the functioning of these plants also provided indirect livelihood opportunities to many people in the district.

This has affected the jobless workers as they live a life of misery and hunger in the absence of a viable source of livelihood.

The workers after losing their jobs are seen doing odd jobs to earn their living. Among the units, stone crushing units and sponge iron plants are the sectors which



KEONJHAR BEING A MINERAL RICH DISTRICT IS HOME TO MANY SMALL, MEDIUM AND LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIES

THE CLOSURE OF THE PLANTS HAS AFFECTED THE JOBLESS WORKERS AS THEY LIVE A LIFE OF MISERY AND HUNGER IN THE ABSENCE OF A VIABLE SOURCE OF LIVELIHOOD

AMONG THE UNITS, STONE CRUSHING UNITS AND SPONGE IRON PLANTS ARE THE SECTORS WHICH HAD EMPLOYED A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF WORKERS IN THEIR PLANTS PRIOR TO THEIR CLOSURE

had employed a maximum number of workers in their plants prior to their closure.

Sources from DIC said that 1463 workers of Kalinga Iron Works, 615 from Odisha Sponge Iron Ltd, 129 from Deepak Steel and Power Ltd, 100 from Sri Ganesh Sponge Iron Ltd, 127 from Seshagoa Enterprises Ltd, 212 from East India Minerals, 140 from Aditya Sponge and Power Pvt Ltd, 100 from Sri Jagannath Metalics Ltd, 100

from Kusum Powermet Pvt Ltd have lost their jobs following the closure of the these plants.

Similarly, 36 from Banspani Iron Ltd, 65 from OMDC Sponge Iron plant and 54 from Deepak Steel Power Ltd have also lost their jobs for the same reason. Residents have urged the state government to intervene and take initiatives in re-opening of these defunct plants which will provide employment opportunities to score of people.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, Nov 4: Massive erosion of the Rushikulya mouth in this district due to surging tidal waves may endanger mass nesting of Olive Ridley turtles mating of whom will start towards the end of this month, a report said Wednesday.

Environmentalists said the marine creatures will start mating towards the end of this month and will enter into mass nesting on the Rushikulya coast after the weather improves in December following southward blowing of wind.

However, it is apprehended that the mating and mass nesting of the sea creatures might be hampered from Gokharkuda to Prayagi in Ganjam block to Arypalli to the south. The erosion of the sea beach is taking place due to regular crossing of the tidal waves.

As a result, massive erosion is taking place on the Rushikulya coast which has cast doubts on the mating and mass nesting of the endangered species. Things have come to such a pass that surging tidal



waves have swallowed a large portion of the beach from Rushikulya to Bateswar Shiva shrine.

The erosion of the sea beach had led to a decline in the number of turtles visiting the Rushikulya coast for mating and mass nesting. Environmentalists said the erosion is taking place at such a pace that turtles are finding it difficult to climb up the beach for mating and mass nesting.

The beach erosion is not only affecting the turtles but also the fishermen of Podampeta and its adjoining areas who are now finding it difficult to park their fishing boats and fishing nets.

The sea beach erosion is taking place since 2007, senior environmentalist Rabindra Kumar Sahu said. The erosion of the sea beach had forced the district administration to evacuate 142 fishermen families and relocate them to safer places.



ilies and relocate them to safer places.

The forest officials are now on their toes for the mating and mass nesting of the sea turtles. Recently, divisional forest officer (DFO) Amlan Nayak visited the Rushikulya coast and took stock of the movement of turtles in the sea. Meanwhile, forest officials undertook beach cleaning and cleared all the garbage lying on the coast.

When contacted, Nayak said various steps are being taken to ensure safe mating and mass nesting of the sea turtles. The places where the turtles are likely to lay eggs have been barricaded and coast guard personnel deployed in the sea to thwart any threat to the marine creatures.

2 killed, 2 wounded in separate road mishaps

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur/Angul, Nov 4: In two separate road mishaps that occurred in the wee hours of Wednesday, two persons were killed and two others sustained critical injuries in Angul and Subarnapur districts.

In the first incident, a youth died while his driver got critically injured after a car in which they were travelling collided with a stationary JCB machine on national highway (NH-57) near Arjunpur forest in Subarnapur district.

The deceased was identified as Subhrashu Joshi of Tileswar village in Boudh district and the injured was his driver Bikash, police informed.

Joshi was on his way to Bolangir from Boudh district when the mishap took place. Bikash, who was driving the car, lost control over the vehicle and hit the JCB machine. Joshi died on the spot.

Bikash was rescued by fire personnel and was rushed to Sonepur Hospital for treatment. Police sent Joshi's body for post-mortem.

In another road mishap, one person was killed and the other was critically injured after a bike which they were riding fell off a bridge near Raibahal under Kishorennagar police limits in Angul district.

The deceased was identified to be Binod Pandey and the injured as Bhimsen Mallick. Both of them are residents of Athamalik area in the district. The duo was heading to Madhapur from Kishorennagar when they lost control over the two-wheeler leading to accident. Pandey died on the spot. Mallick was rescued and sent to hospital. On being informed, Kishorennagar police reached the spot. Police have registered a case in this connection and launched a probe.

Angul: JE's houses raided by Vig sleuths

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Nov 4: Vigilance sleuths simultaneously raided four houses of junior engineer Basant Kumar Bastia working in rural development department at Boinda section in Angul district Wednesday.

Locations raided by the anti-corruption wing included a double storied residential building including another four-storied building of Bastia and a house of his relative at Sithala village under Niali police limits in Cuttack district.



His office and official residence at Badahulla village of Boinda area in Angul district were also raided in the morning. Houses

of the officer at different locations were raided on charge of amassing properties disproportionate to his known sources of income. Several important documents have been seized during the raids and more details will be available only after completion of the raids, the Vigilance officials informed. The raids were underway till writing of this report.

Total valuation of Bastia's movable and immovable properties is yet to be ascertained, the sleuths said.

Keonjhar: Bike ambulances come in handy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 4: Even though ambulance services are out of reach of people living in many far-flung villages, bike ambulance services are doing a great job in some other remote areas of the mineral rich and tribal-dominated Keonjhar district, a report said.

It is often seen that reaching hospitals for people in these areas separated by forests with no access roads has been a difficult proposition. Bike ambulances have filled the access gap, enabling patients and expectant mothers to get emergency medical care.

Bike ambulances have helped scores of pregnant patients to access emergency medical care while four-wheeled ambulances are of



no help to them.

"On the rugged and rough roads, bike ambulances manage to reach home of emergency patients and taken them to hospitals where safe delivery of women is conducted," said Dharitiri Rout, secretary of the OSCA.

The district administration had launched this bike ambulance service in Keonjhar in February. These ambulances have been pressed into services with funds provided from OMBDAC and

Sampurna scheme. By October 14 this year, the bike ambulances have managed to provide needful services to nearly 400 pregnant women.

Significantly, bike ambulances have played a key role for pregnant women to avail institutional delivery in remote rural pockets where home and traditional delivery has still been in vogue.

These bike ambulances have been stationed at primary health centres located at Bolani, Kalimati, Malda,

Rebanapalaspala, Kaliahota and Kanjipani.

This service has been jointly rendered with the help of health workers and social organizations, it is learnt. However, social activists observed that facilities like effective ambulance services are crucial. Ambulances do not represent just a transportation facility for patients but are lifesaving units. Such bike ambulance services are badly needed in remote and inaccessible areas under Bansapal, Telkoi, Harichandanpur, Joda and Jhumpura blocks.

Another advantage of this service is comparatively cheaper than four-wheeler ambulance services. A lot can be done to improve physical access to health, especially in an emergency, they pointed out.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BARGARH

E-mail: eerrwss_bgh@nic.in, Ph. (O): 06646-233220, Fax: 06646-234626 No. 3271 Date 29.10.2020.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. 03 Dt.29.10.2020 of 2020-21 No. O-508: The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bargarh on behalf of the Government of Odisha invites tenders from the valid licensed holder contractors of Class 'B' or 'A' registered with any department of State Government of equivalent Class of Central Govt. etc. to be eventually drawn up in G2 Contract Form for the work as per terms and conditions noted below.

- Name of the Work : Execution of RPWS to Village under Jharbandh, Paikmal, Sohela, Ambabhona & Bhatli Block in the District of Bargarh - 12 Nos.
- Approx. Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs.45.02 lakh to 65.82 lakh
- Date and time of availability of document in the portal : Dt. 10.11.2020 to Dt.25.11.2020 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : Dt.25.11.2020 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Date & time of Opening of tender : Dt.26.11.2020 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bargarh, District- Bargarh

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

The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Executive Engineer RWS&S Division, Bargarh OIPR-25171/11/0004/2021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JEYPORE (R&B) DIVISION, JEYPORE

E-mail ID : eerbjeypore@rocketmail.com ID: ee.randbjyp@gmail.com, Tel. & Fax - 06854-231114(O)

e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. E.E (R&B)-04/2020-21/JYP(K) No. 4198 Date 28.10.2020.

- Name of the Work : Civil Works as mentioned in DTCN
- No. of Works : 1 No.
- Estimated Cost : Rs.26.83 lakhs
- Period of Completion : 3 Months
- Date & time of Bidding : From 11.00 hours of 09.11.2020 upto 16.00 hours of 19.11.2020

Last date & time for receipt of bids in portal : 16.00 hours of 19.11.2020

Bids received online shall be opened on : 11.00 hours of 20.11.2020

Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Division, Jeypore Further details can be seen from the www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Sd/- Executive Engineer Jeypore (R&B) Division OIPR-34027/11/0004/2021

FOCUS RADICALISM

BACK TO RELIGIOUS WARS



Religion, religious texts and symbols, places of worship and even followers of particular religions are increasingly becoming targets for clashes because religion is a powerful stimulator of action for offence and defence

The uproar over Manusmriti is a reminder that in state politics in Tamil Nadu, Periyar EVR's thoughts are still relevant and can be recalled whenever useful. It is a political necessity for some parties though there is no need to be harping on Manavadharmashastra and Varnashrama which have no followers in the present world. They have no legal validity and socially too not practised. Hindu law has undergone several reforms without any social protest and traditional beliefs and practices are automatically adjusting to modern thinking and purposes. Those who are quick to change progress faster than those who lag behind. What is required is universal education. No amount of verbal attack on ancient legends, deities, Brahmanism or upper castes of old order can achieve what education and educational atmosphere can.

Attacking old Dharmashastras seems to be sheer waste of time and energy. Protesters can more fruitfully turn attention to find out the factors and forces behind suppression of dalits or women. A ban on Manusmriti will not eradicate outmoded beliefs and practices if they are ingrained in our culture and values. These have to be confronted directly by implementing equalitarian laws and regulations we have adopted.

Religion, religious texts, and religious symbols, places of worship and even followers of particular religions are increasingly becoming targets for clashes because religion is a powerful stimulator of action for offence and defence. If this has to change, a global movement towards a positive approach of promoting democratic freedom and human rights instead of a negative one of destruction is needed. Religion needs respect and civil society must assert its rights. To go back to the era of religious wars or clashes is a blot on human civilization.

The writer is former Director, ICSSR, New Delhi. INFA

Satirical cartoons on Prophet Muhammad which were originally published in 2015 and now republished in French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo have become a strong provocation for a series of protests by Islamic groups across countries and continents. The original cartoons published in 2015 also faced attacks by Islamic extremists in which 15 persons were killed. A teacher, who used these cartoons in a classroom for teaching freedom of speech in a suburban school in Paris about two weeks ago, was beheaded by a radical Islamist. Depiction of the Prophet in the cartoons is considered 'blasphemous' - an expression coming out of strong religious faith.

Notre Dame church in Nice in France is once again in the news in this connection for a knife attack on people inside killing three and injuring many very badly following which security has been beefed up by the French government to protect key sites such as places of worship and schools. A knife attack wounding a guard at the French consulate in the city of Jeddah was reported.

In the background is French President Emmanuel Macron's attempt to reform Islamic practices in his country and his description of Islam as a 'religion in crisis.' It is reported that France's Interior Minister has said that the country is 'engaged in a war against Islamist ideology' and 'more militant attacks are likely' in France.

The 21st century is facing the threat of a religious war. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has emerged as a leading defender of Islamic religion in this dispute. In retaliation to the remarks on Islam, he asked his compatriots to stop buying French goods. Even the state of mental health of Macron was questioned which prompted France to recall its ambassador in Turkey.

Political and religious leaders of Islamic countries are outraged at Macron's criticism while European countries rally around

France. Radical groups in Pakistan and Bangladesh are reported to be attacking minority religious groups in their countries. Indeed, religious clashes are spreading as a global development.

Back at home, a ban on Manusmriti - a legendary law book that is not in force anywhere today - is demanded by VCK leader, Tirumavalavan in Tamil Nadu, which has led to clashes between the cadres of VCK and BJP. A noteworthy new entrant to the BJP, Khushbu, who led a protest march, was detained and released. The BJP objected to the interpretation given by VCK of the portion in the ancient text on Dharmashastra pertaining to women. Protests were carried out in many places by both groups though in reality, the number of people who have some knowledge of Manusmriti may be counted on fingers.

Outrageous unfriendly exchanges over trivial matters that started in France and in Tamil Nadu have no social-economic or religious implications, but enough to formation of warring groups on the basis of religion. While several EU partners, who are facing trouble from terrorist groups offer

support to France, which has the largest Muslim population among European countries, Turkey is receiving support from several Islamic countries.

There is no national unity in India, as on earlier controversies, on taking a stand on the Macron issue. There are pro and anti groups for any issue which are not concerned about the merits of a case, but cling to their antagonistic positions. Needless to mention, the division has political base - its own or of its alliance - and therefore, quick to pick up real and imaginary issues to remain alive and active. If the issue has some relation to Islam or Muslims, there are groups in India not to lose the chance to disturb peace and order in India. Posters of Macron appeared in Mumbai and protesters were seen striking it with slippers. Similar protests were held in some cities in MP, Punjab, and UP. The gesture is supposed to draw audience and help build public support. Prime Minister Modi has issued a statement condemning terrorist attacks in France and confirmed India's support to fight terrorism - a neutral stand that has no religious bias.

The Divine Truth is greater than any religion or creed or scripture or idea or philosophy.

SRI AUROBINDO



Diet myths abound

The more meat eaters are pushed onto the back foot by the thousands of people turning vegan every day, the harder they are fighting back. Meat is no longer called meat. It is called protein, and a variety of myths are spread about plant eaters; that they have less muscle mass and worse endurance than their meat eating counterparts.

Do plant eaters lack muscular strength and have a protein deficiency? There is a popular belief that a vegan diet may be associated with a lower exercise performance, due to the lack of certain nutrients in vegans. So, a major study was done by Boutros, Landry-Duval, Garzon and Karelis, and published in the European Journal of Clinical Nutrition in April 2020, to determine whether a vegan diet was detrimental to endurance and muscle strength. The researchers recruited 56 young women, half vegan and half meat eating, to come to a lab to have their physical health tested. All women in the study were between 18 and 35 years old, were healthy, lean, had normal body mass indexes (BMI), and active lifestyles.

The researchers wanted to make sure that they were making fair comparisons between groups so they could pinpoint diet as the key factor. Five measures were taken: estimated VO2 max which is the maximum rate of oxygen consumption measured during exercise of increasing intensity, upper body muscle strength, lower body muscle strength, body composition, and submaximal endurance (a way of estimating 'aerobic fitness'). Researchers also asked participants to keep a journal of their food intake. Vegans were chosen if they had been on a plant-based diet for several years.

What were the results? Good news for vegans - as I expected. They found that, in terms of body composition, both groups were of similar body weight, BMI, total fat percentage, and total lean body mass. Estimated VO2 max was higher and better in the vegan group than in the omnivore group. Vegans also performed significantly higher on the submaximal endurance test. There were no differences observed for general physical activity or in lower body muscle strength. Researchers also found that vegans ate much more vitamin C, dietary fibre, iron, magnesium and much less saturated fat. The results show that a vegan diet does not affect the endurance and muscle strength of young, active women - except make it better!

How else does a vegan diet help the body? An analysis of 11 studies was done by Wang, F. et al. Effects of Vegetarian/Vegan Diets on Blood Lipids: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials (Journal of the American Heart Association, 2015). This included 832 participants, and seven of the studies were on vegans. The studies lasted from 3 weeks to 18 months. The researchers evaluated changes in total cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein (LDL) 'bad' cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein (HDL) 'good' cholesterol, non-HDL cholesterol and triglyceride levels. The results showed that vegan/vegetarian diets effectively lowered all cholesterol levels.

In another study, done by Macknin, M. et al. (The Journal of Pediatrics, 2015), 30 children with obesity and high cholesterol levels and their parents followed either a vegan diet, or an American Heart Association (AHA) diet which contained meat/fish/eggs, for 4 weeks. Children following the vegan diet lost 3.1 kg during the study period. This was 197 per cent more than the weight lost by those in the AHA group. Parents in the vegan groups had an average of 0.16 per cent lower HbA1c level, a measure of blood sugar management. They also had lower total and LDL cholesterol levels than those on the AHA diet.

The GEICO study printed in the European Journal of Clinical Nutrition, 2013, had 291 participants from GEICO corporate offices. They followed either a vegan diet or a meat based diet for 18 weeks. Participants who followed the vegan diet for 18 weeks lost an average of 4.3 kg, compared with 0.1 kg in the control group. Total and LDL cholesterol levels dropped by 8 mg/dL in the vegan group, compared to almost no change in the control groups. HDL cholesterol and triglyceride levels both increased more in vegan groups than in the control group. HbA1c levels dropped by 0.7 per cent in the vegan group, compared to 0.1 per cent in the control group.

A study was done by Barnard, N.D. et al. on the effects of a low fat, plant based, diet on body weight, metabolism and insulin sensitivity (The American Journal of Medicine, 2005) of 64 overweight middle aged females, who followed either a low fat vegan or a low fat meat diet for 14 weeks. Participants in the vegan group lost an average of 5.8 kg compared to 3.8 kg in those on the control diet. Changes in BMI and waist circumference were also greater in vegan groups. A Low Fat Vegan Diet improves Glycemic Control and Cardiovascular Risk Factors with Type 2 Diabetes, according to a study printed in Diabetes Care, 2006. Ninety-nine people were divided into two groups, one vegan, the other low fat meat. In the vegan group, HbA1c or blood sugar levels fell by 0.96 points. This was 71 per cent more than the other group. In addition, LDL and total cholesterol levels fell by 10.1-13.6 mg/dL more in the vegan groups than in the ADA group.

I could go on forever because there have been thousands of studies and each one says the same thing: a vegan diet will help you lose weight, bring your blood sugar and cholesterol down and improve your muscle strength and stamina. You need to take your body's health seriously! It is the only one you will ever have. See the film that can change your life The Game Changers.

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



Maneka Gandhi

A vegan diet will help you lose weight, bring your blood sugar and cholesterol down and improve your muscle strength and stamina

Dr S. Saraswathi

OUTRAGEOUS, UNFRIENDLY EXCHANGES OVER TRIVIAL MATTERS HAVE NO SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS, BUT ARE ENOUGH TO FORM WARRING GROUPS ON THE BASIS OF RELIGION

SPECTRUM SECURITY

End impunity for crimes against scribes

In many ways, there has never been a more dangerous time for journalists than the present. With simultaneous crises threatening media freedom and sustainability, this decade will be decisive for the future of a vocation that is crucial for societies' well-being. What would the world look like if there were no professional, ethical journalists to report the news? Worryingly, this question is no longer hypothetical.

The issue of reporters' safety remains vitally important. Although killings of journalists have decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic, threats to their safety continue to evolve and increase. These threats are also becoming more nuanced and harder to combat.

Last year, more journalists were killed in countries supposedly at peace than in war zones, and the percentage of reporters killed on the job who were deliberately targeted was higher than ever before. Many of the victims were working to expose corruption and report on other sensitive topics.

Just a few days ago, on October 29, reporter Arturo Alba Medina was killed in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, near the US border. He was the sixth journalist murdered this year in Mexico, which remains the deadliest country not at war.

In the past decade alone, nearly

1,000 journalists globally have been killed in connection with their work. Many of these cases have never been properly investigated, and the vast majority of perpetrators have never been held to account. This is largely because of the lack of effective mechanisms of accountability to ensure that justice is served.

Now it is high time to start taking concrete action to end this endemic impunity for good. The United Nations should appoint a Special Representative for the Safety of Journalists, with the aim of enforcing international law and thereby finally reducing the number of reporters killed every year in the course of their work.

The Reporters Without Borders (RSF) campaign to establish a special representative has gained tremendous momentum in recent years, but one obstacle remains. Because the appointee would be a representative of the UN secretary-general, we need the secretary-general's active support. Unfortunately, António Guterres has not yet lived up to the promise he made when we met one month after he took office in 2017: "It will take time, but I will do it," he told me.

Guterres now has a little more than a year of his current term remaining. That is more than

enough time to ensure meaningful action to end impunity and protect journalists. Guterres' appointment of a member of his staff as a contact person on this issue - the only concrete step he has taken so far - is not enough.

The mandate for a special representative would not be merely a paper-based exercise that generates more reporting. Rather, it would be a means of bringing together the relevant existing UN mechanisms, resolutions, and recommendations to ensure meaningful coordination and implementation to achieve accountability for crimes committed against journalists everywhere. Appointing a special representative would ensure that good intentions lead to real-world results.

Tangible impact is desperately needed in many of the cases in which RSF is involved - including that of Saudi columnist Jamal Khashoggi, who was murdered and dismembered inside Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul in 2018. Many of the cases concern investigative journalists, including Daphne Caruana Galizia, assassinated in 2017 by a car bomb outside her home in Malta; Ján Kuciak, shot dead in 2018 along with his fiancée, Martina Kušnírová, inside their home in Slovakia; the Belarusian journalist Pavel

Sheremet, killed by a car bomb in 2016 in Kyiv; and the Ghanaian journalist Ahmed Hussein-Suale, shot three times in 2019 while driving his car in Accra.

There are many other cases. The young freelance journalist Christopher Allen was killed in 2017 while reporting on the civil conflict in South Sudan, and Kirill Radtchenko, Alexandre Rasstorgouiev, and Orhan Djemal were murdered in 2018 while making a documentary about Russian mercenaries in the Central African Republic.

Enough is enough. RSF calls for concrete action now to end violence against all journalists, wherever they live and work. We call on the UN secretary-general to support the establishment of a Special Representative for the Safety of Journalists, and for member states to enable and support the work of this crucial mandate. Finally, we call on the international public - and decision-makers - to join our campaign to end impunity for crimes against journalists once and for all.

The writer is Secretary-General of Reporters Without Borders, known internationally as Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF).

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WISDOM CORNER

What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything? VINCENT VAN GOGH

Everything comes to us that belongs to us if we create the capacity to receive it. RABINDRANATH TAGORE

Art is the lie that enables us to realize the truth. PABLO PICASSO

WORDSWORTH

Usufructuary

We are short of words that contain four 'U's. Among the few that are even relatively common (leaving aside Hawaiian muu-muu) are tumultuously and unscrupulous, although the very much rarer pustulocrustaceous and pseudotuberculous are also recorded. This term comes from Roman law. Usufruct is the right of temporary possession and enjoyment of something that belongs to somebody else, so far as that can be done without causing damage or changing its substance. For example, a slave in classical Rome could not own anything. Things he acquired as the result of his labour he merely held usus (et) fructus, under "use (and) enjoyment" - it was his master who actually owned them. The term remains in use in modern US legal practice and elsewhere to mean somebody who "enjoys the fruits" of something, usually land. These days a usufructuary can be a trustee who enjoys the produce or income from property he holds in trust for somebody else.

LOL Dying Businessman

A businessman on his deathbed called his friend and said, "Bill, I want you to promise me that when I die you will have my remains cremated." "And what," his friend



asked, "do you want me to do with your ashes?" The businessman said, "Just put them in an envelope and mail them to the Internal Revenue Service. Write on the envelope: Now, you have everything."

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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CCP's global ambitions

Sir, The deliberations and outcomes of the 5th plenum of the 19th congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) are indicative of how the party leadership and the Chinese government intend to position themselves in a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape. President Xi Jinping has described China's intention for the future as the 'China Dream' of a great rejuvenation of the country. He said that the economy would be double in size by 2035 and the country could reach high-income status in the next five years. China has recognised the challenges that must be overcome to reach the 2035 goal. It would adopt strategies to tackle the challenges. The domestic market would be taken as the base for development but the economy would be open to foreign trade and investment. The focus is on greater self-reliance through increasing domestic consumption. The government acknowledges the fact that technological innovation is essential for growth. China wants to become a global leader in artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, cloud computing and quantum computing. A huge amount of R&D expenditure has been allocated to these sectors and greater efforts will be made to achieve self-reliance in these sectors. China is making amazing recovery from the pandemic while advanced economies are still struggling to contain it. China firmly believes that its economic advancement and self-reliant strategy of growth aided by technological advancements will enable it to emerge as the most powerful country. In such a scenario, India's relations with China may become more complex. And India will have to search for stronger and more credible coalitions than the Quad to counter Chinese aggression.

Venu GS, KOLLAM (KERALA)

Mumbai police's conduct

Sir, Journalist Arnab Goswami was arrested by the Mumbai police for allegedly abetting the suicide of interior designer, Anvay Naik. This two-year-old case was reopened to arrest Goswami. Police had said that in a suicide note, Naik, who owned Concorde Designs Pvt Ltd, had claimed that he was ending his life due to non-payment of his dues by Goswami, Feroz Shaikh of IcastX/Skimedia and Niteish Sarda of Smartworks. The police said that as per the suicide note, the three owed Naik's company ₹83 lakh, ₹4 crore and ₹55 lakh respectively. However, only Goswami was arrested and not the other two persons named in the suicide note. This raises doubts on the conduct of the Mumbai police.

Gopal Prasad Mittal, BHUBANESWAR

TN schools to reopen after consultations with parents

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 4: A decision on opening schools for classes 9 to 12 would be taken after seeking the opinion of parents November 9, the Tamil Nadu government said here Wednesday.

The move to hold consultations comes days after Chief Minister K Palaniswami had said that schools would start functioning from November 16 for standards between 9 to 12. There were however concerns in certain quarters over reopening schools in view of the pandemic, and media and newspapers reflected such opinions, an official release here said.



Hence, school principals would hold consultation meetings November 9 with parents and parent-teacher association office-bearers on re-starting classes for 9th to 12th standards, the statement said. The meetings would start at 10 am on that day in government, state-aided and private schools across Tamil Nadu by following COVID-19 preventive measures. "Parents of students from classes 9 to 12 can put forth their opinions in the meetings and those who could not, may send letters voicing their views," School Education Department, Principal Secretary, Dheeraj Kumar said in the release. Based on the decisions taken in such meetings, the government would announce a decision on reopening schools, he said. The move to reopen schools from

Parents of students from classes 9 to 12 can put forth their opinions in the meetings and those who could not, may send letters voicing their views
DHEERAJ KUMAR | SCHOOL EDUCATION SECRETARY

Smoky haze shrouds Delhi-NCR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 4: A layer of smoky haze lingered over Delhi-NCR Wednesday, as the air quality of the region hit 'very poor' levels due to a cocktail of stubble burning from the adjoining states and slow wind speed, government officials said.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi's neighbouring regions - Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida and Greater Noida - are logging 'very poor' quality of air, while Gurugram is in 'poor' category. Ghaziabad and Greater Noida's air quality remained the worst amongst all.

The Capital's air quality index stood at 326 at noon, in very poor category. Nineteen out of 36 pollution monitoring stations in Delhi showed a 'very poor' air quality index reading. The Wazirpur area has the most noxious air at 399, followed by Bawana at 392, Rohini at 391 and Jahangirpuri at 383.

"Visibility in the region has dropped to 800 metres as against 2,000 metres in the morning. There is a layer of pollutants in the atmosphere from the smoke emanating from stubble burning and local sources. There will be no respite for the next 2-3 days," said Kuldeep Srivastava, Head of India Meteorological Department's Regional Forecasting Centre. Vijay Soni, a scientist at the air pollution division of India



WE HAVE FOUND CHEAP SOLUTION TO STUBBLE BURNING: CM KEJRIWAL

New Delhi: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday said 'Pusa bio-decomposer' was successful in Delhi and the city government will inform the Supreme Court that it is an effective way to prevent stubble burning. Delhi has found a cheap solution to the problem of crop residue burning and "no state can now make any excuse," he told reporters in Hiranki village in north Delhi. Pusa bio-decomposer is a solution developed by the scientists at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, which can turn crop residue into manure in 15 to 20 days and therefore, can prevent stubble burning. The 'Pusa bio-decomposer' was sprayed free of cost in non-basmati rice fields in Hiranki village in Narela. "Pusa bio-decomposer has been successful. It has completely decomposed the stubble and turned it into manure. Farmers can now start sowing next crop in the fields," he said. The chief minister said that neighbouring states, where stubble burning is prevalent, should implement the alternative without any excuses. "We are going to tell the Supreme Court, too, that it is a cheap and effective way to prevent stubble burning," he said.

Meteorological Department, told IANS that Punjab recorded 2,500 farm fires Tuesday, whose smoke, combined with the low wind speed, have resulted in deterioration of air quality in the national capital and surrounding regions.

On the contrary, the Ministry of Earth Science's System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research stated the boundary layer wind direction is "not favourable for direct fire-related transport". The share of stubble

burning in Delhi's pollution air is estimated to be only 5 per cent for today.

The share of stubble burning accounted for 10 per cent of Delhi's pollution on Tuesday, 16 per cent on Monday and 40 per cent on Sunday, the maximum so far this season. Last year, the farm fire contribution to Delhi's pollution had peaked to 44 per cent on November 1.

The air quality forecasting agency added, "A significant improvement from the peak AQI value, four days back, to current AQI is mainly attributed to increased local surface wind speed combined with not so favourable boundary layer winds for the fire-related intrusion. However, boundary layer winds are likely to shift to North-westerly, some increased intrusion, and marginal deterioration is expected for the next three days."

Nationwide, Haryana's Ambala is recording the worst air quality at 444, followed by Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar and Baghat which are recording AQI readings of 420, 415 and 407, respectively. Shillong has the cleanest air in the country.

"Transport of smoke caused by stubble burning in Punjab and air pollution are affecting India from north to south, even reaching the Arabian Sea," European Union's Director-General for Defence Industry and Space said in a statement.

Ban on firecracker adds to worries of Sivakasi industry

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 4: Already faced with reduced production owing to coronavirus, firecracker manufacturing industry in Tamil Nadu's Sivakasi is now more worried about its future prospects as states like Rajasthan, Odisha and West Bengal have banned sale of firecrackers in view of the pandemic.

They pointed out that not only their loan repayments and other transactions would be affected, but also the livelihood of lakhs of workers involved in the manufacturing process was under threat.

The industry players and common people are of the view that Diwali festival is being 'targeted by vested interests.'

"There has been a consistent attack on the industry for a long time on one or the other pretext. Diwali is one festival that is celebrated across the country and Sivakasi's firecrackers provide a reason for the people to celebrate," former Tamil Nadu Fireworks and Amores Manufacturers Association (TANFAMA) President T Asaithambi told IANS. He said that for the past two years, the industry was bogged down by the issue of manufacturing 'green crackers' that emit less smoke. The National Green Tribunal too wants firecrackers to be banned this time around, he added.

"If sales are banned, then our payments from wholesale dealers will take time to be realised, which in turn will impact our loan repayments and payments to our raw material suppliers," Asaithambi rued. More important is the livelihood issue for several lakh workers due to reduced or total stop on production of firecrackers as dealers/retailers will be saddled with unsold stocks that they may carry over to the next Diwali.

Industry stakeholders told IANS that owing to lockdown and other uncertainties the production of firecrackers this year was cut by 35 per cent. "Till now, firecracker sales is good in states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala and others," Rajendra Raja, Vice-President, Indian Fireworks Manufacturers' Association, told IANS.

Pointing to pollution caused by automobiles and other sources, they said that firecrackers only caused negligible pollution and that too for a short period of time. Industry officials maintained

that they are manufacturing 'green crackers' in accordance with formulations provided by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI). "The NEERI claims that the emission levels have gone down by 30 per cent. If that is the case, why should the firecrackers be banned?" the manufacturers questioned. "There are many festivals in India for which people buy new clothes, do special puja, make sweets at home, and greet friends. Diwali is only national festival where firecrackers are used," Tamil TANFAMA president Ganesan Panjurajan earlier told IANS. Manufacturers are also aggrieved that some of the major political parties in Tamil Nadu have failed to espouse their cause. "It was only Nirmala Sitharaman, when she was the Union Commerce Minister, who took active interest in matters concerning us, like ban on import of Chinese firecrackers and reduction of GST, Asaithambi said.

FACT FILE
Sivakasi in Virudhunagar district in Tamil Nadu accounts for nearly 90 per cent of the country's firecracker production, and has 1,070 firecracker units located in and around the city
About 300,000 workers are directly employed whereas another 500,000 workers are in the allied sectors
The firecrackers manufactured in factories in Sivakasi are valued at around ₹2,500 crore, while the retail sales total around ₹6,000 crore. This year, production may be just total around ₹1,800 crore

IT IS 'THIRD WAVE' IN DELHI



Delhi has witnessed a jump in the number of COVID-19 cases. I think we can call it a third wave...we have been monitoring the situation continuously and there is no need to panic. We will take whatever steps are needed
ARVIND KEJRIWAL | CHIEF MINISTER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: Terming the sudden spike in coronavirus cases in Delhi as the 'third wave' of the pandemic, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday assured the people that there is no need to panic as the AAP government is closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation in the city. Kejriwal said that while there are adequate beds for COVID-19 patients in the city, there is a shortage of ICU beds with ventilators in a few private hospitals which will be addressed in the next one or two days.

The national capital has been witnessing a fresh surge in coronavirus cases. Tuesday, Delhi recorded over 6,000 fresh COVID-19 cases for the first time. The city recorded over 5,000 daily cases for five days on the trot, ending Sunday when the count stood at 5,664. "Delhi has witnessed a jump in the number of COVID-19 cases. I think we can call it a third wave...we have been monitoring the situation continuously and there is no need to panic. We will take whatever steps are needed," the chief minister told reporters. He said that during September end and beginning of October, the number of coronavirus cases was less than 3,000 in the city. October 6, Kejriwal had said that Delhi is past the peak of the second wave of coronavirus and the situation has been controlled to a large extent. "Delhi hit the peak of the second wave of COVID-19 on September 17 when 4,500 cases were reported across the city," he had said. The national capital had recorded more than 4,000 cases for several days around mid-September.

count stood at 5,664.

"Delhi has witnessed a jump in the number of COVID-19 cases. I think we can call it a third wave...we have been monitoring the situation continuously and there is no need to panic. We will take whatever steps are needed," the chief minister told reporters. He said that during September end and beginning of October, the number of coronavirus cases was less than 3,000 in the city. October 6, Kejriwal had said that Delhi is past the peak of the second wave of coronavirus and the situation has been controlled to a large extent. "Delhi hit the peak of the second wave of COVID-19 on September 17 when 4,500 cases were reported across the city," he had said. The national capital had recorded more than 4,000 cases for several days around mid-September.

The city recorded 4,001 COVID-19 cases on Monday with the positivity rate hovering around 11 per cent. The Centre had attributed the sudden surge in daily incidences in the last few days to greater movement of people during the festive season and laxity in adhering to safety norms. The active cases tally Tuesday stood at 36,375.

Targeted testing begins in markets, crowded areas



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: The Delhi government has started conducting targeted COVID-19 tests in markets and other crowded areas to strengthen its surveillance mechanism, the city's Health Minister Satyendar Jain said Wednesday amid a surge in daily coronavirus cases in the national capital in the last few days. Interacting with reporters, Jain said, the current pandemic situation in the national capital, can be termed as its "third wave". In a high-level meeting on Monday, chaired by Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, the current COVID-19 situation was discussed threadbare.

It was decided to concentrate efforts in certain key areas, such as targeted RT-PCR testing in sensitive and critical zones such as restaurants, market places, barber shops and salons; gear up the availability of medical resources including beds, ICUs, and ventilators as a preemptive measure and ensure high degree of contact tracing along with monitoring of quarantined contacts so as to suppress and break the chain of transmission, the statement said. Jain told reporters, "Targeted testing has started in market places and other densely crowded areas". Asked if there these tests will be all RT-PCR ones, he replied RT-PCR tests will also be increased.

Kamala inspires women leaders in ancestral village

REUTERS

Chennai, Nov 4: More than 8,000 miles (12,870 kms) from Washington, Indian women have been rooting for the "America lady" in the village of the US vice presidential candidate Kamala Harris's grandfather.

As locals in Thulasendrapuram's temple held special prayers for a Democratic win in the November 3 election, 34-year-old M. Umadevi - who was elected to the village council in December - said she related to Harris as a fellow woman politician. "She is a daughter of our village," said Umadevi, who has a five-year-old son and sews clothes to support the income of her husband, a driver. "This must have been difficult and challenging for her. But anything new is like that. I feel both excited and nervous about my new role also."

The village, located about 320 km south of Chennai in Tamil Nadu, is where Harris's maternal grandfather was born more than a century ago. Harris was born in California to an Indian mother and



a Jamaican father who both immigrated to the United States to study. She visited Thulasendrapuram when she was five and has talked about walking on Chennai beaches with her grandfather. The former attorney general of California, 55-year-old Harris is the first black woman and first person of Indian descent nominated for national office by a major party - and only the fourth woman on a presidential ticket. Umadevi said her priority as a

member of the village council, representing some 200 mostly farming families, was to build a tarmac road. "The first thing on my list is to make sure we have a proper road," she said told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a phone interview. "It is in terrible shape and you can barely call it a road really. A good road will bring better fortune."

AMBITIONS
Unlike Harris, who has a degree in law, Umadevi dropped out of

school when she was 15 on her mother's decision. About 60 per cent of girls in India are educated but some states record a higher rate of over 90 per cent, according to India's last census data.

In Thiruvarur district, where Thulasendrapuram is located, literacy level is more than 82 per cent, with district education officials stating that all girls were enrolled in schools. Umadevi said education was key if the next generation of girls in the village were to become high achievers like Harris, whose smiling image is plastered on banners in the village wishing her electoral success. "Today, all our girls study, even if it means going to high school that is a few kilometers away from the village," said Umadevi. "College is also far but many still go and get a degree," she said, adding that young people in the area still found it hard to get well-paid jobs.

At the Government Higher Secondary School in neighbouring Painganadu village, English teacher S. Tamilselvan has been following Harris's campaign speeches and plans to use them to

motivate his students. "She is so articulate and clear," he said. "My students know about her but I want at least some of them to succeed like her. Most of my students are first generation learners and even the brightest find it difficult to articulate their ambitions."

Hemalatha Raja is also a member of Thulasendrapuram's village council. Like Umadevi, she describes herself as a housewife who was elected for a five year term as 33% of seats were reserved for women.

Despite their lack of formal education or qualifications, the two women share Harris's passion for social justice. "I want to solve all the problems that people from my neighbourhood come to me with," said Raja, 36, who dropped out of school when she was 13, since her parents did not want her to travel out of the village to attend high school. "I don't know if I can but I want to try. And all this talk about how someone with roots in our village is doing big things in America also encourages me to do a little extra."





The government has passed CAA with an intention to grant citizenship to the persecuted refugees. We are hopeful that as and when the (pandemic) situation normalises, there would be a decision. We would try to prioritise CAA implementation before elections in Bengal

KAILASH VIJAYVARGIYA | BJP NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY

LUCKNOW MAHOTSAV POSTPONED

The 'Lucknow Mahotsav', the annual event that showcased the cultural, cuisine and the crafts of Oudh, has been postponed for the second year in a row



of the day quote

The BJP will raise crop loss due to excess rains in the Vidarbha region and other issues like inflated electricity bills in the next month's winter session of the Maharashtra legislature

CHANDRAKANT PATIL | BJP LEADER

If all goes well, Meghalaya, in collaboration with Israel, will set up two centres of excellence in the state, as part of a project between India and the Middle East country - aimed at equipping farmers with technology to help increase their income

CONRAD K SANGMA | MEGHALAYA CM

There is a need to modernise the police force in the Union Territory

V NARAYANASAMY | PONDICHERRY CM

BLAST IN FACTORY KILLS 9

The firefighting teams which rushed to the spot have rescued 18 persons from under the rubble and sent them all to the LG Hospital in Ahmedabad

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ahmedabad, Nov 4: Nine people were killed due to a huge blast and fire in an Ahmedabad cotton mill Wednesday afternoon. Firefighters have rescued nine others from the site of the blast which razed an entire portion of the building.

According to sources from LG Hospital, the hospital superintendent has confirmed deaths of nine persons. "Nine persons were brought dead from the site of the blast. We have admitted nine of the surviving persons, the condition of two of them is critical. One of them is serious and the other suffers from intracranial haemorrhage," a hospital official said.

A major fire engulfed the building following a massive blast in the Nanu Kaka estate situated on the Pirana Piplaj road. The firefighting teams which rushed to the spot have rescued 18 persons from under the rubble and sent them all to the LG Hospital in Ahmedabad. According to sources in the fire department, the teams are still searching for people feared trapped under the rubble.

"We rushed to the site at around 11:30 a.m. at the place which houses multiple units. The blast and the fire brought down at least 10 to 12 units of this estate. We believe that the blast occurred inside a chemical laboratory in one of the units and thereafter a series of explosion followed, consuming half a dozen barrels of chemicals. The blast was so massive that the pillars and beams of this estate were flung 50



Fire and emergency service officials carry out rescue operations. PTI PHOTO

metres away, bringing the roof down. Right now the place looks like a war-torn site," Jayesh Khadia, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Ahmedabad, said.

"We have been divided in two teams and our team has brought out eight persons from under the rubble, two of which were dead. We have sent all of them to the hospital. It is assumed that there are still three to four persons buried under the rubble. There are around 100-125 people from the firefighting teams and search and rescue. The fire is still burning in half of the portion and our teams are trying to extinguish it," he said.

Personnel from the police, labour and employment department rushed to the spot on hearing of the blast. Forensic experts from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) are collecting samples to analyse the cause of the explosion. It is said that the

building did not have any clearance from the fire department.

Meanwhile, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has announced aid of Rs 4 lakh each to the kin of the victims who died in the blast. He also ordered a probe into the incident. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also offered condolences to the victims' families on Twitter. "Anguished by the loss of lives due to a fire in a godown in Ahmedabad. Condolences to the bereaved families. Prayers with the injured. The authorities are providing all possible assistance to the affected," Modi tweeted.

Rupani ordered an enquiry into the incident and entrusted it to Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Labour and Employment department, Vipul Mitra and also to chairman of the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) Sanjeev Kumar.

In tweets, PM Modi reaches out to Bihar

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 4: In a series of tweets targeted at Bihar and its residents, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Bihar prefers "Sushasan" or good governance, while particularly crediting the youth and women of the state for the NDA's "continued win". He also etched his vision of a "self-reliant Bihar".

"Recently, I had the opportunity to meet my brothers and sisters of Bihar and seek their blessings. From the first rally in Sasaram to the last rally in Saharsa, the public gave a lot of love as usual. As a public servant, touching the land of Bihar makes me more committed to public service," he announced on Twitter.

He added that since Bihar has always considered the values of democracy supreme, the people of the state prefer the politics of good governance. "From political consciousness to social brainstorming, from Teej festival to cuisines, Bihar is amazing. This is the life of Bihar. This is the foundation of self-sufficient Bihar," he tweeted.

Modi reached out to the youth and women of the state, which he did through his rally stops. He said that he saw a commonality in all NDA rallies in Bihar - increased participation of youth and women power. He stressed the Centre's development schemes like Jan Dhan, Mudra Loan Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Ujjwala and Jal Jeevan Mission.

Modi also said that only the NDA can provide new opportunities of

CTET TO BE HELD JAN 31

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: The Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET), which was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will now be held January 31 next year, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' said.

The exam was earlier scheduled to be held July 5. "The 14th edition of Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) which was scheduled to be held in July in 112 cities all over the country and postponed due to administrative reasons, the said examination will now be held on January 31," Nishank said.

"To maintain social distance and other safety measures, the said examination will now be conducted in 135 cities," he said.

According to officials at the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), a large number of requests have been received from the candidates for change of option for their examination city as they have shifted due to COVID-19.

"Keeping in view the difficulty faced by candidates due to COVID-19, the CBSE has decided to give one time chance to the candidates for corrections in their option of city from which they want to appear in the CTET examination," a senior board official said.

"Every effort will be made to accommodate the candidates in the cities opted by them but if the situation arises, they can be allotted any city other than the four cities opted by the candidates," the official added.

SHORT TAKES

Child falls into borewell

Niwari: A four-year-old child has fallen into a 200 feet deep borewell dug in a field in Niwari district of Madhya Pradesh. Rescue operations have begun and the Army has been called in to help. According to information, Harikishan had dug a borewell at his farm in Barho Bujurg village of Niwari district. The pit was open and a big iron utensil had been kept to close its mouth. Harikishan's four-year-old son Prahlad was playing near the pit. He had removed the utensil and accidentally fell into the pit. Superintendent of Police of Niwari, Vahini Singh said that the army has been called for rescue operations.

Sikkim bans use of crackers

Gangtok: The Sikkim government Wednesday imposed a complete ban on use of firecrackers throughout the state in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. Chief Secretary S C Gupta issued an order under provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, to impose a complete ban on bursting of firecrackers in the state till further orders.

12 injured

Gorakhpur: Four people were killed and at least 12 injured in a blast at an illegal firecracker godown located in the basement of a house in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar district Wednesday, police said. Later in the day, four policemen, including a sub-inspector, were suspended for "laxity in duty", a senior officer said. The blast took place around 7 AM in the house of one Jawed located in a narrow lane in a densely populated part of the district's Kaptanganj area, which was enveloped in smoke. The firecrackers were stored in the basement of the house, they said. Due to the fire, the cooking gas cylinder in the house also exploded. Jawed's house was charred and some adjacent houses were also damaged, the police said.

Two killed

Jammu: Two persons were killed and another injured on Wednesday when a car they were travelling in hit a side gate inside the Nashri Tunnel on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, police said. The victims were travelling from Udhampur town to Ramban town in Jammu division when the driver lost control of the vehicle. "The injured person was shifted to a hospital. An FIR has been lodged," police said.

ONLINE EXAM NOT POSSIBLE, ICAI TELLS SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) told the Supreme Court Wednesday that it cannot hold the upcoming CA exam online as suggested by some of the candidates, in view of COVID-19, as it tests the analytical capabilities of the examinees.

The ICAI said its 3-hour exam is of a different pattern altogether, which have descriptive answers and not tick marks. A bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna asked the ICAI to publish on its website the steps taken for students welfare with regard to COVID-19 and disposed of the petition seeking a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the examinees in the upcoming CA exams.

The Chartered Accountant exams are scheduled to be held November 21 to December 14. During the hearing, senior advocate Ramji Srinivasan, appearing for the ICAI, said that they don't have any isolation room as examination centres and don't have the facilities for doctors.

He said that as directed by the top court in its last hearing, they have examined all the suggestions given by advocate Bansuri Swaraj, representing the petitioners.

"There was suggestion that can we hold an online exams. Ours exams has different pattern and therefore we cannot hold the online examination", he said, adding that they test the analytical capabilities of examinees.

The bench then told Swaraj that petitioners need to be reasonable in their demands and it was not satisfied with their responses.



A security person stands guard outside a strong room, where Electronic Voting Machines are kept, after the second phase of Bihar Assembly elections, in Begusarai, Wednesday. PTI PHOTO

Will Karnataka ban crackers?

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 4: Karnataka Health and Family Welfare Minister K Sudhakar Wednesday said that the state was also seriously considering a statewide ban on the sale and bursting of firecrackers during the 17-day Diwali festival.

The final decision on ban will however be taken only after consultations with Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, he added. Speaking to reporters here, the Minister said that a few rounds

of meetings have been held with health experts, including members of the state's Covid-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

"Experts have felt that firecrackers can badly impact the health of those who have already been infected by Covid-19 and even those who are not. However, I have asked them to further deliberate and submit a report soon. Based on their report, we will discuss the matter with the Chief Minister and take a call," the Minister added.



As Covid-19 affects lungs the most, even those who have recovered will be vulnerable as their immunity and respiratory system will still be fragile. Therefore, the TAC has felt that it will be ideal to impose a ban on firecrackers this time, he claimed.

Last month, Karnataka Chief Secretary TM Vijay Bhaskar had issued Diwali guidelines on the sale of crackers, which makes it mandatory for the retail sellers to sanitise their shops on a daily basis.

Besides, as per the Covid protocols, both sellers and buyers must wear masks and it must be strictly enforced by sellers during Diwali. The guidelines also mandate that the seller should not allow people to gather around their shops in large numbers. Diwali is celebrated for 17 days in the state beginning November 1.

Now, Kerala withdraws general consent accorded to CBI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 4: On expected lines, the Pinarayi Vijayan cabinet that met here Wednesday decided to withdraw the general consent given to the CBI for conducting probes in the state.

Kerala thus joins states like West Bengal, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, which had earlier withdrawn the general consent. This was on the cards ever since the CBI arrived in the state to conduct a probe into the Life Mission project which provides homes for the homeless and is a pet

project of Vijayan.

The Life Mission project at Thrissur ran into trouble soon after the now infamous gold smuggling case surfaced on July 5. The prime accused in the gold smuggling case Swapna Suresh's links in the Life Mission project surfaced when it was found out that a staggering sum of Rs nine crores was paid as commission from the total project cost of Rs 20 crores.

When local Congress legislator Anil Akkara wrote to the CBI about the alleged corrupt deal, the CBI took up the case, leaving Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan red faced. With the CBI fast tracking the probe and



calling senior IAS official U.V. Jose for questioning, the Congress and the BJP went hammer and tongs at the government demanding the resignation of Vijayan.

Soon the legal brains of the Vijayan government got together and approached the Kerala High Court seeking a stay on the CBI probe. The court after hearing the Life

Mission, though refusing to stay the probe, gave temporary relief and asked the CBI not to arrest any Life Mission official for two months, but allowed it to go ahead in the case where there were other parties.

Since then, Vijayan was upset and first he sought the clearance of the national leadership of his party - the CPI-M for his action and the sanction was given instantly and later he brought it before the cabinet, and that was also cleared.

Following this from now on the CBI has to take the permission of the state government for conducting a probe, but it's not required if the probe is recommended by a

court. The consent issue however will not be applicable to cases which are already being probed.

Reacting sharply to the decision, State BJP president K. Surendran said all this is understandable as Vijayan is worried by the turn of events after the probe commenced. "Vijayan knows the CBI probe will soon reach his doorstep including his family, so one can understand what's going through his mind and it's best that he remembers it's not the Congress party which rules at the Centre. The CBI will continue to do its job in Kerala and Vijayan will not be able to do anything," said Surendran.

First-ever DDC polls announced in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 4: The Jammu and Kashmir poll panel Wednesday announced an eight-phase election to 20 district development councils (DDCs) in the union territory beginning November 28, in the first major electoral exercise since the abrogation of Article 370 in August last year.

The government had in October amended the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act to provide for setting up of District Development Councils in each district which will have directly elected members, marking the implementation of the entire 73rd Constitutional Amendment in the union territory.

State Election Commissioner K K Sharma told a press conference here that by-elections to vacant panchayat and municipal seats will be held simultaneously. The notification for the first-phase polling on November 28 will be issued on Thursday, he said.

The last phase of polling will take place December 19 and the counting of votes will take place December 22, said Sharma, flanked by Chief Electoral Officer Hardesh

Kumar. After taking into consideration all relevant factors and inputs from various stakeholders, it was decided to hold the election to 20 DDCs - 10 each in Jammu and Kashmir - in eight phases, Sharma said. There will be 14 constituencies in each DDC, he added.

While the election to DDCs and panchayat bypolls will be through ballot, by-election to municipal seats will be conducted through electronic voting machine (EVM). This will be for the first time that West Pakistani refugees, Valmikies and Gurkhas will be exercising their franchise in these elections.

Mainstream parties in Kashmir have not yet announced whether their will take part in the electoral exercise. While DDC polls will be held on party basis, panchayat bypolls will be on non-party basis, Kumar said.

By-elections will be held in 12,153 panchayat seats and 234 urban local wards. The Centre has fully applied the 73rd Constitutional Amendment to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which was pending for 28 years. With this, all three tiers of panchayati raj institutions will be formed in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time.



national



“The Prime Minister said demonetisation was a much needed reform to fight and curb black money. During this time the people were made to stand in long queues to withdraw their money from the banks, but did you see any single person having black money standing in the same line? Were there any rich industrialists standing in those queues?”

RAHUL GANDHI | FORMER CONGRESS PRESIDENT

CURBS EASED

Cinema halls, drama theatres, multiplexes, swimming pools and yoga institutes in Maharashtra can reopen outside containment zones from November 5, the state government said Wednesday



of the day quote

It is the inaction of the state government. Law and order is a state subject. The removal of the rail blockade for the smooth passage of passenger and goods trains is in the interest of everyone. For winters, we have to move LPG cylinders and clothing for forces deployed in forward areas

Prakash Javadekar | Union Minister

The Karnataka government has not yet decided to re-open schools

Suresh Kumar | BJP Leader

Who is spreading misinformation through such rubbish talk? Nobody has the courage to evict any citizen out of the country

Nitish Kumar | Bihar CM

India steps up military diplomacy



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 4: More officers from neighbouring countries will be trained at India's prestigious strategic leadership institution - National Defence College (NDC) - as New Delhi increases its engagement with neighbours to counter the growing influence of China.

Five more friendly countries - Tajikistan, Indonesia, Maldives, Uzbekistan and Philippines - will now be able to send their officers to India for annual training in national and international security-related fields.

"In the next two years, NDC is going to increase intake of 20 participants from its current capacity of 100," Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar said during opening statement of the diamond jubilee of the institution. NDC was inaugurated in 1960 with 21 participants.

Kumar said that the seats have been increased keeping in view of huge demand India is getting from friendly foreign nations. Out of existing 100 capacity, 75 are reserved for Indian senior defence and civil services officers and 25 are for officers from foreign nations across the continents.

It is learnt that out of 20 increased seats almost half of them would be reserved for friendly foreign nations. The seats are also reserved for officers coming from Nepal, Myanmar and Bangladesh. The officer said that 10 seats would be increased in 2021 and another 10 in 2022.

The NDC also functions as an im-

portant instrument of the state towards fostering and enhancing strong relationships with friendly countries, not only in the neighbourhood but also globally. Further, Kumar said, from next session 'President Chair of Excellence' has been planned to be established in the institution.

The aim of NDC is to equip future policymakers with the background necessary for a broad understanding of the varied social, economic, political, military, scientific and organisational aspects involved in the planning of national strategy.

The recent changes in the geopolitical environment and reshaping of the world order accompanied by the heightened security scenario in the Indo-Pacific and the Indian sub-continent has a direct impact on the development of India. Hence, it was only apt for the NDC to discuss the various issues affecting India.

The institution has also planned Diamond Jubilee international webinar from November 5 to November 6 with the main theme on 'India's National Security - The Decade Ahead'. The two-day webinar will commence with a keynote address by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh when he addresses the graduating members of the 60th NDC course. The webinar will witness discussion on important topics relevant to the present geopolitical situation in the world and the relevance of emerging international order to India during and the post-Covid period.

Punjab CM leads protest in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh Wednesday launched a dharna here to protest against the Centre's new farm legislation and accused the BJP-led government of meting out "step-motherly" treatment towards the state.

He said the farmer's agitation in Punjab against the new farm laws could lead to "serious consequences" for national security and alleged that China and Pakistan were seeking to disturb peace in the country's border state.

Stressing that his intention was not to disturb peace, Singh said he was trying to "save" his state's farmers as the Centre was "playing with" their livelihoods. Addressing the dharna, which was shifted to Jantar Mantar from Rajghat after Section 144 CrPC (Prohibiting assembly of four or more persons) was imposed



there, Singh hit out at the Centre saying it was not cooperating with the state authorities to end the rail and road blockade which was hurting Punjab's interests.

"What do you gain by replacing one system with another system that cannot work in Punjab. Nobody is stopping anyone from buying from farmers, but do not disturb the existing system that is working fine," Singh said.

"My ministers are in dialogue with farmer unions and are trying to convince them. There are two things that no ruler should tinker with - one is religion and the other is livelihood. Don't touch religion and livelihood as agitations take place when you tinker with them," he said.

All Congress MLAs and MPs from Punjab sat on a dharna along with the chief minister, who was also

joined by Lok Insaaf Party legislator Simranjit Singh Bains, Punjabi Ekta Party MLA Sukhpal Khaira and Shiromani Akali Dal (Democratic) MLA Parminder Singh Dhindsa. Asserting that "we are here not to disturb peace but to preserve it", the chief minister said he was in Delhi not to confront the Centre but to fight for justice for the poor farmers whose livelihood was at stake due to the central farm laws.

Singh said he and other MLAs from Punjab were compelled to come to Delhi as the President had declined their request for a meeting on the plea that the state amendment Bills were still lying with the Governor. He said he knew the Governor had still not forwarded the Bills even though he had no role to play in the matter, and said he had wanted to meet the President as it was his duty to apprise the head of the country about the state of national security and food security in Punjab.

SHORT TAKES

Maoist held

Medininagar: A Maoist leader, wanted in several criminal cases, has been arrested in Jharkhand's Palamu district, a police officer said. Acting on a tip-off, a police team nabbed Kripal alias Ramesh (38) in Panki police station area on Tuesday, when he was on his way to Abun village to meet his family. According to the officer, the police had been looking for Kripal for the past four years. He has been named accused in more than six incidents of Naxal violence, the officer added.

Woman injured

Gurugram: A 28-year-old woman was shot from close range here by three unidentified bike-borne assailants, allegedly in a bid to snatch the Hyundai Creta car in which she was travelling along with her friend who escaped unhurt. The incident reportedly took place on the southern peripheral road (SPR) near Sector-65 at around 11.15 pm on Tuesday night. The woman is still critical and is undergoing treatment at the ICU of a private hospital. The accused trio is yet to be arrested, the police said Wednesday.

Three arrested

Palghar: Three men have been arrested for allegedly kidnapping a 41-year-old villager from Palghar district of Maharashtra, police said Wednesday. The victim, Suresh Shiva Kakad, was kidnapped Sunday after he met the accused, who were known to him, unaware of their intention. Kakad was taken to a forest where he was tied to a tree and beaten by the accused who demanded ₹2.40 lakh for his release, said Jitendra Kumar Thakur, inspector, Kasa police station.

Ex-village head, son shot dead

Hamirpur (Uttar Pradesh): A former village head and his son were shot dead while another son was seriously injured over a dispute in Hamirpur district. Another son of the former village head has been injured. The incident took place in the Dadri village on Tuesday evening. The former village head is Prithviraj Yadav, 53. His sons, Jitendra Yadav, 26, and Virendra Yadav, 24, were returning from their fields on a motorcycle when they had a dispute with Ram Sevak Rajput and his sons of the same village. Rajput and his sons opened fire at Yadav's sons, Prithviraj Yadav, who rushed to the spot after getting information about the incident, was also shot at.

DAILY GRIND



Farmers collect water chestnut from a pond on the outskirts of Jabalpur, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

Woman gangraped, three arrested

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 4: Three men, including the security guard of a hospital, have been arrested for allegedly raping a woman at a hospital's parking lot in Delhi's Rohini district.

According to police, the guard on Saturday while checking the patient's attendants in the waiting room spotted the woman who failed to give any details of the patient whom she was accompanying. This led the guard, identified as Kanwarpal, take advantage and take the woman into the isolated parking lot of the hospital on the pretext of checking.

The security guard was joined by two ex-bouncers of the hospital Praveen and Manish who then allegedly took turns to rape the woman.

"The woman reached the police station with one of her friend and narrated her ordeal. Immediately, a case was registered and all the three accused were arrested on Saturday and Sunday," said DCP Rohini PK Mishra.

The security guard was still working in the hospital while the other two, who worked at the hospital as bouncers, were removed from their jobs but were still coming to the hospital. The guard was later terminated. Police are now verifying if the trio are involved in any other such incident inside the hospital premises.

Now, a marriage bureau for farmers in Telangana

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Nov 4: There is no dearth of marriage bureaus catering to people of various communities, regions, religions and castes but here is one marriage bureau which is specifically meant for farmers to help them find brides.

In what is said to be the first marriage bureau for farmers in India, Kethireddy Anji Reddy, a farmer himself, is offering the unique service to the farming community. At a time when farming is no longer seen as a profitable profession and those engaged in it are facing increasing odds, Reddy has set up 'Rythu Marriage Bureau' in Telangana's Karimnagar district.

Moved by the plight of farmers who are not accepted as sons-in-law by many in the society; he came up with the innovative idea of a marriage bureau. "Farmers not only have to struggle at every stage of farming and to get remunerative prices for their produce but also face discrimination when it comes to marriage. Unlike in the past, when families used to take pride in marrying off their daughters with farmers, today nobody wants a farmer as son-in-law," Reddy said. He believes that the situation turned bad to worse in last one decade due to job opportunities in information technology and other new sectors of economy. "Many families even among the farming community are looking for software professionals or other employees in corporate sector as the bridegrooms," he said.

Covid tally races past 83 lakh

A total of 76,56,478 people have recuperated from the infection so far, pushing the national recovery rate to 92.09 per cent, while the case fatality rate stands at 1.49 per cent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: India's COVID-19 caseload went past 83 lakh, while the number of recoveries surged to 76.56 lakh, pushing the national recovery rate to over 92 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry's data updated on Wednesday.

With 46,253 fresh infections, the total number of coronavirus cases in the country mounted to 83, 13,876, while the death toll rose to 1, 23,611 after 514 more fatalities were reported, the data updated at 8 am showed.

A total of 76,56,478 people have recuperated from the infection so far, pushing the national recovery rate to 92.09 per cent, while the case fatality rate stands at 1.49 per cent. The number of active cases of COVID-19 remained below six lakh for the sixth consecutive day.

There are 5,33,787 active cases in the country as on date which comprise 6.42 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated. The COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on



August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11 and crossed 80 lakh on October 29.

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 11, 29,98,959 samples have been tested for COVID-19 in the country so far, with 12,09,609 samples being tested on Tuesday. The 514 new fatalities include 120 from Maharashtra, 58 from Chhattisgarh, 56 from West Bengal, 48 from Delhi, 31 Tamil Nadu and 26 each from Karnataka and Kerala.

Total 1,23,611 deaths reported so far in the country include 44,248

from Maharashtra followed by 11,247 from Karnataka, 11,214 from Tamil Nadu, 7,089 from Uttar Pradesh, 7,013 from West Bengal, 6,734 from Andhra Pradesh, 6,652 from Delhi, 4,245 from Punjab and 3,731 from Gujarat.

The health ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities. "Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

WOMAN THRASHES GIRL FOR BEING CALLED 'AUNTY'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Etah (Uttar Pradesh), Nov 4: A middle-aged woman created a huge drama on a street of Etah district when a teenage girl referred to her as 'aunty'.

The incident happened on Tuesday evening. The Babujan market in Etah was bustling with activity on the eve of 'Karva Chauth' when a 19-year-old girl, trying to make her way through the crowds, politely told a 40-year-old woman, "Excuse me, aunty."

The woman lost her cool on being addressed as 'aunty' by the girl and started hurling abuses at her. She even slapped the teenager, pulled her by her hair and a fight broke out between them. Soon a group of people gathered around them and a video showing the women fighting in the busy market with police trying to stop them was shot. According to the police, both of them were brought to the police station. Later, they settled the issue among themselves. No formal complaint was received. Station

The woman lost her cool on being addressed as 'aunty' by the girl and started hurling abuses at her. She even slapped the teenager, pulled her by her hair and a fight broke out between them

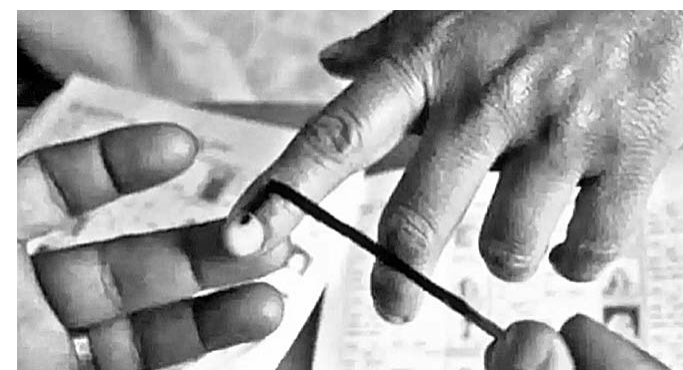
House Officer (Mahila police station) Kanchan Katiyar said, "The teenager had called the woman 'aunty', after which the woman was outraged and beat up the girl. The girl also retaliated. Both the parties were brought to the police station and their families were called in. They settled the issue among themselves. Both the girl and the woman belonged to well-to-do families. No formal complaint has been received." Additional police force, especially women constables, have been deployed in the market for crowd management after the incident.

MP bypolls outcome to be litmus test for 3 satraps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Nov 4: The result of Tuesday's bypolls to 28 Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh will not only decide the fate of the BJP government in the state, but also have a bearing on the political future of three regional satraps - Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, his predecessor Kamal Nath and BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia.

The political drama in the state that unfolded in the state earlier this year involved these three influential leaders. In March this year, the 15-month-old Kamal Nath-led government in the state collapsed following the resignation of 22 rebel Congress MLAs in support of Scindia, after he quit the grand old party. This paved the way for the BJP's return to power with Chouhan



taking oath as the CM for a record fourth time.

There is a talk in political circles that Scindia, who became the BJP's Rajya Sabha member in June this year, is aspiring for a berth in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet. When Scindia was in

Congress, he had lost the race for chief ministership to Kamal Nath after the 2018 state assembly election. The BJP sensed an opportunity in his frustration and rode back to power in the state on his and his supporters' rebellion seven months ago.

If Chouhan, a member of other backward classes (OBC) that accounts for more than 50 per cent population of MP, pulls off a victory on more than 15 seats, it would further bolster his position in the party, feel political observers.

After Scindia's rebellion, the BJP's central leadership picked Chouhan to lead the party due to his pan-Madhya Pradesh acceptability and high hopes that he would deliver in the by-elections, they added. During his cabinet formation, he did not have a free hand and kept shuttling between Bhopal and New Delhi, they said.

Madhya Pradesh has a 230-member Assembly. However, due to the resignation of one more Congress MLA recently, the effective strength of the House came down to 229. The BJP currently has 107 MLAs

and needs to win eight more seats to attain a simple majority in the House.

The Congress's tally has been reduced to 87 after the resignation of 26 MLAs since March this year. The magic figure of 115 does not look unattainable for Chouhan right now. But if he fails, the going will get tougher given the rivalry within the party and its central leadership will get an opportunity to subjugate him, political observers feel.

Similarly, Nath, who is the state unit chief of Congress, also faces an uphill task of putting up a good show in the bypolls even if he is not able to bring the party back to power. He has steered the party through the intense campaign in the absence of other national stars like Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi.

international



Now, I am an unemployed uncle of US Vice Presidential candidate Kamala Harris. The media is talking to me now because I am her uncle

G BALACHANDRAN | KAMALA HARRIS' UNCLE

SOCIAL MEDIA GIANTS FINED

Turkey has issued fines against global social media companies for failing to appoint a representative to ensure they conform to Turkish law, said a senior official. OF Sayan, chairman of the ICTA, said FB, Instagram, Twitter, Periscope, YouTube and TikTok would be fined \$1.2 mn each



of the day quote

The findings (presence of abnormal fused cells in lungs) indicate that COVID-19 is not simply a disease caused by the death of virus-infected cells but is likely the consequence of these abnormal cells persisting for long periods inside the lungs

MAURO GIACCA | CO-AUTHOR, KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

Over the next four years, we hope to unlock 1 trillion rand (\$62.4 billion) in infrastructure investment

CYRIL RAMAPHOSA | PRESIDENT, SOUTH AFRICA

You have to keep in mind that there is no common perception on the border but yet if you seek to change where the current line where troops are then of course it does impact on the larger relationship. We are concerned that China has taken this step

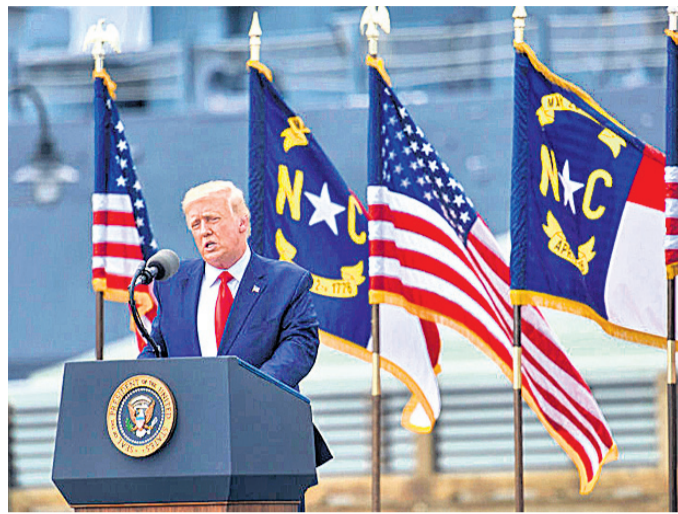
HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA | FOREIGN SECRETARY, INDIA

FB, Twitter flag Trump posts that alleged election theft

AGENCIES

San Francisco, Nov 4: The tensions between US President Donald Trump and social media platforms continued to simmer as Twitter mounted restrictions on one of his controversial tweets while Facebook put labels to the president's posts that alleged election theft, while the vote counting was underway.

"We are up BIG, but they are



'69% American-Muslims vote for Biden'

New York: Nearly 69% Muslim voters cast their ballot for Democratic Presidential nominee Joe Biden while 17% supported President Donald Trump, according to a survey conducted by Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organisation in the US. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organisation, released the results of its 2020 Muslim Voters Presidential Election Exit Poll on Tuesday. CAIR's poll of 844 registered Muslim voter households found a high Muslim turnout with 84% reporting that they voted in the US election, with 69% voting for Biden and 17% for Trump. CAIR said more than one million American Muslim voters turned out in "record-breaking" numbers this election cycle.

Indian-American lawmakers re-elected

Washington: In an impressive show, all the four Indian-American Democratic lawmakers -- Dr Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna and Raja Krishnamoorthi -- have been re-elected to the US House of Representatives. The Indian-American community has emerged as a force to reckon with for the first time in the history of the US presidential election. Both the Democrat and the Republican campaigns had initiated several measures to woo the approximately 1.8 million members of the community who have emerged as a critical voting bloc in the battleground states of Florida, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Texas. The so-called 'Samosa caucus', a term coined by Krishnamoorthi for informal grouping of Indian-American lawmakers, might expand with at least one more as physician Dr Hiral Tipirneni was leading against Republican incumbent David Schweikert from the sixth Congressional district of Arizona when last reports came in.

trying to STEAL the Election," the message from Trump read, on both social media platforms.

"We will never let them do it. Votes cannot be cast after the Polls are closed!"

Twitter immediately flagged this tweet, saying "some or all of the content shared in this Tweet is disputed and might be misleading about an election or other civic process". Justifying its action, Twitter

referred to a tweet from the company's @safety account.

"We placed a warning on a Tweet from @realDonaldTrump for making a potentially misleading claim about an election. This action is in line with our Civic Integrity Policy."

When Trump posted the same message to Facebook, the social networking giant added a label to the post instead of restricting its spread on the platform.



Saudi to remove key restrictions on migrant workers



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, Nov 4: Saudi Arabia Wednesday announced reforms that will abolish some key restrictions tying millions of low-paid and vulnerable migrant labourers to their employers in conditions that have been rife with abuse and exploitation.

The Ministry of Human Resource and Social Development said the reforms will allow foreign workers the right to change jobs by transferring their sponsorship from one employer to another, leave and re-enter the country and secure final exit visas without the consent of their employer, which had long been required. Deputy Minister Abdullah bin Nasser Abuthnain said the new so-called Labour Relation Initiative "is slated to come into effect in March 2021.

On track to win this election: Biden

Washington: Democrat presidential nominee Joe Biden Wednesday asserted that he's on track to "win this election" as all eyes are on the outcome in Midwestern battleground states. "Keep the faith guys. We are going to win this (election)," 77-year-old Biden told a crowd in his hometown of Delaware. When last reports came in Biden had received 237 electoral college votes as against 213 of incumbent President Donald Trump of the Republican Party.

SAVED BY A WHALE



An elevated train that crashed through a stop block and landed on a whale tail sculpture at De Akkers subway station in Spijkenisse, near Rotterdam, Netherlands

US formally exits Paris agreement

AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 4: The US formally exited the Paris Climate Agreement Wednesday amid election uncertainty, three years after President Donald Trump announced his intent to remove the country from participating in the landmark global pact to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

President Trump originally announced his intention to withdraw from the agreement in 2017 and formally notified the United Nations last year. The US exited the pact after a mandatory year-long waiting period ended Wednesday.

The historic accord seeks to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius, the value that climate scientists have determined will have disastrous consequences if exceeded.

Trump has repeatedly criticised



the agreement as economically detrimental and claimed it could cost the country 2.5 million jobs by 2025.

He also said it gave other major emitters, like China and India, a free pass.

The US is the only country to withdraw from the global pact. It can still attend negotiations and give opinions, but is relegated to "observer status".

Trump stated that he intended to

renegotiate the details of the United States's membership within the Paris Agreement that can better protect US workers in industries like coal, paper, and steel.

The US is the second leading producer of all carbon dioxide emissions globally, behind China.

But whether the US exit turns out to be brief or lasting depends on the outcome of the presidential contest, The Washington Post said.

SHORT TAKES

Calm returns to Vienna

Vienna: Life in Vienna returned to something like normal Wednesday as Austrian authorities investigated whether a 20-year-old man who fatally shot four people in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group had any accomplices. Officials say the suspect, identified as 20-year-old Kujtim Fejzulaj, had a previous conviction for trying to join the Islamic State group in Syria and had been released in December.

Hindu temple vandalised

Karachi: A Hindu temple in Pakistan's Sindh province was vandalised by an angry mob that also attempted to attack over 300 Hindu families, but were stopped by Muslims from entering the century-old neighbourhood, a media report said. The incident took place Sunday in Sheetal Das compound, housing 300 Hindu and 30 Muslim families. Residents of the neighbourhood said that scores of men had assembled outside the compound's only gate and many of them intended to attack the Hindu families.

Shelling in Syria kills 7

Beirut: Syrian government Wednesday shelled the last rebel enclave in the country's northwest, killing at least seven people, including three children, rescuers and activists reported. The attack came during a day of heavy rain, and targeted the city of Idlib city and two towns, to the north and south. A child was killed when a shell landed near a weekly market in the city of Idlib, according to the Syrian Civil Defense.

Nepal virus count touches 1L

Kathmandu: Nepal has reported 3,309 new cases of coronavirus, taking the total number of infections in the nation to 1,82,923, the health ministry said Wednesday. Ministry of Health and Population said the new cases were detected while conducting 12,144 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests at various labs across the county in the past 24 hours.

Aegean quake toll rises to 116 as Turkey ends search

REUTERS

Istanbul, Nov 4: Turkey Wednesday ended search and rescue efforts in the rubble of buildings that collapsed as a result of Friday's strong earthquake in the Aegean Sea, after the death toll crept up to 116 in the western city of Izmir and a Greek island.

The quake, the deadliest to hit Turkey in nearly a decade, injured 1,035 people in Izmir and 137 were still being treated, Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) said.

It said search and rescue efforts at 17 damaged or collapsed buildings had been completed and teams were clearing the rubble.



In addition to the 114 people killed in Turkey, two victims of the tremor were teenagers on the Greek island of Samos, authorities said.

On Tuesday, 90 hours after the quake struck, rescuers in Izmir pulled a young girl alive out of the rubble. More than 2,790 tents were set up for temporary shelter and more than 10,222 beds were distributed in the area, AFAD said.

It said 22 boats had sunk and 43 others had run aground, of which 40 had been rescued, as a result of the quake.

Turkey is crossed by fault lines and is prone to earthquakes. More than 500 people were killed in a 2011 quake in the eastern city of Van, while another in January this year killed 41 people in the eastern province of Elazig. In 1999, two powerful quakes killed 18,000 people in northwestern Turkey.

Republican columnist gets drenched for criticising Harris

Indian Americans join the chorus of criticism of the Wall Street Journal columnist who described the Vice Presidential nominee's impromptu dancing at a rain-soaked campaign stop as "embarrassing" and "too giddy."

Veteran conservative columnist and former Reagan speechwriter, Peggy Noonan, came out over the weekend in her Wall Street Journal column, "A Good Debate, and It's Not Quite Over," shaming potential future vice president of the United States, Kamala Harris for enjoying a lighthearted moment in the rain and dancing with joy.

Noonan criticised Harris' recent appearance at a campaign rally in Jacksonville, FL, where she was seen jiving in her Converse sneakers in rhythm to Mary J. Blige's



Kamala Harris Peggy Noonan

"Work That" during a thunderstorm, and looking happy, as she twirled her umbrella in tune. Casually dressed in jeans, a white tee and blazer, the clip of Harris immediately went viral with the tagline "Rain or shine, Democracy waits for no one." And an enraged Noonan took aim.

Calling her dancing "embarrassing" and Harris "too giddy," Noonan remarked that the Senator risks being seen as not serious

enough for the task at hand. "She's dancing with drum lines and beginning rallies with 'Wassup, Florida!'" (OH NO, can't have that! Think of the children!)

She further pointed out, "She's throwing her head back and laughing a loud laugh, especially when nobody said anything funny. She's the younger candidate going for a 'Happy Warrior' vibe, but she's coming across as insubstantial, frivolous."

Noonan also expressed concern over how Harris' rally appearance would translate on the world stage. "Kamala Harris is running for vice president of the US in an era of heightened and unending crisis.

AMERICAN KAHANI

China vows 'proper' response to US arms sale to Taiwan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, Nov 4: China vowed Wednesday that it will make a "proper and necessary response" if the US proceeds with its latest planned arms sale to Taiwan.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said the sale of \$600 million in armed drones to the island "brutally interferes in China's internal affairs and seriously undermines China's sovereignty and security interests."

The US should cancel all such sales to Taiwan "so as to avoid further damage to China-US relations and peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," Wang told reporters at a daily briefing.

China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory, will make a "proper and necessary response according to the development of

the situation," Wang said.

The State Department said Tuesday it had greenlighted Taiwan's purchase of four "weapons ready" remotely piloted aircraft and related equipment, the latest in a series of arms transfers for the island.

In its announcement, the department said the proposed sale "serves US national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability." Just last week, the administration approved plans for a \$2.37 billion sale of Harpoon missile systems to Taiwan. That came hours after Beijing had announced sanctions on US defense contractors, including Boeing, the lead contractor on the Harpoon deal, over a previous weapons deal.

COVID RESEARCH

'Smaller cough droplets may travel over 6 metres'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Nov 4: Scientists have analysed the dispersion of coughs using air flow simulation and found that some smaller droplets, which are easily carried by the wind, travel up to 6.6 metres and even further under dry air conditions. The COVID-19 pandemic has led many researchers to study airborne droplet transmission in different conditions and environments.

Scientists from A-STAR's Institute of High Performance Computing in Singapore conducted a numerical study on droplet dispersion using high fidelity air flow simulation.

The research, published in the journal Physics of Fluids, found that a single 100-micrometre droplet under wind speed of 2 me-



tres per second can travel up to 6.6 metres and even further under dry air conditions due to droplet evaporation.

"In addition to wearing a mask, we found social distancing to be generally effective, as droplet deposition is shown to be reduced on a person who is at least 1 meter from the cough," said study author

The research, found that a single 100-micrometre cough droplet under wind speed of 2 metres per second can travel up to 6.6 metres and even further under dry air conditions due to droplet evaporation

Fong Yew Leong.

The researchers used computational tools to solve complex mathematical formulations representing air flow and the airborne cough droplets around human bodies at various wind speeds and when impacted by other environmental factors. They also assessed the deposition pro-

file on a person at a certain proximity. A typical cough emits thousands of droplets across a wide size range.

The scientists found large droplets settled on the ground quickly due to gravity but could be projected 1 metre by the cough jet even without wind.

Medium-sized droplets could evaporate into smaller droplets, which are lighter and more easily borne by the wind, and these travelled further, they said.

The researchers offer a more detailed picture of droplet dispersion as they incorporated the biological considerations of the virus, such as the non-volatile content in droplet evaporation, into the modelling of the airborne dispersion of droplets.

"An evaporating droplet retains the non-volatile viral content, so the

viral loading is effectively increased," said study author Hongying Li.

"This means that evaporated droplets that become aerosols are more susceptible to be inhaled deep into the lung, which causes infection lower down the respiratory tract, than larger unevaporated droplets," Li said.

These findings are also greatly dependent on the environmental conditions, such as wind speed, humidity levels, and ambient air temperature, and based on assumptions made from existing scientific literature on the viability of the COVID-19 virus, the researchers said.

The findings could be applied to designing environments that optimise comfort and safety, such as hospital rooms that account for indoor airflow and airborne pathogen transmission.

business

of the day quote

Global Automobile Traders FZCO
reaffirms our commitment to provide the best ownership experience for all our customers in the Philippines



R DILIP | TVS MOTOR COMPANY EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

We are extremely thrilled to commence our electric journey in the Indian market with the introduction of the Jaguar I-PACE



ROHIT SURI | JAGUAR LAND ROVER INDIA PRESIDENT & MANAGING DIRECTOR

Documents available in the public domain show that Amazon has made an investment of about Rs 35,000 crore in Amazon India – a make-believe e-commerce marketplace platform, but in reality indirectly carrying multi-brand retail business



PRAVEEN KHANDEWAL | CAIT SECRETARY GENERAL

SHORT TAKES

SBI's net profit rises over 51pc

Mumbai: Lending major State Bank of India Wednesday reported a rise of 51.88 per cent in its standalone net profit for Q2FY21 on a year-on-year basis. Accordingly, the lender's net profit increased to Rs4,574 crore from Rs3,012 crore reported for the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. Besides, the Net Interest Income (NII) increased to Rs28,181 crore in Q2FY21 from Rs 24,600 crore in Q2FY20, an increase of 14.56 per cent YoY.

Ant's IPO gets Beijing's no

Beijing: The world's biggest online finance company was racing toward a stock market debut when it was derailed by Beijing's anxiety about risks in the fledgling industry, jarring global investors and deepening uncertainty about China's financial markets. Regulators suspended Ant Group's \$34.5 bn stock offering two days before trading was due to start in order to "maintain the stability of the capital market".

Kamran Rizvi is HUDCO CMD

Bhubaneswar: Additional Secretary Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Kamran Rizvi assumed the office of Chairman & Managing Director (additional charge), Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited. Rizvi has assumed the office as CMD of HUDCO with effect from October 22. He has been given additional charge of said post for a period of six months with effect from October 22, or till the appointment of the regular incumbent to the post, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest. Rizvi is a 1991-batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre.

'SenCiCare' for city senior citizens

Bhubaneswar: In a bid to provide supper to the city's senior citizens, a startup 'SenCiCare' was launched here. It is founded by US-based social entrepreneur Plaban Mohapatra. The startup shall be taking care of grocery, veg and non-veg items, medicines and pathological tests at the doorstep of enrolled senior citizens. Complimentary hand-holding digital services, are also being added by 'SenCiCare' at ₹499 per month.



Freshers' hiring had dropped down to mere 1.5 lakh during March 25-April 30, from the average 5 lakhs per month. However, the scenario is improving and currently, there are around 3.5 lacs fresher job openings listed on the portal

KAUSHIK BANERJEE | TEAMLEASE.COM & FRESHERSWORLD.COM VP AND BUSINESS HEAD

FUND RAISING VIA CAPITAL MARKETS DOWN BY 31 PC

Companies garnered over ₹75,000 crore from capital markets in September, a decline of 31 per cent from the preceding month, with private placement of debt instruments continuing to be the most preferred route for financing business



Services output grows in Oct

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 4: Activity in India's dominant services industry, expanded for the first time in eight months in October as demand surged, but pandemic-hit firms continued to cut jobs, a private survey showed Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index showed an increase that ended a seven month sequence of reduction. The index rose to 54.1 in October, up from 49.8 in September.

Besides, the seasonally adjusted business activity index posted above the 50 (index reading)—no change marks the first time since February.

An index reading above 50 indicates an overall increase compared to the previous month, and below points to an overall decrease.

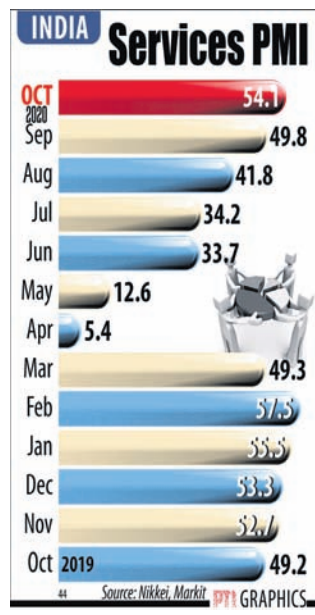
"The latest reading pointed to a solid rate of growth in output that was stronger than its long-run average," the IHS Markit report said.

As per the report, panel members said the upturn was supported by improved market conditions amid the loosening of Covid-19 restrictions.

Furthermore, the survey report said that October recorded the strongest increase in private sector output in close to nine years.

"A sharp rise in factory production was accompanied by a return to growth of services activity," the report said.

The Composite PMI Output Index rose from 54.6 in September to 58 in October. Aggregate new orders expanded for the second straight



The Nikkei/IHS Markit Services Purchasing Managers' Index climbed to 54.1 in October from September's 49.8

It was the highest reading since February and comfortably above the 50-mark separating growth from contraction

It's encouraging to see the Indian service sector joining its manufacturing counterpart and posting a recovery in economic conditions from the steep deteriorations caused by the Covid-19 pandemic earlier in the year

POLLYANNA DE LIMA | ECONOMICS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, IHS MARKIT

month in October, with the rate of growth accelerating to the highest since January 2013.

"New business at manufacturing firms increased at a quicker pace than at their services counterparts."

However, companies in both the manufacturing and the service sectors recorded lower payroll numbers at the start of the third quarter of fiscal year 2020-21.

As a result, the report pointed out that private sector employment declined for the eighth straight month.

According to Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at

IHS Markit, "It's encouraging to see the Indian service sector joining its manufacturing counterpart and posting a recovery in economic conditions from the steep deteriorations caused by the Covid-19 pandemic earlier in the year."

"While a revival of the manufacturing industry began in August, only now the service sector started to heal. Service providers signalled solid expansions in new work and business activity during October. They were also more upbeat about the outlook, though hopes of output growth in the year ahead were pinned on a Covid-19 vaccine."

PNB SANCTIONS ₹40.99CR WORTH LOANS TO 762 SHGs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Under the Mission Shakti's 'Arthik Antarbhukti Karan Pakhya', Punjab National Bank, Bhubaneswar Zonal Office sanctioned around Rs40.99 crore worth loans to women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in a camp.

The bank organised SHG-linked credit drive, including special SHG camps, through different rural and semi-urban branches of the zone in the state.

The camp was held to contribute to the upliftment of socio-economic conditions of women SHGs and push timely credit to rural and semi-urban centres of the state at gram panchayat levels.

The camps were held in rural branches of Cuttack, Berhampur, Bhubaneswar, Sambalpur and

Balasure circles. Zonal Manager of PNB, ZO, Bhubaneswar Ashwani Kumar carried out the exercise with the support of staff members of branches, circle offices, agri officers and loan processing centres (RAMs).

Also, under the Gram Sampark Abhiyan initiative, which started from October 2, the bank conducted more than 250 camps at gram panchayat and rural branch levels covering 800 villages.

Under Gram Sampark Abhiyan, emphasis was given on more and more enrolments under PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY schemes apart from on the spot sanctions of eligible KCC crop and dairy loans, SHG, Mudra loans and registrations under mobile banking, BHIM/UPI in digital banking under financial inclusion.



PNB Zonal Manager (Bhubaneswar) Ashwani Kumar carries out the exercise with the support of staff members of branches, circle offices, agri officers and loan processing centres

87 pc of Indian companies are planning salary hike next year

THE SURVEY BY A GLOBAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FIRM SAYS BUSINESS AND HR LEADERS MADE HARD DECISIONS IN SECOND AND THIRD QUARTERS OF 2020 AND ARE NOW BETTING ON THE GREEN SHOOT OF IMPROVING CONSUMER DEMAND

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 4: After taking hard decisions in the second and third quarters of this year, Indian companies are looking up again to invest in talent as a new survey showed that 87 per cent of them plan to give salary increases in 2021 as compared to 71 per cent in 2020.

As of September-October this year, out of the 87 per cent of surveyed companies that said they intend to pay out salary increases next year, 61 per cent said they plan to offer increases between 5-10 per cent, said the survey by Aon, a leading global professional services firm providing a broad range of risk, retirement, and health solutions.

This compares to 71 per cent of



companies providing increases in 2020, when, of that group, only 45 per cent gave increases in the same range, according to the 'Salary Trends Survey' in India.

"Despite the gravity of the COVID-19 pandemic in India and its deep impact on the economy, organisations in India have shown tremendous resilience and a mature view on talent," Nitin Sethi, a partner at Aon, and CEO of the firm's Performance and Rewards Solutions practice in India, said on the release of the survey.

"Business and HR leaders made hard decisions in second and third quarters of 2020 and are now betting on the green shoots of improving consumer demand. They see the need to invest in talent as a critical part of their recovery and growth prospects."

The industries looking to provide the highest salary increases are high technology (Hi Tech), infor-

mation technology (IT), IT Enabled Services (ITeS), life sciences, e-commerce, chemicals and professional services, said the report.

Meanwhile, companies in the hospitality, retail and real estate/infrastructure industries, which had given very low increases in 2020 are projecting a higher increase for 2021, but still trail most other sectors.

The study analysed data across 1,050 companies from more than 20 industries.

"The impact of Covid-19 has been varied on different sectors and organisations. We see high differentials in salary increases – both intra and inter-industry. The difference between industries with highest increase to lowest increase hits 7.2 per cent points as compared to mere 2.4 per cent points in 2019," said Navneet Rattan, Director at Aon in India's Performance and Rewards Solutions practice.

PETROL, DIESEL PRICES MAY SOFTEN SOON

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 4: Petrol and diesel prices may fall marginally ahead of Diwali as oil marketing companies (OMC) are looking to pass some benefit of lower global oil prices to consumers.

Sources in PSU oil companies said that a revaluation of pricing structure for petrol and diesel would be taken up this week and even if there is a case for marginal decrease prices it would be done.

OMCs in India have been holding on to the retail prices of petrol and diesel for over a month now. Even Wednesday the price of two petrol products remained unchanged. With this, petrol prices have now been unchanged for 43 days while diesel prices have been the same as October 2.



Price of petrol in the national capital was ₹81.06 per litre. In Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, the fuel was sold for ₹87.74, ₹84.14 and ₹82.59 per litre respectively.

Diesel prices in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata were ₹70.46, ₹76.86, ₹75.95 and ₹73.99 respectively.

Rlys lose ₹1,200cr due to farmers' stir

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 4: Amid the farmers protest at 32 locations in several parts of Punjab and Haryana, the Railways has lost revenue from freight to the tune of Rs 1,200 crore, the Railway Ministry said Wednesday.

A railway spokesperson in a statement said the Railways continue to lose revenue as freight operations remain forcibly suspended due to the track blockages in Punjab. "Till Date more than 2,225 freight rakes could not be operated upon carrying vital commodities. Loss already expected to have crossed Rs 1,200 crore already," the spokesperson said.

He said that the agitators have continued dharna at platforms and near railway tracks. "Train movement again suspended due to operational and safety considerations as agitators have suddenly stopped some train movements and sporadic blockade continued at various places," he said.

Facebook will 'Guide' 9mn SMBs to go online

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 4: Extending a helping hand to the micro and small businesses to recover from the pandemic-induced crisis, Facebook Wednesday rolled out a dedicated offline to online 'SMB Guide' and other new resources to help make this journey frictionless for them.

The offline to online SMB Guide for India is free and publicly available but the social networking giant is also proactively reaching out to nine million small businesses across the country to ensure it reaches the businesses requiring it the most.

The Guide has been designed to provide a step-by-step direction on how the smallest of businesses can build a digital presence quickly, and reach potential customers online.

It covers Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, and key themes such as building an online presence, mobile storytelling, social media advertising and creative and

DEMOCRATISING INTERNET

The SMB Guide is free and publicly available

The Guide has been designed to provide a step-by-step direction on how the smallest of businesses can build a digital presence quickly

It covers Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, and key themes such as building an online presence, mobile storytelling, social media advertising and creative and performance strategies

The Guide is available in Hindi as well as in English

performance strategies. The Guide is available in Hindi as well as in English in order to support a large number of businesses across distinct geographies. "Our new resources are geared

to helping the smallest of businesses across geographies to move from offline to online with minimum effort." Archana Vohra, Director Small and Medium Businesses, Facebook India, said in a statement.

"While the offline to online SMB Guide is publicly available, we are proactively reaching out to 9 million small businesses across India to ensure timely support," Vohra

pointed out. Facebook said it is also rolling out the next leg of 'Boost with Facebook,' a skilling and learning programme for scaling young businesses.

The programme went virtual earlier this year, and is now going vernacular; and will be delivered primarily in Hindi through Facebook Live sessions.

One of the key themes discussed during Boost with Facebook will be how small businesses can build for Diwali and the festive season beyond it, the company said.

To provide support during the festive season, Facebook has also launched 'Season of Support', a dedicated resource to boost business and build sales for small businesses during this time.

Recently Facebook had announced a grant of Rs 32 crore in order to support Indian SMBs with funding at this crucial time.

This was part of the \$100 million global grant for small businesses across 30 countries.

Luus, Bisht script Velocity's victory



SUNE LUUS

AGENCIES

Sharjah, Nov 4: Sune Luus (37 n o, 21b, 4x4, 1x6) and left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht (3/22) were excellent with bat and ball respectively as Velocity defeated the defending champions Supernovas by five wickets in the tournament opener of the Women's T20 Challenge here, Wednesday.

Chasing 127, Mithali Raj-led Velocity were in a spot of bother as they were reduced to 65/4 in 13 overs. However, Sushma Verma (34) and Luus added a crucial 51 runs for the fifth wicket before the former got out in the 19th over in search of a maximum. Then Luus completed the task with a then to ball spare.

Veda Krishnamurthy (29) also batted well for Velocity. South African medium pacer Ayabonga Khaka (2/27) bowled well for Supernovas, who couldn't keep the pressure on Velocity.

Earlier, Velocity put up a disciplined bowling effort to restrict

Supernova to a modest 126/8 after being invited to bat first. Apart from Bisht, New Zealand off-spinner Leigh Kasperek (2/23) and medium pacer Jahanara Alam (2/27) also contributed in stifling the holders.

Jahanara dismissed key batters - Harmanpreet Kaur (31) and Chamara Atapattu (44) - to derail Supernovas. Sri Lankan T20 skipper Atapattu and her Indian counterpart Harmanpreet had seized control in the back end but their 47-run partnership was broken by Jahanara.

Jahanara later dismissed Harmanpreet after the Indian skipper holed out at short fine leg. It triggered a collapse as Supernovas lost four wickets for 15 runs.

BRIEF SCORES

Supernovas 126/8 (Chamara Atapattu 44, Harmanpreet Kaur 31; Ekta Bisht 3/22, Leigh Kasperek 2/23, Jahanara Alam 2/27) **lost to Velocity 129/5** (Sune Luus 37 n o, Sushma Verma 34; Ayabonga Khaka 2/27) **by 5 wickets.**

DC FACE MIGHTY MI TEST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Nov 4: They stand on the opposite ends of IPL's success spectrum but there is little to separate between Mumbai Indians (MI) and Delhi Capitals (DC) in the tournament's 13th edition as they head into a blockbuster first qualifier here Thursday.

The team to beat in the league stage, four-time winners Mumbai lost a bit of their momentum after a 10-wicket defeat to Sunrisers Hyderabad Tuesday.

Chasing their maiden title, Delhi Capitals roared back to form by thrashing Royal Challengers Bangalore by six wickets to grab the second spot, after four successive losses.

The biggest positive for Mumbai has been the return of skipper Rohit Sharma, who had missed four games to recover from a hamstring injury. The star opener, though, perished cheaply against SRH and needs to come good on the big day.

The defending champions boast an explosive batting line-up coupled with an equally lethal bowling attack, but the batters had an off day against SRH. Their bowlers too were taken to the task - a wake-up call before the crucial game.

Delhi's middle order has been sluggish and heavily dependent on one or two batters.

Mumbai top order has been firing on all-cylinders and young Ishan Kishan (428 runs) has been a revelation. Quinton de Kock (443) would be keen to continue his sublime



form while opening with Rohit. And so would Suryakumar Yadav (410), who has played some scintillating knocks.

Known for their six-hitting prowess, Hardik Pandya (241), Kieron Pollard (259) and Krunal

Pandya (95) have pummeled bowling attacks to submission. Pollard's six-hitting ability was on display again when he plundered four maximums against SRH. The three could prove to be the difference.

Mumbai rested key bowlers -

Jasprit Bumrah (23 wickets) and Trent Boult (20 wickets) - against SRH. Both have been lethal at front and at the death.

Spinners Rahul Chahar (15 wickets) and Krunal (5 wickets) will need to forget the hammering



they received from David Warner and Wriddhiman Saha before taking on DC.

On the other hand, Ajinkya Rahane (111 runs) is back among runs after scoring a match-winning 60 against RCB. Shikhar Dhawan (525) has been in blazing form, with two hundreds and three fifties, but will need support from others in a big game.

A major cause of concern is the form of two youngsters - opener Prithvi Shaw (228) and Rishabh Pant (282) - who haven't lived up to their true potential. So has been the case of their key overseas players - West Indian Shimron Hetmyer (138 runs) and Marcus Stoinis (249 runs). Skipper Shreyas Iyer (421) will have to play the anchor's role.

On the bowling front, the South African pace duo of Kagiso Rabada (25 wickets) and Anrich Nortje (19) have been exceptional. Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel have done well to suffocate the opposition teams.

Earlier in the league stage, Mumbai got the better of Delhi twice but Rohit conceded that it is history. "You keep doing well, I know you want to remember those performances, but it is always nice to forget what has happened and focus on the present," Rohit said.

Jota treble helps Reds rout Atalanta

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bergamo (Italy), Nov 4: One of the most potent front threes in world football might be in for a change. Diogo Jota continued his fine scoring streak with a hat-trick as Liverpool thrashed Atalanta 5-0 in the Champions League Tuesday.

The 23-year-old strengthened his case for a regular spot in the starting lineup alongside Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane instead of the misfiring Roberto Firmino.

Jota, who signed from Wolves in September for a reported fee of 41 million pounds (USD 52 million), took his tally to six goals in his last four matches and has seven this season compared to Firmino's solitary goal this campaign.

It is an incredible start to his Liverpool career, especially for a player who wasn't even a regular first-choice player at Wolves. But while Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp was full of praise for Jota, he was quick to leap to Firmino's defense.

It was the first time Liverpool have won their opening three Champions League matches and saw Klopp's side extend their lead at the top of Group D. Liverpool are five points above Atalanta and Ajax, who won 2-1 at Midtjylland.

Jota was chosen alongside Salah and Mane, with Firmino dropped



NIGHT TO REMEMBER: Diogo Jota wheels away in celebration after scoring a goal against Atalanta, Tuesday

to the bench ahead of Sunday's trip to Man City in the Premier League.

Liverpool had several chances before breaking the deadlock in the 16th minute when Jota sprung the offside trap to run onto a through-ball from Trent Alexander-Arnold, held off Jose Luis Palomino and dinked the ball over Sportiello.

Jota doubled his and Liverpool's tally in the 33rd as he hooked down a ball from Joe Gomez and swiveled to fire into the bottom left corner.

Atalanta had come back from two goals down to draw 2-2 against Ajax last week but three goals in seven minutes early in the second

Manchester City thrash Olympiacos

Manchester: Ferran Torres is proving to be a more-than-adequate makeshift striker for Manchester City. The Spain winger scored for the third straight Champions League game to set City on their way to a 3-0 win over Olympiacos on Tuesday, which maintained the English team's 100 percent record in Group C. Gabriel Jesus added the second in the 81st minute with a rasping shot into the roof of the net from a narrow angle. Joao Cancelo added a third goal in the 90th.

half put paid to any hopes of a similar comeback.

First, Atalanta's corner was cleared by Curtis Jones and Salah ran from inside his own half before firing into the top left corner. Salah then turned provider to set up Mane who chipped Sportiello.

Jota completed his hat-trick in the 54th following another devastating counter-attack. He rounded Sportiello and deposited into the empty net.

The 23-year-old Jota has scored three hat-tricks in his last eight European matches, having netted two hat-tricks for Wolves in the Europa League last season.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Nov 4: Real Madrid needed some help from their young Brazilian substitutes to get their Champions League campaign back on track. Rodrygo scored in the 80th minute after an assist by Vinicius Junior to give Madrid a 3-2 win over Inter Milan after relinquishing a two-goal lead in the first half.

Karim Benzema and Sergio Ramos had put the hosts ahead, but Inter's Lautaro Martinez made it 1-2 before halftime and set up Ivan Perisic's 68th-minute equaliser.

Rodrygo salvaged the win with a shot from inside the area after a pass by 20-year-old countryman Vinicius about 15 minutes after the Brazilian duo entered the match. It was the fifth goal in eight Champions League matches for the 19-year-old Rodrygo.

The home win moved Madrid out of last place in Group B. Borussia Monchengladbach won 6-0 at Shakhtar Donetsk in the other match to take the group lead with five points, one more than Madrid and Shakhtar. Inter stayed with two points.

Madrid also were coming off a winless start, having lost to Shakhtar at home and drawn at Gladbach. Another setback could have put the 13-time European champions in a difficult position to advance to the knockout round. The Spanish pow-



RODRYGO

Lokomotiv Moscow hold Atletico Madrid

Moscow: Atletico Madrid were held to a 1-1 draw at Lokomotiv Moscow in their Champions League Group A match Tuesday after the home team's goalkeeper Guilherme pulled off a string of superb saves to keep the Russian side in the hunt for a last 16 berth. The result left Atletico second in the group on four points from three games, two behind Bayern Munich. Lokomotiv have two points and Salzburg one. Centre back Jose Gimenez fired Atletico ahead in the 18th minute with a fine header. The home side levelled in the 25th after a lengthy VAR check deemed Hector Herrera to have handled the ball in the penalty area and Antonio Miranchuk sent Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak the wrong way with a perfect spot-kick.

erhouse has gotten past the group stage every time since 1997-98.

Just like it happened in the 2-3 loss against Shakhtar, Madrid controlled

possession but struggled to keep the visitors from threatening through counterattacks at the Alfredo Di Stefano Stadium.

14 IN A ROW FOR BAYERN IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Salzburg, Nov 4: Defending champion Bayern Munich scored a flurry of late goals to beat Salzburg 6-2 away and extend their Champions League record winning streak to 14 games.

Joshua Kimmich played a big role in keeping Bayern's winning run intact. With the score at 2-2, Kimmich set up Jerome Boateng's goal with a corner in the 79th minute, before putting Leroy Sane free on the right to score in the 83rd. The substitute curled the ball inside the far post with his left foot to effectively seal Bayern's third win from three games in Group A.

Salzburg's defense crumbled in the final minutes, with Robert Lewandowski grabbing his second goal of the game in the 88th, before Lucas Hernandez rounded off the scoring in injury time.

Both teams observed a minute's silence for the victims of an attack in Vienna Monday. Bayern were without Leon Goretzka due to a calf problem and Niklas Sule due to a coronavirus infection.

The visitors were stunned when Mergim Berisha opened the scoring in the fourth minute for Salzburg. Berisha beat Manuel Neuer at the near post after Sekou Koita's initial effort was blocked. Japanese midfielder Masaya Okugawa scored the second for Salzburg.



Ruturaj has his own Dhoni story

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: Everyone who have had the pleasure of MS Dhoni's company have their own little treasure trove of stories and the latest to join that ever growing list is Chennai Super Kings' (CSK) emerging star Ruturaj Gaikwad.

Gaikwad was the only silver lining in an otherwise disastrous CSK campaign as he finished with three back-to-back half centuries, albeit in inconsequential games.

Gaikwad recollected how he was moved by former India captain's warmth during their first meeting in 2016 during his first-class debut.

"October 2016, I met him for the first time fractured my finger during my debut Ranji game. He was the mentor of Jharkhand. And he himself came and asked me about how I am," Gaikwad wrote on



Instagram. Cut to 2020, the 23-year-old had a string of low scores in his initial IPL matches but once again it was the skipper, who came up to him and gave him some advice which will stay with him for lifetime.

"October 2020... 3 low scores, he himself came up and talked about life!! Fortunate to be able to share the dressing room with him. And more than a dream to share the 22 yards with him and Finishing things off," Gaikwad added.

Kohli, Rohit keep top two spots in ODIs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Nov 4: India skipper Virat Kohli and his deputy Rohit Sharma continued to dominate the ICC ODI rankings for batsmen by occupying the top two positions, while pacer Jasprit Bumrah remained static at the second spot in the bowler's list.

Kohli (871) and Rohit (855), who

gained eight points but remained at the third spot.

In the bowling chart, New Zealand pacer Trent Boult (722) held on to his top spot, followed by Bumrah (719). Pakistan fast bowler Shaheen Afridi has achieved a career-best 16th position after a notable performance in the series against Zimbabwe, which they won 2-1.

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Maradona undergoes a successful surgery

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buenos Aires, Nov 4: Diego Maradona has had successful surgery for possible bleeding on his brain less than a week after his 60th birthday. "It was all successful and it happened as expected," Maradona's public relations team said in a statement Tuesday night.

Maradona had a subdural hematoma, which is an accumulation of blood between a membrane and his brain, his personal doctor, Leopoldo Luque, said. Luque, a neurologist, said the problem likely was caused by an accident, but Maradona said he doesn't remember the event.

The Argentine football great will rest in his room in a private clinic outside Buenos Aires for at least 48 hours. Maradona was accompanied to the clinic by his daughters Dalma, Giannina and Jana and other relatives, according to local media.

The surgery closed a journey that the 1986 World Cup champion started in another clinic in the city of La Plata, where he was admitted with anemia and dehydration.

Donato Villani, the head of the Argentine national team's medical staff, told television channel TyC Sports that such a surgery nor-



mally goes well, "but it is different with Diego," citing Maradona's past treatment for cardiac problems and his use of drugs and alcohol.

Maradona was admitted to the Ipenza Clinic with signs of depression Monday. Luque said Maradona had felt sad for about a week and refused to eat before arriving at the clinic.

Maradona turned 60 last Friday and showed up that night for Gimnasia's national championship match against Patronato, which his team won 3-0. He left before the end of the first half, which raised questions about his health.