



SETTING GOALS

Actor Bhumi Pednekar says she wants to leave a legacy by acting in good cinema

LEISURE P2



ARNAB SHIFTED

Republic TV's Arnab Goswami was moved to the Taluja jail after allegedly using a mobile phone while in judicial custody

TWO STATES P7



CHINA'S RLY PROJECT IN TIBET

Xi Jinping orders officials to expedite the construction of rail line in Tibet, close to Arunachal Pradesh

INTERNATIONAL P10

PLENTIFUL COTTON OUTPUT GOES IN VAIN

ALTHOUGH ODISHA IS A LEADING PRODUCER OF COTTON, ABSENCE OF TEXTILE MILLS COMPELS WEAVERS TO STARVE OR MIGRATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: Odisha has been a leading producer of cotton, as nearly 10 crore kg of the fiber is produced annually in 12 districts of the state. However, it is a pity that there are no cotton mills in the state to make use of the cotton.

According to the state Handicraft, Handloom and Textiles Minister's statement in the Assembly, one cotton processing mill is operational at Kesinga in Kalahandi district, six cooperative-backed cotton mills are lying defunct.

What is sad is that in the absence of processing units or textile parks to use the state's cotton output, people are bereft of potential employment opportunities in this sector. In such a scenario, the major parts of cotton produced here are exported to other states.

Roughly 1,22,335 weaver families, most of them in western Odisha, are eking out their living in handloom sector. According to an estimate, they annually use cotton worth ₹95 crore.



A cotton cultivator in Ganjam district

Though these weavers have been demanding a textile park in western Odisha to promote handloom items, there is no one to lend them an ear.

Assistant Director of Textiles Debraj Sahu told **Orissa POST** that the government procures cotton from farmers through mandis. "As there is no cotton mill here, the product is exported to other states - mostly the southern states. Some cotton is also sold to Punjab and Haryana, he added. Sources

said cotton cultivation is carried out in 12 districts - Kalahandi, Bolangir, Rayagada, Nuapada, Subarnapur, Bargarh, Gajapati, Ganjam, Koraput, Boudh, Kandhamal and Angul.

The state produced 5,78,500 bales or 9,83,45,000 kg cotton in the 2019-20 fiscal. Out of this Kalahandi alone produced 2,27,240 bales of cotton. However, the harvested cotton was of no use to the weavers here due to closure of six cotton mills.

The Odisha Weavers' Cotton Mill in Bargarh, Kalinga Cotton Mill in Dhenkanal, Utkal Weavers Cooperative Cotton Mill in Khurda, Jagannath Weavers' Cooperative Cotton Mill in Athagarh of Cuttack district, Sarala Weavers' Cooperative Cotton Mill in Jagatsinghpur district and Sri Gopinath Weavers' Cooperative Cotton Mill in Balasore have downed shutters long back. Only the Konark Cotton Mill, spread over 50 acres, at Kesinga in Kalahandi district is the only functioning cotton mill in the state.

The state government has initiated a move to revive three defunct cotton mills, including are Odisha Cotton Mill in Bargarh, Kalinga Cotton Mill in Dhenkanal and Sri Gopinath Cotton Mill in Balasore, through privatisation. Privatisation of Sri Gopinath Cotton Mill is complete and the process of handing over the land is on.

Many have demanded establishment of more cotton mills and textile parks in the state to curb migration of skilled workers to other states.

Establishment of more cotton mills and textile parks will benefit these skilled migrant workers who now work in mills located in Gujarat, Karnataka and West Bengal, the departmental minister acknowledged. Meanwhile, the weavers' association members said establishing more cotton mills and textile parks as per the Odisha Apparel Policy-2016 will create more employment opportunities in the state.

Priyaranjan Kar, secretary of Odisha Artisan Federation, said that Odisha has more than three lakh weavers but the state government is unable to supply them cotton as per their demand. These weavers now depend on states like Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh for their livelihood. Duryodhan Chand, a tussar saree weaver in Gopalpur, termed the state government's move to get global brand tag to Odisha Handloom as unfortunate. "Instead of making raw materials available for weavers, the government is keen on international recognition only," he lamented.

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Pvt labs in City begin antibody tests for nCoV

MANISH KUMAR, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: Private laboratories in the state have started antibody or serological tests, which was so far done only in government hospitals. Many online and offline lab services are offering lucrative services and encouraging people to undertake the test.

Antibody test is undertaken to detect past infection by the novel coronavirus by measuring and screening antibodies developed in human bodies against the viral disease owing to its exposure to the virus in the past.

According to the private labs, as several asymptomatic patients recover without knowing that they had been infected by the virus, this test can help them in ascertaining whether they were exposed to the virus at any point of time.

However, city doctors said that antibody test should not be used by people for any treatment or course correction but only be undertaken to know about their past exposure to the virus. This technology is also used by government agencies for research work.

"This test reveals that whether a person was exposed to the virus in the last 3-4 weeks. It does not mention about current infection. As many Covid-19 patients are asymptomatic, it helps them to know if they were infected in the past. It also measures the levels of antibodies in people," said



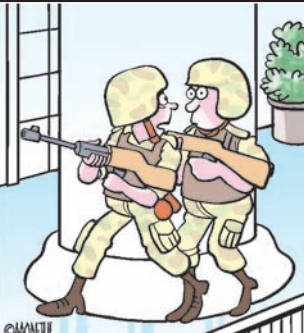
Several patients are asymptomatic and recover without knowing that they had been infected. This test can help in ascertaining whether they were exposed to the virus at any point of time

Dr Manoj Sahu, gastroenterologist at SUM Hospital.

According to the doctors, two types of antibodies are produced in human bodies with the exposure of the virus-IgM and IgG. While IgM develops faster and dies faster, IgG lasts longer and protects the recovered patients for a longer time.

"Higher numbers of antibodies show better protection and they can be eligible for plasma donation," Dr Sahu said. "While many people have expressed their keenness to undergo the test, it is worth mentioning that antigen test does not confirm whether a person will be infected by the virus in future," said Dr Alakta Das, a city gynaecologist.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



What do you mean by which terrorist has holed up? It's Prez Trump

SHORT TAKES

I-Core MD, lodged in Jharpada jail, dies

Bhubaneswar: Anukul Maiti, 55, the key accused in the I-Core chit fund scam breathed his last during treatment at Capital Hospital Sunday. He was lodged in Jharpada jail since 2017, Maiti and his wife Kanika, residents of Kolkata, were the managing directors of I-Core E-Services Limited. CBI had arrested them on charges of cheating in 2017. They were later produced in a Bhubaneswar court and sent to judicial custody.

Bar association polls Dec 12

Cuttack: The Odisha State Bar Council Sunday announced election of the affiliated bar associations in the State will be held on December 12, 2020 for the remaining period of the year 2020-21. In a letter to the election officers of affiliated bar associations, the State Bar Council stated the polling will be done by secret ballot for posts at different bars from 8 am to 4 pm.

Crusher unit owner kidnapped

Rourkela: The owner of a crusher unit, Pradeep Kundu, was allegedly abducted by unidentified miscreants near Bijabahal under Biramitrapur police limits in Sundargarh district Saturday evening. According to sources, Pradeep had gone to Bijabahal Saturday to meet his staff and give them their salaries. While he was returning, some miscreants abducted him. Police found his car from on NH-143.

| WEATHER | | BHUB | CTK |
|----------|--------|--------|--------------------|
| MAX | 30.5°C | 30.5°C | |
| MIN | 18.0°C | 16.8°C | |
| Humidity | 65% | 56% | Forecast |
| Rainfall | Nil | Nil | Dry weather likely |

It's time to heal America: Joe Biden

THE US PRESIDENT-ELECT HAS CALLED UPON CITIZENS TO END THE 'GRIM ERA OF DEMONISATION'

AGENCIES

New York, Nov 8: US President-elect Joe Biden has called for national healing after a deeply divisive campaign of harsh rhetoric but issued a warning against those who would "bet against America".

In his victory speech in Delaware on Saturday night after the media declared him the winner of the 2020 presidential race, Biden said: "We embark on the work that God and history have called upon us to do."

The speech focused on domestic issues, especially bringing the nation together and pulling it out of the Covid-19 crisis. He said his task is "to make America respected around the world again".

"Tonight, the whole world is watching America," he said. "And I believe at our best, America is a beacon for the globe. We will lead not only by the example of our power, but by the power of our example."

"This is a great nation. It has always been a bad bet to bet against America. We are good people. This is the United States of America," Biden added.

The former Vice President did not



get into any specifics of policy or programme except on the coronavirus pandemic. During his campaign he accused President Donald Trump of mishandling the pandemic, which has resulted in over 225,000 deaths and made fighting it a priority.

"I will spare no effort or commitment to turn this pandemic around," he said. He announced that he was appointing a panel of leading scientists and experts to create an action programme based on his and Kamala Harris's Covid-19 plan for fighting it

starting on January 20, the day a President is sworn in. "That plan will be built on bedrock of science. It will be constructed out of compassion, empathy and concern."

Addressing the nation's polarisation, he said: "Let this grim era of demonisation in America begin to end, here and now."

Speaking directly to Trump supporters, he said: "To those who voted for President Trump, I understand your disappointment tonight. I've lost a couple of elections myself." He ap-

pealed to them to "give each other a chance", to end "the harsh rhetoric" and to "lower the temperature".

Trump doesn't plan to concede any time soon

WASHINGTON: After the declaration Saturday that Democrat Joe Biden had won the race for the White House, Republican President Donald Trump and his allies made one thing clear: he does not plan to concede anytime soon. The president, who has spent months trying to undermine the election results with unproven allegations of fraud, pledged Saturday to go forward with a legal strategy that he hopes will overturn state results that gave Biden the win in Tuesday's vote. Trump aides and Republican allies, while somewhat conflicted on how to proceed, largely supported his strategy or remained silent. "The simple fact is this election is far from over. Joe Biden has not been certified as the winner of any states," Trump said in a statement released by his campaign around midday.

4 jawans, 3 militants killed in J&K's Machil

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 8: Four security forces personnel, including an Army officer, and three militants were killed during a failed infiltration bid by the ultras along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Machil sector Sunday, officials said.

The militants made an abortive bid during the night to infiltrate into the Indian side of the LoC in Machil sector in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, they added. The infiltrators were challenged and three of them

were killed, the officials said. However, three Army soldiers, including an officer, and a Border Security Force (BSF) jawan were also killed during the operation, they added.

Meanwhile, Srinagar-based defence spokesperson Col Rajesh Kalia said at about 1 am, a BSF patrol noticed suspicious movement near the Anti-Infiltration Obstacle System (LoC fence), about 3.5 km from the LoC. The BSF personnel challenged the infiltrators and a gunbattle ensued, in which a militant was killed, he said.

"A BSF soldier was killed in ac-

tion (KIA) and the firefight stopped at 0400 hours," Col Kalia said in a statement. He said more troops were rushed to the area and the movement of the militants was tracked with the help of surveillance devices.

"Contact was re-established at 1020 hours when heavy fire was drawn by own search parties approximately 1.5 km from the LoC. In the ensuing firefight, two more terrorists were killed. Own troops suffered three KIA and two injured," Col Kalia said.

He added that the injured soldiers have been evacuated.

No cut in SC/ST scholarship: CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday directed that there would be no change in the post-matric scholarship amount given to students from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories in the state.

The scholarship will continue as per the previous provisions.

The notification of the SC and ST Development Department has now been put on hold, said a statement by the Chief Minister's Office.

The Chief Minister directed the

department to put up a resolution on this matter on hold and immediately send the file to the CMO for a detailed review. The government decision came a day after Youth Wing of the Odisha Congress slammed it for reducing money given to SC and ST students under its post-matric scholarship scheme.

The state had slashed such scholarship for SC and ST students in at least 15 courses, including BTech and MBA courses, said sources.

Earlier, addressing reporters here Saturday, Youth Congress state president Smruti Ranjan Lenka

said, "Both state government and the Centre are playing with the future of the SC and ST students by cutting down the post-matric scholarship. On the by-poll day (November 3), the state SCST Development Department issued a notification reducing the post-matric scholarship amount."

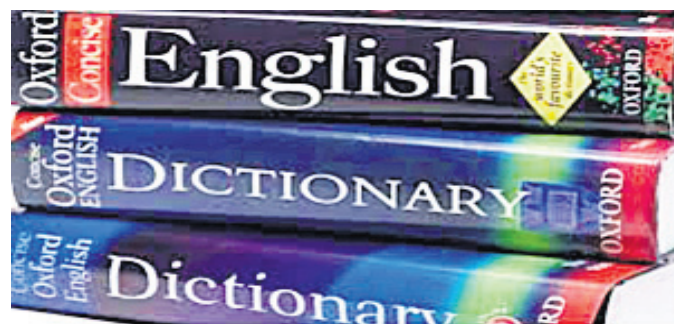
The post-Matric scholarship scheme is a Central government scheme and was started by the UPA government with 100 per cent funding. However, after the Modi government took charge, it reduced the funds flow, the Congress leader said.

The Oxford Dictionary amends the definitions of the word 'woman' and also updates the sexist and offensive synonyms used for women

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 8: After facing a lot of criticism, the Oxford University Press has changed the definition of the word woman. The change was made following an extensive review that was initiated by petitions filed last year criticising the inclusion of words 'bitch, bint, wench' and other offensive terms as synonyms for women.

The updated definition in the Oxford Dictionary now acknowledges that a woman can be a person's wife, girlfriend, or female lover, rather than being all these things only to a man. The changes have been made to the definition of man also and now it includes similar gender-neutral terminology. Other terms that have been revised under



the changes are related to sexual attractiveness and activity.

Several labels have also been assigned terms categorised as derogatory, offensive or dated. The word bitch and bint, are also no longer listed as a synonyms for the word woman. According to an Oxford University Press spokeswoman, the

changes were implemented after an "extensive review of entries related to woman and many other related terms."

According to The Guardian, the campaigners requesting the changes had argued that the examples the dictionary offered for man were much more exhaustive,

than those for woman. They said that the dictionary presented women as a subordinate or an irritation. The petition also demanded that all the terms that stressed men's ownership over women or discriminated and patronised them, should be eliminated. Additionally, the definition of woman was to be enlarged to include examples representative of minorities such as transgender women and lesbian women.

Women's Aid and the Women's Equality party had supported the campaign this year on International Women's Day. They signed an open letter and demanded OUP to change the sexist definitions. "Bitch is not a synonym for woman. It is dehumanising to call a woman a bitch. It is but one sad, albeit extremely

damaging, example of everyday sexism. And that should be explained clearly in the dictionary entry used to describe us," the letter read.

The campaign was started by Maria Beatrice Giovanardi. The petition has reached 30,000 signatures and reportedly, Maria was "very happy" with the changes and felt the campaign had achieved 90 per cent of its aims. She called the inclusion of gender-neutral terminology "a huge step forward for the LGBTIQ people." She added, "It is respecting their love and unions."

However, she remained disappointed by the fact that though the word bitch, that is defined as a "spiteful, unpleasant or disliked woman" was now labelled offensive in the dictionary, it still continues to be listed as a synonym.



STONE'S UNWIND THERAPY: GOOD BATH, YOGA, COLOURING BOOKS

When it comes to unwinding, nothing works for Sharon Stone as a good bath, yoga and her colouring books. "Go and have a really good bath. Why not pull up a yoga mat? How about painting, drawing or colouring in? They are very calming," she said.

SINGER NOEL GALLAGHER 'WARY' OF COVID VACCINE

Singer Noel Gallagher is not keen on the idea of Covid vaccination, whenever it becomes available. "I'd be very, very wary of taking a vaccine. I don't even take tablets," said the former Oasis band member.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Like a true man of words, today you will talk your way into whatever it is that you want! If you've been wooing someone, a tête-à-tête will work wonders for you. But make sure you don't shirk responsibilities and complete your pending projects before your boss comes asking for them.

TAURUS
There is a chance that your analytical ability will get noticed today by your boss, predicts Ganesh. Such an analytical skill will add to your awareness and wisdom in the afternoon. You might go on a shopping spree to buy cassettes, CDs and similar electronic gadgets, expects Ganesh.

GEMINI
You may be forced to share your personal belongings with someone else. This may make you a little angry, even jealous perhaps. Spirituality and a visit to a religious place may help you restore your peace of mind, suggests Ganesh.

CANCER
Love is not just in the air, it is everywhere. The love bug will bite you so hard that it may make you weep. If you are a part of a long-standing relationship, you will fall in love with your partner all over again.

LEO
If you thought the Rubik's Cube was confusing, wait till you see what the day has in store for you. A rather nasty professional glitch will baffle and bewilder you. You may want to gear up for certain unpleasant situations at work.

VIRGO
Speech-craft will be your potent weapon today, predicts Ganesh. The gift of gab was never more silvery, as you enchant your way into the hearts of the opposite sex sometime late in the day. Put-off work will be completed.

LIBRA
Rub-a-dub and scrub and scrub: that is your motto today as you pay extra attention to sanitation. Call it the quirky side to you, but today, you may plan to wash your car, rearrange the furniture, and take up cleaning tasks in the afternoon.

SCORPIO
Your day will gravitate to being constructive today, predicts Ganesh. At work, your dedication will keep others on their toes; and you miles ahead. Marital bliss will be at its best. All in all, a colourful day, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
You are in a mood to entertain your family and friends today, predicts Ganesh. Jovial and cheerful you, a family tour is on your mind. Meanwhile, you even decide to catch up on your work, and you may receive accolades for the work delivered.

CAPRICORN
It's all true and not too hard to digest either: your family will be your ladder to success and will bless you with all the luck you need, says Ganesh. You will make a good head-start today, right from your home, and will continue to maintain the same tempo at work too.

AQUARIUS
If you are tangled in some legal matters, Ganesh advises you go for an out of court settlement. You are strong, and with patience and perseverance you will sail smoothly through difficult times. People, however, may perceive you as a headstrong or inflexible person.

PISCES
Your powers of concentration and focus come to the fore. Your lucidity and eye for detail will save you from many a hassle that could have developed later on. The time that this will save your bosses and peers will bring you many accolades, says Ganesh.

RAKUL PREET LOSES TRACK OF DAY, NIGHT

Mumbai: Actress Rakul Preet Singh has been working really hard and lost track of day and night.

Rakul made the confession on Instagram. In the image, the actress is seen getting her hair and make done for the film she is currently shooting.

On the picture, she wrote:

"#Nightshootmode. When you have lost track of day/night".

Recently, Rakul shared that a bling bag is one of the main characters in her upcoming film, which also features John Abraham, Arjun Kapoor, and Aditi Rao Hydari.

Rakul posted a picture on Instagram, where Arjun is seen giving a metallic coloured bag to the actress.

"That bling bag is also one of the main characters what say @kaachua @arjunkapoor #lifeonset #laughter #work-life," Rakul Preet said.

The yet-untitled film is a romantic comedy is directed by Kaashvie Nair.



Pic: VarunDhawan (@varundvn)

Varun celebrates Biden's victory

Mumbai: Actor Varun Dhawan seems to be over the moon after the victory of Democratic nominee Joe Biden in the US presidential elections, going by his post on social media.

Varun posted a string of pictures on Instagram Sunday morning, wherein he is seen dressed in a US flag print suit paired with a white shirt and red sunglasses.

The actor congratulated President-elect Biden using his character name 'Kunwa' from upcoming movie Coolie No. 1. "KUNWAR- BIDEN 2020 Hamare naye dost @joebiden congratulation (congratulations) to our new friend. A #presidentno1 #kunjarsaab #coolieno1 coming soon," Varun wrote in the caption.

Pednekar wants to leave a legacy

Mumbai: Ayushmann Khurrana and Bhumi Pednekar-starrer *Bala* was released one year ago on this day. The actress says she wants to leave behind a legacy and thinks that

Amar Kaushik, revolves around a young man suffering from premature balding. Talking about the movie, Bhumi said: "*Bala* is a very special film. It's again a film where I got a chance to experiment with a powerful character."

Bala marked the third collaboration between Bhumi and Ayushmann. The two have also worked in movies like *Dum Laga Ke Haisha* and *Shubh Mangal Saavdhani*.

Bhumi, who will soon be seen in *Durgavati*, said: "I definitely want to leave behind a legacy and I think you can only do that with good cinema."



'MADAM VICE-PRESIDENT NO LONGER A FICTIONAL CHARACTER'

LOS ANGELES: Congratulatory posts have been pouring in over the last several hours for US President-elect Joe Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris, who is set to become the first female Vice President of America.

Many of the congratulatory messages were in fact for Harris, for breaking the glass ceiling and becoming the first woman to become US Vice President.



HOLLYWOOD CELEBRATES KAMALA HARRIS' FEAT

"Crying and holding my daughter, look baby, she looks like us," tweeted actress Mindy Kaling, referring to Kamala Harris.

"Amma, we made it Overjoyed to welcome our new Vice President: @KamalaHarris," wrote Padma Lakshmi, popular as posted Top Chef host to global audiences.

Julia Louis-Dreyfus, famous for her role of the Vice President of the United States in the popular series, *Veep*, shared: "Madam Vice President is no longer a fictional character."

"What a tremendous moment in our nation's history!" tweeted Hollywood star Reese Witherspoon, and added:

"Congrats to our new President @JoeBiden and the First Female Vice President in our history @KamalaHarris."

"Just started getting choked up. I really wish my friend @chadwickboseman was here to see

@KamalaHarris become the first female VP in history," wrote actor Josh Gad.

Singer Alicia Keys posted: "Let's keep being loud & strong. Now the real work begins! Big congrats to @KamalaHarris."

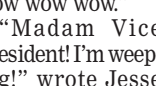
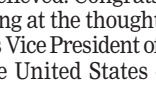
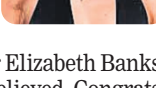
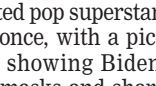
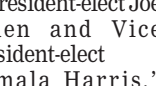
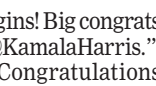
"Congratulations to President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris," posted pop superstar Beyonce, with a picture showing Biden

and Harris wearing masks and sharing a high-five underneath an American flag.

Singer Miley Cyrus wrote: "Now THIS is a PARTY IN THE USA!"

Actress-filmmaker Elizabeth Banks wrote: "I'm so so so relieved. Congrats @JoeBiden I am crying at the thought of @KamalaHarris as Vice President of the United States - wow wow wow."

"Madam Vice President! I'm weeping!" wrote Jesse Tyler Ferguson.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

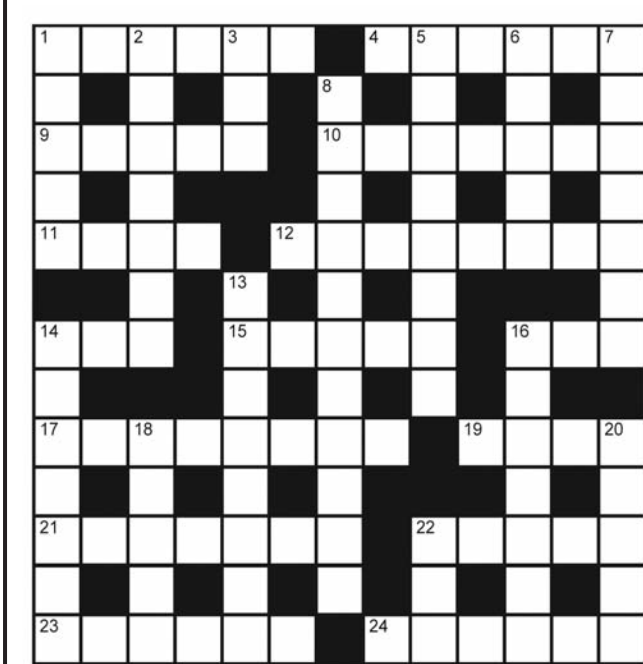


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Superficial
 - 4 Spain and Portugal
 - 9 Drum played with the hands
 - 10 Andes country
 - 11 Do magazine work
 - 12 Scholarly
 - 14 River inlet
 - 15 Bravo!
 - 16 Commercials
 - 17 Onion plants
 - 19 Lockup
 - 21 Chinese game
 - 22 Military trainee
 - 23 Silent killer
 - 24 Shrink in fear
 - 5 Boo-boos
 - 6 Receiver
 - 7 Apprehends
 - 8 Where an actor wants to be (6,5)
 - 13 Seafood dish
 - 14 Takes up again
 - 16 *Arabian Nights* boy
 - 18 Loathe
 - 20 Unit of petrol
 - 22 Mongrel

SUDOKU

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 5 | 4 | 6 | | | | 1 | | | 0 | D | |
| | | | D | 0 | | | | 5 | | | | |
| | | 8 | 7 | 1 | | | | | | 5 | | |
| 2 | 8 | | 1 | 3 | A | 0 | 4 | | | | 9 | |
| D | 1 | | 9 | B | | 8 | | | | 4 | | |
| | | 4 | 8 | D | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 4 | A | 0 | E | 6 | 3 | D | | | | 7 | | |
| | | 6 | | | 7 | 2 | A | | | | | |
| C | 7 | | | 2 | 0 | | | | | 1 | 9 | E |
| 0 | D | 6 | | E | A | | | 9 | | | 3 | |
| 4 | A | E | C | 6 | | | | 5 | 3 | | D | |
| | | | D | C | | | | 6 | | 5 | | |
| 3 | 0 | 5 | A | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 5 | | | | 8 | | | | | | E | 4 |
| E | 1 | 8 | 4 | | | | 7 | C | 2 | | B | |

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | A | H | A | M | A | S | P | A | L | M | S |
| A | E | A | P | A | O | P | | | | | |
| C | O | M | P | L | A | I | N | S | B | E | E |
| O | A | N | S | | | | | | | | C |
| N | E | V | E | R | E | V | E | R | E | S | T |
| O | I | C | | | | | | | | | N |
| A | D | D | A | S | H | E | S | E | W | E | |
| N | K | | | | | | | | | | I |
| T | R | A | V | A | I | L | R | O | Y | A | L |
| L | M | L | P | | | | | | | | I |
| E | M | U | P | R | I | C | E | T | A | G | S |
| R | R | L | N | E | T | L | O | S | | | Z |
| S | E | N | S | E | G | | | | | | L |

SUDOKU

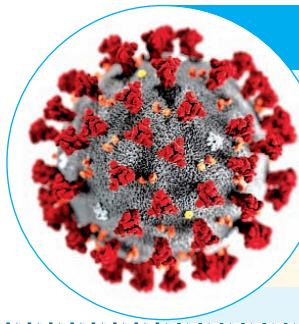
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 | A | C | E | 0 | 3 | 1 | D | 5 |
| 3 | A | 1 | 5 | D | 7 | B | 4 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 0 | C | E |
| C | E | 0 | 4 | A | 6 | D | 1 | 3 | B | 5 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 9 |
| D | 2 | 8 | 3 | E | C | 9 | 0 | 5 | 1 | A | 6 | 7 | B | 4 |
| 9 | 7 | 5 | B | 1 | 0 | 2 | 8 | E | D | 4 | C | 3 | 6 | A |
| 0 | D | 6 | C | 8 | 1 | E | 3 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 5 | A | B |
| 4 | 1 | B | 9 | 0 | 5 | 8 | C | 2 | 3 | 7 | A | D | E | 6 |
| 7 | 5 | A | E | 2 | B | 9 | 0 | 9 | 6 | C | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| E | 9 | 3 | 6 | 7 | A | 4 | 5 | 1 | 0 | B | D | C | 8 | 2 |
| 2 | 8 | C | D | 4 | 3 | 6 | 9 | A | 5 | 1 | 0 | B | D | C |
| 6 | 3 | 7 | 1 | C | D | A | E | 9 | 2 | 8 | 4 | B | 5 | 0 |
| 5 | 8 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 | C | D | 1 | A | 9 | 8 | 0 |
| 1 | 0 | 9 | A | 6 | C | 2 | 8 | A | 7 | E | 5 | 6 | 3 | D |
| 8 | C | 2 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 5 | D | B | 4 | 6 | 0 | E | 4 | 1 |
| A | 4 | D | 8 | 5 | E | 1 | 6 | 0 | 9 | 3 | B | 2 | 7 | C |

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



ON LORD'S DUTY

Artisans preparing decorative pieces for the upcoming Nagarjuna Besha ritual of Lord Jagannath in Puri, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

| | INFECTED | RECOVERED | DEAD |
|--------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| World | 5,04,44,506 | 3,56,58,577 | 12,58,690 |
| India | 84,11,034 | 77,64,763 | 1,25,029 |
| Odisha | 3,01,574 | 2,88,168 | 1,425 |

Cong slams Saffron on 4th anniv of demonetisation



Congress leaders Narasingha Mishra (L) and Panchanan Kanungo address the press conference, Sunday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: The state leadership of the Congress party Sunday attacked the Narendra Modi government at the Centre over the demonetization move, four years back, and said India is still facing its 'detrimental consequences'.
Congress Legislative Leader in Odisha Assembly Narasingha Mishra and veteran leader Panchanan Kanungo Sunday held a press conference to attack the BJP government at the Centre.
"When the demonetisation was announced in 2016, tall claims were made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that it would help in reducing counterfeit notes, tackle terrorism

Are we able to see large deposits of black money to the government coffers? Most problems against which the move was planned have only increased
NARASINGHA MISHRA | CONGRESS LEGISLATIVE LEADER, ODISHA ASSEMBLY

has also risen during the last few years of the BJP regime. It was the poor who were the most affected during demonetisation. This shows the intention of the government was not good. It was meant to help the corporates, harass the common man which ultimately damaged the country badly rather than helping it," Mishra said.
Kanungo also blamed the Odisha government for supporting the move. He said, "As per the RBI report, between 2018-19 and 2019-20, in two states—Bihar and Uttar Pradesh the counterfeit notes only increased. Both the states are run by the BJP government. The Modi government must answer how the fake note industry flourished post demonetization."
He also added, "Odisha government supported the move. Now, the fake note industry has made its presence in Odisha too. Counterfeit notes grew with the rate of 121 per cent in one year. It was just a political move to help their party."

Digitisation has only eased Revenue dept's ops

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: The advent of digitised services has made several cumbersome works of the Revenue department hassle free and allowed the citizens to get their work done in shorter duration of time besides doing away with the mandatory visits.
The department in collaboration with the Board of Revenue, Cuttack in the past few years has worked towards digitisation of land records and came out with several new solutions to cater to the needs of the new generation government.

"The life of landholders has become much easier and hassle free with transparency ending the era of discretionary power. We have now digitised land records, payment of land revenue has been done online where mutation of land has been made in the shortest time," an official from the department said.
The Revenue department along with the Board of Revenue has now started simplifying the kisams and satwas recorded in the Record of Rights or 'Patta' and consequently,

rationalising the fixation of fair and equitable rent to bring about parity resulting in simplifying the land administration in a revolutionary way.
"After digitization, it came to the notice of the government that in spite of issuance of guidelines and instructions published in the 'Kisam Niyamabali' and 'Rayati Jami Record Kariba Pranali on Satwa Niyamabali', by the Board of Revenue in the years 1992 and 1975 respectively, there is still existence of 7797 types of Kisam and 750 types of Satwas in

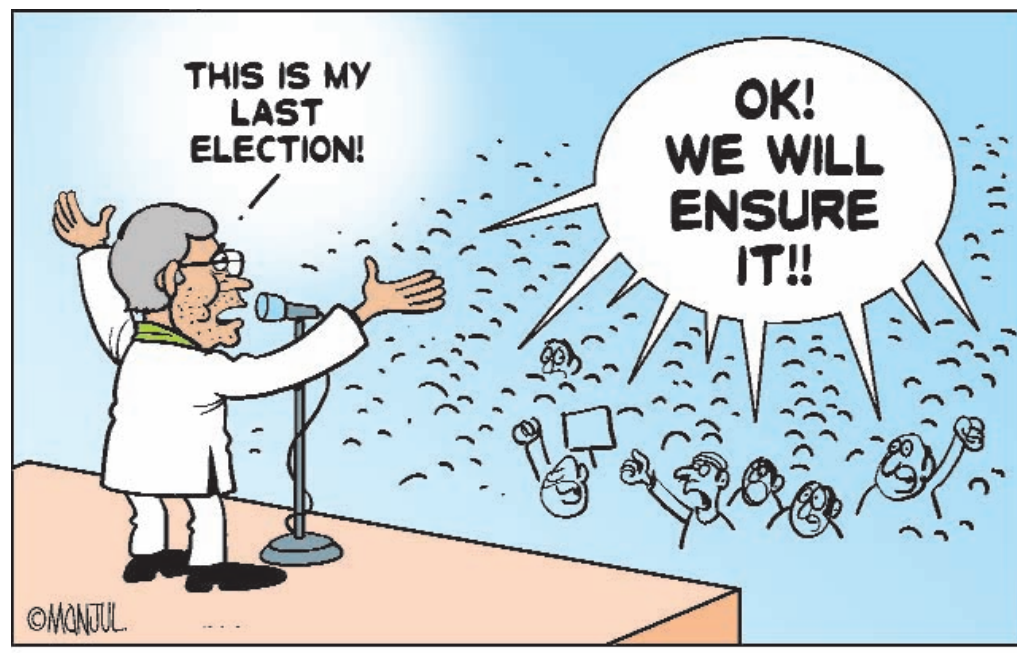
the Record of Rights," a statement from the Board of Revenue said. The board said one of the prime reasons for such large number of kisams in the records is due to the use of different vernacular names. The department has been working towards universal nomenclature of the same for reducing confusions and disputes. "In the second phase, the rationalisation of purely government kisam (1308 in number) recorded in the four government books namely, Abada Jogya Anabadi, Abada Ajogya Anabadi, Rakhit and Sarbasadharama shall be taken up," the board said.

4 drug peddlers held in Puri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Nov 8: Chandampur police claimed to have arrested four persons including a woman on charges of smuggling brown sugar into the Holy City Saturday.
Police also seized 273 grams of brown sugar from the accused.
"Illegal drugs trade has been on the rise in the Holy city. We have found 273 grams of brown sugar from a car during routine checking near Balabhadrapur by-pass Saturday afternoon. Four persons have been arrested in this connection," said a police officer.
The accused were Sheikh Sajjan, Sheikh Samatulla and his wife Apsara Begum of Jaleswar in Balasore and Prakash Behera of Puri. "They were sourcing brown sugar from Balasore and selling it in Puri," police said.

POLITICKLE BY MANJUL



Srimandir panel to finalise designs today

A 21-MEMBER COMMITTEE IS ALL SET TO MEET AT NILADRI BHAKTA NIWAS HERE AT 4 PM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Nov 8: The Three Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has expedited process for silver plating of the doors of as many as eight gates of Srimandir.
A 21-member committee is all set to meet at Niladri Bhakta Niwas here at 4 pm Monday (November 9) to finalise designs for the silver plating work, SJTA sources said.
The temple administration had earlier planned to cover the doors of Jay-Vijay, Kalahata, Beharana, Satapahacha and Bhoga Mandap

SILVER PLATING OF DOORS

- AROUND 2.5 TONNES OF SILVER WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR COVERING THE EIGHT DOORS WITH THE WHITE METAL
- A DEVOTEE HAS COME FORWARD TO DONATE SILVER AND BEAR ALL OTHER EXPENSES FOR THE BEAUTIFICATION WORK
- SOME ARTISANS FROM MUMBAI WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE NOVEMBER 9 MEETING



gates of Srimandir with silver. There was also a plan for silver plating of the doors at Nrusingha temple, Bimala temple and Mahalaxmi temple on the 12th century shrine precincts.
"Around 2.5 tonnes of silver would be required for covering the eight doors with the white metal. A devo-

tee has come forward to donate silver and bear all other expenses for the beautification work. Some artisans from Mumbai will also participate in the November 9 meeting," said a source in the SJTA.
The first meeting of the 21-member committee was first organised October 27. The meeting deliber-

ated on various issues related to the silver plating work.
It is learnt that the temple administration would construct new wooden doors for the eight gates before initiating the silver plating work. The doors would be constructed with fine quality teak woods, said an official of the SJTA.
"Initially, the doors at the Satapahacha gate of Srimandir would be covered with silver. The experts would observe the work and make necessary changes in the remaining seven doors," said the official.
Notably, many devotees have come forward to donate gold and silver to Srimandir for beautification work. Recently, the SJTA has approved designs for a new set of ornaments for the presiding deities after a devotee from Mumbai showed his interest to donate 5kg gold to Srimandir.

NHRC seeks ATR on preparedness to meet exigencies in Capital city

PNN & UNI

Bhubaneswar/Kendrapara, Nov 8: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an action taken report (ATR) from the state Home Secretary on the preparedness to meet the emergency in Bhubaneswar.
Acting on a petition filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC sought the ATR within four weeks. A copy of the order was also marked to the director general of police (DGP) for his information and needful action.
The order of the NHRC came recently to handle the unpreparedness of the state Capital to face exigencies, like the situation that cropped up after the petrol pump blast October 7 near Raj Bhavan in



Bhubaneswar. The government hospitals in Bhubaneswar, Tripathy said, are not well equipped to deal with patients with burn injuries. The traffic jam from Bhubaneswar to Cuttack where the injured were treated could not get proper medical attention and there was a delay in ensuring treatment also, Tripathy said.
The negligence and failure of the state government to ensure safety, fire fighting infrastructure, continuous surveillance and vigil to protect human rights, timely

proper medical treatment, proper traffic management amounts to serious violation of human rights, he alleged.
The rights activist urged the NHRC to take this case as extremely urgent and ensure proper health care facilities in government hospitals in the Capital City, fire safety, traffic management and ancillary and incidental issues to meet the emergency situation in Bhubaneswar.
The apex human rights watchdog sought the ATR latest by December 10 this year.
Earlier, acting on a petition filed by Tripathy, the NHRC sought an ATR from the Chief Secretary and the Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas over the explosion in the petrol pump.

FESTIVAL AHEAD



A woman shapes earthen lamps at Basantpur on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar ahead of the Diwali festival, Sunday. (Bottom) A vendor sells varieties of colours near Ram Mandir in the Capital city for the drawing of Rangoli for the festival

Curtains down on 'Mo Dham, Mo Garba'

THE DISTRICT ADMIN HAD LAUNCHED THE WEEK-LONG SENSITISATION DRIVE IN PURI NOV 1

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, Nov 8: 'Mo Dham, Mo Garba' is not about a week or a month, but should be carried on in a daily basis, Housing and Urban Development Minister Pratap Jena said while attending the concluding event of the week-long cleanliness drive in the Holy City here, Sunday.
Applauding the efforts of the district administration, municipality and people from several walks of life in their bid to transform Puri into one of the 'cleanest urban settlements in the country', Jena said, "Puri is among the front-runners to secure the number one place in the 2021 Swachh Survekshan, a countrywide cleanliness survey for cities. The state government has been actively providing the requisites to achieve the goal and will continue to do so in future as well."
Puri MLA Jayanta Sarangi, too, praised the efforts of the district administration towards the noble cause. The drive has gone a long way in inculcating a sense of cleanliness among the Holy City residents, the MLA pointed out.
Highlighting the future course of the drive, Puri Collector Balwant Singh discussed the importance of health, sanitation and sanctity in transforming Puri into the cleanest city in India apart from securing an independent identity on world map.
The event saw 'Swachh Sathis' and other participants taking oath



'Swachh Sathis' and other participants take oath to keep the Pilgrim City clean, Sunday

OP PHOTOS

INCULCATE & INSTIL

Residents were urged to segregate the garbage in separate trash bins
Municipality vehicles collected the segregated waste from the households
The residents of the Pilgrim City took a pledge to keep Puri clean
They also put their signatures on the banners affixed on the garbage-carrying vehicles

The signature-bearing banners were displayed on the Blue Flag Beach

to keep the Pilgrim City clean.
"The cleanliness campaign was undertaken in each and every ward of the Holy City. As part of the campaign, residents were urged to segregate the garbage in separate trash bins. Our vehicles collected the segregated waste from the households. The residents of the Pilgrim City took a pledge to keep Puri clean. They also put their signatures on the banners affixed on the garbage-carrying vehicles. The signature-bearing banners were displayed on the Blue Flag Beach," said a senior district administration official who attended the event.
People from several walks of life, including Puri municipality executive officer Bijay Kumar Das and

additional executive officer Saroj Kumar Swain, attended the event.
According to sources, in a bid to secure the number one position in the 2021 Swachh Survekshan, the district administration had launched the week-long sensitisation drive in Puri November 1.
Gobardhan Peeth Shankaracharya Nischalananda Saraswati had unveiled the logo and tagline for the campaign at a special event here.
According to the district Collector, Puri is one of the Char Dhams, four holy shrines, in the country. This is the abode of Lord Jagannath. Puri city should be a model for others with regard to the cleanliness aspect. The city can secure the top place in the Swachh Survekshan-2021 with co-operation from its residents.

State logs 15 more Covid deaths

OF THE 1,434 NEW CASES, 833 WERE REPORTED FROM VARIOUS QUARANTINE CENTRES

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: State's (Covid-19) caseload rose to 3,01,574 Sunday with 1,434 more people testing positive for the infection, while 15 fresh fatalities pushed Odisha's death toll to 1,425, a senior Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department official said.

Of the 1,434 new cases, 833 were reported from various quarantine centres, and the rest were detected through contact tracing, said the official.

Khurda district, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the maximum number of new cases at 144, followed by Cuttack at 141 and Balasore at 99, the official pointed out.

Taking to twitter, the H&FW department said, "Regret to inform the demise of fifteen Covid positive patients while under treatment in hospitals."

Three deaths each were reported from Khurda and Sambalpur; two each from Bargarh and Bolangir; and one each from Cuttack, Ganjam, Deogarh, Jharsuguda and Sundargarh.

As many as 53 Covid-19 patients have died in the coastal state due to pre-existing ailments.

Khurda district continued to be in the top in the fatalities with 248 deaths followed by Ganjam (232), Cuttack



Sample collection for Covid testing underway at Bhubaneswar, Sunday

(119), Puri (87), Sundargarh (77) Balasore (71) and Mayurbhanj (67).

The state's positivity rate stands at 6.11, the official further said, adding that over 49.39 lakh sample tests have been conducted in Odisha thus far, including 50,881 Saturday.

Meanwhile, the state government has made partial modifications regarding the number of

guests at marriage functions.

The district Collectors/municipal commissioners shall take decisions on the number of persons to be allowed in such functions (limit of 200) keeping their local situation in mind.

The order has been Special Relief Commissioner has issued an order to this effect.

IN NUMBERS

- Khurda reported the maximum number of new cases at 144, followed by Cuttack at 141 and Balasore at 99
- Of the 15 fatalities, three each were reported from Khurda and Sambalpur, two each from Bargarh and Bolangir, and one each from Cuttack, Ganjam, Deogarh, Jharsuguda and Sundargarh
- Khurda alone accounted for 248 deaths in the state so far, followed by Ganjam at 232 and Cuttack at 119. As many as 27 other districts have recorded less than 100 deaths each
- Odisha's positivity rate stands at 6.11
- Over 49.39 lakh sample tests have been conducted in Odisha thus far, including 50,881 Saturday

The state government has also directed that all schools in the state shall remain closed till December 31, 2020.

CENTENARY CELEBRATION



SBI Bhubaneswar Circle Chief General Manager Ruma Dey lays the foundation stone of a centenary gate at the main branch of the bank in Cuttack to mark its 100th anniversary celebration, Sunday

Farmers 'asked' to do sit-ups for not wearing masks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boinda, Nov 8: The district Collector of Angul ordered a probe into the alleged incident where two farmers were asked to do sit-ups for not wearing masks, a report said Sunday.

The farmers on the alleged order of Kishorenagar tehsildar were ordered to do the exercise for not wearing masks as per Covid-19 norms.

Reports said that the district Collector Siddharth Shankar Sahu directed the Athamallik sub-collector to conduct a probe and submit a report to him in this regard.

According to reports, two farmers hailing from Kishorenagar area in Angul district were allegedly made to do sit-ups by a tehsildar for not wearing masks during Covid-19 norms enforcement drive, Saturday. The matter came to fore after video of the incident went viral on social media, Sunday. Reports said that the tehsildar Laxmi Prasad Sahu and local police officials were carrying out an enforcement drive on Covid-19 in Kishorenagar area.

The tehsildar noticed the two farmers Maguni Sahu and Susant Rana returning home riding a moped without wearing masks. The two farmers are natives of Panduripathara village under Kishorenagar police limits. Sahu and the police officials intercepted them near the College Chhak under Kishorenagar police limits.

The tehsildar allegedly asked



Snapshots of the viral video

While the officials say that the two farmers were in inebriated condition and were never asked to do so, a viral video raises questions on their claims. A probe has been ordered to ascertain the truth

the two farmers to get down and pay fine of Rs 500. The two however, expressed their inability to pay the fine and requested the tehsildar to allow them to go, the official directed the two farmers to do sit-up ten times. The two farmers however, alleged that they were wearing masks but the tehsildar detained them and asked them to pay fine.

Left with no option, Maguni did sit-ups for eight times while Sushant completed ten sit-ups as directed by the tehsildar.

Maguni alleged that the tehsildar

and police officials intercepted them and asked the two to pay the fine. Though his mask was properly placed, Sushant's mask was below the mouth.

"The officials asked us to pay Rs 500 as fine and even used foul language. We were allowed to go only after we prostrated before the tehsildar," Maguni said.

Rejecting the charges, the tehsildar said the two persons were under the influence of alcohol and no one asked them to do sit-ups.

He further said that they stopped a moped while enforcing the mask wearing at College Chhak Saturday. Sahu and the police officials asked the two persons riding the moped to pay the fine as they were not wearing masks and also in an inebriated condition.

They however, did sit-ups instead of paying the fine. The tehsildar said that they made them only aware on the need to wear masks but never asked them to do sit-ups. The local IIC was also present at the spot, the tehsildar added.

Fight against nCoV faces fund crunch

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 8: Non-release of funds has hit the management of Covid-19 healthcare facilities in this district, a report said.

Reports said that the district administration owes an outstanding amount of Rs 1.5 crore to the supplier of various kits and facilities for the Covid treatment facilities since the outbreak of the disease in the district. As a result, the suppliers are reluctant to further supply various materials which have hit successful functioning of the treatment facilities. It is alleged that there is sufficient funds at disposal in this regard but non-release of funds has aggravated the problem.

The state government has taken various steps to check the spread Covid-19 in the state. Several Covid hospitals, temporary medical centres and Covid Care Centres were established to treat the Covid positive patients after cases started rising in the state.

Sources said over Rs30 lakh is outstanding towards supply of oxygen and Rs40 lakh towards supply of medicines and Rs 15 lakh to

SAMBALPUR ADMIN OWES RS 1.5 CRORE TO THE SUPPLIER OF VARIOUS KITS AND FACILITIES FOR THE COVID TREATMENT FACILITIES SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF THE DISEASE IN THE DISTRICT

wards lodging of Covid patients in hotels. Similarly, Rs 20 lakh towards requisition of private ambulances to ferry the Covid patients, Rs 40 lakh for food supply and Rs 10 lakh for supply of toiletries. The supply agencies after failing to get their dues are now reluctant to keep up with the supply to the Covid-19 healthcare facilities.

The suppliers have met the officials concerned several times to get back their payment but in vain. This has happened following imposition of curbs on spending of state disaster response

funds, September 30, a senior official clarified.

The suppliers have demanded that the district administration should make use other funds to settle their outstanding dues failing which they will be forced to stop supplying the materials to the Covid hospitals in coming days.

Observers claimed that the situation if aggravates might disrupt the functioning of Covid hospital in the district in coming days.

They cited the example of isolation ward of VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) where Covid patients had to suffer for over eight hours due to lack of oxygen cylinders in the hospital, November 2. The matter was resolved after eight hours after the kin sought the attention of the hospital authorities towards shortage of oxygen cylinders.

BJP leader Govind Agarwal said that the state government should give priority on ensuring better healthcare facilities for the Covid patients and fund shortage should not come on the way.

Collector Subham Saxena said the arrears of the suppliers will be released soon.

Drugs worth ₹1cr seized in Rayagada

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Nov 8: In a major drug haul, police seized a truck loaded with 11.14 quintal of ganja at a place near Jeypore Sugar Company Ltd (JSCO) area in Rayagada district late Saturday night.

Police's initial investigation revealed that the contraband packed in polythene bags is worth around Rs 1,00,00,000.

The Rayagada town police were tipped off that a huge consignment was being smuggled in a truck. The police swung into action and a team led by IIC Nihar Ranjan Pradhan raided a truck parked at a place near Jeypore Sugar Company Ltd. Following a search, 45 polythene bags packed with ganja were found in the truck. However, the driver of the truck managed to flee from the spot.

The truck was brought to the police station and in the presence of the magistrate, the seized contraband was measured.

Police's preliminary investigation reveals that the absconding driver is a native of Maharashtra. They have launched a probe.

Why Neelachal Urban Haat has remained shut

A banner put up by the authorities in front of the urban haat says that the market place has been temporarily closed since September 1 to facilitate some renovation work

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Nov 8: The Neelachal Urban Haat, set up by the state government in the Holy City here to promote local handicraft products, has been closed for last two months.

A banner put up by the authorities in front of the urban haat claimed that the market place has been temporarily closed since September 1 to facilitate some renovation work.

However, locals are of the view that the authorities concerned closed the urban haat as traders were unwilling to run stalls at the market place due to poor business.

The state government established the urban haat in 2009 by spending around Rs3 crore. The motive was to promote local handicraft and handloom products among the tourists.

It had constructed an open-air theatre and a musical fountain at the haat to attract tourists.

Former President Pratibha Devisingh Patil had inaugurated the posh market in the presence of then Governor of Odisha Muralidhar Chandrakanta



The closed entrance of the urban haat

Bhandare and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Patil had visited all the 36 stalls at the market and appreciated the handicraft products of the state.

However, the traders started shutting down their stalls within just two months of the inauguration of the market citing poor business prospect. The administration did not take any steps to promote the urban haat and bring tourists to the stalls, locals said.

"All the 36 stalls at the market have been shut down by the traders. The musical fountain has been lying defunct. No cultural event has been or-

ganised in the open-air theatre for the last several months," said a local.

The boundary walls of the market have been partially damaged due to poor maintenance while the murals on the shop walls have faded away. Moreover, the doors and windows of some shops have been damaged by some miscreants, he added.

It is learnt that the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (Idco) had been assigned to do maintenance work at the Neelachal Urban Haat. Initially, the Idco was spending lakhs of rupees for maintenance work at the urban haat.

WITHIN JUST 2 MONTHS

The state gov't established the urban haat in 2009 by spending around Rs3 crore

Former President Pratibha Devisingh Patil had inaugurated the posh market

However, the traders started shutting down their stalls within just two months of the inauguration of the market citing poor business prospect

However, it could not get any revenue from the project, sources said.

"The fate of Neelachal Urban Haat has been pushed into uncertainty as the market has been closed since last couple of months. The main gate of the haat has been locked," said a social activist.

Sources in the district administration, meanwhile, claimed that the Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts department of the state government has taken control over the urban haat. "Soon, steps would be taken to revive the urban haat after the renovation work," they added.

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TAX EVASION GOES ON IN MINERAL EXPORT

DGP takes stock of anti-Maoist ops

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda/Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: A few years after a massive mining scam in Keonjhar and other mineral bearing areas in the state was unearthed, tax evasion by mineral exporters has come to the fore. The illegality has been going on with impunity.

The Customs department detected the illegality at the Paradip Port a few days ago.

Following the mining scam, many leaseholders had to deposit crores of rupees as penalty after the Supreme Court pronounced its order on the basis of the Central Empowered Committee report and investigation by the MB Shah Commission.

According to reliable sources, a cargo ship named as MV Magnus Fortune was loaded with 52,051 tonnes of iron ore at the port recently by BS Minerals, a mineral export company. Officials of the Excise and Customs departments had carried out raids on various mineral export companies.

During the raids, officials came to know that the exporter had managed to evade tax on the minerals loaded on the ship.



MURKY AFFAIRS

During the raids, officials came to know that the exporter had managed to evade tax on the minerals loaded on the ship. The department immediately seized the minerals at the port and imposed a penalty of Rs 8, 7, 26, 314 and claimed a bank guarantee of Rs 1 crore from the exporter. The departments after getting a bond of Rs 5.40 crore had let go of the ship to its destination

The department immediately seized the minerals at the port and imposed a penalty of Rs 8, 7, 26, 314 and claimed a bank guarantee of Rs 1 crore from the exporter. The departments after getting a bond of Rs 5.40 crore had let go of the ship to its destination.

This incident may be a tip of the iceberg while it is alleged that many mineral exporters have been exporting minerals to the international market easily without paying taxes. It was learnt that the mineral being exported in MV Magnus Fortune ship was in fact trans-

ported from Koida mining circle in Sundargarh and from Joda mining circle in Keonjhar.

As per the norms made by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), iron ore having ferrous content less than 57 per cent are made free of custom tax while 30 per cent of the total value of the exported mineral has to be paid as custom tax in case the iron ore contains over 58 per cent ferrous content

value of the exported mineral has to be paid as custom tax in case the iron ore contains over 58 per cent ferrous content.

A number of questions now crop up after this exposure came to the fore. How such high quality mineral was being exported under the garb of low quality mineral in the ship. How such illegality could not be detected earlier despite having a proper system at work.

How high quality minerals are being exported without the knowledge of the joint director of mines, deputy director of mines and mines inspectors. Now, the role of mining officials has come into question by various quarters.

When asked about the issue, joint director of Joda mining circle Sailil Kumar Behera said he was unaware of it. Sources said such illegalities in mineral transportation have been going on. A non-Odia trader based in Barbil is said to be involved in the shoddy activities in mineral transportation.

The trader has got trading license from the office of the joint director at Joda. Various quarters have demanded a high level probe into the illegalities in mineral transportation.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Nov 8: Director General of Police (DGP) Abhay visited Malkangiri district Sunday and underscored the need for fast-tracking of infrastructure development with the strengthening of security system.

The top cop paid a visit to Swabhiman Anchal and interacted with residents on various problems they face. He also went to the Gorusetu BSF camp and held discussions on the movement of Maoists in the area.

With winter fast approaching the DGP distributed warm clothes among the poor tribal people. He also handed over school bags and

clothes to children.

The DGP held a review meeting with senior police, BSF, SOG and DVF officials about the ongoing anti-Maoist operations, movement of ultras, law and order situation and developmental activities. During the meeting he stressed on intensifying the operations against the Maoists. Despite the ongoing anti-Maoist operations, activities of the left wing extremists have not been completely smashed in some areas of southern Odisha.

Significantly, the visit of the DGP came days after a Maoist camp was busted during a joint operation by Odisha Police, BSF and Andhra Pradesh Police in Swabhiman Anchal of the district.

4 yrs on, over-bridge project stuck in limbo

POST NEWS NETWORK

Talcher, Nov 8: The much-awaited Talcher-Ghantapada over-bridge meant to ease traffic in industrial areas like NALCO, FCI and Talcher in Angul district has been stuck in limbo since 2016.

The district administration has turned a deaf ear to repeated pleas of the locals to complete the project.

Fed up with the four-year delay, locals took up the matter with the district administration recently demanding immediate completion of the bridge and approach road works in larger interests of the residents.

The then Union Coal Minister Prakash Jaiswal had laid the foundation stone June 1, 2012. With the estimated cost of Rs 35 crore, the construction of the over-bridge was taken up by the construction company RKD. The company began the



work October 21, 2016 and October 20, 2018 was fixed as its deadline for completion.

Locals alleged that the government had decided to construct the bridge because of the level crossing which is a hurdle for smooth communication of people from the in-

dustrial areas. Every day more than 50 coal-laden trains cross the level crossing for which the locals have to wait for hours before reaching their destinations.

Only 20 per cent of the construction work has been com-

pleted till now.

The locals lamented that major works like shifting of level crossing, construction of guard and RI walls, top slab and approach roads from both sides of the over-bridge are yet to commence.

The over-bridge construction led to blocking of the road and as a result, people are forced to take a diversion route. The route can't be called a road as it is just a muddy stretch. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation stone October 3, 2013 for the ROB. Accordingly, the construction was taken up by the Public Works Department (PWD) and December 31, 2018 was fixed as its deadline.

Sub-collector Rajanikant Swain said that a high-level meeting was held recently. In the meeting it was decided that the construction company will take only 10 months more to complete the work.

FARM TRAINING



OUAT, Bhubaneswar, holds a training programme for farmers on use of advanced agricultural implements at Krishi Vigyan Kendra in G. Udaygiri of Kandhamal district

Illegal sand mining rampant in Ib river



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Nov 8: Illegal sand mining has been rampant at different sand ghats of IB river passing near Sundargarh town. But, the administration is allegedly sitting pretty, a report said.

The tehsil administration has not yet completed the process of leasing out sand quarries while the mafia has been taking advantage of the situation. It is said that as construction activities and infrastructure development projects are in full swing in various parts of the district, sand has high demand in the area.

Sources said that work of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana,

roads, drains and other construction activities are being carried out in the civic body area. The executive officer of the Sundargarh municipality had urged the tehsildar October 19 seeking permission of lifting 1000 CM sand every day. The tehsildar had allowed owner of eight tractors to lift sand.

Now question arises how the tehsildar granted permission to tractor owners without leasing out the sand mines.

In view of this, sand mafia has been into the sand lifting activities while people keen on lease awaiting the lease process. Owing to illegal sand mining, the government is losing huge amount of revenue.

Tehsildar Jogeswar Bhoi said there is official guideline to permit sand lifting for emergency official construction and development activities. The permission to the municipality will be cancelled, he added.

Hirakud eco retreat festival from Dec 1

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 8: The Sambalpur district administration is on its toes for organising the Hirakud 'eco retreat' festival at Balbaspur which will start from December 1 and continue till February 28.

According to sources, Tourism Director Sachin R Yadav visited the site Sunday and reviewed the preparations. District Collector Shubham Saxena, Sadar Sub-

Collector Suryawanshi Mayur and several other senior officials accompanied Yadav.

The festival is expected to boost tourism in western Odisha.

The mega festival will give tourists a unique experience of camping in luxurious cottages, tasting amazing cuisines, taking part in adventure sports, water sports, nature trails and cultural programmes. The festival would have at least 25 premium Swiss Cottage tents, an air-con-

ditioned restaurant as well as a conference hall. Visitors can also visit various tourist places in the district.

Notably, the state government is poised to organise 'eco retreat' festivals at five different tourist destinations, including Hirakud, Badamul area of Satakosia, Nalitapatia area of Bhitarkanika and Daringbadi as well. The first edition of 'eco retreat' festival was successfully hosted on Ramchandi beach in Konark.

Villagers repair road on their own, draw praise



POST NEWS NETWORK

Buguda, Nov 8: People of Sankuru panchayat under Buguda block in Ganjam were aggrieved over poor connectivity. They had long been demanding restoration of the Buguda-Manitira road, but the administration has been indifferent to their demand.

People of Sankuru and Chilihma have been suffering commuting woes due to the bad shape of the road. Harassed, the villagers decided to take matters into their own hands. Funds for the project were generated from among themselves.

Over 300 people of the panchayat decided to repair the road without expecting money from the administration. They cleaned the 3-km long road and started filling up craters with murrum and other construction material with their own resources Saturday. They set an example for others as far as community efforts are concerned.

"The road has been in bad shape for last 20 years. Neither the administration nor local leaders took efforts for the restoration of the road, despite repeated demands," they said. Various quarters have commended the efforts of the villagers.

IT'S NO FISHY AFFAIR



People catch fish in a pond in Paralakhemudi area of Gajapati district, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Living near river, yet water-stressed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Nov 8: Despite being two kilometres close to a perennial river, the natives of Sarangpur village under Rajborasambar block in Bargarh district are struggling to get their daily quotas of drinking water.

Sarangpur comprises of three wards and there are several residential areas like Meherpada, Gaudapada, Bazaarpada, Schoolpada and Brahmanapada. The population of the village is over 1,500 and most of the families depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

The villagers have been facing acute drinking water problem for a long time now. "There is Anga River two kilometres from the village. Yet, we are facing difficulties in getting drinking water," the villagers rued.

"In summer season, the problem gets more acute. We have already taken up the issue with the administrative officers and local people's representatives but to no avail,"



they added. The village has five tube wells. Of them, three dispense water unfit for consumption. The villagers use water from the remaining two for drinking and cooking purposes. But, they allege that they are not giving out enough water. They take much more time than normal to fill a bucket, forcing them to stand at the tube wells for

long hours. "We have to keep our pots in line from early in the morning to make sure that we get the required amount of water. We have a pond in our village. We stopped using its water as the pond was full of hyacinths and other waste. As of now, the pond is lying neglected. A drinking water project in our village will be of immense

Residents of Sarangpur village under Rajborasambar block in Bargarh district are struggling to get their daily quotas of drinking water

Villagers say, in summer season, the problem gets more acute. They have already taken up the issue with the administrative officers and local people's representatives but to no avail

help to us," said Snehalata Panda. According to another villager, Neelanchal Darwan, the village's year-long drinking water problem will be solved if water from the Anga River is supplied to them through pipes.

The villagers urged the administration to take immediate steps to address their problem.

Our human knowledge is a candle burnt on a dim altar to a sun-vast Truth.
SRI AUROBINDO



Show us the money

Black or white, where has the money of this country gone, is a question every Indian should be asking. Especially because now, with the coronavirus taking its economic toll, this is a very important query. "To relieve the country from the grip of corruption and black money there is a need to take another strong step. Presently in use five hundred rupee and thousand rupee currency notes will no longer be legal tender from midnight tonight, that is 8th November 2016," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he announced demonetization of two high-value currency notes to curb corruption and flush out black money from the countries' rich and powerful.

Summarizing the objectives of the move, the PM had added that the step would strengthen the hands of the common man in the fight against corruption, black money and fake currency and put down terror funding. Celebrities and political leaders in droves voiced their support for the pronouncement and some even described the prime minister's announcement a 'historical masterstroke'. However, most sensible people across the country immediately understood Modi's economic game was intended for political benefits but everyone was afraid to voice opposition, scared they would be targeted as hoarders of black money.

West Bengal Chief Minister and leader of Trinamool Congress Mamata Banerjee and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal were the first leaders to condemn the move, citing the devastating effect it was having on the lives of poor citizens of the country.

As the people thronged empty ATMs and cashless banks, chaos unfolded on the streets. The drive that started against black money suddenly changed to Cashless Economy. Companies like Paytm and others surfaced to fill the void created by the cash crunch. There were daily television announcements of change in policies regarding the old currencies. To compound the problem, new currency notes were not made available for a long duration of time.

To regain the confidence of the people, Modi made a highly emotive speech on November 13 in Goa, asking people to grant him 50 days to restore normalcy. Otherwise, he said, they could burn him alive. As the goals set for demonetization—bringing out black money and eradicating corruption—failed to create any tangible results, the goalposts also kept shifting. From corruption, counterfeit notes and terror funding, the rhetoric began to centre around making India a digital and cashless economy, widening the tax base and formalising the country's economy.

Some of the celebrities and politicians who gave a thumbs up to Modi's currency policy adventure backtracked from previous statements when news leaked that as much as 99.3 per cent of the junked Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes returned to the banking system. This indicated that just a minuscule percentage of currency was left out of the system after the government's unprecedented note ban. All this while, no one bothered to question PM Modi about the old currency notes left in Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand and other neighboring countries which had constant trade with India and accepted payments in Indian rupees. Those notes were never accepted back by the Indian government.

Four years on, today, many small and informal sector businesses and industries still lie shattered. They are yet to recover from the twin blows of demonetization and the unplanned and hurried introduction of Goods and Service Tax (GST).

Every 'nationalistic' Indian supported the objectives stated by the PM. Eliminating the scourge of black money and corruption, flushing out counterfeit notes and choking terrorist funding sounded very pleasant to the ears of those Indians. But taking into consideration the financial and human cost of the move, demonetization turned out to be a body blow to the poorest of the poor Indian and has damaged the economy so gravely that it has not yet recovered.

FOCUS US ELECTION

PROPHETIC SANDERS

It was nice to receive mails from friends who had assembled at Lucknow boy Nusrat Durrani's Dumbo apartment under the Brooklyn Bridge on November 3, 2016, election night, armed with champagne bottles to be uncorked as soon as Hillary Clinton pipped the post.

In the event, the champagne bottles stood in one straight line on the dining table like a row of brooding bishops. Trump had shocked all the guests. A submarine sandwich hurled as a missile by a despairing guest knocked the lamp over. I have repeated the above story because that is what history is supposed to be—a continuous repetition of facts. So indelibly etched on my mind is that party in Brooklyn that every US election will bring alive that episode.

There is another reason for that episode to be so etched on my mind. I did not wish to be the only one out of sync with the general mood that evening, but I was in a minority of one who expected Hillary to lose. Having arrived in New York a fortnight ago for a discussion in the various campuses of my book, 'Being the Other: The Muslim in India', kept me away from a 24X7 bombardment of punditry on elections.

A clattering of detail tends to push out of focus the simple, plausible outline conditioning of electoral behaviour. Experience from most electoral theatres had taught me a simple lesson: people were tired of two parties, one indistinguishable from the other.

This was happening at local levels too, even in India. The Aam Aadmi Party's record 67 out of 70 seats in 2015 was one such wave, smothered by the media which is controlled by the corporates whose key projects in New Delhi were threatened by the untried party. It did not have the ideological spine to withstand the assault from the main political parties and the corporate media. Therefore, the bubble burst. AAP is now an ordinary party circling around power.

There are comparisons between Joe Biden scraping through and Hillary Clinton losing in 2016: nei-



There are comparisons between Joe Biden scraping through and Hillary Clinton losing in 2016: neither were popular candidates. They were candidates that the Democratic Party 'manoeuvred' as front-runners because on both occasions Bernie Sanders was the most popular candidate, but his democratic socialism was anathema to the establishment

ther were popular candidates. They were candidates that the Democratic Party 'manoeuvred' as front-runners because on both occasions Bernie Sanders was the most popular candidate, but his democratic socialism was anathema to the establishment.

As soon as it became clear that Sanders was leading the field, the establishment came out, all guns blazing. Thomas Friedman, whom the New York Times values as its star columnist, forgot all decencies of independent journalism and wrote two full columns rooting for former New York Mayor, Michael Bloomberg and a billionaire several times over, as one of the Democratic front-runners. There was no hope in hell that Bloomberg would win (buy) the nomination but, by spending a billion on TV, he would disrupt the game sufficiently for Sanders to advance. "This is a capitalist country," thundered Bloomberg. To protect his credibility, Friedman admitted in his column, that his wife worked for one of Bloomberg's charities. This was just one of the umpteen tricks employed to obstruct Sanders.

There was a straightforward reason why Clinton was the wrong

candidate. The velocity given to globalisation after the Soviet collapse gave a fillip to rampaging capitalism. Inequalities broke all barriers. It did not require Thomas Piketty to enlighten as that even in India barely one per cent of the rich had cornered 51.53 per cent of the wealth. The picture in the US was worse. Occupy Wall Street became a popular movement. It invited a capitalist riposte—the Tea Party. People were disgusted with Washington, which symbolised the US establishment. A quest began for an anti establishment candidate. Just one such candidate appeared to be Bernie Sanders. People were looking for social welfare, universal healthcare, education—exactly what the Bloombergs of the US thought would kill the initiative which made America great. Quite unabashedly, the Democratic Party gave the impression that it was preferable to lose the White House than lose corporate support.

One hoped the shock reversal of 2016 would have taught the Democrats a lesson. Across the Atlantic, Jeremy Corbyn was being likewise thwarted by New Labour. One of their leading lights, Lord Peter Mandelson, had sworn to

'undermine' Corbyn. The other day they suspended him. Corbyn was to Mandelson what Sanders was to Bloomberg. This in June 2017 when the latest opinion polls projected Corbyn as the possible Prime Minister. Another example that the establishment trumps the popular will. Whither democracy, then?

At this very time, another reality was allowed to go unnoticed. A Fox News poll showed that Sanders has a +28 rating above politicians on both sides of the political spectrum. At that time, the Guardian's Trevor Timm wrote, "One would think with numbers like that, Democratic politicians would be falling over themselves to be associated with Sanders, especially considering the Party as a whole is more unpopular than the Republicans and even Donald Trump right now. Yet, instead of embracing his message, the establishment of the party continues to resist him at almost every turn, and they seem insistent they don't have to change their ways to gain back the support of huge swathes of the country."

Sanders' popularity is now recognised, but after he spelt out the scenario on October 23 in a talk show on how the drama will unfold when votes are counted in these elections, he is well on his way to being prophetic.

"In states like Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, and elsewhere, Republicans are likely to go to the polling booths to cast their votes. Democrats, are likely to mail in their votes. When counting begins, the votes counted first will be Republican votes for that reason. So, by 10 pm on counting day, Trump will thank his voters and announce victory. But next morning when millions of mails will be counted, the trend will change. That is when Trump will scream murder: I told you they'll cheat." Mayor Rudi Giuliani has already elaborated the case in Philadelphia.

The writer is a senior commentator on political and diplomatic issues.



Saeed Naqvi

SANDERS' POPULARITY IS NOW RECOGNISED, BUT AFTER HE SPELT OUT THE SCENARIO ON OCTOBER 23 IN A TALK SHOW ON HOW THE DRAMA WILL UNFOLD WHEN VOTES ARE COUNTED IN THESE ELECTIONS, HE IS WELL ON HIS WAY TO BEING PROPHETIC

SPECTRUM WORLD

Investing in a feminist peace

During the COVID-19 pandemic, public life in much of the world has largely ground to a halt. For the two billion people living in conflict-affected countries, however, there has been no lull in violence and upheaval. Some of the world's conflicts have even escalated or been reignited during the crisis, dealing devastating new blows to infrastructure and healthcare systems that were only beginning to be rebuilt. Globally, we continue to invest far more in the tools of war than in the foundations of peace.

Of course, some are working for peace. On March 23, at the outset of the pandemic, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called for a global ceasefire, in order to enable countries to focus on the COVID-19 crisis and allow humanitarian organisations to reach vulnerable populations. More than 100 women's organisations from Iraq, Libya, Palestine, Syria, and Yemen quickly joined the appeal with a joint statement advocating a broad COVID-19 truce, which could form the basis for a lasting peace. It should come as no surprise that women were among the first to support the call for a ceasefire. Last week, governments and civil society came together to mark 20 years since UN Security

Council Resolution 1325 first recognised women's pivotal roles on the frontlines of peace-building efforts. It is women—including young women—who do much of the painstaking, long-term work that underpin high-profile formal agreements, which are still often reached in talks that exclude them. For example, in Syria, women have negotiated ceasefires to allow the passage of humanitarian aid, worked in field hospitals and schools, distributed food and medicine, and documented human-rights violations. In South Sudan, women have mediated and resolved tribal disputes to prevent conflicts from escalating to violence.

Women also spearhead the critical work of campaigning for peace, including through education programs, which teach young people that conflict is never inevitable. Feminist organisations have long called for nuclear disarmament, arms control, and the reallocation of funds from the military to social investments. These appeals are essential. But they have gone unanswered. So has the UN's call for a COVID-19 ceasefire: according to the Norwegian Refugee Council, in the two months following Guterres' appeal, armed conflict in 19 countries displaced at least 661,000 people. Unless we listen to women, and

shift our investments from war toward peace, the devastation will continue. Last year, global military expenditure reached \$1.9 trillion, following the largest annual increase in a decade. In the last quarter-century—since the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action called on governments to 'recognise and address the dangers to society of armed conflict and the negative effect of excessive military expenditures'—defense spending has doubled. More weapons and soldiers mean fewer resources for the 55 per cent of the global population—including nearly two-thirds of the world's children—who lack any social protection, leaving them exposed to the pandemic's brutal social and economic consequences.

We should be spending our money not on tools of destruction, but on a kind of 'feminist peace' that upholds basic economic and social rights for all. This means guaranteeing broad social protections and delivering vital services, such as healthcare, childcare, and education. The pandemic has highlighted the critical importance of other services as well. For example, shelters for survivors of gender-based violence have faced surging demand during lockdowns, and need more funding to meet it. In addition, governments should be en-

sureing adequate supplies of medical and personal protective equipment, which have often run out during the pandemic, even in the world's richest countries. A feminist peace also means that everyone's voice is heard, with all groups included fully and meaningfully in the decisions that affect their lives. Here, women's organisations have a vital role to play, helping women and other marginalised groups gain access to decision-making arenas and giving them the resources and confidence to participate.

But, again, more funding is needed. Bilateral aid to women's organisations in fragile or conflict-affected countries averaged \$96 million per year in 2017-18—a mere 0.005% of global military expenditure. For all the devastation it has caused, COVID-19 also represents a generational opportunity to build more inclusive economies and societies, free of violent conflict. A concerted effort to demilitarise our world and build a feminist peace—beginning with a global ceasefire, and followed by a comprehensive reappraisal of how we allocate our resources—must be central to this vision.

The writer is Executive Director of UN Women. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Trump gone, now what

With Joe Biden emerging the winner in US Presidential race, the top BJP leadership has started to think of ways to repair the damage PM Narendra Modi's open support to President Donald Trump has caused.

After the US Presidential election results were declared, Trump's failure in his bid for a second term in office may cause great damage to Indo-US relationship because of the way the Modi dispensation got involved in the internal politics of America. In fact, the repair exercise began, it is being rumored, three days back when the counting of votes indicated Biden was going to trump Trump in a photo finish. No other Prime Ministers of India had ever campaigned for any US Presidential candidate the way Modi did during his US tour last year when he urged the Indian diaspora to vote for Trump who desperately needed those votes to keep alive his hope for victory. It caused diplomatic hassles then and the Opposition parties went hammer and tongs against Modi for breaching the time-tested foreign policy option of not openly siding with any US Presidential candidate. The burden of Opposition criticism was that Indo-US ties would come under strain in the event of Trump's defeat and victory of a Democratic Presidential candidate. Modi didn't care for diplomatic finesse or niceties, waved his hand along with Trump at the packed stadium in Houston like a rock star and sought the support of the Indian settlers for the incumbent President. That was Howdy Modi. Not stopping there, Modi invited Trump to visit India and attend a program that was titled Namaste Trump in Gujarat. A huge crowd was organized for that rally.

The moment the chances of victory for Trump started receding slowly but steadily, the worried BJP leadership tried to delink Modi from Trump in a subtle way. First the party president JP Nadda and then its ideologue and influential RSS leader Ram Madhav were fielded for damage control. Nadda used a Bihar poll campaign rally to project Modi as a more competent leader than Trump. Nadda suggested it would be wrong to bracket Modi with Trump. He said Trump was witnessing a setback in key states because of poor handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, while Modi has "succeeded in keeping the situation under control."

"America mein kya aarop laga? Ki Donald Trump corona ko theek tarike se handle nahi kar saka...Yahi hai na aarop? (What was the charge against the US President? That he mishandled the pandemic. This is the charge, right?)," Nadda asked the crowd. "But Modiji's intervention at the right time has saved 130 crore people from coronavirus," Nadda said. The fact, however, is India is now second only to the USA in terms of the number of corona cases and deaths. According to the latest figures released by the Johns Hopkins University's Centre for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) 47.3 million people have contracted the virus globally of which the USA accounts for over 12 million and India 8.3 million. Over 230,000 people have died in the USA against 123,000 in India. Nadda conveniently forgot the excruciating pain migrant workers had to undergo because of the shoddily planned and theatrically announced first lockdown by Modi on 24 March 2020 at that horrible timing of 8 pm.

No sooner had Nadda given the first hints of distancing Modi from Trump than Ram Madhav wrote an article to allay fears that Biden-Kamala Harris winning team could be "bad news" for US-India relations. In an attempt to insulate Modi, he mouthed the trite, old cliché: "There are no permanent friends, or permanent enemies; only permanent interests".

The Modi-government's controversial Kashmir policy, the National Register of Citizens and Citizenship Amendment Act have reportedly "disappointed" Biden. It's time Modi learns foreign policy can't be geared to suit the ruling party's narrow, domestic agenda. What has been painstakingly built over decades in India's foreign policy is now being thrown away because a few people at the top are incapable of understanding international diplomacy and its delicate nuances.



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

WOMEN SPEARHEAD THE CRITICAL WORK OF CAMPAIGNING FOR PEACE, INCLUDING THROUGH EDUCATION PROGRAMS, WHICH TEACH YOUNG PEOPLE THAT CONFLICT IS NEVER INEVITABLE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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Biden and Indo-US relations

Sir, The Joe Biden-Kamala Harris win in the US Presidential elections has considerable implications for India. Biden administration is likely to strengthen India-US ties. On the other hand, there will be disagreements between the two countries over issues such as religious fundamentalism, Kashmir policy, the Citizenship Amendment Act, the National Register of Citizens, Islamophobic politics and so on. There could certainly be continuity in the Indo-US ties on various fronts. Being a Democrat, Biden may not be as aggressive as Trump on the China front. However, reversing the stand on Beijing and changing the policy will not be in Washington's favour. Hence, the US will continue to be tough on China. As for trade, negotiations that were underway for trade deals will have to be reworked. Trade ties between the two countries will have to be reset. Given that the economy of the two countries has to be revived in the wake of COVID-19, the two countries will look at a comprehensive trade deal. With regard to the strategic front, there will be some relief for India when Biden government reviews the Iran nuclear deal. Biden's Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action policy will allow India to move on the Chabahar Projects and secure strategic routes to Afghanistan. Biden's decision to join the Paris Accord is of great importance in fighting the problem of climate change. As for human rights, there will be friction areas between the leaders of the two countries. In short, India-US relations will strengthen with the new US administration but with some friction.

Venu GS, KOLLAM (KERALA)

Politicised society

Sir, We knew man is a social animal. But given the current situation, humans no longer seem to be social creatures. Now, the judgments and behaviour of 70 per cent of the people have become completely political. Amid factional strife in politics, many developmental works are being hampered from every angle. Even villages and towns are being ruined by dirty politics. Workers from various political parties are creating instability in families, wards, and villages by giving the villagers liquor and money. Those who oppose the ruling party in villages and towns do not get any government benefits. Efforts are underway to suppress individual freedom and the right to freedom of expression in politics. Whether we are living in a democratic country or not, is a question.

Santosh Kumar Mohanty, CUTTACK

Arnab shifted to Taloja jail UT admin base now in Jammu

THE RAIGAD CRIME BRANCH FOUND GOSWAMI WAS ACTIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA USING SOMEBODY'S MOBILE PHONE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 8: Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami, arrested in connection with the suicide of an interior designer, was on Sunday shifted to Taloja jail in Maharashtra's Raigad district from a COVID-19 quarantine centre in Alibaug, a police official said.

Goswami was moved to the Taloja jail after he was allegedly found using a mobile phone while in judicial custody at a local school designated as COVID-19 centre for Alibaug prison in Raigad district, he said.

The Raigad crime branch found Goswami was active on social media using somebody's mobile phone, despite his personal mobile phone having been seized by police when he was taken into custody on November 4, the official said.

While being escorted to Taloja jail, Goswami shouted from the police van, alleging that he was assaulted by Alibaug jailer Saturday evening, his life was in danger and he was not allowed to speak to his lawyer.



'I WAS ASSAULTED'
While being escorted to Taloja jail, Goswami shouted from the police van, alleging that he was assaulted by Alibaug jailer

Goswami and two others - Feroze Shaikh and Nitish Sardha - were arrested by Alibaug police November 4 in connection with a suicide

Meanwhile, former BJP MP Kirit Somaiya in a tweet said he met jailer of the Taloja prison Sunday and the latter assured him that Goswami will not be harassed and he will also be provided required

medical treatment.

Goswami and two others - Feroze Shaikh and Nitish Sardha - were arrested by Alibaug police November 4 in connection with the suicide of architect-interior designer Anvay Naik and his mother in 2018 over alleged non-payment of dues by companies of the accused.

After his arrest from his Lower Parel residence in Mumbai, Goswami was taken to Alibaug, where the Chief Judicial Magistrate remanded him and the two others in judicial custody till November 18.

Goswami was then kept at a local school which has been designated as a COVID-19 centre for the Alibaug prison.

The Bombay High Court will on Monday pronounce its order on the interim bail application filed by Goswami and the two others in connection with the abetment of suicide case.

A notice issued late Saturday night on the high court's website said the bench would assemble at 3 pm on November 9 for pronouncement of the order.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 8: The Civil Secretariat, the seat of Jammu and Kashmir administration, will open here Monday after functioning in summer capital Srinagar for six months as part of the nearly 150-year-old practice known in the Union Territory as 'Darbar Move'.

The practice of 'Darbar Move' was started by Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872 to escape extreme weather conditions in the two regions

Adequate arrangements, especially those related to security, have been put in place to ensure smooth functioning of the civil secretariat and other move offices including the Raj Bhavan and police headquarters in Jammu, officials said.

The COVID-10 pandemic delayed the darbar move from Jammu to Srinagar this summer. The Civil Secretariat and other move offices,

J-K 'DARBAR MOVE'



which observe a five-day week, closed in Srinagar on October 30, while the offices observing a six-day week closed the next day.

All the offices are reopening in Jammu on November 9.

The practice of 'Darbar Move' - under which the administration functions in Jammu during six months of winter and in Srinagar during summer - was started by Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872 to escape extreme weather conditions in the two regions of the state.

However, the practice was continued even after Independence with the aim of providing governance benefits to both Kashmir and Jammu regions for six months by turns.

Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh chaired a meeting on Thursday evening to review security arrangements for the opening of the move offices and directed his officers to ensure elaborate security measures in the entire Jammu district,

including border areas. Singh also asked the officers to ensure adequate security in and around the Civil Secretariat, Raj Bhavan and at various roundabouts, junctions and other important areas in the city.

The IGP directed the officers about various challenges, especially those posed by striking daily wage employees, and called for alertness to deal with any law-and-order situation arising due to any protest.

Centre stalling projects: Uddhav

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 8: Hardening his government's position vis-a-vis the ownership of land in Kanjurmarg in Mumbai where the metro 3 car shed project will be coming up, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday said the Centre was trying to stall development projects in the city.

In a webcast, Thackeray said a defamation campaign was ran by "Maharashtra-haters" who tried to project the state as a hub for the drugs and narcotics farming.

He slammed the BJP for opposing the shifting of the metro car shed project to Kanjurmarg from the green lung Aarey Colony.

"Recently it was said that the land in Kanjurmarg where the (metro 3) car shed project was shifted to is a salt pan land... You are attempting to stall the development projects in Mumbai," Thackeray said.

The state government and the BJP have been at loggerheads since Thackeray announced shifting of the metro car shed project last month.

Thackeray said a string of attempts were made to create hurdles in the development of the state, but they all came unstuck.

"Maharashtra-haters ran a defamation campaign against the state to malign its image. They tried to paint Maharashtra as a lawless state where farming of drugs and narcotic substances happens.

"But, the fact is that we received



investments worth crores of rupees for which MoUs were signed, and now work would also start soon," said the chief minister who heads the tripartite government of the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress.

While MoUs worth Rs 17,000 crore were signed in June this year, deals of Rs 35,000 crore were inked recently, the CM added.

He said the new deals would generate employment opportunities in different sectors including electronics, logistics etc, for at least 23,182 people.

"In the next few years, Maharashtra will become the hub of logistics and data," the CM added. Referring to recent floods and heavy rains in the state, Thackeray said crops on the area of 41 lakh hectares were damaged.

He said the state government promptly announced a relief package of Rs 10,000 crore to mitigate the hardships of farmers.

Probe on unused meds

The medicines, reportedly meant for the distribution among the COVID patients, were noticed by people after hundreds of fish died under mysterious circumstances and were found floating in a river

AGENCIES

Bhadarwah, Nov 8: Authorities in Bhadwarwah area of Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district have ordered a probe after medicines from hospital supply, worth lakhs of rupees, were found abandoned at several places along Neeru River, officials said Sunday.

The medicines, reportedly meant for the distribution among the COVID patients, were noticed by people after hundreds of fish died under mysterious circumstances and were found floating in the river near Gupta Ganga temple, Parnala and Atalgarh area, the officials said.

"We have taken serious note of it and a fact finding team has been constituted to probe the incident and those found guilty will be dealt with iron hands," Additional Deputy Commissioner, Bhadwarwah, Rakesh Kumar told PTI.

Kumar, who is himself heading the fact finding team, said the hospital authorities have maintained that even the expired medicines are not thrown anywhere but properly disposed every month in presence of senior officers.

Neeru River is considered the life-line of additional district Bhadwarwah because it is the main source of potable water and provides water supply to dozens of trout fish farms besides being the source of income to local fishermen.



"We found hundreds of strips of different medicines floating at several places and raised an alarm as hundreds of fish had died mysteriously in the recent past," Neeraj Singh Manhas, a resident of Atalgarh, said.

He said the medicines include hydroxy chloroquine, azithromycin, betamethazone, paracetamol, zinc tablets having expiry of 2022.

"It clearly indicates that the medicines were meant for Covid patients and have been dumped in water body for unknown reasons... May be the delivery man did not want to visit the COVID patient," Manhas said.

Demanding stern action against those involved, the locals said the responsibility should be immediately fixed and those who have committed the crime should be

put behind the bars.

Two trout fish farms including a trout hatchery at Gatha and Bheja village have been established on the banks of Neeru by the fisheries department besides more than a dozen trout fish farms of famous rainbow trout give employment to dozens of unemployed youth of the area.

Workers of trout fish farms have claimed that mortality rate has suddenly increased after the medicines in large quantity were thrown in the river.

"Since past one week, we have been collecting and removing medicines from our pond every day. Despite all of our efforts, dozens of fish have died in last couple of days and hospital authorities are responsible for this," said Barkat Ali of Bagwan trout fish farm Atalgarh.

PAGD only after power, says BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 8: The BJP lashed out at the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) Sunday, a day after the alliance announced it would contest the upcoming first-ever District Development Council (DDC) polls in Jammu and Kashmir unilaterally, saying it is only after power and is befooling people about seeking the restoration of the erstwhile state's special status.

The PAGD -- an alliance of seven mainstream parties of Jammu and Kashmir seeking the restoration of the erstwhile state's special status -- announced on Saturday that it would contest the DDC polls unitedly not to allow the sacred space in democracy to be "invaded or marauded

by divisive forces". Terming the alliance the "Gupkar Gang", Jammu and Kashmir BJP's general secretary and Kashmir affairs in-charge Vibodh Gupta said the parties in it are after power and people should understand their intentions.

"If the alliance is against the Constitution of India, then how come is this gang fighting the DDC election under the same Constitution? He said the PAGD's decision to contest the DDC polls reflects the "dual politics" being played by it.

"This is how the Gupkar Gang is playing cheap politics and trying to befool people. On one hand, they want to remain in the system and gain power, but on the other hand, they are opposing the same Constitution under which they are supposed to take oath," the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said.



If the alliance is against the Constitution of India, then how come is this gang fighting the DDC election under the same Constitution?
VIBODH GUPTA | J & K BJP'S GENERAL SECRETARY

DIWALI AHEAD



People through a market for shopping ahead of Diwali festival, in Jammu, Sunday

When Biden spoke of distant relatives living in Mumbai

BIDEN HAD CLAIMED THAT HIS "GREAT, GREAT, GREAT, GREAT, GREAT GRANDFATHER" GEORGE BIDEN WAS A CAPTAIN IN THE EAST INDIA TRADING COMPANY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 8: When US President-elect Joe Biden was in India's financial capital in 2013, he had told an audience that his distant relatives live in Mumbai.

Biden reiterated his claim two years later at an event in Washington, saying there are five Bidens living in Mumbai.

With the 77-year-old Democrat set to take oath as the 46th US President in just over two months, nobody in Mumbai has so far turned up to claim that he is Biden's relative.

Decades after he received a letter from someone by the last name of Biden from Mumbai, soon after becoming a senator, Biden learned that his "great, great, great, great grandfather" had worked in the East India Company.

"There are five Bidens in Mumbai, India," Biden, then Vice President, told a Washington audience in 2015 at an event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on the oc-



back in 1972, and one of the first letters I received and I regret I never followed up on it.

"Maybe, some genealogist in audience can follow up for me, but I received a letter from a gentleman named Biden - Biden, my name - from Mumbai, asserting that we were related," Biden had told the Mumbai audience seven years ago.

In his 2015 speech in Washington, Biden had claimed that his "great, great, great, great grandfather" George Biden was a Captain in the East India Trading Company and after retirement, decided to settle in India and married an Indian woman.

Biden had also said someone provided him with the details including the phone numbers of the Bidens in Mumbai. He had informed the audience that he was yet to call his Mumbai kin but was planning to do so.

It is not clear if Biden did manage to contact them as the five Bidens he spoke of have not 'surfaced' yet.

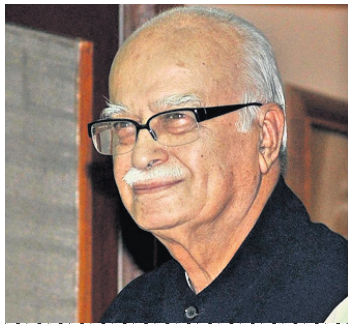
national



The Centre should come up with a white paper to inform people about the impact of demonetisation, GST and the coronavirus pandemic on the country's economy

ADVANI TURNS 93

As BJP patriarch LK Advani turned 93 Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called him a living inspiration for crores of BJP workers and countrymen and wished him a long and healthy life



of the day quote

Uttarakhand government's pragmatic industrial policy has ensured a large amount of investment coming into the state and this flow will continue uninterrupted



Citizens have successfully managed to bring dengue cases to 489 this year from 15,867 in 2015, while compared to 60 dengue-related deaths in 2015, there has been no fatalities this year



The Delhi government has failed to combat pollution in the city and has made firecracker traders a scapegoat. I am not against the ban but it should have been announced six months back, not two days ago prohibiting sale, purchase and use of firecrackers



4TH ANNIV OF DEMONETISATION CONG, BJP ENGAGE IN WAR OF WORDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday said demonetisation has helped reduce black money, increase tax compliance and given a boost to transparency as the BJP and the Congress sparred over its outcome on the fourth anniversary of withdrawal of high value currency notes.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that Modi's move was aimed at helping a few of his 'crony capitalist friends' and had 'destroyed' the Indian economy, prompting a strong response from the BJP which said the exercise was an 'attack' on corruption and black money that were rampant during the 'lost decade' of the Congress-led UPA government.

campaign, Rahul Gandhi said the question is how the economy of Bangladesh 'surpassed' the Indian economy as there was a time when India used to be one of the most high performing economies of the world.

Rahul Gandhi and the Congress have been alleging that demonetisation was not in the interest of the people and had adverse effects on the economy, a charge the government has dismissed repeatedly. On November 8, 2016, Modi announced on national television his government's decision to ban all currency notes of higher denomination of ₹500 and ₹1,000 from midnight on the same day.

"The government says that the reason is COVID but if that is the reason, there is COVID in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world also. The reason is not COVID, the reason is 'Notebandi' and GST," Rahul Gandhi said. Hitting back, the BJP said demonetisation was good for the country and resulted in cleaning up of the economy, formalisation of the informal sector and revenue aggregation.

Taking to Twitter, the prime minister listed the beneficial outcomes of demonetisation.

"Demonetisation has helped reduce black money, increase tax compliance and formalisation and given a boost to transparency," he said. "These outcomes have been greatly beneficial towards national progress," Modi said using the hashtag 'DeMolishingCorruption'.

Along with his tweet, the prime minister also shared a graphic on how demonetisation has ensured better tax compliance, improved tax and GDP ratio, made India a lesser cash based economy and gave a boost to national security.

"If there is anybody who shouldn't talk about loot, mismanagement of the economy it should be people from the Congress. During the last decade of the Congress-led UPA government, there was rampant black money and corruption in the country's economy."

But in a video released as part of the Congress' online 'SpeakUpAgainstDeMoDisaster'

The Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) was in power at the Centre for two terms from 2004 to 2014. "Demonetisation had three significant and tangible impacts - cleaning up of the economy, formalisation of the informal sector as it helped us to reach the poor and needy, and revenue aggregation," Chandrasekhar said.

AG refuses nod to contempt case against Jagan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 8: Attorney General KK Venugopal has for the second time turned down request for his consent for filing a criminal contempt case against Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy for writing a letter to the CJI against Justice NV Ramana.



Advocate Ashwini Upadhyay is seeking contempt action against Reddy for writing a letter to Chief Justice of India SA Bobde for making "wild and reckless" allegations against Justice Ramana. In his fresh letter to Upadhyay, Venugopal said: "Given that the Chief Justice of India is seized of the matter, it would not be appropriate for me to grant consent and preclude the determination of the Chief Justice of India on the matter."

"As you are no doubt aware, contempt is a matter between the court and contemnor; and no person as a right can insist upon the initiation of contempt proceedings. For these reasons, I cannot accede to your request for reconsideration."

Venugopal said that his refusal to grant consent does not preclude the lawyer from bringing these

facts to the notice of the court. "I would invite your attention to the fact that my refusal to grant consent does not preclude you from bringing these facts to the notice of the Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court with a prayer for initiation of suo motu action. You may exercise this right either by way of information placed on the administrative side or by bringing it to the attention of the court during the hearing of WP(C)699/2016 where you are already a petitioner in person," the AG said.

Responding to Upadhyay's earlier letter, the AG had said: "I am of the opinion that the timing of the letter, as well as its being placed in the public domain through a press conference, could certainly be said to be suspect, in the background of the order dated September 16 passed by Justice Ramana, directing pending prosecutions of elected representatives to be taken up and disposed expeditiously."

In an unprecedented move, the Chief Minister had written to Chief Justice Bobde, alleging that the Andhra Pradesh High Court was used to destabilise and topple democratically elected government, and sought the Chief Justice's intervention in the matter. He urged the CJI to consider initiating steps "as may be considered fit and proper to ensure that the state judiciary's neutrality is maintained".

On November 2, the Attorney General had said that the timing of Reddy's letter to the CJI on allegations against Justice Ramana and making it public through a press meet was "suspect", but declined consent for initiating contempt proceedings against the Andhra politician.

NCB ARRESTS FIROZ'S WIFE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 8: In a major swoop, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) raided the home of well-known film producer Firoz A. Nadiadwala and seized drugs worth around Rs 3.59 lakh, an official said here Sunday.

The NCB has also arrested Nadiadwala's wife Shabana Saeed, besides three other drug peddlers in the operation conducted at different places in the city and in Thane during the day. It seized 717.1 gms ganja, 74.1 gms charas and 95.1 gms MD (commercial quantity), worth Rs.3.59 lakh from Nadiadwala's home in Juhu and another location.

Besides another 10 gms of ganja was recovered from another accused Wahid A. Kadir Shaikh, alias Sultan. Saeed's statement was recorded after which she was placed under arrest, said the NCB official.

There was speculation that Firoz Nadiadwala is likely to be summoned for interrogation, but there was no confirmation from the officials.

SHORT TAKES

Gold seized

Chennai: The Customs Department here Sunday said it has seized 1.31 kg gold worth Rs 70.7 lakh while it was being smuggled into the country by six persons on Sunday and Saturday. In a statement issued here, the Commissioner of Customs, Chennai International Airport said that Mohammed Asif and Mohamed Sharif arrived by Air India Express and Indigo flights respectively. On personal search of Asif, two packets containing gold paste weighing 140 grams were recovered from his pocket from which 123 grams of gold of 24k purity weighing was extracted.

Couple shot at

Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh): A 17-year-old girl and her alleged lover were shot at in Pipalhedha village under the Khatoli police in Muzaffarnagar. The accused in the case is a cousin of the girl, who was opposed to their relationship. He has been arrested. The girl and her 18-year-old lover have been admitted shifted to a hospital in a serious condition on Saturday evening after the incident took place.

Man killed

New Delhi: A 28-year-old man was stabbed to death in south-east Delhi's East of Kailash in a brawl over urination in front of a grocery store, following which two shopowner brothers were arrested, police said Sunday. Police said brothers Vinay and Vimal were sitting outside their closed shop in C Block Market when 34-year-old Jagjeet Singh urinated there on Friday night. After a heated argument with the two brothers, Jagjeet left but later came back with his friends Amit, Ramandeep, Gurvinder, Jaspreet, Jagat Singh, Karan, and Amandeep. Some persons from the market came out in support of Vimal and Vinay and both parties indulged in a brawl. Jagjeet and his accomplices fled the spot.

Body found

Thane: The body of a missing autorickshaw driver was found floating in a creek Sunday here in Maharashtra, police said. Prima facie, the deceased, Vivek Kharat (25), committed suicide by jumping into the Retibunder creek in Waghbil area, a Kasarvadawali police station officer said. Kharat had been missing since November 4 and a missing person complaint was lodged by his family members on November 5, he said.

PM launches ferry service

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday inaugurated the Ro-pax ferry services between Surat and Saurashtra region in Gujarat, and announced that the Shipping Ministry will be named Ministry of Port, Shipping and Waterways to reflect the revamp underway.

"With this service, you will save on time and expenses. Apart from this, traffic will be reduced by road, which will help reduce pollution. In a year, about 80,000 vehicles and about 30,000 trucks will be able to take advantage of this new service. This will also save petrol and diesel," Modi said while inaugurating the service through videoconference.

Modi said the ferry connectivity of Saurashtra with a big business centre in Gujarat will change the life of that region. "Now the farmers and livestock farmers of Saurashtra will have more ease in bringing vegetables, fruits and milk to Surat," he pointed out.

The Prime Minister claimed that maritime business-related infrastructure and capacity building in Gujarat is in full swing. He cited the examples of Gujarat Maritime Cluster, Gujarat Maritime University, CNG Terminal at Bhavnagar and many such facilities coming up in Gujarat.

He stressed that the capacity of ports on the maritime borders of the country was also in the process of increasing. New ports are getting built at a rapid pace in an effort to maximise the use of India's 21,000-km long waterways. The ferry service will work as a gateway to south Gujarat and Saurashtra region. It will reduce the distance between the two places from 370 km to just 90 km. The cargo travel time will reduce from 10 to 12 hours to about 4 hours, leading to huge saving of around 9,000 litres per day in fuel and also lower maintenance costs of vehicles drastically. The Prime Minister concluded his speech by stressing on 'vocal for local', urging people to buy local products in festival season.

TN VILLAGES ERUPT IN JOY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tiruvarur (TN), Nov 8: The ancestral villages of US Vice-President elect Kamala Harris in Tamil Nadu Sunday erupted in joy over the Democrat Senator's elevation and ushered in an early Diwali with firecrackers and sweets to celebrate her win.



The joy of locals in Thulasenthrapuram and Painganadu villages in this Cauvery delta district knew no bounds as they rejoiced the victory of "the woman of our house". The villages, which are native to her maternal grandparents, were keenly waiting for the outcome and once President-elect Joe Biden triumphed against incumbent Republican President Donald Trump, it was evident his running mate Harris would be his deputy.

Minister R Kamaraj participated. People gathered on roads in large numbers carrying the photos of Harris and handmade signs. Hundreds of digital banners have been put up in the area. Politicians cutting across party lines distributed sweets to the people.

The villagers had earlier held special prayers for Harris' win and once they were answered, celebrated it with much fanfare on Sunday. The locals celebrated 56 year-old Harris' win by bursting crackers and distributing sweets, even as special prayers were held at the local temple, in which state Food

A local at Painganadu who drew a large 'kolam' (Rangoli) was all smiles when she hailed the victory of the "woman of our house." The colourful 'kolam' hailed Harris as the 'pride' of the village.

Arulmozhi, a councillor representing the area in the Mannargudi panchayat union, wished Harris visited the village after assuming

office. "Even for winning an election at the local level, women have to struggle a lot. We can understand how difficult it would have been for Kamala Harris to win that fiercely fought election. We hope Kamala will one day pay a visit to our village after assuming office and we are eagerly waiting to shake hands (with her)," she said.

The villagers had already kept the crackers ready in anticipation of Harris' win, even as the people were proud that their villages happen to be the native place of the grandparents of Kamala Harris. Thulasenthrapuram and Painganadu are agrarian villages and are located very close to each other near Mannargudi in the district.

Harris' grandfather P V Gopalan moved out of Thulasenthrapuram village as a young man and took up a job in the British government service. Her grandmother Rajam belonged to the nearby Painganadu village.

Though Kamala's ancestors left the village many decades ago, family members had kept their connections with the temple at Thulasenthrapuram intact.

NEW FOCUS Army helping NE students

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Nov 8: Apart from defending the frontiers, fighting terrorists, and undertaking rescue missions in emergencies, the Indian Army has now launched coaching for students in the northeast region as educational institutions remain shut for over seven months now due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Under "Operation Sadbhavna", the Army's Spear Corps has undertaken to conduct coaching classes for students of Classes 9 to 12 in Miao and Kharsang villages of Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district, bordering Myanmar.

Defence spokesman, Lt. Col P Khongsai said Sunday that the coaching classes were started on Friday and based on their response and performance, the Army would likely to consider introducing similar initiatives in other states of the northeast.

The Covid-19 pandemic has adversely affected the education of children, with no schools running and classes shifted to online mode, he said, noting that children in rural areas with poor internet connectivity have suffered the most as online classes are often a distant dream. "Understanding the concern, the aim of this proposal is to ensure that an important academic year of senior children from these remote areas is not wasted due to pandemic, mitigate the anxiety of parents and finally prevent drop-outs."

He said a solemn opening ceremony was conducted at Miao and Kharsang on Friday and was attended by village Samiti President, the Principal of government higher secondary school, Kharsang and teachers of the Kendriya Vidyalaya, Miao.

Lawyers used lockdown to explore business ideas, hobbies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: From starting home kitchens to selling superfoods online, several young lawyers, who otherwise spent their time in courtrooms, used the coronavirus-induced lockdown to explore their entrepreneurship and business skills.

tional law and licensing." I had a lot of time because of this and came up with the idea of selling superfoods like nutritious edible seeds, and a variation of spices and herbs that help boost immunity, besides offering other health benefits," said the lawyer, who now has a start-up called 'Bag of Herbs'.



Having time in hand as courts across the country had restricted their functioning with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent nationwide lockdown, these lawyers got the opportunity to nurture their ideas, hobbies and passions, while carrying on with their legal profession.

Courts took up only urgent cases for hearing during the lockdown, which was imposed in the end of March to prevent the spread of the infection. Since June, the government is gradually easing restrictions under 'Unlock'.

"During the lockdown, I was initially helping my parents in their work. It was during this time, I also came across vendors who were selling herbs and spices. I decided to explore my passion of making people cook at home with products which

and boost immunity, while at the same time are pleasing to the palate," he said. Those interested, can also learn about healthy recipes on the start-up's website and about the health benefits of products, the lawyer said, adding that its social media pages also accepts suggestions from customers.

Malhotra is expanding his business through e-commerce sites like Grofers, Flipkart and Amazon and has plans to make the start-up a full-time enterprise. Corporate lawyers Mahima Ahluwalia Sinha and Yashita Dalmia started home kitchens in Gurgaon and the national capital. Sinha, who has been in the legal profession for the last 12 years, has started a home kitchen called 'Assi Tussi Bhalo Achi' that offers a fusion of Bengali and Punjabi cuisine. The lawyer said that

she has neither left the legal profession nor has plans to leave it.

Sinha said that during the lockdown she and her mother-in-law Sagarica Lala came up with the idea of setting up a home kitchen that would offer a mix of Punjabi and Bengali cuisine. Offering something different was the prime objective behind the venture, she said.

"I am trying my best to manage both, my legal profession and the home kitchen. I am exploring my love and passion for food and cooking. I have WhatsApp groups and a Facebook page through which I take orders. We are gradually increasing the menu and it's on a daily basis," Sinha said. She added that the lockdown was a boon for her as earlier she always had a packed schedule and never got time to explore her passion.



The Congress party stands in solidarity with 30 lakh armed forces personnel and will not permit any dilution of the rights of those who serve their motherland day in and day out
RANDEEP SURJEWALA | CONGRESS CHIEF SPOKESPERSON

VIRTUAL PROGRAMMES TO MARK HORNBILL FESTIVAL

The Nagaland government has decided to celebrate the popular Hornbill festival virtually this year, amid the surge in COVID-19 cases in the country



of the day quote

1,000 posts of Ayush assistant have been approved to encourage yoga education in schools
MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR
HARYANA CM

Karnataka will soon enact a law prohibiting religious conversions
K. SUDHAKAR
KARNATAKA HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE MINISTER

The 'Har Ghar Nai se Jal' project under Jal Jeevan Mission will be completed within 9 months in aspirational districts of the country on a priority basis
GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT | UNION MINISTER

Delhi seeing third corona wave: Jain Indo-China talks to continue: MoD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dungarpur (Rajasthan), Nov 8: The national capital has hit the peak of the third wave of COVID-19, and the number of cases suggests that it has been the worst since the pandemic arrived in the city, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said Sunday.

He said the government had no plans yet to rope in hotels and banquet halls to augment the bed capacity for COVID-19 patients as the AAP dispensation had increased the number of beds in hospitals of Delhi.

The national capital has been witnessing a fresh surge in coronavirus cases amid the festive season and rising air pollution. On Friday, Delhi recorded over 7,000 COVID-19 cases for the first time. The city on Saturday reported 79 deaths, the highest number of fatalities in over four months.

Jain, who is on an official visit to Rajasthan's Dungarpur, said the first wave had hit its peak around June 23 and the second on September 17. "The third wave of



COVID-19 is at its peak in Delhi. The number of cases suggests it is the worst wave so far. But the cases will come down soon," Jain told reporters here.

Delhi reported its first case on March 1, when a businessman in East Delhi was diagnosed with COVID-19 after returning from Italy. The minister cited aggressive testing and contact-tracing among reasons for the sudden spike in the number of cases being reported.

Jain, however, said laxity on the part of the people has also been a major reason behind the surge.

"Some people think nothing will happen to them if they don't wear a mask. They are wrong. Mask is the only medicine for COVID-19 till a vaccine is developed," he added.

The National Centre for Disease Control, in a report drafted recently, had warned that Delhi needed to be prepared for about 15,000 fresh COVID-19 cases daily taking into account the winter season-related respiratory problems, large influx of patients from outside and festive gatherings.

On Friday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said that like the pre-

The national capital has been witnessing a fresh surge in coronavirus cases amid the festive season and rising air pollution

Delhi reported its first case on March 1, when a businessman in East Delhi was diagnosed with COVID-19 after returning from Italy

vious two waves of coronavirus, the third one would end soon in Delhi as he urged Delhiites to make wearing masks a movement to arrest the spread of COVID-19.

"Till there is a vaccine for corona, consider face masks as the vaccine. These are the biggest protection against COVID-19 infection. We need to promote wearing face masks as a movement," he had said. The national capital on Saturday recorded 6,953 new cases of the infection. Daily cases began rising in the city in September. It started to come down a bit by the last week. The number of people in home isolation in the city stood at 24,100 on Saturday.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 8: The military talks between India and China at Chushul in eastern Ladakh to resolve the border dispute ended in a stalemate but both countries have agreed to continue the dialogue to push for a peaceful settlement, the MoD said Sunday.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) said in a statement that both countries agreed to continue the dialogue and communication through military and diplomatic channels and take forward the discussions, push for a settlement of other outstanding issues, so as to jointly maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

The ministry pointed out that "the two sides had a candid, in-depth and constructive exchange of views on disengagement along the Line of Actual Control in the Western Sector of India-China border areas."

The Ministry further said that both the countries also agreed to earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, ensure their frontline troops exercised restraint and avoided misunderstanding and miscalculations. "They also agreed to have another round of meeting soon," the Ministry said.

Since the talks ended in a deadlock and no thinning of troops will happen, soldiers of both the countries deployed in the area will remain exposed to minus 20 degrees Celsius temperatures. The 8th Corps Commander-level talks between both the countries began at

9.30 am and ended at 7 pm on Friday. It was for the first time that Lieutenant General PGK Menon led the Indian military delegates.

Earlier, he had attended two such talks but the delegation was led by then Lieutenant General Harinder Singh, who was transferred last month to the Indian Military Academy (IMA) where he would be in charge of training the future generations of Army officers. Ministry of External Affairs Joint Secretary Navin Srivastava was also part of the delegation.

While the talks were on, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat on Friday claimed that the situation on the Line of Actual Control remains tense and a war with China cannot be ruled out. He had said: "In the overall security calculus, border confrontations, transgressions, unprovoked tactical military actions spiralling into a larger conflict therefore cannot be discounted."

General Rawat said that the situation along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh remained tense. But he pointed out that India's posturing is unambiguous and "will not accept any shift in the Line of Actual Control". He also said that China's People's Liberation Army is facing unanticipated consequences for its misadventure in Ladakh because of the firm responses by Indian forces. Both the countries' military top commanders met seven times in a bid to resolve the six-month standoff. The seventh meeting took place on October 12 but that too ended in a deadlock.

SHORT TAKES

13 Bangladeshis apprehended

Kolkata: Thirteen Bangladeshi nationals have been apprehended by Border Security Force personnel in border points of West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district while trying to crossover to India, a BSF statement said Sunday. All 13 were nabbed by the border guards in separate incidents Friday. While five Bangladeshis were apprehended at Bithari border outpost, six nationals of the neighbouring country were nabbed near Hakimpur border outpost, the statement said.

Youth arrested

Ballia (UP): A 24-year-old youth was arrested for allegedly abducting and raping a minor girl on the pretext of marriage, police said Sunday. "On August 28, a 16-year-old girl was abducted by her 24-year-old neighbor and taken to Kerala. The girl was raped on the pretext of marriage," Station House Officer of Ballia police station Sanjay Tripathi said. "On the complaint of the girl's father, a case has been registered against the accused under the India Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act," he added. Police said the girl was rescued and sent for medical examination.

Naxal killed

Bijapur: A Naxal was killed while two security personnel sustained injuries in an encounter in Bijapur in Chhattisgarh Sunday, police said. The exchange of fire took place at around 10:30 am near Bhattiguda village under Pamed police station limits, on the border with Telangana, a senior official said.

Two dead

Dhubri (Assam): Two persons were killed and a few others injured in a collision between a tractor-trolley and a bus on National Highway 17 in Assam's Kokrajhar district Sunday, police said. The accident took place near New Panbari in Bogribari police station area when the sand-laden tractor-trolley tried to flee on seeing an enforcement team of the Motor Vehicles Inspector, a police officer said.

Man found dead

Muzaffarnagar (UP): A 35-year-old man was found dead with his throat slit in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district on Saturday evening, police said. During investigation, police arrested a 28-year-old man, who confessed he had killed Robin for allegedly having an illicit relation with his wife and harassing her over phone, an officer said. The deceased's body was recovered in Khatauli town and sent for post-mortem, the officer said.

Five of family found dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 8: Five members of a family, including two children, were found dead at their residence in West Bengal's Dakshin Dinajpur district Sunday, a senior police officer said.

Bodies of Anup Barman (33), his mother Ulubala Barman, wife Mallika Barman and two daughters - both under 10 years - Beauty Barman and Snigdha Barman were recovered by a team of police officers around 6 am from their residence at Jamalpur village in Tapan police station area.

According to the officer, it wasn't yet clear if this was a case of suicide or murder. Locals noticed Anup's body hanging from the ceiling of his residence and informed the police. He was suffering from cancer and had little or no money left for his treatment, he said.

It could be that all of them were murdered at their residence, or the 33-year-old might have killed his family members before taking own life, he said.

Girl set ablaze by jilted lover

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ballia (Uttar Pradesh) Nov 8: In a shocking incident, a 15-year-old Dalit girl was set ablaze in a village in Ballia district by a youth for spurning his sexual advances.

The police said that the accused, Krishna Gupta, 21, has been arrested. The victim was admitted to a hospital in Ballia but as her condition worsened, she was shifted to Varanasi for advanced treatment.

The incident took place late on Friday night. Dubhar police station SHO Anil Chandra Tiwari said that on the complaint of the girl's father, the police have registered a case against the accused under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The girl's father told the police that the accused abducted his daughter and set her on fire as she had been rejecting the man's sexual advances towards her.

LET'S PLAY



Zebras play at Alipore Zoo in Kolkata, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

Drinking tea in paper cups not safe: IIT study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: Disposable paper cups are not safe for drinking tea and a person drinking three cups of tea in them will end up ingesting 75,000 tiny microplastic particles, a study by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur, has found.

According to Sudha Goel, Associate Professor at IIT Kharagpur, who led the research, disposable paper cups are a popular choice for consuming beverages. "Our research has confirmed contamination of the hot liquid served in paper cups due to the degradation of microplastics and other hazardous components from the lining material of the cup. Paper cups are usually lined by a thin layer of hydrophobic film which is made of mostly plastic (polyethylene) and sometimes co-polymers to hold the liquid in the paper cup. Within 15 minutes this microplastic layer degrades as a reaction to hot water," she said.



"According to our study, 25,000 micron-sized (10 µm to 1000 µm) microplastic particles are released into 100 ml of hot liquid (85-90 degrees C) residing in the paper cups for 15 minutes. Thus, an average person drinking 3 regular cups of tea or coffee daily, in a paper cup, would be ingesting 75,000 tiny microplastic particles which are invisible to the human eye," she added.

The researchers followed two different procedures - in the first process, hot ultrapure (MilliQ) water (85-90 degrees C) was poured into the disposable paper cups, and it was allowed to sit for 15 minutes.

4-YR-OLD BOY STUCK IN BOREWELL DIES

MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan mourned his death and announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the bereaved family

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Niwari/Bhopal, Nov 8: Four-year-old Prahlad, who fell in a borewell in Niwari district of Madhya Pradesh, eventually lost the battle for life Sunday, despite a relentless rescue operation that lasted 90 hours.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan mourned his death and announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the bereaved family. Prahlad fell in borewell Wednesday morning while playing near a farm in Setpura in Niwari district. He was trapped at a depth of about 60 feet.

Rescue work went on for three days, in which Army, National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force, police, home guards were involved. Though Prahlad was finally brought out around 3 am and rushed to Niwari Hospital but he was declared brought dead by doctors.



The Chief Minister expressed grief over Prahlad's death: "Prahlad could not be saved even after a rescue operation of 90 hours. The team of SDRF, NDRF and other experts worked hard day and night but finally at 3 am, the son's dead body was taken out. In this hour of grief, I and the whole state stand with Prahlad's family and pray for the peace of

the soul of the innocent son." He said that a new borewell will also be installed at their farmland.

After Harikishan's son Prahlad fell into the 200-feet borewell, the rescue teams dug up a 60-foot deep bore parallel to the borewell and then built a horizontal tunnel to access the boy, but he could not be saved.



Covid shadow on Winter Session

The ongoing Covid pandemic has made the government re-think on holding the Winter Session of Parliament in November-December. As many as 45 Members of Parliament including several Ministers and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha M Venkaiah Naidu got infected during the Monsoon

session of Parliament in September. One of the Union Ministers even lost his life due to coronavirus. Though, the government is not constitutionally or legally obliged to hold the Winter Session as the Monsoon session concluded September 28. As per provision, there should not be a gap of more than six months between the two sessions. Therefore, the government can now hold the next session in March. But the Budget session will mandatorily begin January 30 next year.

Priyanka back in Lutyen's Delhi

After a brief stint in Gurugram in Haryana, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is back in Lutyen's Delhi. She vacated her government bungalow a couple of months back when the Modi government served her with a notice. There was a big

controversy as Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri revealed to the media that Priyanka wanted an extension to stay which he happily granted. But Priyanka denied the charge making Puri to reveal again that request was made to him on behalf of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra by Gandhi family's most trusted person. Finally, she shifted to Gurugram at the DLF's posh flat for a short while. Now she is back in Sujana Singh Park near Khan Market. The flat is owned by late Khushwant Singh's family and she is on rent.

JD (U) slide worries BJP

In spite of Modi's undiminished charisma and immense popular appeal, the BJP leadership has a reason to worry in Bihar. Now that polling is over in the bitterly fought polarised battle, the BJP is rattled as its key partner Nitish Kumar's graph is on the downhill. The mishandling

of migrant labourers and coronavirus issues may cost him dearly and hurt BJP more in the months to come if the NDA loses Bihar. It is not as if the BJP was not aware of the sliding graph of Kumar. All internal surveys conducted by the RSS and the BJP signalled that the Bihar CM's popularity is waning. The vocal Bihar BJP leadership wanted to go alone smelling blood riding on the Modi wave. It was in this background that PM Narendra Modi, BJP president JP Nadda and Home Minister Amit Shah held two rounds of talks on Bihar in June-July. A conscious decision was taken to go with Janata Dal (U) as the consequences of dumping Nitish could have been fatal. It would have pushed him to go back to the RJD-Congress alliance. In order to offset the anti-incumbency factor of Nitish, a buffer zone of sort in the form of LJP's Chirag Paswan was created. It was done with the hope that LJP could cut into anti-Nitish votes which otherwise would

have gone to the RJD-Congress-Left tripartite. One will have to watch if the BJP's gambit pays off.

Ram Madhav's big slide

It seems BJP's rising star has run out of luck. He was in charge of the Jammu & Kashmir affairs and North East. When he was removed as BJP general secretary, it was widely believed that he will get a Rajya Sabha seat and possibly a ministerial berth when reshuffle takes place. It was also expected that he will be nominated to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh where the BJP is set to win at least eight out of ten seats. But his name didn't figure in the list. It now transpires that he is vacating his South Avenue government flat as well which he had been allotted as party's general secretary. What he will do next is not known.

international

of the day quote

Today will become a great day in the history of Azerbaijan

ILHAM ALIYEV
 PRESIDENT OF AZERBAIJAN

I think we are living at a moment in time where the world is a very uncertain and anxious place and of course, the dynamic of global competition is a feature of our lives as well, and I think the real risk we have with quite a lot of the regional conflicts that are going on at the moment, is you could see escalation lead to miscalculation

NICK CARTER | BRITAIN'S CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF

Armenia must be convinced to negotiate in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with Azerbaijan and called for a peaceful resolution

TAYYIP ERDOGAN | TURKISH PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Global nCoV cases exceed 50mn

London: Global coronavirus infections exceeded 50 million Sunday, according to a Reuters tally, with a second wave of the virus in the past 30 days accounting for a quarter of the total. October was the worst month for the pandemic so far, with the United States becoming the first country to report more than 100,000 daily cases. A surge in Europe contributed to the rise. The latest seven-day average shows global daily infections are rising by more than 540,000.

UK, EU to resume trade talks

London: Negotiators from the UK and the European Union (EU) will resume talks on a post-Brexit trade deal in London Monday as "significant differences" remained between the two sides, a Downing Street statement said. The statement came after a call between UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Saturday "for a stock take on the progress in the negotiations", reports Xinhua news agency.

Matter of concern

Kabul: A new report has revealed that Taliban violence in Afghanistan has increased by 50 per cent in the past three months as the peace talks in Doha were at an impasse, it was reported. The report by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) released Saturday said that the Taliban violence drastically increased in Afghanistan during August, September and November, TOLO News reported.

Protests in Thailand

Bangkok: Thai pro-democracy protesters were confronted by riot police and sprayed by water cannons Sunday as they tried to approach Bangkok's Grand Palace to deliver letters about their political grievances addressed to the country's king. The protesters had pushed aside a bus that was serving as a barrier to try to approach the palace, which houses the royal offices. The protesters had met earlier at Bangkok's Democracy Monument and marched as darkness fell, pushing past an initial thin line of police. Protesters threw objects at police during the melee, but both sides backed off after a few minutes and it appeared that no one suffered any serious injuries.



Transition challenges await Biden

President Barack Obama's Ebola response "czar" during the outbreak of that disease in the US in 2014.

Ted Kaufman, who briefly was appointed senator after Biden became vice president in 2008, is directing the transition. He's working closely with Jeff Zients, who held various Obama administration roles, including acting director of the Office of Management and Budget; Johannes Abraham, who was an Obama senior adviser to the National Economic Council; and former Obama White House Communications Director Jen Psaki.

Zients may also be in the mix for a top appointment in the administration, perhaps even as chief of staff, according to a former senior Obama-Biden administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. Also heavily involved in transition are the top architects of Biden's presidential campaign, including senior advisor Anita Dunn. Those close to the process recall when Obama took office in 2009 and faced tremendous pressure to engineer a speedy turnaround amid the global financial crisis, the collapse of the housing and auto industries, and turbulent financial markets.

Transition work began months before Election Day and intensified in the three-plus days it took to declare a winner. Biden will have to name 4,000-plus political appointees, including more than 1,200 requiring Senate confirmation. The transition process formally starts once the General Service Administration determines the winner based on all available facts. That's vague enough guidance that Trump could pressure the agency's director to stall.



People watch fireworks after media announced that Joe Biden has won the 2020 US presidential election



Supporters of Trump rally outside the State Capitol building after news media declared Biden to be the winner

Biden refers to Harris as 'South Asian'

While praising his running mate Kamala Harris as "a fantastic Vice President", US President-elect Joe Biden avoided calling her "Indian" and instead referred to her as "South Asian". "I will be honoured to be serving with a fantastic Vice President, Kamala Harris, who will make history as the first woman, first Black woman, first woman of South Asian descent, and first daughter of immigrants ever elected to national office in this country," he said at a victory rally in his home state of Delaware on Saturday night. Race categorisations recognised by the US government do not include "South Asian", while Asian Indian is listed officially for people of Indian descent.

AGENCIES

Wilmington, Nov 8: Joe Biden just won the presidency. That may turn out to be the easy part. The president-elect already was braced to deal with the worst health crisis the nation has seen in more than a century and the economic havoc it has wreaked.

Now, he has to build a government while contending with a Senate that could stay in GOP hands, a House sure to feature fewer Democratic allies and a public that includes more than 70 million people who would prefer that President Donald Trump keep the job. There also is the looming question of whether Trump, who has claimed the election was being stolen from him, will cooperate. Traditionally, the transition process relies on the outgoing administration working closely with the incoming one, even if they are from different parties.

A senator for decades and vice president for eight years, Biden has a deep personal understanding of the workings of government, and he's surrounded by a small

group of top advisers with equally vast institutional knowledge.

Their top priority in the 10 weeks before Inauguration Day January 20 will be building a staff and assembling the pieces needed to tackle the coronavirus pandemic. Biden said he would unveil a group of scientists and experts Monday to help him craft a plan to tackle the pandemic. Biden said that "our work begins with getting COVID under control," adding that Americans "cannot repair the economy, restore our economy or relish life's most precious moments" without doing so.

Biden is likely to move quickly in announcing Cabinet picks and top aides central to his pandemic response, including leaders of the departments of the Treasury and Health and Human Services, and a National Economic Council director. That's according to people involved in transition planning who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations. Biden's campaign declined to comment. A key member of Biden's inner circle who is thought to be a frontrunner for chief of staff is Ron Klain,

Gems from Kamala Harris' victory speech

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, Nov 8: America's Vice President-elect Kamala Harris delivered a rousing victory speech in Wilmington, Delaware, hitting familiar themes and hailing Joe Biden for his "audacity" in choosing a woman as his running mate.

"Every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities," Harris said to wild cheers. Harris' mother Shyamala Gopalan, core to every Harris stump, came in for special mention. Harris arrived in a motorcade flashing red and blue lights, the first sign that the earth has shifted from beneath the Donald Trump-Mike Pence White House. When she spoke, Harris offered glimpses of the incredible promise of multicultural America. Dressed in a luminous peach and white pant suit with satin tones, Harris beamed as

she walked on stage to the sounds of her favourite hip hop music. Here are a few standout quotes from Harris' powerful remarks at a location that has come to be known as America's most famous parking lot: "Congressman John Lewis, before his passing, wrote democracy is not a state. It is an act. And what he meant was that America's democracy is not guaranteed. It is only as strong as our willingness to fight for it. To guard it, and never take it for granted and protecting our democracy takes struggle. It takes some sacrifices, but there is joy in it. And there is progress. Because we, the people, have the power to build a better future."

"My mother Shyamala Gopalan Harris...who is always in our hearts. When she came here from India at the age of 19, she could not have imagined this moment. But she believed so



deeply in America, where a moment like this is possible. And so I'm thinking about her, and about the generations of women, Black women, Native American women who have paved the way for this moment tonight."

"What a testament it is to Joe's character that he has the audacity to break one of the most substantial barriers that exists in our country, and select a woman as his vice president. But while I may be the first woman in this

office, I will not be the last. Because every little girl, watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities. And to the children of our country, regardless of your gender, our country has sent you a clear message: Dream with ambition, lead with conviction and see yourselves in a way that others may not simply because they've never seen it before, but know that we will applaud you every step of the way." "And to the American people. No matter who you voted for: I will strive to be a vice president, like Joe was to President Obama: loyal, honest, and prepared waking up every day thinking of you and your family. Because now is when the real work begins, the hard work, the necessary work, the good work, the essential work to save lives and beat this epidemic to rebuild our economy."

SUU KYI PARTY SET TO WIN MYANMAR VOTE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yangon, Nov 8: Voters in Myanmar's biggest city, Yangon, turned up early Sunday in large numbers to vote in nationwide elections that are expected to return to power the party of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won the last elections in 2015 in a landslide, ending more than five decades of military-dictated rule in the country. With Myanmar under threat from a coronavirus surge, mask wearing was mandatory in the lines at polling stations, and many voters also donned plastic face shields and gloves. Body temperatures were taken and hand sanitizing gel was freely dispensed by officials, but social distancing rules were only fitfully observed. Traditional campaigning ahead of the election



was severely limited by social distancing and quarantines in some areas.

"The voter turnout here is more than we expected," said Zaw Win Tun, a neighbourhood administrator and official at Yangon's Pho Myae polling station. More than 90 parties are competing for seats in the lower and upper houses of Parliament, while there were also elections at the state levels.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Nov 8: Chinese President Xi Jinping Sunday instructed officials to expedite the construction of the new USD 47.8 billion railway project connecting the country's southwest Sichuan province to Linzhi in Tibet close to the Indian border in Arunachal Pradesh, saying it would play a key role in safeguarding stability in the border areas.

The Sichuan-Tibet Railway will be the second railway line into Tibet after the Qinghai-Tibet Railway project. It will go through the southeast of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, one of the world's most geologically active areas, according to the Chinese official media.

The Sichuan-Tibet Railway starts from Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province and travels through Ya'an and enters Tibet via Qamdo, shortening the jour-



ney from Chengdu to Lhasa from 48 hours to 13 hours. Linzhi, also known as Nyingchi, is located close to Arunachal Pradesh border.

The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control, the de-facto border between the two countries. China claims Arunachal Pradesh

as part of south Tibet which is firmly rejected by India.

Linzhi also has an airport which is one of the five airports built by China in the Himalayan region.

The Ya'an-Linzhi section runs 1,011 km with 26 stations. Trains are expected to run at speeds between 120 and 200 kms per hour. The total cost of the entire Sichuan-Tibet Railway project is around 319.8 billion yuan (USD 47.8 billion), according to a recent report by the state-run Global Times. In a video conference, ahead of the commencement of the construction of the project, Xi identified it as a major measure in facilitating the ruling Communist Party's general plan for governing Tibet in the new era, and stressed the project's important role in safeguarding national unity, promoting ethnic solidarity and consolidating stability in border areas.



I am following with concern the news from Ethiopia. While calling on the temptation of armed conflict to be cast aside, I invite everyone to prayer and brotherly respect, to dialogue and peaceful reconciliation of discord

POPE FRANCIS

INDIA DONATES VENTILATORS TO NEPAL

India has donated 28 ICU ventilators to Nepal to support its fight against the coronavirus pandemic, the Indian Embassy said Sunday



Congratulations @JoeBiden on your spectacular victory! As the VP, your contribution to strengthening Indo-US relations was critical and invaluable. I look forward to working closely together once again to take India-US relations to greater heights

NARENDRA MODI
 PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

The US is our most important ally and I look forward to working closely together on our shared priorities, from climate change to trade and security

BORIS JOHNSON
 BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

I look forward to future cooperation with Joe Biden

ANGELA MERKEL
 GERMAN CHANCELLOR

The Americans have chosen their President. We have a lot to do to overcome today's challenges. Let's work together!

EMMANUEL MACRON
 FRENCH PRESIDENT

Trump's damaging policy has been opposed by the American people. The next US administration should use the opportunity to make up for past mistakes

HASAN ROUHANI
 IRANIAN PRESIDENT

We're fortunate that Joe's got what it takes to be President and already carries himself that way. Because when he walks into the White House in January, he'll face a series of extraordinary challenges no incoming President ever has - a raging pandemic, an unequal economy and justice system, a democracy at risk, and a climate in peril

BARACK OBAMA
 44TH US PRESIDENT

Over 5L Indians may get US citizenship

AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 8: US President-elect Joe Biden will work towards providing a roadmap to American citizenship for nearly 11 million undocumented immigrants, including over 500,000 from India, and will also establish a minimum admission number of 95,000 refugees annually.

As a largely immigrant community, but in some cases with American roots reaching back generations, Indian-Americans know firsthand the strength and resilience that immigrants bring to the United States of America, according to a policy document issued by the Biden campaign.

"He (Biden) will immediately begin working with Congress to pass legislative immigration reform that modernises our system, with a priority on keeping families together by providing a roadmap to citizenship for nearly 11 million undocumented immigrants - including more than 500,000 from India," it said.

The Biden administration will support family-based immigration and preserve family unification as a core principle of the US immigration system, which includes reducing the family visa backlog, it said. President Trump had imposed a controversial travel ban, often referred to by critics as a "Muslim ban", on several Muslim majority countries, including Iran and Syria, through a series of executive orders. "Biden will rescind Trump's 'Muslim ban' on day one and reverse the detrimental asylum policies that are causing chaos and a humanitarian crisis at our border," the policy document said.



business



The overall structure of the market remains positive. With the economic activity recovering fast, more earnings upgrade cannot be ruled out
SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA | HEAD, RETAIL RESEARCH, MOTILAL OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

FASTag TO BE MANDATORY

The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a notification making a FASTag mandatory for all four-wheeler vehicles from January 1, 2021. Accordingly, the ministry took the decision via amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989



of the day quote

The healthy growth in smartphone shipment in the September quarter is expected to continue through October and early November during the festive months.



NAVKENDAR SINGH | RESEARCH DIRECTOR (CLIENT DEVICES AND IPDS) AT IDC INDIA

Zydus Wellness has done well to come out of the challenge of lockdown and demand loss in that period. We are hoping to continue our current momentum and grow the business on the back of new launches and demand recovery for H2



TARUN ARORA | CEO, ZYDUS WELLNESS

The opening of the economy, resumption of business activities and better than expected quarterly results have kept investor interest intact. The fall in the COVID-19 cases in India and weak US dollar also augured well



HIMANSHU SRIVASTAVA | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, MANAGER RESEARCH, MORNINGSTAR INDIA

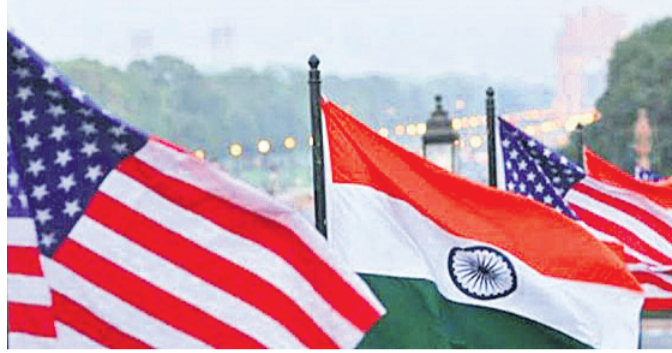
INDIA INC LOOKS FORWARD TO ENHANCED INDO-US TIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: India Inc Sunday hailed the victory of Joe Biden in the US Presidential election, while hoping for enhanced ties and co-operation between India and the United States, especially in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic.

Congratulating President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris, CII President Uday Kotak said, "with rising trade and investment ties between the two countries, the health of our economies are inextricably linked and we must work together during this critical time to reinvigorate the bilateral economic agenda - facilitating economic growth, enhancing job creation, supporting small business and enabling cooperation in investment-related movement of professionals."

With the election of Biden as President and Harris as Vice President, he said, "we are looking forward to engaging with the administration's leadership to promote post-pandemic economic stability, business collaboration, our shared democratic values and increased people-to-people ties that have defined the special India-US relationship."



Assocham Secretary General Deepak Sood said, "under the Biden-Harris leadership, the Indo-US economic ties would go from strength to strength, getting deeper into areas of advanced scientific research and development, business to business cooperation in strategic areas."

He expressed confidence that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Biden would chalk out great cooperation in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

"The vaccine development, manufacture and distribution would require immense global cooperation. India and the US would surely be leading such cooperation," Sood said, while also applauding Harris'

feat of becoming the first woman Vice-President of the US, saying: "You have been so gracious in hailing your Indian roots and values". PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Sanjay Aggarwal said India and the US, the world's largest democracies have always shared strong social, cultural and economic ties.

"We strongly believe that India-US partnership will be the defining relationship of the 21st century. We look forward to a continued strengthened bilateral trade and investment growth trajectory and defence cooperation between the two nations."

For Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra, the US election was also about lessons on leadership.

In a tweet he said, the lessons from the US election are, "leadership is about policy AND personality" and "Leaders will be judged by what they SAY not just what they DO. Leaders must ultimately represent everyone, not just those who voted for them (and) leaders with decency and values haven't gone out of fashion."

Biden's trade policy will take aim at China

Biden, who captured the presidency Saturday, was elected with the strong backing of trade unions and progressives who have been skeptical of past free trade deals

REUTERS

Washington, Nov 8: President-elect Joe Biden has pledged to work more closely with US allies in confronting China on trade, and is seen as unlikely to roll back his predecessor's tariffs on imported steel, aluminum, Chinese and European goods any time soon.

"I've been told that if you close your eyes, you might not be able to tell the difference" between the Biden and Trump trade agendas, said Nasim Fussell, former Republican trade counsel at the US Senate Finance Committee. "Biden's not going to be quick to unravel some of these tariffs."

Biden, who captured the presidency Saturday after days of vote counting, was elected with the strong backing of trade unions and progressives who have been skeptical of past free trade deals, so he will face pressure to maintain protections for vulnerable industries, such as steel and aluminum.

His top economic priority will be to revive an economy slammed by the coronavirus pandemic, so trade agreements will likely take a back seat to stimulus efforts and infrastructure development.

Biden advisers say he will seek to end "artificial trade wars" with Europe and would immediately consult with US allies before deciding on the future of US tariffs on Chinese goods, in a bid for "collective leverage" against Beijing.

Former Trump and Obama administration trade officials say



that in order to roll back tariffs on Chinese goods, Biden would likely demand the same basic concessions from China that Trump did: curbing massive subsidies to state-controlled firms, ending policies that force US companies to transfer technology to Chinese counterparts, and opening its digital services markets to US tech firms (another big Biden donor constituency). "Any president will have these on their agenda, but they're going to be really difficult," said Jamieson Greer, who served until April as chief of staff at the US Trade Representative's office.

MORE PREDICTABLE
A Biden administration will be more predictable on trade after Trump's abrupt shifts and tariff threats, said Wendy Cutler, a former USTR trade negotiator.

"The days of advisers scrambling to implement what they learn through presidential tweets will be in the past," said Cutler, vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute. Biden is not seen likely to try to revive the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the 12-country Pacific Rim trade deal negotiated by the Obama administration but abandoned by Trump in 2017.

ONGC puts mature oil, gas fields on block

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: State-owned ONGC has invited bids from global oil and gas companies for undertaking work to boost production from its ageing fields as it looks to reverse declining output.

The 15-year Production Enhancement Contract (PEC) will require firms to commit to investing in capital and operating expenditure to increase production, higher than the existing baseline output, according to the tender document.

A tariff will be paid in USD per barrel of oil and USD per million British thermal units for gas for any incremental hydrocarbon produced and saved over the baseline.



ONGC October 27, issued the expression of interest (EOI) notice offering 15-year PECs to outside contractors for an unidentified number of "mature" fields.

The company made no mention of oil or gas field names in the EOI notice, but sources said the fields are largely in Assam and Gujarat, the country's oldest producing basins.

"ONGC intends to undertake production enhancement from its onshore mature fields under 'Production Enhancement Contract (PEC) with suitable oil and gas companies of global repute who have technical expertise, financial capability and resources to increase production" the tender said.

SHORT TAKES

Former SBI chairman dies

Panaji: Former chairman of State Bank of India (SBI) PG Kakodkar died in Panaji Sunday following a cardiac arrest. The family sources stated that 83-year-old former banker passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest. He was also on the Managing Committee of Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industries (GCCCI). Kakodkar joined SBI as a probationary assistant in the year 1957 and retired as chairman of the bank on March 31, 1997.

'Looking to sustain growth'

New Delhi: Pharma major Cipla is looking at sustaining growth through the pandemic and has decided certain priorities for the coming quarters, including digital adoption and profitable growth, according to the latest investor presentation of the company. The drug firm has earmarked digital adoption and resilient operations as first of the key priorities for the coming quarters to achieve sustained growth, it added.

MFs withdraw ₹14,300 cr in Oct

New Delhi: Mutual funds pulled out a massive ₹14,300 crore from equities in October, making it the fifth consecutive month of withdrawal, as fund managers sold stocks to meet redemption requirements. During January-May 2020, mutual funds (MFs) made a net investment of more than ₹40,000 crore in stock markets, data available with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) showed.

Godrej Properties net debt up 56 pc

New Delhi: Realty firm Godrej Properties' net debt rose 56 per cent during the July-September period to ₹2,733 crore from the previous quarter and is likely to rise further as the company continues to invest in acquiring new projects. In an analyst presentation, the company said its net debt stood at ₹2,733 crore as on September 30, 2020, as against ₹1,752 crore at the end of the June quarter. Net debt stood at ₹1,159 crore at the end of the last financial year.

BIZ BUZZ

GST portal can now handle 3L taxpayers concurrently

New Delhi: Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) portal now handles almost double the taxpayer traffic for return filing immediately after lockdown, an official statement said

Sunday. "It has been made possible as the GST infra has been upgraded to handle up to 3 lakh concurrent logged-in users at a time," it said. GSTN augmented the capacity of the gateway from 1.5 lakh to 3 lakh concurrent logged in taxpayers in June 2020 as a proactive measure to handle the expected sharp surge in the indirect tax-related activities on the portal after easing of lockdown. Further, the upgrade has enabled GSTN to handle and scale up to 5 lakh concurrently logged-in taxpayers, if necessary.



Innaya Jewels opens new store at Esplanade Mall



Bhubaneswar: 'Innaya Jewels', a new jewellery showroom was inaugurated at Esplanade One Mall, in City. Union minister of MSME Pratap Chandra Sarangi unveiled the store. Mahendra

Gupta of Gupta Cables was also present at the inaugural ceremony. Started by woman entrepreneur Komal Khandelwal that provides 100% certified diamond jewellery and BIS hallmark gold jewellery. Khandelwal feels that diamond jewellery was anciently only worn by kings and queens. "Since last few decades only the rich could afford it. These days even the middle class wants to wear it," Komal added. Entrepreneur wants to provide exclusive designs, best quality and reasonable price to all class of people. Komal is specialised in customised designing. Eminent social worker Prahlad Khandelwal, Vijay Khandelwal, Lion Ram Prasad Patra, Gautam Ray and others were present at the launching function.

Liquor sales fall 29 pc in first half: CIABC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 8: Sale of Indian-made foreign liquor declined 29 per cent during the first half of the current financial year; according to data released by the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC).

In a statement, the industry body said that the fall in demand was severe in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Puducherry and Rajasthan, which still continue to impose corona tax as high as 50 per cent. In these states, sales dropped by almost 50 per cent.

"All India sales volume growth for IMFL segment for the first half of the year 2019-20 was 29 per cent



Leaving out April when the entire liquor trade was shut down under lockdown, the sales growth for the period May to September in 2020 was '16 per cent' over the same period

last year," the CIABC said in a statement.

It noted that though the pan-India liquor sale has improved in the second quarter, it was the first

quarter (April-June) which did the maximum damage. In the second quarter (July-September), sales improved over first quarter, rising up to 78 million cases (9 litres each) of IMFL which was 9 per cent below the same period last year.

Overall, sales recovery in states that imposed no tax or came up with marginal tax increases in light of corona pandemic was better.

The major states which reported maximum drop in sales in Q2 were Andhra Pradesh (down 51 per cent), Chhattisgarh (40 per cent), West Bengal (down 22 per cent) and Rajasthan (20 per cent). The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a decline of 39 per cent during July-September quarter.

Firecracker ban: CAIT demands compensation

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 8: The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Sunday said states that have banned sale of firecrackers should compensate firecracker traders for the losses suffered by them due to the ban.

CAIT in a statement demanded that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and chief ministers of other states should "compensate the firecracker traders for the losses they have accrued due to ban on sale of firecrackers".

The traders' body also termed the order of Delhi Pollution Control Committee dated November 6, 2020 which states that there will be a "complete ban" on bursting and



sale of all kinds of fire crackers from November 7-30, 2020 in the territory of NCT of Delhi, as "null and void and a blatant violation of order of Supreme Court of India".

In 2018, the Supreme Court had banned the use of polluting firecrackers and allowed the sale of "green firecrackers" in a bid to control air pollution. The "green crackers" are not as polluting as the con-

ventional firecrackers and they contain at least 30 per cent less particulate matter such as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide.

Ahead of Diwali, the Delhi government has decided to ban firecrackers in the national capital and ramp up medical infrastructure in hospitals, Kejriwal said after a review of the COVID-19 situation recently.

'Not fresh stimulus, vital is to spend committed amount'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: Former Reserve Bank Governor Bimal Jalan Sunday opined against a fresh fiscal stimulus to boost pandemic-hit economy saying it is more important to spend the amount already committed by the government than to increase the deficit.

"I think the fiscal stimulus is already there...What you need is to spend the total amount of expenditure that you have already announced and implement what has been announced so far. That is much more important than increasing the fiscal deficit target again," Jalan said.

In May, the Centre had announced a ₹20 lakh crore 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' stimulus to help the nation tide over the economic crisis in-

duced by coronavirus. "... if you have finished the total amounts of resources that you have already announced, then you should increase the fiscal deficit," he added.

So far, the Centre has announced three rounds of stimulus measures. Recently, Economic Affairs Secretary Tarun Bajaj had said that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will soon announce the next set of stimulus packages to boost the coronavirus-hit economy.

Replying to a question on India's current macroeconomic situation, Jalan said the COVID-19 pandemic had an adverse effect on economic activity but now the Indian economy is on a revival mode.

"The expectation is that by 2021, this loss in jobs and the loss in growth would have been made up



by the end of 2021," the former RBI Governor noted.

And by 2021-22, if there is no recurrence of a similar COVID-19 crisis in the next few months, then the economy would certainly improve, he said.

Asserting that the government has done a very important job in announcing the policies to boost the pandemic-hit economy, Jalan said the main issue that India needs to grapple with is implementation of policies

"And the rate of growth 2021-22 may be 6-7 per cent," he said adding that "but we will have to wait and see that the COVID-19 issue does not recur again."

The Reserve Bank of India has projected the Indian economy to

contract 9.5 per cent in the current fiscal due to COVID-19 pandemic, while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank estimates the contraction at 10.3 per cent and 9.6 per cent, respectively.

Asserting that the government has done a very important job in announcing the policies to boost the pandemic-hit economy, Jalan said the main issue that India needs to grapple with is implementation of policies. "The government has announced some very good policies... The main issue before the government now is to implement, and the implementation has to be done quickly," he emphasised.

On inflation, Jalan said with a good agriculture output, he expects inflation in the next year would also be lower.



The company in the last three years has been able to engage with 30 startups and supported them with investments and mentoring at Shell campus located in India.

"We have 30 startups now that have come through the E4 program and we're in the process of adding 10 to 12 more that'll start the program in January. We're planning on ramping the program to 25 to 30 annually."

"So, the first couple of years have been a slow ramp to get there and now we're at that run rate where we expect 25 to 30 annually," Shell E4 Programme, general manager, James Unterreiner said.

SHORT TAKES

Donning new hat

London: West Indies pace legend Michael Holding has been appointed patron of the MCC Foundation. The 66-year-old Holding, is a passionate advocate for equality in cricket and the wider community. Holding, nicknamed 'Whispering Death', carved out a reputation as one of the best fast bowlers of all time. Recently he has earned praise as a powerful and eloquent advocate for racial equality. "I am thrilled to support the MCC Foundation and its work to make cricket a game that champions respect and equality for all," Holding said.

Second-best again

Eckental: Ramkumar Ramanathan yet again settled for a runner-up finish on the Challenger circuit, losing the final of the Eckental Open tennis tournament to American Sebastian Korda, here Sunday. The unseeded Indian, celebrating his 26th birthday, lost the summit clash 4-6, 4-6 to his seventh seed rival, ranked 135, in 83 minutes. This is the fifth time Ramkumar has lost a final on the Challenger circuit. Nevertheless, it was Ramkumar's best performance of the 2020 season.

Saha injured

Abu Dhabi: Senior wicketkeeper-batsman Wriddhiman Saha's saga of picking up injuries continued as he has been diagnosed with a hamstring tear. The injury is sure to raise questions about his availability for the tour of Australia. BCCI will now take a call after considering physio Nitin Patel's medical reports. "Wriddhiman Saha has a hamstring tear," SRH skipper David Warner said after the Sunday in the game against Delhi Capitals (DC). In case of a grade 1 tear, Saha will be able to go to Australia. AGENCIES

ALL-ROUND EFFORT FROM SHREYARS IYER'S TEAM PROPELS THEM TO IPL FINAL

DC destroy SRH dreams

AGENCIES

Abu Dhabi, Nov 8: Shikhar Dhawan's (78, 50b, 5x4, 22x6) fine half century and a fine all-round effort by Marcus Stoinis (38, 3/26) helped Delhi Capitals (DC) beat Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) by 17 runs here Sunday. DC scored 189 for three in their 20 overs after winning the toss and deciding to bat. Then they restricted their opponents to 172 for eight in 'Qualifier 2'.

So it will be DC who will be facing MI for the IPL crown Tuesday. While DC will be going for their maiden IPL title, MI have won the trophy four times already making them the most successful team in the tournament. No doubt, MI will start favourites after they won 'Qualifier 1' quite easily.

In hindsight, it was SRH's poor fielding that prevented them from winning a game which could have been theirs. SRH fielders dropped three catches, one of which was off Dhawan. They also gave away nine runs through misfields and in these types of matches that can make a



IN PRIME FORM: Shikhar Dhawan of Delhi Capitals heaves one to the leg-side during his knock against SRH, Sunday

huge difference. David Warner's side had to pay a heavy price for the mistakes they admitted.

Then to add to their woes, SRH were without man in form

Wriddhiman Saha. They also lost Warner (two) early and during the chase their backs were against the wall. Yes, Kane Williamson (67, 45b, 5x4, 4x6) and Abdul Samad (33, 16b,

2x4, 2x6) gave them a whiff of hope with a partnership of 57 runs for the fifth wicket. However, once Williamson fell, the writing was clear on the wall for SRH.

Earlier Dhawan and his 86-run opening wicket partnership with Stoinis (38, 27b, 5x4, 1x6) in less than 10 overs took DC close to the 200-run mark. Dhawan was at his fluent best as he played some delightful shots square off the wicket on both sides. However, it was Stoinis who galvanised the scoring with some tremendous shots. It started in the third over with Stoinis getting two successive boundaries off pacer Sandeep Sharma.

However, worst was to follow for SRH in Jason Holder's next over. Stoinis hammered the West Indian captain for 18 runs in the fourth over of the DC innings.

Brief scores: Brief scores: DC 189 for 3 (Shikhar Dhawan 78, Shimron Hetmyer 42 n o, Rashid Khan 1/26) beat SRH 172 for 8 (Kane Williamson 67, Abdul Samad 33, Kagiso Rabada 4/29, Marcus Stoinis 3/26) by 17 runs.

Supernovas have upper hand against Trailblazers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sharjah, Nov 8: The momentum is with defending champions Supernovas as they eye a third straight Women's T20 Challenge title, with a determined Trailblazers standing in their way in the final here Monday.

In the winners-take-all T20 final, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side will have momentum behind them, having beaten Smriti Mandhana and company in the last round-robin game Saturday.

Supernovas, champions in 2018 and 2019, just about managed to ward off their rivals in a last-over thriller.

The two-run victory enabled Supernovas to enter the final, while knocking the Mithali-Raj led Velocity out of the competition.

For the defending champions, opener Chamari Atapattu (111 runs) has been in brilliant form. The Sri Lankan veteran is the top scorer for Supernovas this season. Against the Trailblazers, she played an aggressive innings (67 off 48-balls)

to notch up the first half century of the tournament.

Harmanpreet, who had scored two half centuries including one in the final last year, has been dismissed for 31 in both the matches. The big-hitting Indian T20 captain will look to get back to her destructive best in the final.

They will be up against Trailblazers, who started their campaign on a sensational note. Their bowlers, led by England's

Sophie Ecclestone and veteran Jhulan Goswami, bundled out Velocity for a paltry 47. However, they were unable to dish out a similar display Saturday.

The spinners are expected to play a huge role and both sides boast of quality tweakers. Trailblazers have the World No. 1 T20 bowler in left-arm spinner Ecclestone along with Rajeshwari Gayakwad. On the other hand, Supernovas are armed with the services of India's star leg-spinner Poonam Yadav and Radha Yadav.

GROUP STAGE RESULTS

Velocity beat Supernova by 5 wickets
Trailblazers beat Velocity by 9 wickets
Supernova beat Trailblazers by 2 runs

ZVEREV SHOCKS NADAL

AGENCIES

Paris, Nov 8: Top seed Rafael Nadal's bid for a maiden Paris Masters title was halted Saturday when the Spaniard was beaten 6-4, 7-5 in the semifinals by German fourth seed Alexander Zverev. Nadal, who reached the final at Bercy in 2007, was only briefly in contention as he surrendered his serve three times.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion broke back after falling 2-4 behind in the second set but it was a brief comeback as the 23-year-old Zverev stole his serve again in the 11th game. He then served it out, prevailing on his second match point when Nadal's forehand flew wide.

Zverev will look to claim his fourth Masters title against Russian



Alexander Zverev

third seed Daniil Medvedev, who qualified with a commanding 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) victory against Canadian Milos Raonic.

"I feel good. Look, I'm in the

final of a Masters, so I'm quite happy about that. And I have just beaten Rafa," said Zverev. "So that is never easy to do. I think the whole world will agree with me on that, all the players will agree with me on that. It's going to be a final against Daniil. Obviously two best players of the tournament are still left," he added.

Nadal said he was satisfied with his overall performance, although he rued his tactical game-plan.

"I did things well. I think I returned better than the other days, but was impossible at the beginning. I think I understood that I had to go back too late, because I was not able to, he was serving bombs and hitting the right spots all the time," he said.

Ziyech leads Chelsea fightback

AGENCIES

London, Nov 8: Chelsea recovered from conceding a goal for the first time in six matches to beat Sheffield United 4-1 in the Premier League game here Saturday. The result sealed a fourth straight victory in all competitions for Frank Lampard's expensively assembled team.

When David McGoldrick deftly flicked the ball into the net in the ninth minute at Stamford Bridge, he became the first player to score against Chelsea since Southampton defender Jannik Vestergaard's stoppage-time equaliser October 17.

It prompted a fine reaction from Chelsea. They scored twice in each half to move into third place in the PL (Premier League) points table.



Thiago Silva jumps the highest to head in Chelsea's third goal against Sheffield United, Saturday

Tammy Abraham equalised in the 23rd by sweeping home a cut-back from Mateo Kovacic. Then Ben Chilwell met a deep, in-swinging free-kick from Hakim Ziyech with a close-range finish at the back post in the 34th. Ziyech's delivery was

dangerous all match and his whipped free-kick from near the corner flag was glanced in at the near post by Thiago Silva for the Brazil defender's first goal for Chelsea. Timo Werner wrapped up the scoring in the 80th minute

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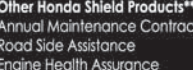
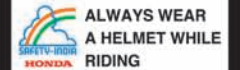
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