of resting

AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 6: Democratic pres-

idential candidate Joe Biden took a

narrow lead over President Donald

Trump in the battleground state of

Georgia for the first time early Friday,

putting the White House within his

reach as it and other undecided states

Biden has a 264 to 214 lead in the

continue to count ballots.

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 216 | www.orissapost.com

with malaria and says she is bored

State govt asks Bharat Biotech to start construction work for its vaccine unit at Andharua in Bhubaneswar

DOWNTOWN



Greta Thunberg has mocked Donald Trump in his own words amid the ongoing tensions over the **US** election result

INTERNATIONAL P10

12 PAGES | ₹4.00

BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 | 2020

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



There is a difference. They've arrested a big journalist. We always pick only small journalists.

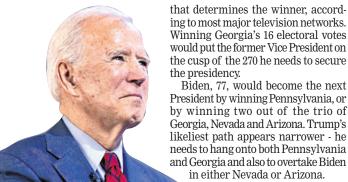
SHORT **TAKES**

State to launch e-bus next year

Bhubaneswar: In order to promote clean mobility in public transportation and protect the environment, the Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) has decided to start electric bus (ebus) service by the end of January 2021. CRUT announced Friday that it will launch 25 electric buses in the first phase and another 25 in the second phase. The second phase of launching will take place in March. The electric buses will run under Odisha government's 'Mo Bus' scheme in Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Puri. For the ebuses two modern bus depots will be set up at Patia and Patrapada in Bhubaneswar.

Biden on cusp of presidency

THE DEMOCRAT LEADS IN PENNSYLVANIA AND GEORGIA, WHILE TRUMP SAYS ELECTION NOT OVER



LEISURE

Biden is now ahead by 917 votes in Georgia, where counting continued early Friday. The shift in Georgia came hours after Trump appeared at the White House to falsely claim the election was being "stolen" from Trump had seen

his lead steadily shrink in Georgia, a Southern state that has not voted for a Democratic presidential nominee since 1992. as officials worked through tens of thousands of uncounted votes, many from Democratic strongholds such as

The Georgia secretary of state reported late Thursday there were about 14,000 ballots still to count in the state.

The state also will have to sift through votes from military personnel and over-

TRUMP LOSES LAWSUITS IN MICHIGAN, GEORGIA



Multiple news networks have declared Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden winner in Michigan. The relief that is being requested in substantial part is completely unavailable through the secretary of state, Stephens said during the oral hearing. "Additionally, even if this relief were available, as opposed to when this suit was announced Thursday morning and the count was beginning, it was filed at 4 o'clock, at which point the count had largely proceeded, I am told," she said.

GEORGIA TO RECOUNT VOTES

WASHINGTON: The US state of Georgia said Friday it will recount votes from the election in which Joe Biden has eked out a razor-thin lead over President Donald Trump. "With a margin that small, there will be a recount in Georgia," Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger told reporters in Atlanta.

seas residents as well as provisional ballots cast on Election Day by voters who had problems with their registration or identification.

Biden has been steadily chipping away at the Republican incumbent's lead in Pennsylvania as well. His deficit had shrunk to just more than 18,000 there by early Friday, and was expected to continue falling with many of the ballots still to be counted being cast in Democratic areas.

Biden also maintained slim advantages in Arizona and Nevada. In Arizona, his lead narrowed to about 47,000 early on Friday and in Nevada he was ahead by about 11,500 votes.

As the country held its breath for a result in the White House race, Georgia and Pennsylvania officials expressed optimism they would finish counting on Friday, while Arizona and Nevada were still expected to take days to complete their vote totals.



SCHOOLS TO REMAIN SHUT TILL DECEMBER 31

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: The School and Mass Education department Friday announced that all schools in the state will remain closed till December 31. A decision in this regard was taken after witnessing protests from parents and the rising caseload of Covid-19 in other states where school were reopened.

Notwithstanding closure of academic institutions, conducting examinations and evaluations have been permitted. Even holding of online classes have been allowed. On October 31, state School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash had issued a notification stating all academic institutions in Odisha would remain closed till November 30.

The notification said that classes would resume for Class IX to Class XII from November 16.

The notification further stated that the Office of Special Relief Commissioner and School and Mass Education Department would take a decision on the date of reopening Classes IX to XII in a graded manner after November 15 in consultation with all stakeholders.

Friday, Dash said that schools will remain closed till December 31, while no decision has been taken on reopening colleges and universities in the state. Speaking to journalists, Dash said the decision to reopen the schools has been put on hold as there is strong possibility of a second wave of Covid-19 in the state sometime mid-December.







ANNE APOLOGISES TO DISABLED COMMUNITY

Actress Anne Hathaway has apologised to the disabled community after her character in The Witches drew criticism. The actress plays the iconic villain Grand High Witch in a new adaptation of Roald Dahl's famous 1983 children's book, and her character is missing fingers.

HAILEY BIEBER DISMISSES PREGNANCY RUMOURS

Model Hailey Bieber has clarified that she is not expecting her first child with husband Justin Bieber. Hailey took to her Instagram Story and said she is 'not pregnant'. According to the model, a publication had intended to report that she is expecting her first child with the singer.





You have to take care of vour health, and at last

tance of diet and exercise. However, today you may wish to eat something new, or try some different cuisine. Ganesha says go out with some old friends whom you have been

TAURUS

You will be fondly thinking about your close friends, particularly about the ones of the opposite sex It may suddenly dawn upon you that you are in love, says Ganesha, If per chance, there is a romantic encounter, go ahead and dive fearlessly in the pool of love.

GEMINI

Today, you will toil as if you have to conquer Mt Everest. And you will, says Ganesha. You may not get a standing ovation or a medal of honour for your hard work and dedication, but you will be lavishly appreciated by your superiors and colleagues.

CANCER

You will tackle with ease, even the most contoday. You may be the

scapegoat, though, fears Ganesha Beware, or this may shake you and lower your self-confidence. Try to shake off vour weaknesses, and vou should see

People involved in Sales

and Marketing related jobs will attend producmake effective presentations. However delays in journeying are a possibility. It is a good time to recognise your inherent capabilities. You will be able to prove your

worth in the next 2-3 days, says Ganesha

■ VIRGO

Ganesha suggests

order to replace all the mundane work that fills up your day. You may attend private and social get-togethers, and Ganesha advises you to mingle with other people to keep your spirits high

Ganesha says you will

spend time with your family members by putcommitments. There may be plans made to go out for dinner or for a short excu sion with them. Ganesha says that the health of a close relative maybe a cause of concern for you today.

SCORPIO The one thing that we

neglect the most about ourselves is health. But today you are unable to do that. Your health needs to be paid enough attention as you may be suffering from ailment/s. Try to regularise your rou tine along with healthy food and regular exercise, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Whatever you take up today, you are on a winning spree, foresees Ganesha. A a leader, you will guide and instruct your subordinates when they seek your advise. In a way, you even encourage and motivate them All in all, you are a happy soul at the end of the day!

Your accomplishments may take you on cloud nine today. Success may

CAPRICORN

come easily to you, but don't try your luck too much, advises Ganesha. Make the most of today as tomorrow may not the same as today. You will be popular today, especially in vour social circle as you'll impress everyone with your wit and humour.

AQUARIUS

You will go through some heavy mood swings today. And the people who know you well will get shocked and find it difficult to deal with you. Keep your guards on, and don't take uncalled-for decisions, advises Ganesha, rather get your current assignments cross the finishing line.

PISCES

Today will be a hectic day for you. Most of your time will be spent in making your relationships on the business as well as the per sonal front more meaningful. You will likely find yourself attending social events. There is also the possibility that vou will attend some religious ritual today. Apart from this, nothing substantial is likely to occur today, says Ganesha



Mumbai: Actress Kriti Kharbanda has been diagnosed with malaria. Bored of resting, she has asked fans to send her

The actress was scheduled to start shooting for her next project, 14 Phere opposite Vikrant Massey, but her ill health has put shooting on hold.

"Hi! This is my malaria wala face. Say hi world:) it's just visiting, not here to stay coz I need to get back to work. To all those who are worried about me, I'm doing better today and hoping for an even better tomorrow. This year has taught me patience and self love. I will keep you guys updated! Thank u for your love," she wrote in an Instagram post Friday.

She also requested her 6.5 million Instagram followers to share memes. "Funny ones. I am bored of resting. And bored of having nothing else to do,"she

Kriti's latest release is Taish, co-starring rumoured boyfriend Pulkit Samrat, Harshvardhan Rane, Jim Sarbh, Sanjeeda Sheikh and Zoa Morani. The Bejoy Nambiar directorial is streaming in film as well as web series formats.



Milind Soman's nude pic creates stir in Goa

Panaji: After model-actor Poonam Pandey was arrested Thursday for an allegedly obscene photoshoot at a restricted site in Goa, model and actor Milind Soman's photograph of a nude run at a Goa beach on his birthday November 4 has now come under the spotlight.

The Goa Suraksha Manch, a regional political party, has now filed a complaint before the Vasco police station, which has alleged that the photo of his nude run uploaded on Soman's social media page is obscene and 'spoiling the image and insulting the culture of Goa'.

Soman had uploaded a photo on Twitter showing him running nude on a Goa beach on his 55th birthday November 4, . "Happy birthday to me Y...55 and running! Y". @5Earthy," he captioned the image clicked by his wife Ankita Konwar.



Kajol occasionally shares her trademark wit with fans on social media. On Friday, she had a very original idea for donation on **Instagram Stories**

"I wish we could donate body fat to those in need," went the actress's post.

Earlier, Kajol, who is currently living in Singapore with her daughter Nysa,

images to reveal how she had prepared for the festival this year and named her album: "Hunger games series". In the series of picture, Kajol looks radiant in a red saree, and pulls goofy expressions for the camera. Each frame is accompanied by a funny short caption that defines the expression. "Hunger games series.

Chauth. The actress posted

Swipe for the fun: Pls read appropriate captions given below," she wrote and added: "1) Waiting for the moon with love and patience. 2) Slowly losing it. 3) Serial killer is happening. 4) Agar khaana nahi mila toh...5) Hey bhagvan aasman me nahi to phone pe to chand dikhade!

Kajol is all set to enter the digital space with Tribhanga, a drama set in Mumbai. The OTT film will weave a complex story of a family while going back and forth through three generations, from the late 1980s to present day. The film, directed and

> veteran ac-Renuka Shahane, also stars Tanvi Azmi and

written by

Indians spending 11 hours on streaming videos a week

New Delhi: The Covid-19 pandemic has dramatically changed consumer behaviour and Indian are now streaming videos for 10 hours and 54 minutes weekly on average outdoing the global average by three hours, according to a new report.

Indian viewers consume the most online video content per week on average, with almost 70 per cent subscribing to new streaming services in the last six months during various states of lockdowns, said the report by Limelight Networks, a video delivery and edge cloud services provider

More than half (51 per cent) of Indians admit to sharing login information or using someone else's account to stream content.

"Our research indicates that video buffering challenges amount to discontentment, and service providers have an opportunity here to win customers over by improving the streaming and video quality," said Ashwin Rao, Country



Director, Limelight Networks India. 'There is a need for reliable infrastructure to be set up, to match the increasing appetite for new and improved online experiences."

Online video consumption has exceeded traditional broadcast viewing. India has witnessed one of the steepest increases in online viewing as compared to traditional broadcast viewership.

Indian viewers are watching 10.9 hours of online content on aver-

age, as compared to 8.7 hours of traditional broadcast viewing per week in 2020.

"Almost half (47 per cent) of global consumers will cancel a streaming subscription due to high prices. Indian consumers'behavior is consistent with the global average, with almost 46 percent indicating price sensitivity.

YouTube dominates as the mostpreferred platform for watching user-generated content (65 per cent), followed by Facebook (16 per cent). "The choice of Indians is sim ilar with varying averages, with

YouTube and Facebook usage standing at 72 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively, the findings The 'State of Online Video' 2020

report was based on responses from 5,000 consumers in France Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, the UK and the US.



PEANUTS



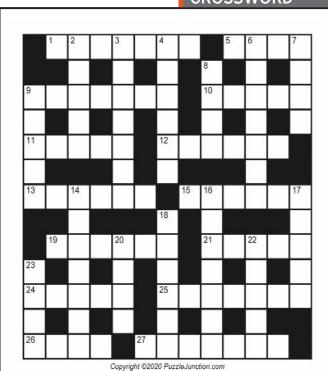
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



Across

1 Country house

5 Norse war god

9 Town in SE France

10 Resting place

11 Coffee order

12 Courtyard

13 Fairy tale figure 15 Scared 19 Jittery (2,4)

21 Museum piece

<u>Down</u>

24 Leaf

26 Agile

25 Postpones

27 Itinerants

2 Raise

4 Yearly

function

3 Trigonometric

6 Bram Stoker

character

16 Slips one's mind 17 Mallards

18 Slight 20 Extinct bird

7 Stepson of

Claudius

8 Identifying mark

9 World record?

14 Bittemess

22 Flood embankment

23 E.T. carriers

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

Ţ			С	Α		3		Е				D		
		9		Е							7			8
С	Ε		D	1	3					В				
6	- 3	3	В		4	С			2					
			8			В	9	7				4		0
	1		Е	D	5	9 99		3					0	
	5			2		a: -		В						
4				6		D					0		8	Α
2	Α		4		3 1	9				5	D			3
	С	D				5						Е		
	- 3	Е		9	6	9 33		Α		1			0 8	4
			Α			St. 1	8			С			1	2
			2			6		4		9			Α	
2 2	8	2	5 0	4	7	Ε		8 1					В	
					В		1	5	Г		8	0	6	

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

downtown/national



All insults against SC/STs not offence under SC/ST Act: SC

New Delhi, Nov 6: The Supreme Court Thursday said that an offence under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act is not made out on the fact that the complainant is a member of SC or ST.

A bench comprising Justices L. Nageswara Rao, Hemant Gupta and Ajay Rastogi said: "All insults or intimidations to a person will not be an offence under the Act unless such insult or intimidation is on account of victim belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe.

The bench emphasised that the object of the Act is to improve the socio-economic conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as they are denied a num-

"Thus, an offence under the Act would be made out when a member of the vulnerable section of the society is subjected to indignities, humiliations and harassment," added the bench. The top court said that it is essential to establish that there is an intention to humiliate the victim because he belongs to such

Bhubaneswar: Nov 6: The National

Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

Friday asked the Odisha govern-

ment to pay Rs 3 lakh as compen-

sation to the kin of an ASHA worker

of Daringibadi in Kandhamal dis-

trict who died September 5, 2016 due

to unavailability of ambulance

services, poor road connectivity

Acting on a case filed by Supreme

Court lawyer and rights activist

Radhakanta Tripathy, the

Commission also directed Odisha

Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy to

and mobile network.

for Kandhamal



It is essential to establish that there is an intention to humiliate the victim because he belongs to such a caste: Apex court

The bench cited that another key ingredient of the provision, under Section 3 (1) (r), is that the insult or intimidation was done in "any place within public view"

was being taken to the hospital on

Alleging failure of the state in sav-

ing Mini and her child's life and

seeking heavy compensation,

Tripathy sought a fair probe into

the incident and assurance of road

connectivity, ambulance and mobile

connectivity to Mini's village as

During enquiry, it was revealed

by the Director (Administration)

National Health Mission, Odisha

that mobile connectivity is still

not up to the mark in the area.

Roads to the village are in poor

soon as possible.

against an Uttarakhand High Court order, which dismissed a plea filed by one Hitesh Verma under Section 482 of the CrPC seeking quashing of a chargesheet and summoning order against him for an offence under Section 3(1)(r) of the SC/ST Act. An FIR was filed against him for entering the house of the respondent and hurling casteist abuses

The bench noted that as per the FIR, the allegations of abuse were within the four walls of the building and there was no member of the public at the time of the inci-

ROURKELA-BHUB

AWE-STRUCK

A visitor admiring earthen products at the annual terracotta exhibition by the Odisha Directorate of Handicrafts & Cottage Industries at Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Friday

COVID-19 FISCAL ASSISTANCE

₹1.27CR UNDISBURSED AS 8,000 WORKERS MISSING

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Nov 6: Large funds meant for providing assistance to construction labourers during the Covid pandemic, are lying undistributed in Bhadrak. Strangely, the district administration has failed to trace the whereabouts of over 8,000 construction workers, while the district Labouer department is in a fix over the issue, a report said.

Questions are being raised as to how such large funds were allocated without ascertaining the number of registered construction workers. Now, the Labour department staff is frantically trying to trace and identify the workers to give them the fiscal benefits.

District Labour Officer Kuber Behera, however, said that even if all the beneficiaries are not traced physically, their assistance will be

district. Some people allege that middlemen are getting ineligible people registered in exchange of money and officials of the Labour department are 'hand in glove'



Large funds meant for providing assistance to construction labourers during the Covid pandemic are lying undistributed in Bhadrak as the labour department is yet to trace the beneficiaries

A murky deal was exp tration. Locals alleged that the incident is a pointer to registration of fake construction workers. On the other hand, genuine construction workers are unable to

get them registered. In fact, Labour officials visiting houses to trace labourers has raised suspicious about attempt of fund misappro-

Assistance disbursal has started in April. Meanwhile seven months have passed, but 8,499 construction workers are still untraceable. The report said that there are 85,748 registered construction workers in the district.

As of date 1,383 construction workers in Bhadrak block, 2,376 in Basudevpur, Bhandaripokhari, 266 in Bant block, 1,296 in Dhamnagar, 287 in Tihidi, 821 in Chandbali, 1,455 in Bhadrak municipality, 409 in Basudevpur municipality have not received their assistance.

It is alleged that the construction workers who have not come to receive their assistance are ghosts created by middlemen and some unscrupulous officials with a view to

Interestingly, while the DLO has directed all BDOs to disburse their assistance, the latter said that as construction workers keep changing their addresses, assistance disbursal is getting delayed.

WhatsApp rolls out payments service in India

New Delhi, Nov 6: WhatsApp, which began testing its payments service in India with 1 million users in early 2018, has finally started to expand the feature to more users in the world's second largest Internet market.

The Facebook-owned service said Friday that it is rolling out payments in ten Indian regional languages in the latest stable version of WhatsApp app on Android and iOS. The announcement comes hours after National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the body that operates the popular UPI payments infrastructure, said that it had granted approval to WhatsApp to roll out UPI-powered payments in the country.

Like Google, Samsung and a number of other firms, WhatsApp has built its payments service atop UPI, a payments infrastructure built by a coalition of large banks in India. NPCI said WhatsApp. which has amassed over 400 million users in India, can expand payments to its users in a "graded manner," and to start with, it can only roll out the payments service to 20 million users and has to work with multiple banking partners.

Google and Walmart currently dominate the mobile payments market in India, together commanding roughly 80% of the UPI market share. UPI has emerged as the most popular digital payments method in India, thanks in part to New Delhi's abrupt move to invalidate more than 85% of the paper cash circulation in the nation in late 2016. UPI's popularity has diminished the relevance of several firms in India, including SoftBank and Alibaba-backed Paytm that spent years building mobile wallets. Unlike UPI apps, mobile wallets are not interoperable with other mobile wallets, and levy a small fee to consumers.

Mini's family members called the ambulance but the vehicle couldn't enter the village due to poor road connectivity

submit a compliance report along with proof of payment by December

In his petition, Tripathy stated that ASHA worker Mini Pradhan complained of labour pain September 5, 2016. Mini's family members called the ambulance but it couldn't enter the village due to poor road connectivity. On the other hand, due to poor

mobile network it was impossible for Mini's family members to call any other vehicle.

condition, making it impossible for ambulances to enter many rural villages under Daringibadi block. The NHRC observed that state authorities have admitted to their guilt and inaction in the hours of

need and emergency On the other hand the State government has introduced the SAMM-PURNA scheme in which there are provisions for reimbursement of transportation cost for pregnant women from villages where ambulances cannot reach.

NHRC: Pay ₹3 lakh **INTERCITY TO RUN DAILY TILL DEC 31** POST NEWS NETWORK ASHA worker's death

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: East Coast Railway (ECoR) has decided to extend the frequency of Rourkela-Bhubaneswar-Rourkela Intercity Special Train from five days a week to daily up to December 31 next from Saturday

The 02861/02862 Rourkela-Bhubaneswar-Rourkela Intra-State Express from Rourkela will leave at 5:10am daily and reach Bhubaneswar at 12:30pm.

In return direction, 02862 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela Intra-State Special from Bhubaneswar will leave at 2:10pm daily and reach Rourkela at 9:40pm.

The composition of coaches of this train has been increased to 10

AC chair cars, 6 second class chair car and 2 guard-cum-luggage vans after augmentation of one ACchair car and one second class chair car. The stoppages include Rajagangpur, Bamara, Jharsuguda and Rengali

with these middlemen. instead of earlier 8 coaches. credited into their accounts. month when a clerk of the Labour Now, the train will run with 2 department was arrested by This has raised doubts over the Vigilance officials while taking transparency in registration of loot their benefits. the construction labourers in the Rs 9,000 as bribe for labour regis

Devotees, servitors seek Ratnabhandar fix

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA Puri, Nov 6: Devotees and servitors

have demanded repair of Srimandir Ratnabhandar (temple treasury) at the earliest.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) which was entrusted to repair and preserve this 12th century shrine since 1974 had reported that Ratnabhandar was damaged and rainwater finds way into it. The ASI pleaded to open the Ratnabhandar for carrying out the repair work.

Many servitors including the temple treasurer fear the collapse of Ratnabhandar if it's not repaired at the earliest

The Orissa High Court while hear-

ing a PIL in this regard had also directed the temple administration and the ASI to conduct the repairs. The state government had con-

stituted a 17-member team com-

prising ASI experts, engineers of state Public Works department (PWD), temple body members, temple treasurer and some servitors to inspect the inner chambers of the temple treasury in April 2018.

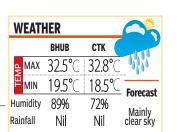
The team had to return and abort the mission as the key to the treasury door was missing.

The expert team inspected the Ratnabhandar from outside and found that the structure is in very bad shape and needs urgent repair. The team reported the Ratnabhandar condition to the temple administration.

Even after passing of two years the administration has not initiated any step to open the Ratnabhandar for repairs. Many servitors including the temple treasurer fear the collapse of Ratnabhandar if not repaired at the earliest. The Jagannath Sena has demanded the Ratnabhandar be opened as directed by the High Court for repairs and blamed the ASI for gross neglect in Ratnabhandar

MARKET WATCH INDEX VARIATION

SENSEX **36939.60** 552.90 12263.50 143.20 DOLLAR **74.26 1** ₹0.04 **1** ₹0.47 EURO ₹34 GOLD ₹52.089 **1** ₹747 SILVER



Social media shyness of state varsities adds to students' woes

MANISH KUMAR, OP

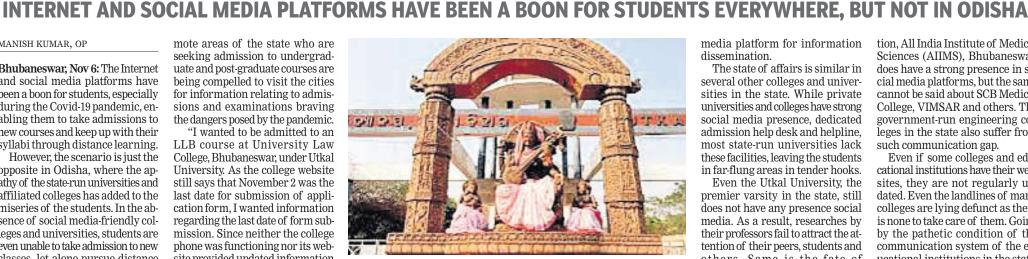
Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: The Internet and social media platforms have been a boon for students, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, enabling them to take admissions to new courses and keep up with their syllabi through distance learning.

However, the scenario is just the opposite in Odisha, where the apathy of the state-run universities and affiliated colleges has added to the miseries of the students. In the absence of social media-friendly colleges and universities, students are even unable to take admission to new classes, let alone pursue distance learning.

As a result, students from re-

mote areas of the state who are seeking admission to undergraduate and post-graduate courses are being compelled to visit the cities for information relating to admissions and examinations braving the dangers posed by the pandemic. "I wanted to be admitted to an

LLB course at University Law College, Bhubaneswar, under Utkal University. As the college website still says that November 2 was the last date for submission of application form, I wanted information regarding the last date of form submission. Since neither the college phone was functioning nor its website provided updated information I had to come all the way to Bhubaneswar," a student from



Malkangiri told Orissa POST on the condition of anonymity

He further said that the college also does not presence on any social

media platform for information dissemination.

The state of affairs is similar in several other colleges and universities in the state. While private universities and colleges have strong social media presence, dedicated admission help desk and helpline, most state-run universities lack these facilities, leaving the students

in far-flung areas in tender hooks. Even the Utkal University, the premier varsity in the state, still does not have any presence social media. As a result, researches by their professors fail to attract the attention of their peers, students and others. Same is the fate of Ravenshaw University in Cuttack. In the field of medical education, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar, does have a strong presence in social media platforms, but the same cannot be said about SCB Medical College, VIMSAR and others. The government-run engineering colleges in the state also suffer from such communication gap.

Even if some colleges and educational institutions have their websites, they are not regularly updated. Even the landlines of many colleges are lying defunct as there is none to take care of them. Going by the pathetic condition of the communication system of the educational institutions in the state, one can easily gauge the problems faced by the students.

Bharat Biotech vaccine unit at Andharua soon

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: Keeping in mind the huge demand for Covid-19 vaccine as soon as it gets the necessary approval, the state government has asked Bharat Biotech International Ltd (BBIL) to start construction work for its vaccine manufacturing unit at Andharua here.

Holding a meeting in this regard, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy resolved pending issues for implementation of the project and directed the BBIL to start the ground level construction work within a fortnight. The company was asked to commence production within the

Further, the BBIL was directed to set up a state-of-the-art biotech incubation centre, common facilities and IT corridor along with the first phase construction of the industry. The company was also urged to promote the local startups.

Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) Sanjay Kumar Singh said, 'The land is readily available at Biotech Park, Andharua for ground breaking works. The building plan as per the design has also been ap-

"The startups in Odisha are doing well and many of them have already acquired patent for their in-

State's Covid-19

toll nears 1,400

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: State's

Covid-19 tally Friday rose to 2,98,768,

with 1,494 more people testing pos-

itive for the infection, while 15

fresh fatalities pushed the toll to

1,393, an official of Health and

Family Welfare (H&FW) depart-

Of the 1,494 fresh cases, 867

Khurda district, of which the

state capital Bhubaneswar is a

part, reported the maximum num-

ber of fresh cases at 153, followed

by Cuttack at 112 and Balasore at

HIGHLIGHTS

Three fresh fatalities

were reported from Sambalpur districts.

two each from

Mayurbhanj and

died in Cuttack,

Puri and Balasore

KHURDA HAS ACCOUNTED FOR

THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF

FATALITIES SO FAR AT 242,

FOLLOWED BY GANJAM AND

CUTTACK AT 231 AND 116

RESPECTIVELY

Taking to the Twitter, the H&FW

department expressed regret that

15 more Covid-19 patients have

Three fresh fatalities were re-

ported from Khurda and

Sambalpur districts, two each

from Mayurbhanj and Bargarh.

One each died in Cuttack,

Malkangiri, Bolangir, Puri and

Khurda has accounted for the highest number of fatalities so far at 242, followed by Ganjam at 231 and Cuttack at 116. As

many as 53 Covid-19 patients

have died due to pre-existing

The positivity rate in the state

Over 48.38 lakh sample tests

Meanwhile, 1,641 Covid patients

recovered in state, taking the total

recoveries to 2,85,174, the H&FW

department tweeted.

have been conducted so far, in-

cluding 51,098 Thursday, added

stands at 6.18 per cent, the senior

Balasore

ailments.

the official.

succumbed to the viral disease.

Bargarh. One each

Malkangiri, Bolangir,

102, the H&FW official said

were reported from quarantine

centres, and the rest detected dur-

ing contact tracing.

fresh cases at

153, followed

by Cuttack at

112 and

Balasore at

PNN & AGENCIES

Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy resolved pending issues for implementation of the project and directed BBIL to start the ground level construction work within a fortnight clearances and pollution control board's permission have been availed for setting

Our unit at Andharua would produce 10 types of vaccines including those for malaria and Covid. The total investment would be around ₹300 crore KRISHNA ELLA I BHARAT BIOTECH CMD

novations. As of now, around 774 startups are operating in various incubation centres out of whom around 65 incubates have acquired patent, trade mark and copy write etc. Around 75 startups are incubating in biotech and health sectors,"

Meanwhile, the required statutory clearances and pollution control board's permission have been availed for setting up of the unit, said Science and Technology Secretary Santosh Sarangi.

Bharat Biotech CMD Krishna Ella said, "Our unit at Andharua of Bhubaneswar would produce 10 types of vaccines including those for malaria and Covid. The total investment would be around Rs 300 crore. Best of the technology will be put in the unit.'

Training for paperless Assembly begins

E-VIDHAN SABHA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: A training programme for Assembly Secretariat staffers began Friday

Trainers from Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) and National Informatics Centre (NIC) are imparting training to the Assembly staffers in ranks of assistant section officer (ASO), section officer, desk officer, under secretary, deputy secretary and joint secretary about online file management. The employees in all branches of the office will work on computers

"Training to make the state Assembly works paperless started today. The training will be conducted in a phased manner. Today, the training is being provided to officials at administrative, general administration and accounts

on how printed files will be replaced with online files and how they would be moved from one desk to the other, he said.

Earlier, a week-long training programme was held and the final stage of training started today,

POST NEWS NETWORK

roads by February 2021.

transports.

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: Officials

of Capital Region Urban Transport

(CRUT) Friday declared that elec-

tric buses will roll on temple city's

Observing the growing demand

in Mo Bus's ridership, CRUT had

in February declared to roll out

50 e-buses in three cities. While

demo runs had been done, the

plan was stalled owing to Covid-

19 and restriction on travel and

However, with Mo Bus slowly

standing on its feet, the officials

said that the buses will be launched

in a phased manner. While 25

buses will be introduced in

February, rest will be launched

in March next year. The buses

will run in Bhubaneswar. Cuttack

Moreover, CRUT is also setting

up two modern bus depots at Patia

and Patrapada soon at a cost of

around Rs 17 crore. However, the of-

ficials admitted that the work might

be delayed as Mo Buses continue

to function at considerable loss.

As per sources, the ridership num-

bers have fallen from a peak of 1

lakh per day to only 26,000 a day now.

Marking the second anniver-

CM UNVEILS 'BUS PATHSALA'

Trainers from OCAC and NIC are Imparting training to the Assembly staffers in ranks of ASOs, section officers, desk officer, under secretary, deputy secretary and joint secretary about online file management

Experts are providing training on how printed files will be replaced with online files and how they would be moved from one desk to the other

branches," said Assembly Speaker

e-Buses to roll on

City roads by Feb

SN Patro. Experts are providing training Patro added.

After the staffers are trained, all MLAs will be imparted training about rolling out of 'National e-Vidhan Application' (NeVA) in

The members will be trained on how to submit questions and submissions online and how to get the answers, he said.

The legislators have been pro-

vided with iPads to get starred and unstarred question answers through NeVA—odisha.neva.gov.in.

"NeVA was partly rolled out in the state Assembly and very soon all works will be done through it,' the Speaker said.

Now, one can download the NeVA app in mobile phone and know about the daily proceedings of the House, he added.

NeVA will completely eliminate the process of sending out a notice/request for collection of data. Through the cloud technology (Meghraj), data deployed can be accessed anywhere at any time. Further, live webcasting of House proceedings is also available on this application.

While the Centre is providing 60 per cent of the fund, the state government is bearing 40 per cent for the implementation of the

Man murdered on **Utkal campus**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: A violent spat between two labourers on the premises of Utkal University here Thursday night resulted in death of one of them.

The deceased was identified as Gujuram Singh, a native of Udala area in Mayurbhani district. Gujuram was working as a labourer and was involved in construction of the university's boundary.

The accused, Raju Singh, also hails from Udala area. He has been on the run since last night.

According to an eyewitness, it was about 9.30pm when Gujuram picked up a quarrel with Raju over some issues. The scene turned ugly when the latter lost his cool and attacked Gujuram with a sharp weapon. He then fled the spot, leaving Gujuram lying in a pool of blood. The other labourers rescued a

profusely bleeding Gujuram and rushed him to a hospital. But he was declared brought dead. A team from Sahid Nagar police

reached the hospital and sent the body for postmortem. Police also visited the spot where Guiuram was attacked. They also raided a few places to nab the accused.

Police sources told Orissa POST that the accused and the victim had also a fight over some work-related issues during Thursday afternoon. They again engaged in a heated argument over the same issue during dinner period that

Action sought against OAS officer

Bhubaneswar: An activist Friday demanded stern action against Pramod Kumar Prusty, senior OAS officer and the Deputy Zonal Commissioner of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation for keeping a minor tribal girl as house maid flouting norms under Child Labour Act. A special team of Jajpur police Thursday night arrested Prafulla Prusty, the father-on-law of Prusty, on the charges of sexually abusing and impregnating the minor girl at his residence here. The activist, Anjan Nath, submitted a plea before the Joint Labour Commissioner seeking strict action against Prusty.

PLEA TO REOPEN TEMPLES



Temple servitors beat cymbals and blow conch shells as part of a demonstration in front of Ram Mandir in Bhubaneswar, Friday, seeking reopening of the shrines which have been shut for devotees in the wake of Covid-19

NGT BRAKE ON ILLEGAL STONE QUARRY

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) Friday ordered halting of stone quarry operations of an errant operator in Nabarangpur district and asked the authorities to collect environmental compensation for excessive mining.

The mining operator at Papadahandi area in Nabarangpur district was accused of operating without environmental clearance and other mandatory approvals needed for stone quarry. The petition before the tribunal had also accused the operator of excessive mining of the minor mineral.

The tribunal said the quarry permit granted in favour of the Respondent could be held void, having been granted without first getting the EC transferred in his favour. it can be operated by the respondent only after obtaining EC in accordance with the procedure laid down under the EIA Notification, 2016 as amended. We also observe that the competent authority to grant EC shall be the SEIAA..." the written order of the NGT said.

It also empowered the local authorities to impose environmental

compensation dues The aggrieved villagers welcomed the decision. The petitioner's counsel Shankar Prasad Pani said. "The issue of illegal mining of minor minerals is rampant across the state and an exemplary penalty is required to discourage such malpractices. Also the responsibility of the officers needs to be fixed in cases where violations found but no action taken against the pro-

ATM loot: 2 accused nabbed from Vizag POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: Vizag police arrested the two accused in connection with breaking and looting

of a Punjab National Bank ATM here. The incident took place October 10, 2020 at the ATM on Patia railway station road under Infocity police limits here.

Commissioner of Police Sudhanshu Sarangi Friday said that the duo has been identified as Samariyot Singh from Punjah and Zafar Sadio from Kerala.

'The two are the members of an interstate robbers' gang operated from Bengaluru. The gang used to target ATM kiosks in different parts of the country." Sarangi told media.

The police commissioner said police had examined the CCTV footage of the ATM. They spotted

the duo using a gas cutter to break open the ATM and steal more than Rs 28 lakh in cash. They fled the spot on a motorcycle after committing the crime. Police after checking a number of CCTV footage came to the conclusion that the two accused were from West Bengal.

"They reached Bhubaneswar airport October 5. Then they stayed at a hotel named 'Pabitra Agency' During their stay they searched for a gas cylinder on internet. They found that there is a store in Mancheswar belonging to Keshab Maharana which gives gas cylinder on rent. The two hired a gas cylinder from Maharana and also rented motorcycle which they used for the crime," Sarangi said.

The miscreants, however, left the hotel they had checked in first. This happened because staff of the hotel

became suspicious on seeing them with the gas cylinder. "They checked into the 'Urban Legend' hotel here then. It was during their stay in the second hotel that the two accused committed the crime," Sarangi added.

Naveen Patnaik Friday unveiled

the book, 'Bus Pathsala' here which

showcased the five-week long vir-

tual training sessions conducted by

The Chief Minister appreciated

CRUT for taking the initiative for

the training its crew and docu-

A first of its kind, the publica-

tion is a compilation of soft and tech-

nical skills imparted by the CRUT

to its employees during lockdown

The initiative was also highly

appreciated by Association of State

CRUT during the pandemic.

menting its outcome.

period.

He also said that the duo threw away the cylinder after committing the crime. Then they checked out from the hotel at 4.15am of October 11. They returned the motorcycle to the owner and left for Delhi via an Indigo flight at 7.40am.

To escape police attention, they constantly changed cities. From Delhi they went to Chandigarh, then Bangalore and finally Vizag. They took flights on each occasion and staved in reputed hotels. However, they were apprehended by the Vizag police when they were in the process of looting another

ATM, Sarangi added. After coming to know of the arrests, two spe cial squads of Commissionerate Police went to Andhra Pradesh and interrogated the accused duo. They confessed to looting the PNB ATM here. Commissionerate Police have moved court to bring the accused duo to Odisha.

Meanwhile, Sarangi directed the hoteliers and lodge owners in the city to follow all the guidelines issued by the Commissionerate Police. He urged them to check all the details and identity proofs of the customers checking in at their hotels and also share the details with the nearby police stations too.

They have also been advised to immediately inform the police after encountering any suspicious behavior by the strangers staying at

New turn in Varsha-Anubhav spat

Cyclothon held on cancer awareness

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: Cycling not only helps in reducing pollution, but also goes a long way in controlling bad habits like smoking and taking tobacco which contribute towards a major chunk of cancer across India, actor Siddhant Mohapatra said as he joined a cyclothon on cancer awareness here Friday.

Urging parents to help kids get inspired about the love for cycling, the former Member of Parliament

HELP KIDS GET INSPIRED ABOUT LOVE FOR CYCLING, SAYS ACTOR SIDDHANT

who is a noted cyclist and biker as well said, "We can gift a cycle to a kid on his/her birthday so that the cycling spirit in that kid would always be eager to practice cycling whenever there is an opportunity.'

The cyclothon was organised by Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) in collaboration with Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and major NGOs like KRIAA foundation and Seva Prayash Foundation. BSCL general manager (administration) Kamaliit Das coordinated the event.

Olympian Anuradha Biswal remembered the childhood days and how there was a time in which cycling was a great pastime and everyone was involved.

A pledge taking ceremony was undertaken by the participants to respect cyclists on roads and to promote 'Cyclegiri

With a central theme on awareness on cancer, the cyclothon culminated at Kalinga Stadium after a stretch of 5km starting from Ekamra Plaza.

Leading oncologists of city-based hospitals and cancer survivors were felicitated on this occasion at Kalinga Stadium. Doctors also called for early detection of cancer.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 6: The ongoing marital dispute between Kendrapara MP Anubhay Mohanty and his wife actress Varsha Priyadarshini took a new turn with the actress and her mother-in-law filling separate police complaints recently.

In her complaint lodged at Puri Ghat police station, Varsha has alleged that the family members of Anubhav have hatched a conspiracy to drive her out of the house. She said the move came at a time

when she has no accommodation. Varsha has demanded a police probe into the matter.

Countering the allegations of Varsha, her mother-in-law also lodged a complaint at the same police station saying that their house is a 60-year-old building and is in urgent need of repair.

The family has decided to shift elsewhere for 10 days so that urgent repair work could be carried out. However, Varsha is refusing to vacate the place.

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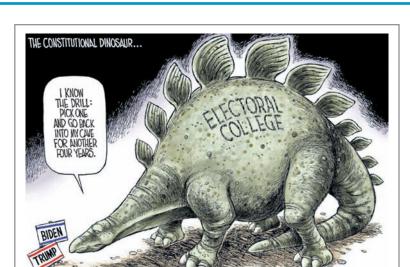


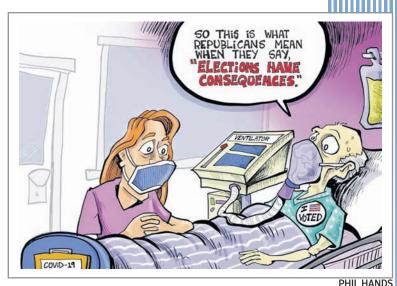
OP SPECIAL

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 7 | 2020 | BHUBANESWAR



STOP KEEPING SCORE,



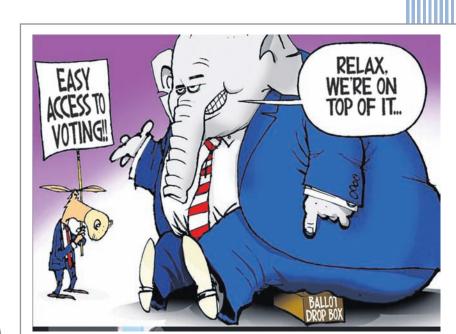


US ELECTION INSPIRES DARK HUMOUR



With Joe Biden on the cusp of US Presidency, the end is near for one of the most polarised elections in the nation's history.

Orissa POST brings you a collection of cartoons which bring to the fore America's perilous divides



WALT HANDELSMAN



AGENCIES New York, Nov 6: Presidential elections can be revealing moments that convey the wishes of the American people to the next wave of elected officials. So far, the big reveal in the contest between

President Donald

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Voters from both parties turned out in

droves to pick the next president, but

as they did so, they found little agreement

about what that president should do.

Democrats and Republicans prioritised

different issues, lived in different com-

munities and even voted on different

Whoever emerges as the winner,

that division ensures that the next

president will face significant grid-

lock in Congress, scepticism about

the integrity of the vote and an agitated

electorate increasingly divided by race.

education and geography. Even the vote count itself threatens to further

Two days after polls closed, neither

Trump nor Biden has earned the 270

electoral votes needed to win the presi-

side counting locations still sorting

kinds of ballots.

split Americans.

through mail ballots—the method of vot-Trump and former Vice President Joe ing preferred by many Democrats Biden is the extent of the cavernous diwhile pursuing an aggressive legal stratvide between Republican and Democratic egy that could lead to further delays. America, one that defines the nation, no matter which candidate ultimately

'Except for the Civil War, I don't think we've lived through any time as perilous as this in terms of the divisions," said historian Barbara Perry, the director of presidential studies at the University of Virginia's Miller Centre.

Even after the 2000 election, when the Supreme Court ultimately intervened on Republican George W. Bush's behalf, Democrat Al Gore quickly conceded and congressional leaders found areas of agreement on Capitol Hill.

"To come out of something like this, you need to have a leader who can lead and willing followers," Perry said. "I just don't see willing followers on either side." The yawning divides will threaten the next president's ability to manage multiple crises: Daily coronavirus infections set a record this week, the economy is struggling to recover from the pandemic and many Americans are pressing for a

reckoning on racial injustices. Trump and Biden voters, however, ex-

broad survey of the electorate. Biden voters overwhelming say they want the federal government to prioritise limiting the spread of the virus, even if that means further damage to the economy. But most Trump voters preferred an approach that focused on the economy.

press strikingly different views

on those challenges, ac-

cording to AP

About half of Trump voters also called the economy and jobs the top issue facing the nation, while only 1 in 10 Biden voters named it most important.

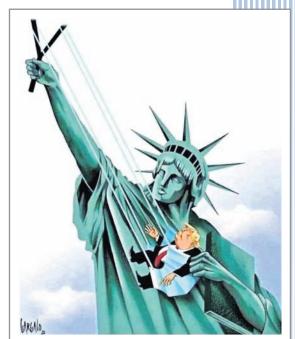
On race and justice issues, Biden voters almost universally said racism is a serious problem in US society and in policing. But only a slim majority of Trump voters, who are overwhelming white, called racism a serious problem.

Biden has tried to bridge this gap, often appealing to a sense of national unity and the "soul" of America. Trump often casts himself as a defender of his voters. Many Democrats desperately hoped that Trump would suffer an embarrassing and broad defeat that would serve as a clear repudiation of Trump and his brand of politics. At the very least, they wanted an unambiguous mandate that would allow Biden to pursue ambitious policies on health care,

education and the economy. Trump may lose, but strong GOP turnout in battlegrounds and unexpectedly solid victories for Republican candidates in Senate and House races

made Tuesday far from a thumping. The election solidified the parties' competing coalitions. Biden relied on urban and suburban voters, particularly women, college-educated voters and people of color. Trump exceeded his turnout numbers from 2016 by relying on thousands of new supporters from rural, GOP pockets of white voters across the country.

Results in high-turnout counties underscore that trend: Republican-leaning places became more Republican and Democratic areas more Democratic.

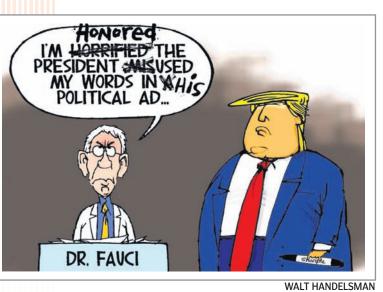


Absentee Ballot Ruth Bader Ginsburg 1933-2020

STEVE BENSON

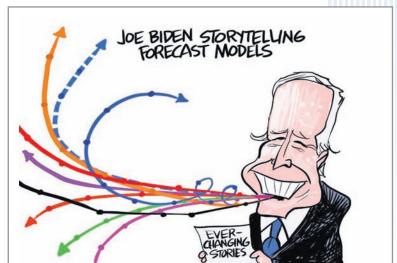


STEVE BENSON





SANDEEP ADHWARYU



MARSHALL RAMSEY



Hate not the oppressor, for, if he is strong, your hate increases his force of resistance; if he is weak,

SRI AUROBINDO



Chosen babu denied

K Arya, the new Chief Secretary of Rajasthan, is not the first choice of state Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot for the position. Until the last moment, the last working day of outgoing Chief Secretary Rajeev Swarup, the Gehlot government hoped to push for a tenure extension for Swarup. But the Centre denied its consent and Arya was drafted in, superseding eight IAS officers in the process. He was additional chief secretary for finance. Besides appointing Arya, the government also effected a major reshuffle involving 21 senior IAS officers

The drama was building for some time. Sources say that Gehlot had worked hard to ensure Swarup was appointed chief secretary in early July this year and then pushed for his extension. It is said that to appoint Swarup to the state's top post, the chief minister reportedly 'struck a deal' with the previous chief secretary D.B. Gupta who was slated to retire in September. Under this supposed deal, Gupta resigned in July and was immediately appointed advisor to the CM for a year and Swarup stepped in

The babu grapevine has it that Swarup endeared himself to the chief minister during the Gehlot-Sachin Pilot standoff, which may not have gone down well with the Centre

EC for 'cooling-off' period for babus

The Election Commission (EC) is now likely to recommend to the Centre a 'cooling off' period for IAS, IPS and other officers who join politics soon after retirement or after resigning the service. Sources say that the poll

panel was jolted into this line of thinking after former Bihar DGP Gupteshwar Pandey resigned from the IPS in September and promptly joined a political party barely weeks before the Bihar Assembly elections. His resignation was accepted immediately, even though govern-



ment regulations stipulate that an officer who wishes to join private employment after service needs to wait a year after retirement or resigning from service.

Though the demand for a cooling-off period is not a new one and is usually raised around election time when babus who have political ambitions often quit to join a political party, the government has so far rejected it, arguing that barring former babus from joining politics immediately after leaving service can be interpreted as an infringement of their right to equality.

But the poll panel is now keen to ensure that the government insists on a cooling-off period for officers seeking to join politics, just as it does for those seeking corporate jobs. The commission is yet to work out the modalities of how long this cooling-off period should be, but sources say it could be at least

U-turn on transfers in Uttarakhand

The forest department of Uttarakhand and the state government seem to be at odds with each other. The government recently cancelled all the transfers of forest department officials done between September and October for violating an order which prohibited transfer of any official during 2020-21. Apparently, the department has done around a dozen such transfers with out first seeking clearance from the state government.

Earlier, in July, sources say, the government had revoked the transfer order of 11 deputy conservator of forests (DCFs) within 48 hours of the issuing of the orders. At the time, Anand Bardhan, Principal Secretary, Forest Department, had issued a terse statement saying that it was a government order "and we are simply following it."

However, according to sources, several Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officers say that the order was revoked since the transfer list contained several names that were not presented before the civil service board for transfers. Further, some officers on deputation were given additional charge, which is apparently against the rules. According to a Supreme Court ruling, no transfer can be done without the approval of the civil services board. So why was this being done? That's a mystery.

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

WISDOM CORNER

The ability to be in the present moment is a major component of

The past, like the future, is indefinite and exists only as a spectrum

We must let go of the life we have planned, so as to accept the one

WORDSWORTH

Vaccary

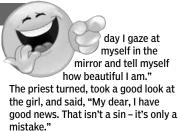
You won't find this in any modern dictionary except the largest, as it has quite gone out of use except when speaking of historical matters. The word meant a cow pasture, not some peasant's patch where one cow was kept for her milk, but larger-scale pasturage where cattle were kept and bred and as a source of working oxen. The word is usually linked to grazing land in the moors and valleys of the Pennines in Yorkshire and Lancashire. In the thirteenth century numbers of vaccaries were carved out of the old private hunting chases of the nobility, who created them in an attempt to get some revenue back from their holdings. Vaccaries were small-scale commercial cattle farms — in places, as around Pendle (more famous for its witches), you can still see the big stone-slab walls that kept the cattle enclosed. The word comes from the mediaeval Latin vaccaria, derived from vacca, a cow. Vaccinate is closely linked, since that derives from the Latin vaccinus, of or from a cow, as cow-pox serum was used to protect people against smallpox.

Vaccimulgence

his word popped up in a book, Appleby's End, one of the more skittish and fanciful works of the late Michael Innes (the pen name of the Oxford scholar JIM Stewart). Inspector Appleby is investigating strange goings-on in a rural neighbourhood and visits an old woman, of whom the local vicar says, "Since girlhood she has been celebrated in this part of the countryside for her skill in vaccimulgence." Putting it another way, she was an excellent milkmaid. Mr Innes was not the first to employ this weird word for the milking of cows, for it turns up in a whimsical letter written by Samuel Taylor Coleridge in November 1796: "Will you try to look out for a fit servant for us, simple of heart, physiognomically handsome, and scientific in vaccimulgence. That last word is a new one, but soft in sound, and full of expression. Vaccimulgence! I am pleased with the word." Alas, few others have been, to judge from its limited appearances in print. It is, as you may guess, derived from Latin vacca, a cow (which is also the origin of vaccine, because the first was derived by Dr Jenner from cowpox to guard against the much more serious smallpox). The ending is from the Latin verb emulgere, to milk out, which — as well as being the ultimate origin of emulsion — is the root of another very rare word, emulgence, the action of milking out, as for example in extracting money from the unwilling.

LOL **Girl confesses sins**

An Irish girl knelt in the confessional and said, "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned." "What is it, child?" The girl said, "Father, I have committed the sin of vanity. Twice a





ISLAM & THE WEST

♥he beheading of a school teacher in France has ignited Islamophobia across the world. That is, however, a one-sided view. There is need for reform of both Islam and Western materialist ideology. Both ideologies are fundamentally egalitarian. The sixth century Arab world was hugely unequal with rampant slavery and tribal elitism. At that time, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) brought a revolutionary message that all human beings were equal. The key words of the French Revolution in 1789, in parallel, were 'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity.' The two thought processes evolved in different directions in course of time.

The responsibility of explaining the ideology of Islam was taken over by the tradition or the 'Sunnah' after the Prophet. The Sunnah consisted of the sayings of the Prophet known as Hadith (as distinct from the Suras of the Holy Quran that were revealed through him) and the interpretation of these texts as done by the elders. According to Leslie Hazelton, author of After the Prophet, the simplicity and equality were maintained during the first two Caliphs following the Prophet namely Abu Bakr and Omar. The situation changed dramatically at the time of the third Caliph Uthman. He got a massive palace made at Medina with marble columns where foreign dishes were served. He granted huge parcels of land along with thousands of horses and slaves to his near ones. This inequality appears to be against the teachings of the Prophet. However, it has been accepted in mainstream Islam because the sole authority of deciphering the meaning of the verses of the Quran has been taken over by the Sunnah to the exclusion of the common man. Thus, the grand inequality seen in Islamic countries like Saudi Arabia has become 'acceptable.' It has become impossible to change, or even challenge, this particular interpretation of the Quran. Ayat 2:256 says, "There is no compulsion in religion.' However, the saying of the Prophet



There is need to reform both. Islam will have to accept internal equality and the West will have to expand equality to the whole mankind

as recorded in Bukhari's Hadith 9:59 says, "Kill one who changes his Islamic religion." The Sunnah therefore has altered, even reversed, the teaching of the Quran. It has become nearly impossible to repair this alteration because Ayat 3:92 of the Quran says that Muhammad would be the 'last Prophet.' Question is whether Muhammad was the last Prophet among the Prophets till his time; or we would be the last Prophet for all times to come? The Sunnah had determined that Muhammad was the last Prophet for all times to come. Therefore, the teachings given by the Prophet and as interpreted by the Sunnah have become 'fixed' and unchangeable. The march of economic development, spread of education, the liberation of colonies, the outlawing of slavery are all ignored by Islam.

Similar is the situation with Western ideology. Europe witnessed huge killings of one Christian sect by another in the first millennium of the Common Era which is known as 'Inquisitions.' Non-Christians were considered second-class citizens and decried as 'pagans.' The French Revolution in 1789 led to separation of religion and the state and established the idea of equality. However, France itself colonized entire north-west Africa and acted barbarously towards the natives in the nineteenth century—exactly opposite to its own ideal of equality. French MNCs continue to exploit developing countries after the end of colonialism. The ideology of equality and fraternity was limited and continues to be limited within the borders of France. Thus far, Islam and the West are similar. Both have denied equality and fraternity in different ways. However, the West has evolved. At one time colonialism was in vogue. Now it is passe. In comparison, there is no change in Islam because according to Ayat 3:92 Muhammad was the last Prophet and the message delivered by him as interpreted by the Sunnah in unchangeable. The message cannot change ever. Another difference in the two ide-

ologies is about the exact nature of their all-encompassing character. Islam considers Allah to be all-encompassing. The slogan of 'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity' also was allencompassing. But there is a crucial difference. The all-encompassing character of Islam is external. Allah is separate from the society and He stands outside of mankind though He is all-encompassing. The nature of His all-encompassion is to be determined by Sunnah. Thus, as Bukhari's Hadith would say, it is okay to kill who changes his religion from Islam. All-encompassion stops here. This view cannot be discussed or challenged by the af

fected people because the human beings have no role whatsoever and no authority whatsoever to challenge Sunnah. In comparison, the Western all-encompassion is dv namic and resides within the society. The collective thinking of all mankind is the ideology of the West as seen in the adoption of democracy. The ideology is answerable to mankind, which is sovereign. At the same time, the writ of the same ideology has been limited to people within one's country and comes with freedom to exploit those outside one's borders. On the other hand, the ideology of Islam is answerable to Allah Who is outside of mankind. Mankind cannot question the ideology as given by Allah and interpreted by Sunnah. Allah is sovereign, not mankind. For this reason, Western ideology can and has been evolving-which is not seen in Islam.

Conclusion is that the concept of equality runs deep in both the Islamic and Western ideologies. However, the Sunnah has killed this ideology in Islam by adopting internal inequality while crass economic interest has killed the same ideology in the West by limiting equality within one's borders. There is need to reform both. Islam will have to accept internal equality and West will have to expand equality to the whole mankind. Secondly, the all-encompassing nature of Allah in Islam is entirely compatible with the all-encompassing ideology of equality of the West. However, these have to be synchronized. The Islamic all-encompassing nature of Allah has to be expanded to all human beings as said in Ayat 2:256 and made compatible with other religions. The Western all-encompassing nature of equality has to be taken beyond one's borders. The roots of conflict between Islam and the West lie in these different conceptions which need to be discussed and a common framework arrived at with mutual consultation.

The writer is a former Professor of Economics at IIM Bangalore. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM POLITICS

Bharat

Ihunjhunwala

THE CONCEPT

OF EQUALITY

RUNS DEEP IN

ISLAMIC AND

IDEOLOGIES

BOTH THE

WESTERN

Why Trump cries electoral fraud



Raj Persaud

WHEN NARCISSISM, **EMOTIONAL DISTRESS, AND DENIAL COMBINE** AND GO ON THE MARCH, **DEMOCRACY IS IN DANGER OF BEING TRAMPLED**

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

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TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

November 3 presidential election, without offering what anyone would consider real evidence, other than the fact that votes for his Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, keep turning up in states where Trump initially led in the count. The president has already announced that he intends to take the election to the US Supreme Court, despite the fact that at the time of his statement, millions of votes in numerous states were still to be counted.

Yet Trump's fraud claims could be part of a psychological strategy, deftly executed by a master manipulator. If so, the president may be paving the way to persuading large numbers of Americans to

reject the legitimacy of his defeat. A unique scientific study conducted the day before and the morning of the 2016 US presidential election, probing attitude changes in 1,000 US voting-age adults, found that exposure to conspiratorial rhetoric about election interference produced a profound psychological effect. In particular, it led to significantly heightened negative emotions (anxiety and anger), and also undermined support for democratic institutions.

The study, recently published in

S President Donald Trump, the academic journal Research & reflect the fact that people were on prone to believing that people are perhaps unsurprisingly, has Politics, found that those exposed to edge on election day, in a way that casting votes they should not, tion-rigging were less willing to accept the results of an election, and became less inclined to concede the outcome when the result threatened their partisan goals. Its authors, Bethany Albertson and Kimberly Guiler of the University of Texas at Austin, argue that voterigging allegations strike at the very foundations of democracy. For example, they may render the public doubtful as to whether non-violent transfers of national authority should follow from a rigged vote.

Moreover, the study contends that political conspiracy theories may have ominous, extensive, and long-lasting consequences, such as reducing political participation, trust in government, confidence in elections, and faith in democracy. Vote-rigging stories immediately after an election also can profoundly affect voters' mental state. Besides becoming angrier and more anxious, voters in the study also reacted with increased sadness and disgust, and both Democrats and Republicans reported feeling less enthusiastic and less hopeful.

The authors suggest that the deep emotional and psychological effects they uncovered might also ceptive to conspiratorial rhetoric. They conclude that Americans are vulnerable to being affected significantly by election-rigging allegations. Throughout his presidency and the two election campaigns he has now waged, Trump has time and again demonstrated a better feel for his electorate's mental state than the US intelligentsia and chattering classes have. The latter groups might dismiss Trump's fraud allegations as merely the childish reactions of a sore loser, but there is a psychological method to his seemingly mad claims.

Another recent study published in Political Research Quarterly examined why so many Americans are prone to believe that electoral fraud exists. The study's authors. led by political scientists Jack Edelson of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Joseph Uscinski of the University of Miami. suggested that more deeply embedded conspiratorial thinking may be to blame. They point to a strong link between feelings of powerlessness and conspiracy paranoia. Supporters of the losing side in an election are therefore more likely to suspect scams. US Republicans appear especially

cerned about being disenfranchised.

After Republican challenger Mitt Romney's defeat in the 2012 US presidential election, the authors note, 49 per cent of Republicans believed that a Democratic activist group had stolen the election for President Barack Obama (only 6 per cent of Democrats believed this)

Finally, the authors cite a previous study of letters to the editor of the New York Times from 1890 to 2010, which reveals that disgruntled losers call nearly every US presidential election into question. Frump's claim of fraud in the 2020 election has taken this practice to a new and potentially dangerous level, with unpredictable psychological and political consequences.

Narcissists, convinced of their superiority, can never accept losing in any contest. In their eyes, no one can ever beat them fair and square. Accusations of cheating thus make perfect psychological sense. But followers may not appreciate a leader's psychological vulnerability. Supporters and leaders can then forge a bond in their denial of an emotionally distressing result.

The writer is a London-based psychiatrist.

This is not democratic

Sir, Trends are clearly not in favour of US President Donald Trump who is not proving to be a willing loser, he will possibly be a sore loser. When counting began he shouted 'theft' on Twitter, he cried 'fraud' on a public address. He attacked the mail-in-ballot and tweeted that election system of US is damaged; ironically, the same system through which he got elected. The president instead of talking about the tough Covid times and issues pertaining to the interests of citizens is engaged in bashing out on democratic institutions and exploring means to remain in office. He has kept his official schedule empty for two straight days and engaged widely in filing law suits and wielding cases to continue in White House in these extraordinary times. The US boasts being a global leader, but this time it should take lessons from the election system of India. And the world expects the Americans to act a bit more judiciously than celebrating the election of a French bull dog

as a Mayor, as seen in Kansas. Any lessons for Indians? Aryaputra Parthasarathi Das, BHUBANESWAR

Infuse transparency

Sir, The RTI Act is considered a potent weapon to ensure transparency in the functioning of government. The Central Information Commission, setup with much fanfare in 2005, under the RTI Act, 2005, to enforce the Act through disposal of complaints against state and central authorities as regard to queries on right to information, has not moved forward in right earnest. About 36,000 cases are pending before the commission, more than 25,000 were filed last year, of which nearly 30,000 were appeals against the state commission orders. Though there is a provision for appointment of ten information commissioners, five or more are always vacant. Four IC posts have not been filled up since 2018. In the last six years, no appointment to the commission has been done without the intervention of court. The Supreme Court has unambiguously directed the government to initiate the selection process of Chief Information Commissioner or Information Commissioners one to two months before the incumbent retired. On November 1, the government appointed Yashvardhan Sinha, the senior-most IC as the CIC but after two months of Bimal Jalan's superannuation. Opposition parties have expressed 'dissatisfaction' at Sinha's appointment. There has been widespread discontent over the selection of the new IC who is termed 'a BJP supporter'. The top court had said RTI is a fundamental right of a citizen. The maxim 'justice delayed is justice denied' holds true for the top RTI body as well. Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA





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Malkangiri: Unknown disease claims 5 lives

A SIMILAR DISEASE CLAIMED 13 LIVES WITHIN A MONTH IN MATHILI BLOCK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Nov 6: A mysterious disease continues to spread in various villages of Malkangiri district. People of Bhenchanpalli under Padia block were panicked as the unknown disease claimed five lives in two months while 10 others were affected by it, a report said.

Notably, a similar unknown disease claimed lives of 13 people within a month at Sodiguda village under Mathili block.

According to the report, Muka Telam, a resident of Bhenchanpalli, complained of swelling of legs, hands and belly. He continued to feel body ache and finally succumbed to the disease

Later, four others developed similar symptoms before giving up. Among other deceased were Bata Ganga (36), Jogendra Bata (40) and Beti Lachha.

Several other villagers who are affected by the disease are Beka Muke (57), Soma Madhi, Ganga Karam, Irma Madhi and Soyam Muka (Bedaguda village).



Villagers said the disease is spreading fast while

the affected people seek treatment from local quacks instead of going to doctors.

Villagers demanded that the administration sent a medical team to assess the situation and took remedial measures.

The mysterious disease had reportedly claimed nine people at Bapanpalli under Padia block about two months ago. Later, five people had died at Niliguda village after suffering from similar symptoms.

On the other hand, some health officials had said that the problem was due to shortage of hemoglobin in the body.

Villagers demanded a medical check-up and testing of blood samples in the village.

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Several other villagers who are affected by the disease are Beka Muke (57), Soma Madhi, Ganga Karam, Irma Madhi and Sovam Muka



Work of eco retreat proj taken up on war footing

NAVEEN TO INAUGURATE PROJECT DEC 1

Daringbadi, Nov 6: Even though locals had opposed the proposed Eco Retreat Project at Daringbadi in Kandhmal a few days ago, the administration started its work Friday and has planned its inauguration by the Chief Minister December 1.

Reports said that the culture and tourism department is executing the project under supervision of the district administration. The work is being carried out in full swing.

Work on a 30-ft wide road is continuing on a war footing. The state government plans to complete the work of five eco retreat projects by November end so that the Chief Minister will inaugurate them December 1.

Collector Dr Brunda D, SP Vinnet Agrwal, Baliguda sub-collector Shubhanakar Mohapatra, SDPO Biswanatahn Lilanbhar, executive engineer of the PWD Ratgangadhar

Rout took stock of the eco retreat work here Friday.

The project is being done on 9 acres of land at Saringirpi where 25 tent houses will be put up for tourists with various facilities for them.

'The eco retreat will start from Dec 1 and will continue till Febraury 28, 2021. Tourists will get various facilities and be entertained with cultural programmes," said district tourism officer Anjan Kumar Barik.

The Collector said that the eco retreat will definitely boost tourism in Kandhamal.

Balasore, Nov 6: A day after the

Biju Janata Dal suspended former

Balasore MLA Jiban Pradip Das

from the party for alleged anti-

party activities; the latter was vis-

here Friday, the ex-MLA appealed

to the party supremo for his ex-

pulsion from the primary mem-

bership of the party. He announced

He, however, alleged that he was

being humiliated, sidelined, and

mentally tortured by some BJD

his resignation from the party.

Addressing a press conference

ibly upset over the allegation.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Suspended ex-MLA accuses

BJD leaders of sidelining him

Wife of Phiringia **BDO** dies in hospital; suicide suspected

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Nov 6: Sarita Samal who was brought November 4 to the Kandhamal district headquarters hospital (DHH) under mysterious circumstances, died Thursday night while undergoing treatment. The 31-year-old deceased is the wife of Phiringia block development officer (BDO) Rashmiranjan Mahanta.

The woman was brought from her residence for treatment Wednesday late in the night. Her body has been kept at the hospital and a post-mortem will be conducted Friday afternoon to ascertain the actual reason behind the death. Police registered a U/d case (No.-13/20).

"Police are thoroughly investigating the possible circumstances which led to Sarita's death. Based on prima facie evidence, it appears to be a case of death by suicide. However, the actual reason behind the death can be ascertained only after post-mortem report," said Phulbani SDPO Mahendranath Murmu

leaders for some days. "During the bypoll campaigning, the leaders

in the poll management used to

humiliate me and I was under dis-

tress. I was still working for the

party as a disciplined worker. I am

now relieved of tension after I was

suspended by the party president.

I thanked him for being elected in

2009 and 2014 Assembly polls on

the party ticket. Also thank the

people of Balasore for electing me

twice," he observed, adding that

he would be rather happy if the

party had provided him an oppor-

tunity to place my side over the

anti-party slur against him.

SVANidhi Yojana fast tracked



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 6: All businesses have been affected by the multiple restrictions leading to an economic slowdown. In a bid to help boost small businesses, Sambalpur district administration has opened camps to fasttrack applications seeking financial help in the form of bank credit under SVANidhi Yojana to roadside vendors.

Reports said, camps and Sahaja Kendras have been set up in Sambalpur Municipal Corporation, Kuchinda NAC and Rairakhol NAC.

According to reports, 3,889 street vendors in Sambalpur Municipal Corporation have registered them-

selves for the assistance. Of them, 1431 have applied for loans. Loans have been sanctioned to 385 applicants while 135 have got loans.

160 street vendors in Kuchinda NAC have registered themselves for credit while 70 have received loans. In Rairakhol NAC, 34 out of 50 registered street vendors have been provided loans. It may be noted here that the Central government has launched Swanidhi Yojana to bail out street vendors from the economic crisis through credit linkage with banks. The aim is to financially help the cash-strapped street vendors to take up new income-generating activities and resume their business

ROURKELA PIPEFITTER GETS ₹70CR GST SHOCK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 6: In what looks bizarre, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) department Friday served a defaulter notice of Rs 70 crore on Sameer Jojo, who happens to be a pipefitter and resides at Haripur Basti under Basanti Colony area in Rourkela

The youth has been summoned by the Commercial Taxes and GST Enforcement Range Sambalpur for an alleged tax fraud.

The notice has mentioned Jojo as proprietor of Messers Sai Traders which is situated at Sector 18 in Rourkela, accusing him of tax fraud through input tax credit (ITC) by using fake invoices.

The invoices were drawn in the name of Madhumita Steel Industries Private Limited. The department has summoned Jojo to appear before the State Tax Officer of Enforcement Unit in Sambalpur.

On the other hand, Jojo refuted the charge on tax liability.

"I had handed over my personal

The notice has **SYSTEM FAILS** The youth, identified as Jojo, has been summoned mentioned Jojo as proprietor of by the Commercial Messers Sai Traders which is Taxes and GST situated at Enforcement Sector 18 in Range Rourkela, Sambalpur accusing him of for an tax fraud through alleged tax input tax credit (ITC) by fraud using fake invoices The invoices were drawn in the name

of Madhumita Steel Industries Private Limited. On the other hand, Jojo refuted the charge on tax liability

documents to a person around six months ago, who promised to engage me at the steel plant for a salary of Rs 12,000 per month. I had signed on some documents and a blank cheque for the purpose, but in vain, Jojo expressed.

"GST officials visited my house a few days back and served me the defaulter notice. After getting the GST department's notice, I learnt that someone had formed a fake company in my name and using my personal documents," the poor

pipefitter sighed. Notably, the GST officials did not find any business unit at the address on which the shop was registered, the official

Odia techie follows footsteps of 'Man vs Wild' fame Bear Grylls



Rajesh, an M.Tech degree holder from NIT Bhopal, has won many hearts across the state. He had left his lucrative job a few years back

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Nov 6: Rajesh Mandal of Malkangiri – popularly known as 'Jungle Boy' has been following the footsteps of 'Man vs Wild' star Bear Grylls.

Rajesh is an M.Tech degree holder from NIT Bhopal and he has won many hearts across the state. He had left his lucrative job a few years back to follow his passion for wildlife.

According to his family, Rajesh was born and brought up at MV-79 village in Malkangiri district. The 'Jungle Boy' had developed a strong inclination towards wildlife right from his childhood.

The tribal populated Malkangiri district is surrounded by dense forests and possesses a number of wild animal species including snakes, chameleons, wild boars and sambars

among others. Rajesh started his own YouTube channel and began guiding wildlife enthusiasts on nature, survival and adaptability of wild animals, the family said.

"My passion drove me to learn more about animals and their nature. I have spent sleepless nights in the woods to gain knowledge on their basic instinct as well as wild habitat. After completing my academic education, I choose jungle over job," the 'Jungle Boy' gleamed.

Rajesh's parents were unhappy when he decided to leave his lucrative job in order to pursue a presumably unrewarding vocation. Later, with the passing of time their opinion changed when they witnessed his resolute dedication. "I am happy that the passion of my son is being admired across the state," the youth's father Rabindra said.

Farmers endanger lives to protect crops

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khamar, Nov 6: With man-elephant conflicts being regular phenomena in Khamar range of Pallahara block in Angul district, farmers living in the range area are the worst affected. They have been spending sleepless nights atop 'manchas' (platforms built on wooden poles or on tress) to keep a watch on their crops. 'We know spending nights at

farmlands means inviting trouble. Many were trampled to death by marauding elephants. Yet, we have no choice. We have to save our crops. We put our lives at risk," the farm-According to them, the locality

has been witnessing rising cases of man-elephant conflicts. Every year they lose acres of crops to the elephants.

Even before farmers were compensated, they are again facing the wrath of the pachyderms.

"Many villagers had gone outside for other jobs. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 they came back to villages. Now the only source of their earning is farming. They cannot afford crop losses anymore, said a local.

With the forest department turning a blind eye to their miseries, resentment brewed in Shankhmur, Khamar, Badasada, Alori, Inchad.

Kunjam and a few other panchayats. "The forest department is doing

nothing to protect us and our crops. We have been forced to keep a watch on our crops during night. We have erected 'manchas' near our farmlands and from there we guard

JUMBO MENACE GROWS

A farmer keeps a close watch on elephants from atop a tree-top house

and other crops. Many villagers blamed it on the illegal sale of country-made liquor. There are some villages where people are engaged in preparing country-made liquor: 'Mahua' flower is one of the main ingredients to prepare the liquor. The smell of the flower

attracts elephants to the villages.

So the illegal distilleries should be

brought down to check incidents of

man-animal conflict" opined Sunil

Sahu, a Khamar resident.

partment has an elephant squad but it is 'useless' The farmers said, many of them

our crops," the farmers observed.

They added that the forest de-

have fallen victim to attacks by ele-According to Pallahara Zilla phant and from other wild animals Parishad member Saroj Kumar including snakes. Some have died Sahu, the forest department is to and many have become physically be blamed for the increasing incidents of wild animal attacks and The plight is not limited to farmcrop loss. "If the forest departlands only but to their villages also. ment takes proper care of the jun-Wild elephants often stray into gle then elephants would not have human habitations, pull down porto come out in search of food. As tions of their homes to feed on they do not have sufficient food stored paddy, in the forests, they enter human habitat," he said. Local CPI(M) leader, Meena Pradhan warned that there would be an agitation if the forest department does not take immediate steps to address the problem. When contacted, forester, Khamar

short-staffed.

range, Pradeep Satpathy said it is not possible to keep a watch on the entire area as the department is

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-mail: eerwsskld@gmail.con OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER KALAHANDI RWS&S DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA Phone No.: 06670-230784 INVITATION OF BID THROUGH e-TENDERING Bid Identification No.21/EE/RWSS/2020-21/Bpt Dated 04.11.2020 No. O:-515:- 01 Name of the work: As per ANNEXURE-A Date of opening Availability of tender online for Officer Identification bidding on office hour only (Technical Bid) No. 26.11.2020 Executive Engineer, 21/EE/RWSS/2020-21/ 11.11.2020 25.11.2020 Kalahandi RWSS BPT DATED-04.11.2020 05.30 P.M. 10.00 A.M. Division, Bhawanipatna onwards Cost of tender paper & payment of EMD to be made online payment system. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://tenderodisha.gov.in Sd./- Executive Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna

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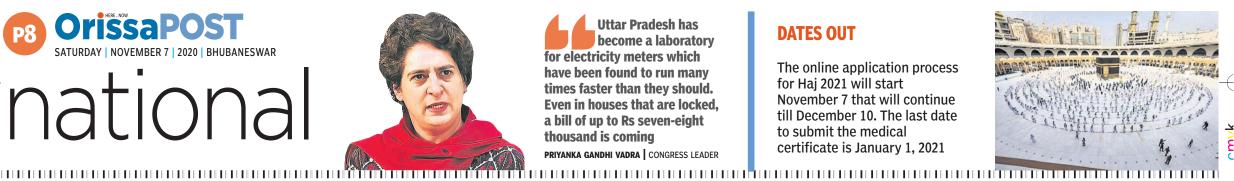


Uttar Pradesh has become a laboratory for electricity meters which have been found to run many times faster than they should. **Even in houses that are locked,** a bill of up to Rs seven-eight thousand is coming

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

DATES OUT

The online application process for Haj 2021 will start November 7 that will continue till December 10. The last date to submit the medical certificate is January 1, 2021





This Diwali, PM Modi exhorted the nation to light a 'diya' for our soldiers, but has ensured darkness in

their lives by attempting to reduce their pension by half

RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA CONGRESS LEADER

NGOs and environmentalists always rake up green issues ahead of state







SHORT **TAKES**

Man kills daughter

Barabanki (Uttar Pradesh): Under the influence of an occultist, a man beat his 10year-old daughter to death and buried her body in the house, police said. The incident took place in the Khurd Mau village in Barabanki Wednesday. According to reports, an occultist told the accused that a treasure was buried under his house and to reveal its location, he will have to perform a ritual on his daughter. When the victim's mother tried to stop her husband, he beat her up as well. It was the victim's maternal grandmother who informed the police about the incident after which both the accused were arrested on Thursday. The body was dug out of the pit by the police

2,000 farmers booked in UP

and sent for a post mortem.

Many injury marks were

during the post mortem.

found on the victim's body

Lucknow: Over 1,100 FIRs have been lodged against 2.000 farmers in Uttar burning. Nearly, 144 FIRs have been lodged in different districts in the last 24 hours alone for stubble burning. The police lodged 15 FIRs in Balrampur, eight in Bahraich and Kushinagar, seven each in Aligarh, Basti and Hardoi, and six each in Rampur, Shahjahanpur, Siddhartha Nagar among others. Six persons have also been arrested in Saharanpur for burning stubble.

Fake call centre busted in Delhi

New Delhi: The Delhi police has busted a fake call centre in the Rajouri Garden area of the city and arrested 17 persons for allegedly duping foreigners on the pretext of providing them technical support, officials said Friday. Police said that the accused used to send pop-ups to unsuspecting people that their devices have been hacked and infected with malware and then cheat them on the pretext of providing technical support by Microsoft. The 17 persons arrested include callers. The police also seized 20 computers from their possession.

Three killed

Patna: Three persons were killed and 21 others seriously injured when a vehicle they were returning in after attending a Congress rally overturned in Purnia district, police said Friday. The group was returning from a public rally of Congress candidate Abdul Jalil Mastan in Amour when the driver lost control over the vehicle around 7.30 pm on Thursday and it overturned.

CAA WILL BE IMPLEMENTED: SHAH

Kolkata, Nov 6: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Friday asked Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to come out with a white paper on the political killings in the state and wondered why the state government has not sent the statistics of crime to the National Crime Record Bureau.

Stating that the Citizenship Amendment Act will be implemented, Shah said the law is in place and it is the commitment of the union government. "We aim to build a strong Bengal in a new era of development. Mamata Banerjee aims to make her nephew the next chief minister," Shah said while

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 6: India Friday

summoned the Charge d'Affaires

(CDA) of the Pakistan High

Commission here and lodged a

strong protest over Islamabad's de-

cision to transfer the management

of the Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara

from a Sikh body to a separate trust.

Srivastava said Aftab Hassan

Khan, the Pakistani CDA, was

categorically told that the deci-

sion runs against the religious

sentiments of the Sikh community.

MEA Spokesperson Anurag



Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses a press meet in Kolkata, Friday PTI PHOTO

addressing a press meet here. "Since 2018 the West Bengal gov-

Thursday, the MEA had reacted

sharply to Pakistan's decision to

transfer the management and

maintenance of the gurudwara from the Pakistan Sikh Gurudwara

Prabhandhak Committee to the administrative control of the

Evacuee Trust Property Board,

Srivastava said the unilateral

decision by Pakistan is highly con-

demnable and runs against the

spirit of the Kartarpur Sahib

Corridor initiative as also the re-

ligious sentiments of the Sikh com-

sion between the two countries,

the corridor linking Dera Baba

Sahib in Gurdaspur in India with

Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in

Pakistan was thrown open in

November, in a historic people-to-

located in Pakistan's Narowal dis-

trict across the river Ravi. about four

kilometres from the Dera Baba

Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara is

In the midst of heightened ten-

a non-Sikh body.

munity at large.

people initiative.

KARTARPUR SAHIB GURDWARA ISSUE

India summons Pak CDA

ernment has not sent the statistics of crime to NCRB. I want to ask STATING THAT THE SCITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED, AMIT SHAH SAID THE LAW IS IN PLACE AND IT IS THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNION GOVERNMENT

SPEAKING ON THE FACEOFF BETWEEN GOVERNOR JAGDEEP DHANKHAR AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT, SHAH SAID THE GOVERNOR IS WORKING WITHIN HIS **CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITS**

Mamata Banerjee to come out with a white paper on political killings. Bengal tops the chart in political

Alleging that there has been politicisation and criminalisation of government officers in the state, the union home minister said "In West Bengal there are three laws one for the nephew, one for minority appeasement and one for common people".

Speaking on the faceoff between Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and the state government, Shah said the governor is working within his constitutional limits.

The words used against the governor are unacceptable. I would like to know where is the (Darjeeling) district magistrate who was removed after meeting the governor," he said.

Top court protects **Arnab from arrest**

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 6: The Supreme Court Friday issued show cause notice to the Secretary of Maharashtra legislative assembly asking him to explain in two weeks as to why the contempt proceedings be not initiated against him for his letter to journalist Arnab Goswami purportedly cautioning him against disclosing house notice to the top court.

The apex court, which also granted protection from arrest to the journalist in the Maharashtra assembly breach of privilege motion case, took strong note of October 13 letter of the assembly secretary and said he has prima facie committed its contempt.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde expressed anger when senior lawyer Harish Salve, appearing for Goswami, referred to the contents of the letter of the assembly secretary to the journalist. The bench said it was "surprised" that the officer in question has written such a letter stating the assembly proceedings were confidential and should not have been disclosed.

This is a serious matter and amounts to contempt. The above statements are unprecedented and have a tendency to bring the administration of justice into disrepute and in any case may amount to direct interference in the administration of Justice.

"The intention of the author of the letter seems to be to intimidate the petitioner because he approached this court and to threaten him with a penalty for doing so," said the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, during the proceedings held through video conferencing.



A potter makes clay lamps ahead of Diwali in New Delhi, Friday

2 MILITANTS, CIVILIAN KILLED IN ENCOUNTER

Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Lalpora Chatlam area of Pampore in the south Kashmir district Thursday evening following information about the presence of militants there, a police spokesman said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 6: Two Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militants, believed to be Pakistanis, were killed while another, a local, surrendered before security forces during an overnight encounter in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir in which a civilian also lost his life, police said Friday.

Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Lalpora Chatlam area of Pampore in the south Kashmir district Thursday evening following information about the presence of militants



there, a police spokesman said.

During the search operation, the militants fired indiscriminately, resulting in injuries to two civilians, and managed to escape from the hiding spot, he said. In the first instance, both the injured civilians were immediately rescued and shifted to a hospital. However, one of the injured, identified as Abid Ahmad Mir, a resident of Meej Pampore, succumbed to injuries, while as the condition of other is stated to be stable, the spokesman said.

He said the security forces continued with the search operation and again tracked the militants. They were given the opportunity to surrender, the spokesman said, adding, however, they again fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party of the forces, which was retaliated leading to an encounter.

Due to darkness, the operation was suspended and the whole area was put under strict cordon, he said. The spokesman said the operation was resumed in the early hours of Friday, and in the ensuing encounter, one of the trapped militants was killed. However, the opportunity to surrender was yet again offered to the other trapped militants, as a result of which one of the trapped terrorists of LeT outfit laid down his arms and surrendered in an injured condition before the forces during the live encounter and was subsequently shifted to a hospital, he said

War with China can't be ruled out: CDS Rawat

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

ation at the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh remains tense and possibility of a war with China cannot be ruled out.

"In the overall security calculus: border confrontations, transgressions, unprovoked tactical military actions -- spiralling into a larger conflict therefore cannot be discounted," Rawat said.

His statement came amid an ongoing military talk between India and China at Chushul of Friday. He was speaking at Diamond Jubilee Webinar, 2020 organised by National Defence College in Delhi. However, the CDS also pointed out that India's posturing is unambiguous and she "will not accept any shift in Line of Actual Control". He also said that China's People's Liberation Army is facing unanticipated consequences for its misadventure into Ladakh because of firm responses by Indian forces.

The military level talks underway since 9.30 a.m. were the

eighth round. India and China have been engaged in a worst New Delhi, Nov 6: India's Chief seven-month-long border dispute of Defence Staff General Bipin at the LAC. Despite several levels Rawat Friday claimed that situ- of dialogue, there has not been any breakthrough. Further, speaking about defence cooperation, the CDS said that India understand the importance of leveraging defence diplomacy in building mutual trust and partnerships with strategically important countries.

He also said that in the coming vears, Indian defence industry will be growing exponentially and contribute to the overall defence preparedness. "The industry will deliver us state-of-art weapons and equipment fully made in India," General Rawat said. The officer said that as India grows in stature, security challenges will rise proportionately.

'We must move out of the constant threat of sanctions or dependency on individual nations for our military requirements and invest in building long-term indigenous capability for strategic independence and application of decisive military power to squarely meet present and emerging challenges," the officer added.

Yashvardhan Sinha to take oath today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Nov 6: Information Commissioner Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha will be administered the oath as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)

on Saturday, officials said Friday. Sinha, a former diplomat, will be administered the oath of office by President Ram Nath Kovind, they said. Journalist Uday Mahurkar, former Labour Secretary Heera Lal Samariya and former Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General Saroj Punhani will be administered the oath as the Information Commissioners by Sinha, the officials said.

The selection of Sinha. Mahurkar, Samariya and Punhani was done by a three-member committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Besides Modi, leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Home Minister Amit Shah are members of the panel. Sinha joined as the Information Commissioner on January 1, 2019. He has served as India's High Commissioner to

the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka. Sinha, aged 62, will have tenure of about three years. A CIC or Information Commissioner is appointed for a tenure of five years or till they attain the age of 65 years. With the induction of Mahurkar, Samariya and Punhani, the number of Information Commissioners will be seven as against a sanctioned strength of 10.

Pottery markets deserted as virus takes over festive cheer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 6: Nothing underscores the despondency of Diwali 2020 quite as much as the unsettling quiet over Delhi's pottery markets in a festive season normally marked by the bustle of people buying diyas and idols to usher in the festival of lights.

In the weeks leading up to Diwali, pottery hubs across the city would come alive with the sounds of cars driving up and scores of people bargaining at stalls overflowing with handmade earthenware - including not just diyas of all sizes but also decorative flower pots, platters and vases.

The bright lights are strung up like every other year to beckon people but the customers are just so few. Though

some people are stepping out despite the continuing fear of contracting COVID-19, the numbers are just a fraction of what they were.

"Earlier, the crowds would begin two to four weeks before Diwali and we barely had time to breathe. We would be so busy we couldn't take a tea break. But this year the situation is really bad," said Anita, sitting amid the heap of earthen lamps and pots and quite literally swatting flies.

Her makeshift shop on a pavement in south Delhi's Hauz Rani market is overflowing. But there are no buyers. And the 60-year-old, who also stocks pottery from places such as Khurja in Uttar Pradesh, is despairing. "We always ran out of our Diwali stock weeks before the festival, but this year I have barely



sold anything," she said. In fact, she has barely had any customers at her shop since the lockdown was lifted. And nothing

has changed even with Diwali just eight days away. The fear of the coronavirus has taken over the festive cheer, leaving some of the

most popular pottery markets in Delhi struggling to bring in business, even during what has traditionally been the busiest season

Delhi on Thursday recorded 6,715 COVID-19 cases, taking its infection tally to over 4.16 lakh. The relentless spread of the infection. eight months on, has taken its toll on millions of livelihoods across

the country and in its capital too. And Anita, who took over the 30vear-old shop nearly a decade back after her mother-in-law passed away, is just one of them. She said her shop is the only source of income for her family of eight, and the pandemic has made survival very difficult.

Located a stone's throw from the Malviya Nagar metro station, the Hauz Rani market is essentially a row of nearly 30 shops running along the footpath, selling all things earthen and beautiful. Anita's neighbor, 38-year-old Seema who runs her shop in the same market with her husband, is frantic. "Business is not even 25 per cent of what it used to be." Seema said.

The shelves are lined with beautiful items of ceramic crockery in shades of blues, pink and yellow and rows of Ganesh-Lakshmi idols, screaming to be picked up, admired and purchased. But there are just too few takers. She added that she buys all the items on loan from wholesale shopkeepers in places such as Khurja, Jaipur and Kolkata and pays them back once she hasmade the sale, keeping the profit for herself.

national



Till there is a medicine for corona, face masks are the medicine. These are the biggest protection against COVID-19 infection. We need to promote wearing face masks as a movement ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

KARNATAKA BANS CRACKERS

Karnataka has decided to ban the sale and bursting of firecrackers during Diwali this year in view of the coronavirus pandemic, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa said Friday



The Centre is taking all steps to combat air pollution in Delhi and other parts of north India



PRAKASH JAVADEKAR UNION MINISTER

Several countries have been approaching us for receiving vaccine supply. I reiterate our Prime Minister's commitment that India's vaccine production and delivery capacity will be used to help all humanity in fighting this crisis. India will also help interested countries in enhancing their cold chain and

storage capacities for the delivery of

HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA FOREIGN SECRETARY OF INDIA

The Essential Commodities Bill in which potatoes and onions

were removed from the list of key food commodities, is anti people and aimed at protecting blackmarkteers

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

SHORT TAKES

Guj ACB nabs forest official

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has arrested a range forest official (RFO) for allegedly amassing disproportionate assets worth Rs 1.68 crore over a period of 10 years, an official said Friday. Following a four-year-long probe, the ACB Thursday arrested Nimesh Majmudar, currently posted as an RFO at Aranya Bhavan, Gujarat forest department's head office in Gandhinagar, a release issued by the ACB stated.

COVID patient flees from hosp

Mumbai: A man arrested in a drug case fled from a city hospital where he was admitted after testing positive for COVID-19, a police official said Friday. The Azad Maidan Police has registered an FIR against the patient after he fled from the south Mumbai-based hospital on Thursday, he said. According to the official, the man was arrested by the Byculla police under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act last month. The 25-year-old was admitted to the staterun Gokuldas Tejpal Hospital after he tested positive for the viral infection a few days ago, he said.

40 sheep. goats killed

Banihal (J&K): At least 40 sheep and goats were killed in an attack by leopards in a mountainous area of Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said Friday. A group of leopards entered the animal sheds of Gulzar Ahmad Chandail and Faroog Ahmad Chandail in Gundi Gagra village in Gool subdivision of the district Thursday night, range officer of wildlife department Ramban Mansoor Ahmed said, adding they killed at least 40 sheep and goats inside the structures.

Two arrested

Thane: The police have solved nine cases of motorcycle thefts in Bhiwandi town of Maharashtra's Thane district and arrested two persons for their alleged involvement in the crime, an official said Friday. In light of the rise in motorcycle thefts during the coronavirus-induced lockdown, the police had launched a special drive to nab the accused, said Yogesh Chavan, deputy commissioner of police, Bhiwandi Zone-II.

Bihar election: Final phase to be the decider

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Purnea. Nov 6: Polling for the third and final phase of the Bihar Assembly election for 78 seats in 15 districts will take place Saturday. It is estimated that whoever clinches more votes in this phase will be able to form the government.

From the National Democratic Alliance, the Janata Dal-United has fielded 37 candidates while the Bharatiya Janata Party, Vikassheel Insaan Party and Hindustani Awam Morcha have fielded 35, 5 and 1 candidates respectively. On the Mahagathbandhan side, the Rashtriya Janata Dal has fielded 46 candidates while the Congress, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation and the Communist Party of India have fielded 25, 5 and 2 candidates respectively. Separately, the Lok Janshakti Party has put up 42 can-

The Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP) has fielded candidates for all the seats in alliance with the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) and several other parties. The alliance of Pappu Yadav's Jan Adhikar Party is also in the electoral fray in this phase. Political expert and senior journalist Girindra Nath Jha said: "Votes are believed to be scattered in this election."

After AIMIM fielded candidates in the border areas and other political parties also gave tickets to Muslim candidates, a split of votes will be seen, he said. According to Jha, "Former Madhepura MP Pappu Yadav and AIMIM can dent both the alliances' vote bank but none of these parties can claim votes from any particular community."

Jha believes that the main contest is between both the big alliances but in Yaday dominated areas including Madhepura, the Jan Adhikar Party and in some



areas the LJP and the RLSP are making the contest triangular or

multi-cornered. In the last Assembly election, the JD-U won the maximum 24 seats from this region. Then it was allied with the RJD. This time the JD-U is with the BJP. In the last election, the BJP won 19 seats while the RJD and the Congress bagged 20 and 10 seats respectively from here. Apart from this, the CPI-ML managed to win one seat and four were won by others.

Political expert Rameshwar Prasad has a different take. He claimed that polarisation of voters has also been attempted in the 78 seats where polling is to be held. He said that despite being with the BJP, the JD-U continued to get the votes of Muslim voters.

Prasad said: "Mithilanchal Seemanchal and Koshi areas will vote in this phase. The BJP has been strong in Mithilanchal while Muslim voters decide the result in Seemanchal. As AIMIM is contesting and Muslim League and some other political parties have fielded Muslim candidates, the opposition Grand Alliance may feel the heat.'

For this phase of voting, former Congress President Rahul Gandhi, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and many Union Ministers have held election meetings to attract voters while RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav has worked hard for the RJD. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi has also held

Ensure no smog in Delhi-NCR: CJI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 6: Chief Justice S.A. Bobde on Friday told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the court is not concerned with any commission, and all it wants -- on a priority basis -- is for the Centre to ensure that there is no smog in Delhi-NCR.

As Mehta informed the top court that the newly-formed air quality commission, which will address air pollution in Delhi-NCR, was begin working from Friday and members have also been appointed including former Petroleum Secretary M.M. Kutty as head, a bench headed by the Chief Justice said: "We are not concerned with any commission. There are already many commissions and many brains working. But ensure that there is no smog in the city. We will hold a detailed hearing on these pleas after vacations.

The Centre had notified the commission for Air Quality Management for Delhi-NCR after it issued an ordinance on October 28 to set up the new agency with sweeping powers to act against sources of air pollution across Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, representing a minor petitioner in the matter, submitted that a five-year jail term and Rs 1 crore fine looks little arbitrary and there is no classification of offences. He insisted that rising air pollution is a matter of grave concern and in fact, it is a public health emergency and

something drastic needs to be done. Singh also highlighted before the top court that Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also kept out of the commission. The Chief Justice then asked Mehta that grading of offences was required. "We

vou are looking at. Because for all offences and violation of orders of the commissions or provisions, the penalty cannot be 5 years jail or Rs 1 crore fine," he added.

On the aspect of not having retired judges on the commission. the Chief Justice said: "After all. we are a court of law. We won't abdicate our responsibilities but we are also aware of our constraints. We cannot enter the executive's domain. The government has resources and money and they will have to ultimately act." Mehta emphasised that the government also have "the will" to act against pollution. The apex court was hearing petitions against stubble burning, which is a major source of air pollution in Delhi-NCR.



Volunteers, wearing masks, participate in a COVID-19 awareness procession as coronavirus cases rise across the

WAR AGAINST VIRUS



national capital, at Connaught Place in New Delhi, Friday

Delhi HC seeks CBI reply on Sengar's appeal against jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 6: The Delhi High Court Friday sought CBI's reply on disqualified UP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar's appeal challenging his conviction and 10-year imprisonment in the custodial death case of the Unnao rape victim's father.

Justice Vibhu Bakhru issued notice to the CBI and also asked it to respond to Sengar's application seeking suspension of the sentence till pendency of the appeal. The high court listed the matter for further hearing on November 10.

Sengar, who was sentenced to the "remainder of his natural biological life" for raping the minor Unnao girl, was stripped of his membership on February 25 as the lawmaker of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly following his conviction in the case. The father of the rape victim was arrested at the behest of Sengar under the Arms Act and had died in custody on April 9, 2018 owing to police brutalities in custody.

On March 4, Sengar, his brother and five others were convicted for the death of the victim's father in judicial custody by the trial court which on March 13, sentenced them to 10 years imprisonment.

The trial court had also imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on Sengar. **UNNAO CASE**



Sengar, through advocate Kanhaiya Singhal, sought setting aside of the trial court verdict by which he was convicted and sentenced in the case. In the appeal, he said, "It is imperative for a fair trial that the investigating agency, prosecution and witnesses present the true facts before the court and that the court, in turn, must ensure that a free and fair trial...

fair but also remain free from biases posterous to submit that in the instant case neither the justice was done nor seen to be done which has certainly shaken the confidence of the public in the entire justice delivery system.

Sengar claimed this case was an offshoot of a long-drawn political rivalry and deep-seated animosity existing between two political factions. During the hearing, CBI's counsel said other appeals arising out of the same FIR are pending before another bench of the high

Justice Bakhru said let this appeal be also listed along with other matters pending before another judge on November 10. The trial court, which did not hold the accused guilty of murder under the IPC, awarded maximum sentence for the offence of culpable homicide, not amounting to murder, to convicts under section 304 of the IPC after holding that there was no intention to kill.

It had said "no leniency" can be shown for killing a family's 'sole bread earner" and the four daughters and a son of the deceased has lost the protective cover of their father.

Ex-soldier kills father over TV

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Nov 6: A retired army personnel has allegedly shot dead his 80-year-old father, who refused to switch off the TV during a late night show.

The police said that prima facie, it appeared that a heated argument broke out between Ashok Katihar, the retired soldier and his father Lala Ram as he wanted to turn off the TV. The incident took place in Naseerpur village

on Thursday night. "During the argument, Ashok pushed him and later opened fire from his licensed double-barrel gun," said Additional superintendent of police (ASP) Anup Kumar. Preliminary investigation and scene of crime suggest that Ashok had asked his father

(WEF) said the latest survey has

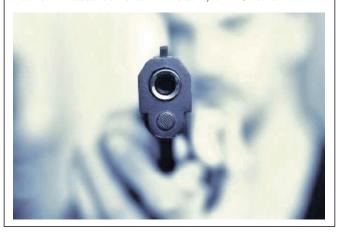
shown a growing reluctance to re-

ceive a vaccine, despite progress

Lala Ram, who had been watching some programme, to switch off the TV. When his father refused, there was argument during which Ashok shot him with his gun and escaped.

His father sustained serious bullet wounds and succumbed later. Ashok had retired from Army and lives in Naseerpur village along with other family members, including his elderly parents, besides other siblings.

Family sources said that Ashok was an alcoholic and would frequently fight over petty issues. "An FIR under relevant sections of IPC, including 302 has been lodged in this regard. Separate teams have been formed to arrest the accused, who has been absconding along with his gun since the incident," the ASP said.



COVID: Daily recoveries up for last 5 weeks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 6: India's single-day COVID-19 recoveries exceeded daily new infections successively for the last five weeks, while active cases are on a sustained decline and comprise only 6.19 per cent of the country's total caseload, the Union health ministry said Friday.

Less than 50,000 new cases of the coronavirus infection have been reported in the country in a span of 24 hours, whereas the daily new recoveries have exceeded 54,000. "India is reporting new recoveries more than the daily new cases successively for the last five weeks now," the ministry said.

There is a continuous decline in average daily new cases for the last five weeks. From registering more than 73,000 average daily new cases in the first week of October, the average daily new cases have declined to 46,000 cases.

According to data updated at 8 am, active cases are also on a sustained decline as a result of continuously rising recoveries. The active cases stand at 5,20,773 as on date and now comprise only 6.19 per cent of the total COVID-19 caseload, it_

stated. A total of 54,157 COVID-19 patients have recovered and were discharged in a span of 24 hours as against 47,638 new infections being reported during the same period.

The recoveries have surged to 77,65,966 and exceed active cases by 72,45,193 as on date. The national recovery rate has further improved to 92.32 per cent. The ministry said that 80 per cent of the new recovered cases are observed to be concentrated in 10 states and union territories.

Maharashtra has contributed the maximum with more than 11,000 single day recoveries. Seventynine per cent of new cases are also from 10 states and union territories.

Maharashtra is reporting a very high number of new cases with more than 10,000 cases followed by Kerala with more than 9,000 cases. Besides 670 case fatalities have been reported in a span of 24 hours. Of these, 10 states and union territories account for nearly 86 per cent. More than 38 per cent of new fatalities reported are from Maharashtra (256 deaths). Delhi follows with 66 new deaths. India's COVID-19 caseload mounted to 84,11,724 with 47,638 new infections being reported in a day, while the death toll climbed to 1,24,985 with 670 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

OVID: Indians most open to getting vaccinated, says survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 6: Indians are the keenest on getting vaccinated whenever a COVID-19 vaccine is available. even as people in 10 out of 15 countries showed a growing reluctance about getting vaccinated, according to a global survey.

In the World Economic Forum/Ipsos survey of 18,526 adults from 15 countries, 73 per cent said they would get a COVID-19 vaccine if available, down from 77 per cent

While vaccination intent has remained unchanged at 87 per cent in India since August, it has declined in 10 of the 15 countries surveyed,

most of all in China, Australia, Spain, and Brazil. Globally, the two main reasons for not wanting to get a COVID-19 vaccine are concerns about side effects (cited by 34 per cent) and concerns about clinical trials moving too fast (cited by another 33 per cent). In India also, 34 per cent respondents said they are worried about side effects, while 16 per cent are concerned about fast-moving trials.

Besides, one in ten persons globally said they are against vaccines in general (19 per cent in India), while another 10 per cent said they don't think a vaccine will be effective (14 per cent in India), and 8 per cent cited a low risk of getting



COVID-19 (14 per cent in India), as per the survey

The World Economic Forum

made by numerous pharmaceutical companies working on vaccine trials and international organisations like the World Health Organization (WHO), Gavi and CEPI working to ensure any future solution is available for those most in need Arnaud Bernaert, Head of Shaping the Future of Health and Healthcare at the WEF, said,

we edge closer to a possible vaccine roll-out. "The numbers are significant enough to compromise the effectiveness of a COVID-19 vaccine

to manage the disease and to see

"This drop in vaccine confidence

is a remarkable and sad trend as

spondents how soon after a vaccine becomes available would they get one. Nearly half of the adults globally said they would get vaccinated within three months after the COVID-19 vaccine is available to all (54 per cent in India). Globally, 72 per cent said they would get vaccinated within a year (82 per cent in India).

an end to the cycle of new lock-

downs and restrictions. It is crit-

ical that governments and the

private sector come together to

build trust in the next steps. It's

important to know that when a

vaccine is ready, it will make a

The survey also asked the re-

difference," Bernaert added.

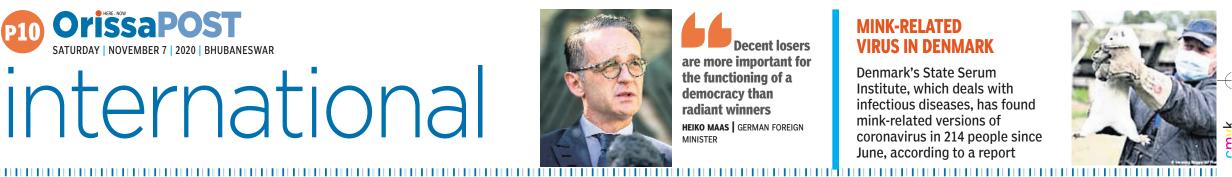
international



Decent losers are more important for the functioning of a democracy than radiant winners HEIKO MAAS | GERMAN FOREIGN

MINK-RELATED **VIRUS IN DENMARK**

Denmark's State Serum Institute, which deals with infectious diseases, has found mink-related versions of coronavirus in 214 people since June, according to a report



Ethiopia's federal operations in the north have clear limited and



ABIY AHMED PRIME MINISTER OF ETHIOPIA

Today, the US and its allies can't control what's happening in the world. They've lost



MOHAMMAD JAVAD ZARIF | FOREIGN

The four weeks of coronavirus in England until enough to make a

real impact and there is light at the end of that tunnel for as normal a

BORIS JOHNSON UK PRIME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Tropical storm Eta leaves 8 dead

Teguchigalpa: At least eight people have died in Honduras due to tropical storm Eta, currently lashing the central region of the Central American country with heavy rains and wind gusts of 45 km per hour, local authorities said. On Thursday, the Second Lieutenant of the Fire Department, Carlos Oliva, said four people died in a mudslide, including a mother and her two children, in the Fortaleza district of Tela, a town in Atlantida, and a minor drowned in the village of Paujiles, reports said.

US seizes 27 **Iranian websites**

San Francisco: The US has seized 27 additional domain names that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) "unlawfully" used to spread "disinformation". All 27 domains were being used in violation of US sanctions targeting both the government of Iran and the IRGC, the Department of Justice said Wednesday.

Dominic Raab in quarantine

London: UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab is self-isolating himself after coming into a close contact with someone who later tested positive for the coronavirus. The senior Cabinet minister will be in isolation for two weeks but will continue to work remotely during that period in keeping with the government guidelines, said the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in a statement Thursday.

City-wide nCoV testing begins

Liverpool: The first trial of a city-wide coronavirus testing began in Liverpool began Friday, under which residents and the people working in the English city will be offered repeat tests. whether or not they display symptoms. In a statement, Liverpool Mayor Joe Anderson said the testing pilot could save lives, stop hospitals being overwhelmed and "get the city out of tier three restrictions", the BBC reported.

Evacuation begins in Indonesia

Yogyakarta (Indonesia): Indonesian authorities began evacuating people living on the volatile Mount Merapi volcano's fertile slopes on Friday following an increase in volcanic activity.



Phoenix, Nov 6: Backers of President Donald Trump ramped up demonstrations Thursday night against an election they believe was rigged or being stolen, in some cases bringing guns or clashing with counter-protesters as they rallied in battleground states.

In Arizona, one of five US battleground states where votes were still being counted in the tooclose-to-call race between Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden, Trump supporters massed outside the Maricopa County Elections Department in Phoenix.

Some briefly chased a man who held up a sign depicting the president as a Nazi pig behind a stage where right-wing talk-radio host Alex Jones was speaking.

Police intervened and broke up the altercation after the man and his small group of counter-demonstrators were surrounded by Trump activists, according to a Reuters witness. There were no reports of

"They are trying to steal the election but America knows what happened and it's fighting back," Jones told the throng of some 300 people. "1776 is the answer to 1984." he said, an apparent reference to the US Declaration of Independence





INDIA'S REACTION

As the world awaits the result of the American presidential election, India Friday said the global strategic partnership between the two countries have a very strong bipartisan support in the US, suggesting that the bilateral ties will not be impacted by the poll outcome "We are also awaiting the election results," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said during an online media briefing while replying to questions on impact of US presidential outcome on the Indo-US ties. He asserted that "the comprehensive strategic (Indo-US) partnership has very strong bipartisan support in the US and successive presidents and administrations have raised the level of the relationship even higher." The ties between India and the US have witnessed a major upswing in the last four years under the Trump administration, particularly in areas of defence and security.

novel. In Milwaukee, some 50

and the dystopian George Orwell

Trump supporters gathered in front of a city building where votes

CLIFFHANGER ELECTION

BIDEN LEADS TRUMP BY PENNSYLVANIA AND OVER 1,000 IN DEEP RED

MILLIONS OF VOTES ARE STILL TO BE COUNTED BUT EVEN BEFORE WE HAVE THE FINAL TALLY, BIDEN HAS ALREADY 73 MILLION VOTES NATIONALLY, THE MOST IN AMERICAN POLITICAL HISTORY

ACCORDING TO LATEST US MEDIA PROJECTIONS, BIDEN PULLED AHEAD OF TRUMP IN GEORGIA. HE HAS ALSO TAKEN THE LEAD OVER TRUMP IN PENNSYLVANIA

were being counted, blasting country music, waving flags and carrying signs reading "Recount" and "Rigged". Roughly a dozen counterprotesters arrived after an hour. shouting "Black lives matter" and "say their names," referring to the victims of police bru-

tality. Others threw

eggs at the Trump sup-

porters from a pass-"My country's future is what brings me out here tonight," said Mitchell Landgraf, a 21-year-old construction

worker who cast his first vote in a

presidential election for Trump. TRUMP HAS NO PLANS TO IM-MEDIATELY CONCEDE ELECTION AS **BIDEN TAKES LEAD:** Donald Trump does not have plans to immediately concede the election to Joe Biden

after his Democratic rival pulled ahead in key states that could deliver him enough electoral votes to win the race for the White House, a senior aide of the

> president was quoted as saying by a media re-According to latest US media projections, Biden pulled ahead of Trump in

He has also taken the lead over Trump in

Pennsylvania. Trump cannot find a route to 270 electoral votes without Georgia and Pennsylvania, so his chances of securing reelection will hinge on developments in the two key battleground states. Reacting to the latest developments, the senior Trump aide told Fox News that the

president's counsellors have been giving him advice in both directions, with some telling Trump that a concession is the correct thing to do, and others pushing him to continue to fight to ensure the vote was correct and le-

DONALD TRUMP JUNIOR **TARGETS NIKKI HALEY:**

In an apparent attack on popular Indian-American Republican politician Nikki Haley, Donald Trump Jr has accused that "2024 GOP hopefuls" are "sitting on the sidelines" and not speaking out against the "fraud" in counting of votes as claimed by his father and US President Donald Trump.

US SECRET SERVICE TIGHTENS BIDEN SECURITY: The US Secret Service has increased its protective bubble around Joe Biden as chances increased that he will be the next US president.

The Secret Service sent an extra squad of agents to Biden's campaign headquarters in Wilmington. Delaware as expectations rose that the Democratic candidate would be able to declare victory over President Donald Trump as early as Friday, the Post reported.

The extra Secret Service agents were sent to Delaware Thursday, CNN quoted two unnamed sources



Protests against President Donald Trump outside Twitter headquarters



Demonstrators gather in Black Lives Matter Plaza while waiting for election results



A Trump supporter wears a mask of Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and carries a sign during a protest outside of

China bans

GRETA TROLLS TRUMP WITH HIS OWN WORDS

Washington, Nov 6: Amid ongoing tensions over the results of the US presidential election, Swedish environment activist Greta Thunberg has mocked US President Donald Trump in his own words in the ultimate social media revenge.

In response to Trump's 'stop the count' tweet, the 17-year-old said on the micro-blogging platform Thursday: "So ridiculous. Donald must work on his anger management problem, then go to a good old fashioned movie with a friend! Chill, Donald, Chill."

Thunberg's tweet was the exact copy of the one that Trump posted in December 2019 criticizing the Time magazine's decision to name her 'Person of the Year'

"So ridiculous. Greta must work



on her Anger Management problem, then go to a good old fashioned movie with a friend! Chill Greta, Chill!," the President had tweeted December 12, 2019. Within hours of posting, the teenage activist's tweet has garnered over 1 million likes and nearly 300,000 retweets.

The development comes as President Trump has made controversial broad allegations of voter fraud in Tuesday's election.

"If you count the legal votes, I

porters at the White House earlier on Thursday, implying that some of the postal ballots, the counting of which he was trying to stop

"If you count the illegal votes, they can try to steal the election from us. If you count the votes that came in late, we're looking at them very strongly, but a lot of

votes came in late. "This is a case where they're trying to steal an election, trying to rig an election," he asserted.

Trump's allegations about election fraud brought immediate condemnation from the media, almost all of which labelled it "false", and politicians in Republican and Democratic parties.

The main TV networks, ABC, CBS and NBC, stopped broadcasting his speech midway.

Will resolve issues with India through dialogue'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

tween Nepal and India would be resolved through dialogue, Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli said Friday during a meeting with Indian Army chief Gen. M M Naravane who paid a courtesy call on him.

Gen Naravane's three-day visit to Nepal was largely aimed at resetting bilateral ties that came under severe strain following a bitter border row between the two countries. The meeting between Gen Naravane and Oli, who is also the Defence Minister of Nepal, took place at his official residence in Baluwatar. Nepal Army sources said.

Prime Minister Oli said that "there has been good friendship between Nepal and India," according to his foreign affairs advisor Raian Bhattarai. Oli expressed hope that the "problems between the two countries would be resolved through dialogue," Bhattarai said



MM Naravane during a meeting with K P Sharma Oli, in Kathmandu РТІ

in a tweet after the meeting.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister mentioned the centuriesold special relations existing between Nepal and India, and the tradition of conferring Honorary General of Army on each other's Army chiefs, Bhattarai said, Gen Naravane's engagements in Nepal included a visit to the headquarters of the Nepalese Army and attending a banquet hosted in his honour by chief of Nepalese Army Gen Purna Chandra Thapa. On Thursday, the two Army chiefs held talks and discussed ways to boost bilateral military cooperation.

Covid-hit countries PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Beijing, Nov 6: China Friday said

foreigners from

for foreign nationals in countries like India, the UK and the Philippines as it was facing greater risk from "imported cases" of coro-

The Chinese embassy in Delhi said Thursday that China has decided to temporarily suspend the entry into the country by foreign nationals from India holding valid visas or residence permits in view of the coronavirus pandemic. China has also made similar announcements for travellers from the UK and the

Philippines "As the epidemic situation overseas is getting worse, China is facing greater risks of imported cases. In October, the number of imported cases grew by 45 per cent compared with that in September," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here, justifying Beijing's decision.

"In the meantime, some domestic cases were also found. Under such circumstances, we have learned from other countries' practices and further strengthened pre-departure prevention and control measures for travellers coming to China," he said. China's sudden decision has led to the cancellation of several Vande Bharat Mission flights by India to bring over 2,000 stranded Indian professionals to this country. Wang also said COVID-19 tests being stipulated for passengers arriving in China were not hundred per cent accurate.

"The pre-departure nucleic acid testing for China-bound travellers has been essential in preventing epidemic importation. However, none of the existing test methods can be 100 per cent accurate at the moment." he said. "According to the competent authorities, IgM anti-body test results are stable, and the passengers' test results can be a lot more accurate if the test methods are combined. That's why we nowneed IgM anti-body testing, too,' he said.

2020 US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Voter turnout rate reaches highest in 120 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Nov 6: The 2020 US presidential election has recorded the highest voter turnout in 120 years, a prominent electoral expert has said.

According to preliminary estimates of the US Election project, a nonpartisan site that tracks voting, an estimated 239 million people were eligible to vote this year, of which nearly 160 million exercised their right to franchise. The figure is likely to be updated in the coming weeks.

The November 3 election saw a record voter turnout of 66.9 per cent, which is the highest turnout rate since 1900. The 1900 election had recorded 73.7 per cent voter turnout, it said.

"The 2020 presidential election had the highest turnout rate in



120 years. There is still a fair amount of guesswork involving outstanding ballots to be counted, said Michael P McDonald. Associate Professor of Political

Science at University of Florida, who leads the US Election Project.

In 2016, US had registered 56 per cent voter turnout, while it was 58 per cent in 2008. Minnesota

and Maine, as per the US Election Project, this year had the highest turnout of 79.2 per cent each, followed by Iowa at 78.6 per cent.

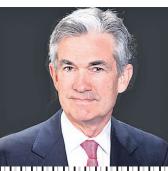
Maine and Iowa was won by President Donald Trump and Minnesota by his Democratic rival Joe Biden. Other States which polled more than 70 per cent voter turnout were Colorado (77.1 per cent), Connecticut (71.1 per cent), Delaware (70.8 per cent), Florida (72.9 per cent), Maryland (72.2 per cent), Massachusetts (73.4 per cent), Michigan (73.5 per cent) and Montana (72.3 per cent).

Arkansas recorded the lowest turnout of 56.1 per cent, as per the preliminary estimates. The Time magazine said the above-average voter turnout rate in 2020 is noteworthy as the US usually has some of the worst turnout rates in the world.

In a Pew Research ranking of voter turnout in the most recent nationwide elections, the US is placed at 30th position out of 35 nations. The highest voter turnout since 120 was reflected in a high vote support to both Biden and Trump. As of Thursday afternoon, Biden had received over 72 million votes, which is eight million more than Hillary Clinton got in

Trump has so far bagged over 68.5 million votes, which is the highest Republican turnout. According to Pew, as of 2019, non-Hispanic White Americans at 69 per cent make up the largest share of registered voters in the US. Hispanic and Black registered voters each account for 11 per cent, while those from other racial or ethnic backgrounds account for the remaining eight per cent.

business



A full economic recovery is unlikely until people are confident that it's safe to reengage in a JEROME POWELL | CHAIR OF THE

FOREX RESERVES RISES OVER \$560 BN

India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves rose \$183 million during the week ended October 30. According to RBI's weekly statistical supplement, the reserves increased to \$560.715 billion from \$560.532 billion reported for the week ended October 23





demand is good as our cotton is the cheapest in the world market. A

prices could lift Indian exports to 7 million bales in the new season from 5 million bales a year ago

ATUL GANATRA PRESIDENT, COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

In 2020, consumers





(CORPORATE TRAVEL) AND HEAD (INDUSTRY RELATIONS), YATRA.COM



CS SETTY MD (RETAIL & DIGITAL BANKING), SBI

SHORT TAKES

BHEL reports ₹552 cr loss

New Delhi: State-owned engineering firm BHEL on Friday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹552.38 crore in the September quarter, mainly due to lower revenues. The company had a consolidated net profit of ₹120.95 crore in the guarter ended on September 30, 2019, according to a BSE filing Total income declined to ₹3.793.13 crore in the latest September guarter from ₹6.359.68 crore in the same period a year ago.

ICICI Pru Life raises ₹1.200 cr

Mumbai: Leading privat sector life insurer ICICI Prudential Life Friday raised ₹1,200 crore in debt capital through the sale of nonconvertible debentures (NCDs) -- a first for the company. This is the maiden NCD issue by the insurers and offers 6.85 per cent in annual coupon for the 10year money. The capital will be used to further strengthen and augment the company's solvency ratio and support business growth, the insurer said in a note.

Samsung records 50% growth

New Delhi: Consumer electronics major Samsung witnessed 50% growth in sales of premium products and an overall growth of 32% in October, according to a senior company official. The firm is also witnessing a growth in the demand of premium products from the small towns during the ongoing festive season, said Samsung India Senior Vice-President (Consumer Electronics Business) Raju Pullan.

Bank credit rise 5.06%: RBI data

Mumbai: Bank credit grew by 5.06% to ₹103.39 lakh crore, while deposits rose by 10.12% to ₹142.92 lakh crore in the fortnight ended October 23, according to the RBI data. In the fortnight ended October 25, 2019, bank credit had stood at ₹98.40 lakh crore, and the deposit was ₹129.78 lakh crore. In the previous fortnight ended October 9, 2020, bank credit had risen by 5.66% and deposits by 10.55%.

broad range of activities 'Capping market share of UPI players to impact users'

NPCI, THURSDAY, SAID A SINGLE THIRD PARTY APP PROVIDER CAN HANDLE ONLY 30% OF OVERALL UPI TRANSACTION VOLUMES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 6: The decision to cap market share of UPI players at 30% will have implications for millions of users and even adversely impact adoption of the digital payment mechanism in the future, according to industry experts. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Thursday, said a single Third Party App Provider (TPAP) can handle only 30% of overall UPI (Unified Payments Interface) transaction volumes. The cap shall be applicable with effect from January 1, 2021.

Google Pay, Walmart's PhonePe and Paytm are among the TPAP players in the fast-growing UPI ecosystem, amid the sustained push for boosting digital payments in the country

NPCI -- which runs the UPI -- will issue Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) regarding capping of transactions in due course.

"Digital payments in India is still in its infancy and any interventions at this point should be made with a view to accelerate consumer choice and innovation. A choicebased and open model is key to drive this momentum," Google Pay and Next Billion User initiatives. India Business Head Sajith Sivanandan said in a statement.

NPCI's announcement has come as a surprise and has implications for hundreds of millions of users who use UPI for their daily payments and could impact the further adoption of UPI and the end goal of financial inclusion, he said.



Paytm and PhonePe did not respond to e-mailed queries. Generally, TPAPs tie-up with banks at the back-end to add users and process payments for them.

Data coming out of the usage is a major resource apart from the revenues made through processing

NPCI, Thursday, said that in view

action volumes, it had analysed the risks in the UPI ecosystem and outlined the steps being taken to "address the risks and protect the UPI ecosystem". For existing TPAPs, that are ex-

of the recent growth in UPI trans-

ceeding the 30% cap, will have a period of two years to comply with the requirement in a phased manner, as per NPCI. According to NPCI, the cap of 30%

will be calculated on the basis of the total volume of transactions processed in the UPI during the preceding three months on a rolling basis. An industry executive, who did

not wish to be named, said there is a lack of clarity currently as the SOPs are yet to be announced.

Players, whose market share is already above 30 per cent, would either have to lose customers or decline transactions to meet the capping requirement that would have a big impact on the business, the executive said.

According to sources, some of these players will meet NPCI executives to raise their concerns.

Recently, PhonePe announced crossing the 250 million-registered users milestone and over 100 million Monthly Active Users (MAU), and had 835 million UPI transactions in October with a market share of over 40 per cent.

Google had 67 million monthly active users in September last year, and on the merchant side, it had over three million active merchant's data for June 2020. Google Pay has not shared any updated stats since September 2019.

Increased digital payment to better assess GDP: FM

New Delhi, Nov 6: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday said increased digitisation will help in making better assessment of the country's economic growth and nudged tax practitioners to suggest their clients to shift towards digital modes of payments.

She said the government, irrespective of the party in power, tries to widen the tax net and at the same time, lower the tax burden in its pursuit of revenue collection. and tax practitioners can play a critical role in this by ensuring timely compliance by taxpayers.

"(As) we move towards digital transaction...we expect that the temptation for dealing with cash be brought down.

"Unless it is so small that you cannot go in for digital, it is always encouraging to know there will be digital ways of doing things so that every (transaction) somewhere is into the realm of getting noticed.' Sitharaman said at the 'National tax Conference 2020' organised by the All India Federation of Tax Practitioners.

She said said India's gross domestic product (GDP) will remain "underestimated" if commercial

towards digital transaction...we expect that the temptation for dealing with cash be brought down

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN I FINANCE MINISTER

transactions do not come under monitorable radar.

"If each of these transactions are brought into some kind of monitorable network, your GDP calculation can be closer to the actual strength of Indian economy, Sitharaman added.

She also said tax practitioners today are the most important component, because they educate the tax assessee, counsel them, tell them about the best ways of handling their tax liabilities, and help them plan it in such a way that what is due comes from an honest taxpayer in time.

"What you (tax practitioners) can tell them (assessee) is by more and more digitisation, you help the country have a better assessment of what its gross domestic produce is." The minister said that in a growing economy like India, the government tries to widen the tax net and, at the same time, look at ways to bring down the burden of

"This is something which the government continuously keeps doing — wanting to reduce burden and bring more people in the tax net. The government alone cannot do the job," she said.

Sitharaman added that tax practitioners' role comes to play there. 'As a result, they are the biggest critical role players in revenue generation of the government.'

She also said since tax practitioners come in between the government and the tax assessees, they have a critical role to play in promoting "in-time compliance"

TATA STEEL **COMMENCES OP AT CHROMITE MINES**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: Tata Steel Mining Limited (TSML) began operations at its Saruabil & Kamarda Chromite Mines, now also called the twin mines. The groundbreaking ceremony was held Friday to start the mining operations at Sukinda.

Managing Director of TSML MC Thomas said: "Commencing production from the twin mines is another important step for the company. We are also now ready to supply chrome ore from Sukinda Chromite mine which had started operations September 21, 2020.'

The company's three chromite mines in Jajpur district of Odisha, namely, Sukinda Chromite Mine, Saruabil Chromite Mine and Kamarda Chromite Mine constitute the first set of commercial leases to be converted into mining leases across India. These were expired March 31, 2020 and auctioned. The leases have been granted for a period of 50 years.

Sushanta Mishra, Senior General Manager (Mining), TSML and Senior Officials of TSML and Dhanshar Engineering & Co. Pvt. Ltd. (DECO), the Mine Developer and Operator (MDO) for the mine were present during the groundbreaking ceremony.

BIZ BUZZ

Renewable energy sector continues to woo investors

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 6: The renewable energy sector continued to attract investors this year, though capital spending is likely to decline, according to a report. It also noted that uncertainty is now growing over India's ability to attract a diverse pool of private finance from domestic and international sources to meet its renewable energy targets.

The report on India's Clean Energy Investment Trends is prepared by the CEEW Centre for Energy Finance (CEEW-CEF) and the International Energy Agency Total 15.3 GW solar PV (includ-

ing solar-wind hybrid) was sanctioned in competitive tenders in the first half of 2020, comparable to the capacity sanctioned over the full year 2019, a statement by CEEW

This was mainly driven by the exercise of an option in June 2020 by two developers to expand allocations under SECI's manufacturing-linked tender, capacities which were initially awarded in December



However, it said equity investor return expectations rose from around 14 per cent in the first half of 2019 to 16-17 per cent over the second half of 2019 and the first half

The higher risk return expectations are a reflection of heightened risk perceptions stemming from policy and market uncertainty over potential contract renegotiation by off-takers and the potential imposition or extension of duties on solar PV imports, further exacerbated by supply chain uncertainties caused by COVID-19 and delays in the signing of power purchase

CaratLane launches Diwali collection

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: CaratLane - A Tanishq Partnership, launched a new collection Sholapith for Diwali festival. The Diwali collection draws inspiration from the beautiful art of Sholapith, from West Bengal.

Sholapith is traditionally used during auspicious occasions to make decorative garlands and headgear for brides and grooms. The designs in the collection are intricate, with a beautiful floral motif. It's a modern take on traditional art. The intricate craftsmanship is combined with closely set diamonds and a touch of ceramic to give them a beautiful white accent, bringing the Sholapith art to life. CaratLane also launched



CaratLane LIVE this year, to make shopping easier for its customers. While customers continue to increasingly browse the CaratLane website, the intent to see the jewellery before buying also exists. Through this feature, you can select your favourite designs by video calling a CaratLane expert. The brand has already seen early success with over 25,000 CaratLane Live appointments.

in Tamil Nadu.

Industry sources said the pan-

Royal Enfield launches 'Meteor 350'

New Delhi: Mid-size motorcycle segment major Royal Enfield Friday launched the 'Meteor

350' at a starting price of ₹175,817 (ex-showroom

Chennai). According to the com-

pany, the 'Meteor 350' inherits its name from another Royal Enfield motorcycle of the 1950's. "Launched at the end of 1952, the Meteor was a magnificent touring motorcycle with a reputation that has stood the test of time," the company said in a state ment. "The new Royal Enfield Meteor 350 easy-cruiser, carries Royal Enfield's signature styling but with many firsts, and is set to be an equally outstanding machine for our times," it added.

OSRTC signs MoU with PCRA

EMIL Mines wins Radhikapur East coal block

New Delhi: EMIL Mines and Mineral Resources won Radhikapur East coal block in Odisha on the fifth day of commercial coal mine auction Friday while Aurobindo Reality and Infrastructure won Urma Paharitola coal block in Jharkhand. According to the Ministry of Coal, EMIL Mines and Mineral Resources made the final bid offer of 16.75% revenue share for Radhikapur East coal mine in the state. Jindal Steel and Power Limited, Adani

Enterprises Ltd and National Aluminium Co Ltd (NALCO) were also in the fray. "Two coal mines in Odisha and Jharkhand each were put up for auction on fifth day of commercial coal mine auction," the ministry said. Similarly, Aurobindo Reality and Infrastructure made the highest bid offer of 26.50% revenue sharing for Urma Paharitola coal block.

Bhubaneswar: Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA), Union Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Thursday for imparting training to about 750 drivers of the OSRTC through PCRA's flagship drivers training programme on Fuel Efficient Driving Skills. The MoU was signed by Arun Bothra, IPS, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, OSRTC on behalf of OSRTC and Pradeep Kumar Panda, Additional Director, PCRA-ER,



Bhubaneswar on behalf of PCRA for creating awareness among drivers community regarding efficient petroleum conservation.

Covid, crackers ban takes toll on TN fireworks industry

units shutting shop next year.

"We were operating at about 60%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 6: The ban on firecrackers by some state governments has come as a double whammy for the fireworks industry in Tamil Nadu, which cater to 90% of the demand in the country, as they have already been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to industry

Rajasthan, Odisha and Delhi have banned firecrackers during the festive season, citing the COVID-19 pandemic and also air pollution. while Karnataka has decided to soon issue an order to this effect.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami had written to his counterparts of Rajasthan and Odisha to revoke the ban on sale and use of firecrackers, considering its



Rajasthan, Odisha and Delhi have

DOUBLE WHAMMY

banned firecrackers during the

Tamil Nadu CM K Palaniswami had written to his counterparts of Rajasthan and Odisha to revoke the ban on sale and use of firecrackers

Industry sources said the pandemic has resulted in cracker manufacturers operating at only 60% of their capacity

cial said.

firecracker manufacturers may

even shut shop when there is no

business," a senior industry offi-

ing the COVID-19 induced lockdown and slightly more numbers later when some restrictions were eased.

Other problems they face was disbursement of salaries to employees and uncertainty whether the units would receive payment for stocks already sent to states like Rajasthan and Harvana before the ban was announced, another official said.

He claimed that 30% of the stocks are lying idle. The firecrackers industry is mainly focused in and around Sivakasi in Virudhunagar district in south Tamil Nadu.

Following a 2018 Supreme Court direction, the state has only restricted bursting of green crackers to one hour in the morning and another hour in the evening on

Esplanade One rolls out Diwali campaign

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 6: The shopping destination Esplanade One gears up for its 16 day long 'Happyness Wali Diwali, Khushiyo Wala Sale' campaign started from October 31, 2020. During this period, there will be over 200 brands which will have special Diwali offers, to help the customers shop and stand a chance to win assured Gold and Silver coins, and gift vouchers for shopping for nominal amounts.

This time around the shoppers $\,$ can win a Gold coin for shopping worth ₹80,000, a silver coin for shopping of over ₹40,000 and gift vouchers for shopping over ₹3,000.

Centre Director of Esplanade One Parth Navak, said, "We have introduced a 24-day Happyness



which is probably the biggest sale festival of the year with over 200 prominent brands offering the best offers and deals this Diwali. With the specially curated 'Diwali' theme, we are hopeful to attract more people through the traditional décor done across the mall."

All the Safety and Hygiene protocols will be followed with special taskforce to enforce and ensure all norms are followed within the mall premises. Esplanade One has ioined hands with Bureau Veritasto ensure industry-best practices



Supernovas face SRH MARCH INTO QUALIFIER 28 Trailblazers test Trailblazers test



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sharjah, Nov 6: Defending champions Supernovas will have to get past an upbeat Trailblazers here Saturday to stay alive in the Women's T20 Challenge.

Brimming with confidence after a crushing win over Velocity Thursday, the Smriti Mandhana-led Trailblazers will aim for another win to finish with two victories and enter the final November 9 with momentum behind them.

They will be up against Supernovas, a team smarting from defeat in the tournament opener against Velocity. Another loss would knock Supernovas out of the tournament.

Trailblazers came up with a stellar bowling performance to bundle out Velocity for 47 with England's left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone, the world No.1 T20 bowler, returning impressive figures of 4 for 9 in 3.1

Mandhana will be hoping that the bowlers continue the good work against a strong Supernovas line-up led by Harmanpreet Kaur. The southskills and expect her batting unit to step up in a crunch encounter.

Supernovas need a win and that will bring the net run-rate into play and possibly eliminate Velocity who have a negative NRR (-1.869). Velocity, on their part, will hope Supernovas lose allowing them to advance to the summit clash.

Kaur, the Indian T20 captain. will look to build on her performance in the tournament opener and hope Sri Lankan Chamari Atapattu continues her good form.

Supernovas appeared to have the match under control before Sushma Verma and Sune Luus took it away from them as the bowlers crumbled under pressure.

On the Sharjah pitch that has gotten slower progressively, the spinners will have a big role to play. Ecclestone will again be a key bowler for Trailblazers with fellow left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad and veteran Jhulan Goswami expected to back her up.

Both Supernovas and Trailblazers possess quality spinners and how the batters of the two sides fare could well decide PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Nov 6: Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) made it into the Qualifier 2 after showing Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) the exit door in the Eliminator as the David Warner-led side eked out a sixwicket win over Virat Kohli's men

SRH will next play Delhi Capitals Sunday for the final spot of the summit clash, where the winners

will face four-time champions Mumbai Indians, next Wednesday.

Chasing a small target of 132, SRH had to go through some tough phases before eventually sealing the victory with two balls to spare. And all thanks to Kane Williamson (50 n o, 44b, 2x4, 2x6) and Jason Holder (24 n o), who struck successive boundaries to finish off the

The duo put together 65 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket after SRH $\,$ were reduced to 67/4 in the 12th over. The former champions had to deal with an early hiccup when Mohammed Siraj (2/28) dismissed Sreevats Goswami, who was playing in place of an injured Wriddhiman Saha.

Then Warner (17) and Manish Pandey (24) played aggressive cricket before Siraj got rid of the Australian in the sixth over. Adam Zampa (1/12) was accounted for Pandey's wicket before Yuzvendra Chahal

Jason Holder celebrates

after dismissing Virat Kohli

Priyam Garg to put SRH in a spot of bother. However, Williamson and Holder cautiously guided them

Earlier, SRH produced a brilliant bowling effort to restrict a battingheavy RCB to a modest 131 for seven. Holder led SRH's bowling attack with impressive figures of 3/25 and was ably supported by T Natarajan (2/33) as RCB found the going difficult from the beginning.

AB de Villiers' (56, 43b, 5x4) scored a timely half century to somewhat rescue RCB from a horrible start and take the team past the 120-run mark. RCB witnessed a horrendous

start to their innings as they lost two wickets for 15 runs inside four overs after being sent into bat. Skipper Virat Kohli (6), who

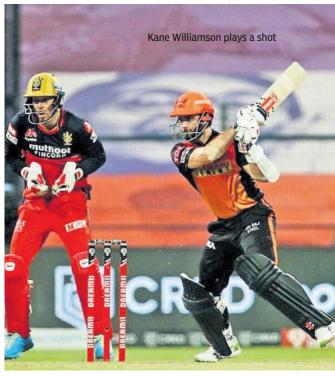
opened the innings alongside Devdutt Padikkal (1), was the first to depart, nicking one on the leg side to wicketkeeper Goswami off Holder. An over later, Holder picked up his second victim when Padikkal pulled one to Garg inside the circle as RCB

slumped to 15 for two. Aaron Finch (32), who replaced Josh Philippe, and De Villiers then tried to stabilise the innings with a 41-run third wicket stand.

But twin blows in the 11th over put paid to RCB's effort. First, Finch departed, caught by Abdul Samad off Shahbaz Nadeem (1/30) and then a ball later, Moeen Ali was caught short off the crease by a direct hit from Rashid Khan.

Shivam Dube (8) didn't help his side's cause, so was Washington Sundar (5). In between, De Villiers brought up his 50 off 39 balls with a boundary off Holder, but he was soon sent packing by a gem of a vorker from Natarajan as RCB lost their last hope.

BRIEF SCORES: Royal Challengers Bangalore 131/7 (AB de Villiers 56, Aaron Finch 32; Jason Holder 3/25, T Natarajan 2/33) lost to Sunrisers Hyderabad 132/4 (Kane Williamson 50 n o, Jason Holder 24 no, Manish Pandey 24; Mohammed Siraj 2/28) by six wickets.



paw will be aiming to showcase her Kane hits milestone in Spurs win

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 6: Harry Kane scored his 200th goal for Tottenham in a 3-1 away victory over Ludogorets in the Europa League, while 10-man Benfica came from two goals down to draw 3-3 with Rangers after an equalizer in injury time.

Also, Roma trashed Clui 5-0 wh Spanish league leader Real Sociedad handed AZ Alkmaar its first defeat halfway through the group stage.

After Tottenham's 0-1 loss against Royal Antwerp last week, manager Jose Mourinho started Kane for the first time in the competition.

In his 300th appearance, Kane needed just 13th minutes put his team ahead by heading home corner from Lucas Moura.

It was Kane's first goal in the group stage of Europe's second tier competition this season after another five in the qualifying. Kane scored his first Tottenham goal in this competition against Shamrock Rovers in 2011.

Lucas doubled the lead 20 minutes later. Kane collected a pass from Gareth Bale before setting Lucas up with a pass from the right to net from close range.

Kane was substituted at halftime and replaced by Carlos Vinicius. Claudiu Keeru pulled one back for Ludogorets in the second before Giovani Lo Celso finished it off.

Tottenham has six points from three games to join Antwerp atop Group J. The Belgian side played



LASK later Thursday.

BENFICA STRIKES LATE

With Rangers leading 3-1, Rafa Silva started the comeback for Benfica by pulling one back in the 77th minute before Darwin Nunez collected a through ball to equalize

in stoppage time. Rangers had not conceded a goal in the competition but went behind after just one minute. Silva broke down the right before cutting back a pass that Connor Goldson de-

flected into his own net. Benfica looked in control before center back Nicolas Otamendi received a straight red card in the 19th minute when brought down Ryan Kent, who had only goalkeeper

Odisseas Vlachodimos to beat. Steven Gerrard's team quickly took advantage. Rangers equalized five minute later, in similar fashion to the opening goal. James Tavernier crossed from the right and Diogo Goncalves blasted the ball high into his own goal.

Just a minute later, Glen Kamara out Rangers ahead with a goal from the edge of the area. Six minutes into the second half, Alfredo Morelos tapped in a precise cross from Tayernier to double the lead.

Lech Poznan earned its first win in the group, 3-1 over Standard

OTHER GROUPS

Borja Mayoral scored two goals and Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Roger Ibanez and Pedro Rodriguez added one each for Roma against Cluj in Group A.

With five players sidelined with the coronavirus, Slavia Prague won 3-2 over Nice for its second straight victory in Group C, Slavia, where Leverkusen also won 4-2 at Hapoel Beer-Sheva.

Granada leads Group E with seven points after a 2-0 away win against 10man Omonoia. PAOK is two pints back after a 4-1 victory over PSV.

Cristian Portu scored a secondhalf goal to give Real Sociedad a 1-0 victory over AZ Alkmaar, putting both teams on six points in Group F. Napoli also has six points after coming from a goal down for a 2-1 away win against Rijeka.

ISSF seeks help after Facebook deletes its page

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 6: The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) says it is experiencing an 'unpleasant situation' as social networking site Facebook has deleted the global body's page from its platform without any intimation

This has prompted the ISSF to campaign start a campaign '#unblock_ISSF_facebook'. Besides start Twitter and Instagram, shooters from across the world rely on the ISSF Facebook page for updates from the sport's governing body. The page was created January 14, 2010.

"An unpleasant situation happened yesterday, and Facebook has deleted the ISSF page from the social network without reason or warning," shooting's apex body said in a statement Thursday.

"At the moment, we are looking into what happened and stay with you on the official website, Instagram and Twitter. We kindly ask you to support us and show the same activity, which you showed in the mask contest.

The ISSF urged the shooting fraternity to come together and show solidarity in its bid to get Facebook to reverse its decision. "We kindly ask you to support us...please use the hashtag #unblock_ISSF_facebook for our support," the ISSF said.

Sledging not going to worry Kohli: Waugh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, Nov 6: Former Australian skipper Steve Waugh has urged the side to not get into a war of words with Virat Kohli during the upcoming four-Test home series as it might end up providing 'extra motivation' to not just him but also his teammates.

The Border-Gavaskar Trophy will begin with a day-night encounter at the Adelaide Oval December 17, followed by Tests at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (December 26), the Sydney Cricket Ground (January 7) and the Gabba (January 15). The tour will begin with three ODIs starting November 27, followed by as many T20 Internationals.

"Sledging is not going to worry Virat Kohli, it doesn't work against the great players and you're better off leaving those guys alone," Waugh said in a video posted by 'ESPNcricinfo'.

"I think any extra motivation will make them dig in more and get more runs. So you're better off not saying much to him.

Australia captain Tim Paine and his men were involved a spat with Kohli during India's last tour of Australia with ended with the visitors registering their first ever Test series (2-1) win Down Under. Steve Smith was serving a balltampering ban the last time India toured Australia in 2018-19 and Waugh believes Kohli would want to outdo the former skipper this

"He (Kohli) is a world-class player, he would wanna be the batsman of the series. Last time, he and Smith came up against each other in India, Smith really dominated with three hundreds and Kohli didn't get many.

"That would be at the back of his mind that last time he was outscored by Steve Smith," Waugh said. "So, he will want to score lot of runs and if he does, India will have a great chance of winning.

Nadal sails into Paris Masters quarters; chases elusive title

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Nov 6: Top-seeded Rafa Nadal stayed on course for an elusive first title at the Paris Masters after beating Jordan Thompson 6-1, 7-6(7-3) to reach the quarterfi-

Nadal has won 86 career titles, including 35 in Masters events, but lost his only final at the Bercy Indoor Arena in Paris 13 years ago.

Thompson found his range in the second set, hitting a couple of big winners down the line and forcing a set point with Nadal serving at 6-5. After a decent second serve, Nadal saved it after a long rally.

But Thompson threw his racket onto the ground in frustration after

losing the next point and Nadal's sharp backhand volley at the net took it into a tie-breaker.

The unseeded Australian saved one match point with his third ace of the tiebreaker, but on the next opportunity Nadal pushed his opponent to the back of the court and Thompson's forehand sank into the

Nadal, a 20-time Grand Slam champion who Wednesday became only the fourth man to reach 1,000 match wins, next faces Spanish countryman Pablo Carreno Busta. Still, Nadal holds a 6-0 lead in their meetings, having beaten him twice already this year.

Alexander Zverev needed three hours to beat unseeded Frenchman

Adrian Mannarino 7-6(13-11), 6-7(7-9), 6-4. The fourth-seeded German saved set points in each of the opening two sets, but then Mannarino saved a match point at 7-6 down in the tiebreaker and clinched the second set with a smart volley at the

Zverev broke in the ninth game of the decider, then saved a break point at 30-40 before serving out the match with two aces, bringing his total to 19.

He next faces three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka, after the Swiss veteran rallied to beat fifth-seeded Russian Andrey Rublev 1-6, 6-4, 6-3,

Zverev has won all three previous matches against the 12th-seeded



Wawrinka, including in an 2014 runner-up Milos Raonic ad-Australian Open quarterfinal this

Earlier, No.3 Daniil Medvedev overcame a first-set blip where he conceded 11 straight points before rallying to beat 16th-seeded Alex de Minaur 5-7, 6-2, 6-2.

The strong-serving Russian concluded with a 13th ace and next plays No.6 Diego Schwartzman, the French Open semifinalist who routed qualifier Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 6-1, 6-1 to take a step closer to reaching the seasonending ATP Finals for the first time. Schwartzman would qualify for the November 15-22 tournament in

London if he beats Medvedev. In other third-round matches,

vanced after beating American qualifier Marcos Giron 7-6(7-1), 6-2. The 10th-seeded Canadian had 15 aces and did not face a break point.

He next faces unseeded Frenchman Ugo Humbert, who defeated former US Open champion Marin Cilic 6-3, 6-7(4-7), 6-3 to continue his strong form.

Humbert knocked out French Open semifinalist Stefanos Tsitsipas ঽ in the second round, and took his second title of the year two weeks ago at the European Open in Antwerp, Belgium.

Carreno Busta, who is challenging Schwartzman for a place at The O2 arena in London, won 7-5, 6-2 against unseeded Norbert Gombos.

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