



ENJOYING IDLENESS
 Actor Tara Sutaria tastes the sweetness of 'doing nothing' in her new post on social media **P2**



TWEET CAUSES STIR
 A meme shared by BJP leader Tathagata Roy sparks controversy over the status of Hindus in West Bengal **P7**



BIDEN WARNS CHINA
 US President-elect Joe Biden says he wants to make sure that China plays by the rules **P10**



IRREGULAR by MANJUL
 Minister wants to know the reason for his removal. Was it corruption or not knowing national anthem?

SHORT TAKES
Desai quits Labour Party over racism
 London: Indian-origin economist, author and peer Lord Meghnad Desai has resigned as a member of the UK's Opposition Labour Party over its failure to effectively tackle antisemitic racism within its ranks. The 80-year-old peer said he has only ever been a Labour Party supporter but was forced to take the decision to cancel his membership after 49 years. Former party leader Jeremy Corbyn was readmitted after just 19 days of suspension.

Youth sets govt office afire; held
 Sambalpur: In a bizarre incident, a youth set the Rengali Tehsil office in this district on fire, shot the act and uploaded it on social media platforms Friday. However, the police managed to trace the youth and detain him for interrogation. He has been identified as Rajiv Kishan. When the video featuring Rajiv setting the office on fire went viral on social media, police swung into action. A fire engine reached the spot and doused the flames.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	43882.25 ↑ 282.29
NIFTY	12859.00 ↑ 87.30
DOLLAR	74.63 ↓ ₹0.10
EURO	88.03 ↑ ₹0.05
GOLD	₹50,388 ↑ ₹396
SILVER	₹62,675 ↑ ₹1165

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	34.4°C	33.8°C
TEMP MIN	22.2°C	21.2°C
Humidity	76%	65%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

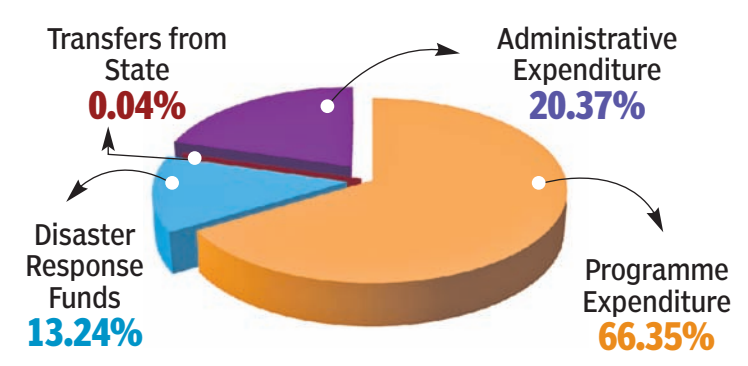
Forecast: Light rain likely

Healthcare gets shot in the arm

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET: With an outlay of ₹11,200 cr, focus has been laid on re-prioritisation of the allocations

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: Amid a raging pandemic and economic slowdown, state's Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari Friday presented the Supplementary Budget of ₹11,200 crore for the financial year 2020-21 in the Assembly.
 The supplementary provision was made in addition to the ₹1.50 lakh crore budget for 2020-21 fiscal, which was presented in the Assembly February 18. While the annual Budget, which was prepared before the pandemic, focused on building a 'New Odisha', the Supplementary Budget emphasizes on saving lives and livelihoods.
 "The approach in this year's Supplementary Budget is re-prioritisation of the allocations, with the pandemic being at the centre of our focused efforts," Pujari said in a statement.
 Out of the total supplementary provision for this year, ₹2,273 crore has been allocated towards Administrative Expenditure while ₹7,438 crore was for Programme Expenditure. Moreover, ₹1484 crore will go towards disaster management and ₹5 crore will be transferred to local bodies.



Similarly, the allocations under Administrative Expenditure and Transfers to Local Bodies are to be financed against adjustment and surrender. The allocation under Disaster Management Funds will be financed against year-end balance and anticipated receipts from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).
 The Supplementary Budget is centered around dealing with the pandemic with health, food, livelihoods and employment generation being the focus. Several packages announced by

the Chief Minister like Covid-19 warrior special assistance, Handloom, Textile & Handicraft sector, MSME sector and Mission Shakti among others have been fully funded, Pujari said.
 Sufficient allocation has been given for all requirements in the health sector for Covid response such as medicine, equipments & kits and sanitation among others. Speaking about the state's economy, the Finance Minister said, "The response to pandemic forced a lockdown of our economy, which adversely affected the revenue realization by the state government. The pace of expenditure was also affected due to the shutdown."
 The revenue collection was decreased by about 6.5 per cent during the first half of the current financial year due to shortfall in Central allocation. However, state's own revenue collection was

- ₹1,627 cr** ALLOCATED TO PUBLIC HEALTHCARE
- ₹2,067 cr** EARMARKED FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
- ₹1,077 cr** PROVIDED FOR FOOD SUPPLY & CONSUMER WELFARE
- ₹1,603 cr** TO BE SPENT IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR

showing a moderate growth of 1.7 per cent during the period, Pujari pointed out. "With the reduction in new Covid case and gradual opening up of the economy, the revenue receipt is also showing up in recent months. We are emphasizing on realization of arrear revenue and mopping up of resources to ensure higher revenue generation and lower dependence on borrowing," the Minister said.
 Till the end of September this year, the total debt stock of the state was ₹97,823 crore, which is 16.4 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

1800 266 266 1 (tollfree)

'No Chinese village in Bhutan territory'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 20: Bhutan Friday denied reports that China has constructed a village more than 2 kilometres inside Bhutanese territory near the contested Doklam plateau, despite clear satellite imagery and detailed map locations to the contrary.
 Maps bearing the official seal of the Bhutan government also indicate that this new Chinese settlement lies well within Bhutan's present claim lines.
 Reacting to reports that highlighted what appears to be a clear Chinese incursion, Major General Vetsop Namgyel, Bhutan's Ambassador to India, said, "There is no Chinese village inside Bhutan."
 On whether Bhutan and China had reached any understanding on realigning the border in the contested area, the Ambassador said he "does not comment on border matters." He did, however, confirm that Bhutan and China were involved in border talks.
 Thursday, Shen Shiwei, a senior producer with CGTN, China's state-sponsored media, showcased several images of the village which features a road and chalets by the side of a river and tweeted, "Now, we have permanent residents living in the newly established Pangda village. It's along the valley, 35 km south to Yadong country. Here is a map to show the location."



PANDEMIC-INDUCED LOCKDOWNS ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE REVENUE REALISATION BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT. THE PACE OF EXPENDITURE WAS ALSO AFFECTED
 NIRANJAN PUJARI | FINANCE MINISTER

CUSTODIAL DEATHS

Puri SP shifted, cops suspended

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Nov 20: Amid widespread public outcry over the alleged custodial death of a 32-year-old man in Puri, the state government Friday shifted the district SP Akhileshwar Singh to police headquarters. IPS officer Kanwar Vishal Singh has been appointed as the new Puri SP.
 Meanwhile, sub-inspector (SI) Biplab Kumar Pradhan, and constables Jagannath Swain and Babuli Behera of Baselisahi police station in Puri were placed under suspension for 'gross misconduct and negligence in duty'.
 On the other hand, inspector in-charge (IC) of Birmiritrapur police station in Sundargarh district—Smruti Prava Pradhan—was also placed under suspension for 'gross misconduct and dereliction in duty', the Odisha Police tweeted.
 The situation in Puri remained tense Friday even though an investigation was launched into the alleged death of a person in custody. Members of several political parties and social outfits continued their protests over the incident and sought stern action against the po-



NHRC issues notice to Chief Secy, DGP
NEW DELHI: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Friday sought an action taken report (ATR) from the chief secretary and DGP of Odisha in a case related to custodial death of a person in Puri. The NHRC has expressed anguish over the recurrence of such deaths despite several directions and guidelines issued by the Supreme Court and the Commission. The NHRC asked the chief secretary and the DGP to ensure submission of detailed report, covering all the aspects. **MORE P3**

lice officials concerned.
 The Human Rights Protection Cell (HRPC) of the Odisha police launched a probe into the alleged death of K Ramesh, 32, in the custody of Baselisahi police.
 The police, meanwhile, rejected the allegation that they have detained the parents of deceased K Ramesh in an undisclosed location.
 Meanwhile, Orissa High Court has sought a report from the state government with regard to the alleged custodial death in Puri while accepting a petition from lawyer Sarat Kumar Rayguru.

Love jihad 'coined' to disturb harmony

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Nov 20: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Friday said "love jihad" is term "manufactured" by the BJP to disturb communal harmony, provoking a sharp reaction from Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
 In a tweet, Gehlot said marriage is a matter of personal liberty and bringing a law to curb it is unconstitutional. Hitting back, Shekhawat asked if marriage is a matter of personal liberty "why are the women not free to use their maiden name or religion".
 BJP leaders use the term "love jihad" while alleging that Hindu women face harassment and forced conversion in the name of love and marriage.
 BJP governments in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh have said they are considering enactment of laws to curb such marriages.
 But Gehlot said such law will not stand scrutiny in any court.
 "Love jihad is a word manufactured by BJP to divide the nation



and disturb communal harmony," the Congress leader tweeted.
 "Jihad has no place in love. They are creating an environment in the nation where consenting adults would be at the mercy of state power. Marriage is a personal decision and they are putting curbs on it, which is like snatching away personal liberty," Gehlot said.
 Union Jal Shakti Minister and prominent BJP leader from Rajasthan Gajendra Singh Shekhawat reacted strongly.
 "Dear Ashok ji, Love Jihad is a trap that has thousands of young women believing the marriage is a personal affair," he said.

Raise promoters' cap in pvt banks to 26%: RBI panel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 20: An internal working group set up by the RBI has proposed to raise the cap on promoters' stake in private banks from the current 15 per cent to 26 per cent in 15 years.
 The group has also recommended that large corporate or industrial houses may be allowed as promoters of banks only after amendments to the Banking Regulation Act and strengthening of the supervisory mechanism for conglomerates, including consolidated supervision.
 The Reserve Bank of India had constituted the internal working group (IWG) on June 12, 2020, to review extant ownership guidelines and corporate structure for Indian private sector banks. The central bank released the groups' report Friday.
 The terms of reference of the IWG inter alia included a review of the eligibility criteria for entities to apply for banking license; examination of preferred corporate structure for banks and harmonisation of norms.

Global tax evasion costs \$427 billion per year

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Mumbai, Nov 20: Countries are losing over \$427 billion in tax each year owing to international corporate tax abuse and private tax evasion.
 India's annual tax loss aggregates to \$10.3 billion. These are the findings of the first study led by The Tax Justice Network (TJN), which is an independent research based international network, that was published in alliance with other organisations.
 "The State of Tax Justice - 2020", which is the inaugural edition of the report, explains that of the \$427 billion in tax globally lost by countries each year to tax havens, \$245 billion is directly lost owing to corporate tax abuse by multinational corporations (MNCs) and \$182 billion (or 42.6%) owing to private tax evasion. The report analyses data that was self-reported by MNCs to tax authorities, owing to the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) project spearheaded by the

TAX HAVENS	TAX LOSS INFLICTED ON OTHER COUNTRIES
Cayman Islands	\$70.44 bn
United Kingdom	\$42.46 bn
Netherlands	\$36.37 bn
Luxembourg	\$27.60 bn
United States	\$23.63 bn

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Oecd).
 MNCs paid billions less in tax dues by shifting \$1.38 trillion worth of profit out of the countries where they were generated and into tax havens, where corporate tax rates are extremely low or non-existent. Private tax evaders paid less tax than they should have by storing a total of over \$10 trillion in financial assets offshore, adds the report.
 Solutions suggested by TJN and other partners to this study, are that governments should introduce an excess profit tax on MNCs such as global digital companies, who are making excess profits during the pandemic.
 They also propose introduction of wealth tax with punitive rates for opaquely-owned offshore assets. Lastly as Oecd is perceived as a rich-countries conglomerate, they seek a United Nations (UN) tax convention to set multilateral standards for corporate

taxation and ensure tax co-operation between governments.
IMPACT ON INDIA
 For India, which is said to lose \$10.3 billion annually in the form of taxes lost to other countries, 'outward foreign direct investments' (OFDI) is its most vulnerable channel, with a 66% vulnerability score.
 Mauritius, Singapore and Netherlands are the top three countries that contribute the most to this vulnerability factor. Of the \$10.3 billion annually tax loss that India suffers nearly \$10.11 billion is owing international corporate tax abuse.
 According to government data, owing to the pandemic OFDI from India dropped in the first four months (April-July 2020) to \$5.7 billion, in the corresponding period in the previous year it was \$11.13 billion. Historically the government has concentrated more on curbing tax evasions in inbound investments, admits a government official.

Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology
 Deemed to be University
 (Established U/S 3 of UGC Act, 1956), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India
 Winner of 'Awards Asia 2020' in the category 'Workplace of the Year' by Times Higher Education

16th Annual Convocation
 Date: November 21, 2020 (Saturday) Time: 09.30 a.m.

Chief Guest
Prof. Muhammad Yunus
 Founder, Grameen Bank & Nobel Peace Laureate, Bangladesh
 will deliver the Convocation Address

Award of D.Litt. / D.Sc. (Honoris Causa) to
His Holiness Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
 Spiritual Leader & Founder, Art of Living

Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra
 Director General of Meteorology, India
 Meteorological Department, Govt. of India

Watch live on www.kiit.ac.in & Kalinga TV from 9.30 a.m. onwards



ANGELINA TO DIRECT BIOPIC ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHER DON MCCULLIN

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie is set to direct a biopic about legendary war photographer Don McCullin. Titled *Unreasonable Behaviour*, the film is based on the British photographer's bestselling autobiography of the same name.

GLENN CLOSE TO FEATURE IN APPLE DRAMA SWAN SONG

Hollywood veteran Glenn Close has boarded the cast of Apple Original film *Swan Song*, starring Oscar winner Mahershala Ali, Awkwafina and Naomie Harris. The film is directed and written by Benjamin Cleary, and produced by Apple Studios, Anonymous Content and Concordia Studio.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
One more hectic day! Today you will be busy trying to figure out solutions to your problems, both at home and office. Your superiors give you some leeway and it will be quite a consolation, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
This day you are likely to make wasteful expenditure. You will be more reckless, extravagant than you can afford to be. Your expenses are sure to outweigh your income. Be as tightfisted as you can. Not buying anything unnecessary or too costly can help control losses, points out Ganesh.

GEMINI
Analysing other people's minds and thoughts will be your favourite pastime today. You will find yourself thinking about your family life, security and financial issues. Your sensitivity and emotional nature will endear you to many, and they will bestow their love and affection upon you, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will display a special attention towards beloved ones. This is an apt time for a frank chat on vital issues with your life partner, says Ganesh. You never allow heart to dictate terms to mind, yet today will be sentimental with your wife.

LEO
You are businesslike and practical in your approach, however, you have a tendency to lose your temper. You will be able to channelise your aggression into business today. It is a good thing, since you need an outlet for your energy. The advice of your elders will help you. You will be able to comfortably sail through the day today, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
You will find your banal day-to-day routine work to be very irritating today, says Ganesh. Avoid the tendency to exaggerate things out of proportion. You will not, however, let anything impact on your enthusiasm to work. You will do something novel to win the appreciation of people.

LIBRA
Ganesh says governmental work will be beneficial today. Those of you who are officials in the government will be having a positive and good day ahead. Your family members will show their support for you and this is something that you will need from them. Children will progress in life.

SCORPIO
Suddenly, you become conscious about your looks today, says Ganesh. How you look, how you dress-up and the way you walk, all becomes a matter of concern for you. All prim and proper, you imagine yourself to be the best. Besides makeover, splurging is another activity that you indulge in.

SAGITTARIUS
Your imagination knows no boundaries. Your kind heart is ready to forget and forgive the evil. As Ganesh puts it, this attitude will take you a long way! Charity and donation, too are on your mind today. You enjoy a benevolent time today.

CAPRICORN
Aren't you tired of doing the same thing again and again? Ganesh advises you to come out of your shell and breathe in some fresh air. Moving to a bigger and better house is on the cards for you, foretells Ganesh. It will take a major chunk out of your savings, but you are not complaining.

AQUARIUS
You are loaded with work, but you will be able to complete the pending assignments. It is, however, necessary that you keep on marching ahead otherwise your growth may become stagnant, advises Ganesh.

PISCES
You will have no idea how time flies by today, while you struggle to complete an unceasing flow of tasks. You might end up missing out on the smaller details owing to your work load. Hence you need to concentrate on your daily routine.

RADHE TO RELEASE IN THEATRES, EYES EID 2021

Mumbai: The much-hyped Salman Khan-starrer *Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai* will open only in theatres. The makers plan an Eid 2021 release.

Unconfirmed reports a few days back speculated that the action drama might be released on OTT. Putting an end to the speculations, trade analyst Taran Adarsh tweeted on his verified account Friday: "#RADHE #OTT RUMOURS BASELESS... There was speculation in the exhibition sector that #Radhe -starring #SalmanKhan— will skip theatrical release... Will stream on #OTT directly... FALSE... The producers are clear, #Radhe will release in cinemas, eyes #Eid2021 release."

The film was scheduled to hit theatres earlier this year but was delayed owing to the ongoing pandemic. The Prabhu Deva directorial stars Disha Patani opposite Salman, with Jackie Shroff and Randeep Hooda in key roles.

Apart from *Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai*, Salman also has *Kick 2* and *Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali* lined up. IANS

'Teacher of the Year' award to Covid-19'



Mumbai: Actress Kajol wants to give the Teacher of the Year award to the Covid-19 pandemic, she expressed Friday.

"Teacher of the year award goes to COVID-19," wrote Kajol on Instagram Story. The actress also explained why she wants to confer the award to the pandemic. "Taught us what life is about, simplicity and spirituality plus uncertainty," wrote the actress, who often takes to social media to share words of wisdom for her fans and followers.

On the work front, Kajol is all set to enter the digital space with *Tribhanga*, a drama set in Mumbai.

The OTT film will weave a complex story of a family while going back and forth through three generations, from the late 1980s to present day. The film, directed and written by actress Renuka Shahane, also stars Tanvi Azmi and Mithila Palkar. IANS

Tara Sutaria and the 'sweetness of doing nothing'

Mumbai: Actress Tara Sutaria tastes the sweetness of doing nothing in her new post on social media.

Tara posted a picture on Instagram that has her flaunting her perfect skin in a white tank top.

"The sweetness of doing nothing," she captioned the selfie.

Tara is currently in the Maldives with rumoured beau Aadar Jain.

Tara and Aadar were first linked after they made an appearance at Malaika Arora's party last year, and then at Amitabh Bachchan's Diwali party in 2019.

They also reportedly celebrated New Year in London together.

In August, Tara penned a birthday wish for Aadar.

Calling Aadar her favourite person, Tara wrote on Instagram: "Ever thine, ever mine, ever ours! Happy Birthday to my favourite person @aadarjain."

On the work front, Aadar, who made his Bollywood debut in 2017 with *Qaidi Band*, will next be seen in *Hello Charlie*. Tara has *Tadap* and *Ek Villain 2* coming up. *Tadap* is Milan Luthria's remake of the Telugu hit *RX 100*. IANS



Ayushmann committed to ending violence against children

Mumbai: Friday is World Children's Day, and on the occasion actor Ayushmann Khurrana stated that violence against children happens every day and he is committed to end it.

He feels there is an urgent need to protect the future generation. "We know Covid-19 has not been easy for anyone, especially children, making them more vulnerable to violence. We can prevent this by

being aware and protecting those ones around us. And as men and boys, we have a responsibility to be better role models because we know, often, it is we men who are perpetrators of violence. As a UNICEF celebrity advocate, I am committed to ending violence against children," he said.

"Children deserve to live free from violence. Children's rights are human rights, violence has terrible consequences for children, affecting them physically and mentally. The effects can last their lifetime and can destroy the child's chance to live a happy, healthy life," he said.

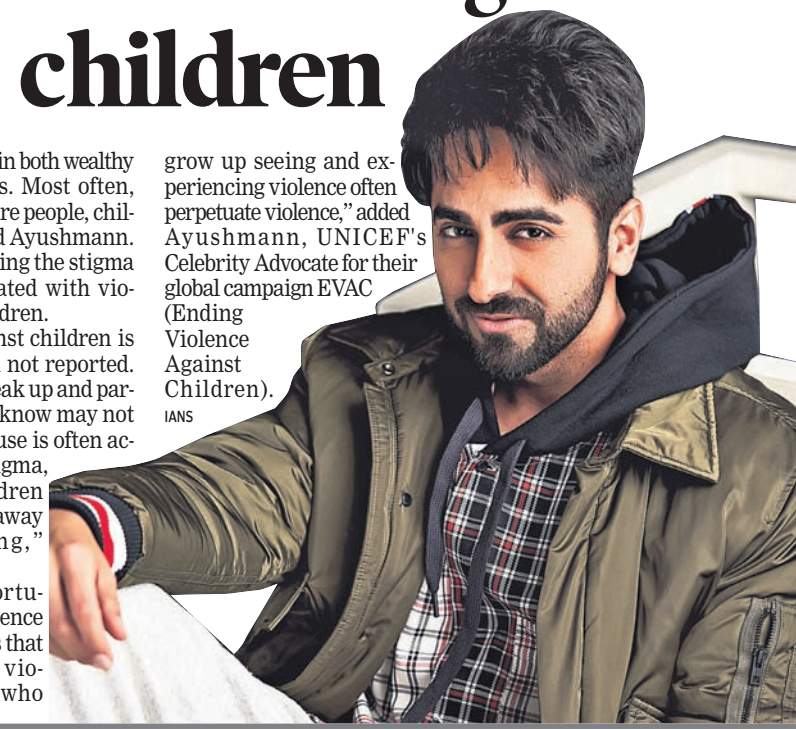
"Violence against children happens every day — at home, in school and on the move, on the streets, online and in the community. It happens in both wealthy and poor families. Most often, the perpetrators are people, children trust," added Ayushmann.

He calls for ending the stigma and taboo associated with violence against children.

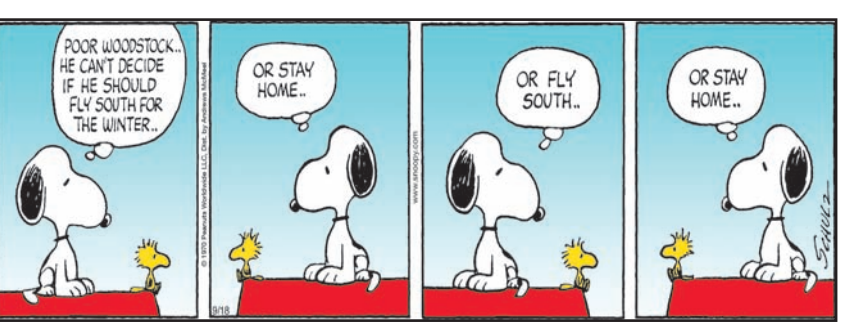
"Violence against children is often hidden, and not reported. Children don't speak up and parents, even if they know may not report. Sexual abuse is often accompanied by stigma, the reasons children and parents shy away from reporting," he said.

"Another unfortunate aspect of violence against children is that violence breeds violence. Children who

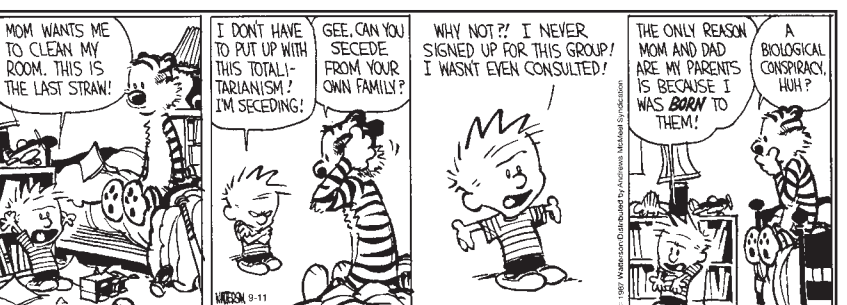
grow up seeing and experiencing violence often perpetuate violence," added Ayushmann. UNICEF's Celebrity Advocate for their global campaign EVAC (Ending Violence Against Children). IANS



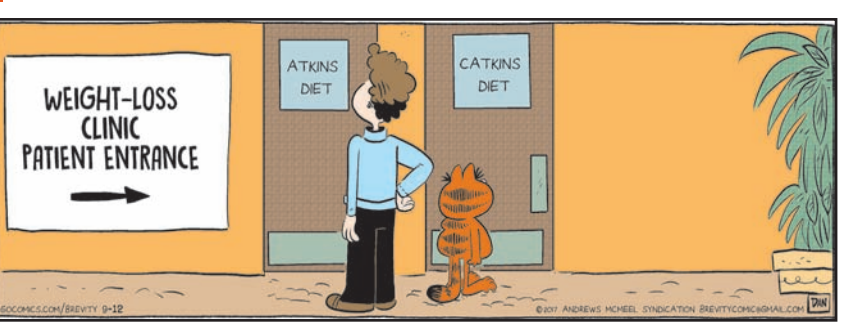
PEANUTS



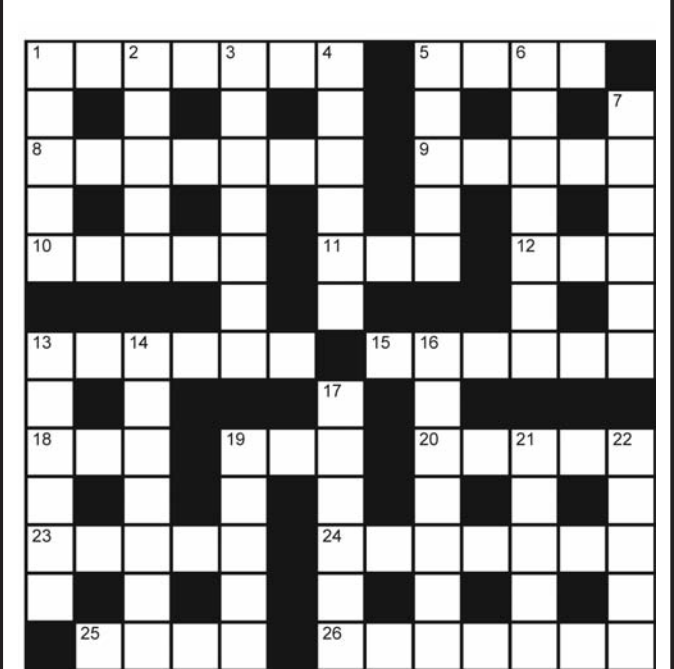
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



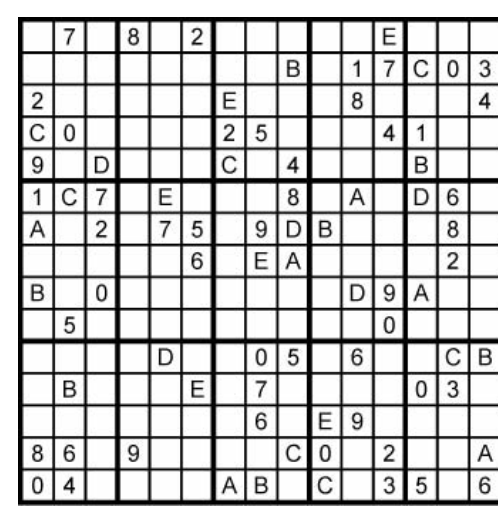
FUN post CROSSWORD



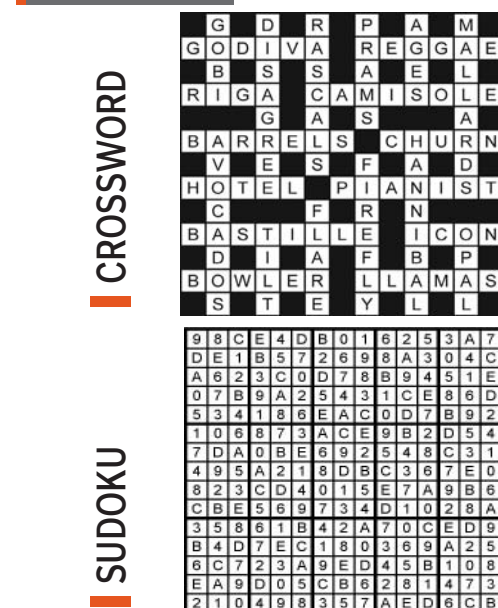
- Across**
- 1 Kind of cocktail
 - 5 Vegetarian staple
 - 8 Rust
 - 9 Audacity
 - 10 Scoundrels
 - 11 Freudian topic
 - 12 Paris assent
 - 13 Tropical fruit
 - 15 Sea horse
 - 18 Quirky
 - 19 Possess
 - 20 Witch
 - 23 Shackles
 - 24 Enumerate
 - 25 Luau strings
 - 26 Puts down roots
- Down**
- 1 Sponge
 - 2 River through Tours
 - 3 In need of a drink
 - 4 Took evasive action
 - 5 Argentine dance
 - 6 Passion
 - 7 Brainiac
 - 13 Fear
 - 14 Pen for racehorses
 - 16 Antediluvian
 - 17 Escargot gastropods
 - 19 Desert sight
 - 21 Bay window
 - 22 Fencing swords

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

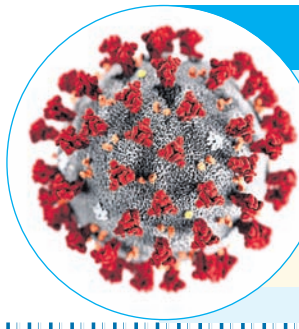


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



IN LORDS' SERVICE

Preparations for the Nagajuna Beshha of Lord Jagannath and Balabhadra in full swing in Puri, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	5,74,75,899	3,99,03,737	13,69,552
India	90,05,322	84,28,185	1,32,207
Odisha	3,12,545	3,03,897	1,608

Pradhan launches OIL's seismic survey in Puri

OIL PLANS TO ACQUIRE, PROCESS AND INTERPRET 1,502 LINE KM OF 2D SEISMIC DATA AND 1,670 SQKM OF 3D SEISMIC DATA IN THE FIVE BLOCKS

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 20: Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Friday inaugurated a seismic survey campaign of Oil India Limited (OIL), India's second largest National Exploration and Production Company, at Mahanadi Basin in Puri's Kakatpur.



The ₹220-crore campaign would be a game-changer in the socio-economic development of Odisha
DHARMENDRA PRADHAN | UNION PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS MINISTER

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said that the Rs 220-crore campaign would be a game-changer in the socio-economic development of Odisha.

"It's a matter of great personal pride for me. This will be a major milestone in establishing Mahanadi as a hub of exploration and production operations as well as building hydrocarbon reserves in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Commercial production of oil and gas from Mahanadi basin will be a game-changer in the socio-economic development of Odisha," Pradhan said.

According to Pradhan, it was only in 1980s when oil and gas activities started in Odisha.

"With new approach, state-of-the-art technology and Mahaprabhu Jagannath's blessings, we're confident that we'll get success in the seismic campaign launched today [Friday] in Odisha", he added.

Since 2014, the Centre has introduced a host of policy reforms in hydrocarbon exploration and

production sector, chief among them being the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), according to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Seismic data obtained under National Seismic program in Odisha led to detection of five blocks by DGH and OIL won all the five blocks for hydrocarbon exploration under OALP-II and III rounds.

"OIL plans to acquire, process and interpret 1,502 line km of 2D seismic data and 1,670 sqkm of 3D seismic data in the five blocks. Interpretation of the data is envisaged to lead to an extensive exploratory drilling campaign, in quest of establishing hydrocarbon reserves in line with the vision of PM's Aatmanirbhar Bharat," the Ministry said.

The total envisaged expenditure on the exploration campaign in the five blocks in Mahanadi Basin (on-shore) is Rs 1,248 crore of which Rs 220 crore is for seismic survey. The blocks are spread over 11 districts of Odisha—Puri, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore, Maurbhaj and Keonjhar.

FARMERS' BILL INTRODUCED IN ASSEMBLY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: The state government Friday introduced five Bills in the Assembly for discussion including one of the controversial Farm Bills.

The legislation titled The Odisha Agriculture Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill 2020 was introduced in the House which seeks to boost contract farming by countering the monopoly of Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs).

The government said that the Odisha Agriculture Produce Markets Act 1956 had the provisions for contract farming but that was not sufficient to protect the interest of the producers for which it does not attract the producers as well as the sponsors.

"The prime reasons are conflict of interests between the APMC which were mandated to promote contract farming while they being market players and also lack of positive facilitation in both promoting contract farming and protecting farmers' interests. This by implication, necessitated a revisit of the legal framework of contract farming," the objective of the legislation said.

The legislation claimed to propose Directorate of Agriculture Marketing and Facilitation to look after all the activities of contract farming.

Twin deaths in custody rock House

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: The winter session of the state Assembly got off to a stormy start Friday as Opposition BJP and Congress members created uproar in the House over two custodial deaths in the state. Due to the uproar created by Opposition members, Speaker adjourned the House for five times.

The winter session began amid Covid-19 restrictions with obituary references to former Speaker Sarat Kar, ex-MLAs Kartikeswar Patra and Gurupada Nanda. The House also paid tributes to Covid warriors. After passing obituary references, Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro adjourned the Assembly till 3 pm.

However, as the House re-assembled at 3 pm for business, Opposition BJP and Congress members created ruckus demanding debate and action against SPs of Puri and Sundargarh for alleged custodial deaths in their respective jurisdictions.

As the Opposition members stormed to well of the House and tried to climb Speaker's podium, Patro adjourned the House for 15 minutes. As the situation did not improve, he adjourned the proceedings for another 30 minutes and called an all-party meeting. The adjournment was then extended twice for 15 minutes and 5 minutes. But, the situation in the House did not improve after the meeting. Later, the House was adjourned for the day.

Speaking to reporters outside the House, BJP leader and Puri

WINTER SESSION



OPPOSITION MEMBERS DEMANDED REMOVAL OF THE CONCERNED POLICE OFFICIALS OF PURI AND SUNDARGARH
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MLA Jayant Sarangi alleged that the IIC concerned and the Puri SP are involved in the custodial death in Puri. "There is no law and order in the state. The state government turns mute spectator and trying to ignore the issue. But, I am demanding a fair probe into the incident and immediate removal of the SP and the IIC," he said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik should make a statement on this issue and a debate should be conducted in the House in this connection before holding any other business, the BJP leader demanded.

Stating the law and order situation has collapsed in the state,

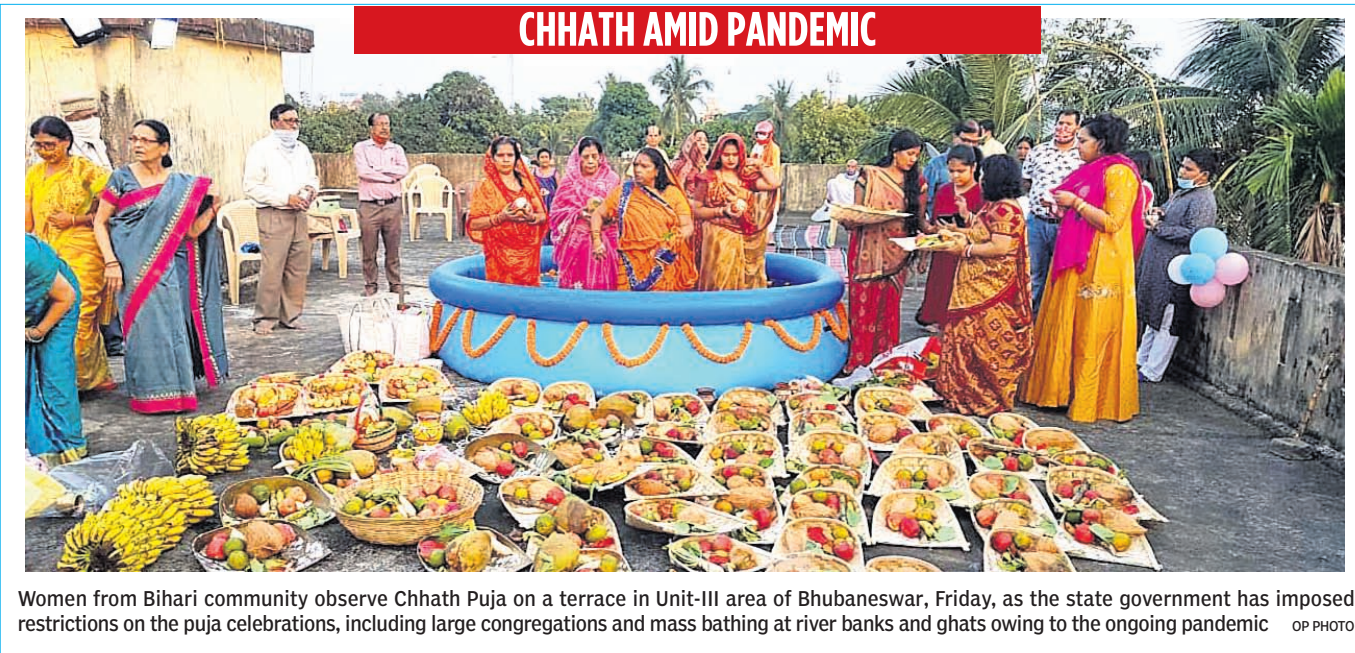
Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati demanded suspension of SPs of the Puri and Sundargarh.

However, BJP leader Amar Satpathy said the Opposition members are trying to derail the House proceedings and introduction of important Bills, which is against the tradition and system of Assembly. They can debate on the custodial deaths in form of adjournment motion, he added.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik attended the session from his residence office via videoconferencing while two ministers and two senior MLAs participated from Lok Seva Bhawan conference hall.

Congress leader Sura Routray turns rapper

Bhubaneswar: Congress leader Suresh Kumar Routray Friday tried to explore his artistic talent as he recorded a rap song in Cuttack-based Milan Studio. The music was composed by Debasish Mallick popularly known as Japani Bhai. Mallick said, "Sura Routray is quite popular across Odisha for his witty one-liners, oratory skills, care-free and jovial attitude. Now, the public will be able to see another facet of the veteran leader." Routray sung the rap part of the song written by Tapan Kumar Nayak. Lopamudra Nayak and Jyotirmayi also sang portions of the song. The video album will be produced by 'Arman Music'. It should be stated here that the album titled 'Rangabati' has got nothing to do with western Odisha's legendary folk song having the same name, sources stated. This is not the first time a politician from the state lending voice to a song.



Women from Bihari community observe Chhath Puja on a terrace in Unit-III area of Bhubaneswar, Friday, as the state government has imposed restrictions on the puja celebrations, including large congregations and mass bathing at river banks and ghats owing to the ongoing pandemic

NHRC issues notice to Chief Secy, DGP in Puri custodial death

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 20: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought action-taken report from the Chief Secretary and the DGP of Odisha in a case related to custodial death of a person in Puri.

The NHRC has expressed anguish over the recurrence of such custodial deaths despite several directions and guidelines issued by the Supreme Court and the Commission.

Taking cognisance of the incident, the NHRC asked the Chief Secretary and the DGP to ensure submission of a detailed report, covering all the aspects leading to death of the person. The NHRC also asked the officials to submit copy of medico-legal certificate, copy of arrest memo and inspection memo, post mortem report, viscera and the forensic reports on the exact cause of his death. The state authorities have also been asked to submit the magisterial inquiry report in the case within four weeks.

Significantly, several complaints were filed with the NHRC by Human Rights Front chairperson Manoj Jena, Bharatiya Janata Party leader Sambit Patra and Human rights activist Himanshu Shekar Nayak alleging custodial death of K

Ramesh under Baselisahi police station in Puri.

According to complainants, K Ramesh, 31, of Gouranga Khuntia Colony in Puri was being taken from his house by seven to eight police personnel along with heavy force without explaining any reasons for using such force. They also took his old aged parents, the complainant said.

The NHRC asked the Chief Secretary and the DGP to ensure submission of a detailed report, covering all the aspects

It has been further alleged that in the early morning November 19, the body of Ramesh was taken to the city hospital of Puri. The complainant said that the family and relatives of the deceased were not allowed to see the body nor it was handed over to them to perform the last rites. The parents have also not been traced as of yet.

In his petition, Sambit Patra had sought the intervention of rights watchdog for ensuring protection for the family members of the deceased, especially his parents who are allegedly missing after the incident.

The NHRC also requested the Odisha Human Rights Commission to inform this Commission forthwith with whether cognisance of the above-referred case has been taken by the State Commission and if so, on what date. A copy of the said proceedings may also be forwarded along with the above information.

BOOSTING REVENUE

BMC plans to expand trade licence fee net

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: In a bid to scale up its revenue base, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Friday, said that it would be collecting trade licence fees from all business units functioning within its jurisdiction.

It is presumed that at present more than 50,000 business units are functioning within the BMC

shall be finalised within 20 days to conduct such survey," BMC Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary said.

The BMC, under the provision of Section 554 and section 617 of Orissa Municipal Corporation Act 2003, issues licences and permissions to carry out business under its jurisdiction. The licence and permission is issued after payment of due licence fee as per Dangerous and Offensive Trade Regulation

CS reviews Bargarh cancer hosp work

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy Friday reviewed the progress of a dedicated cancer hospital at Bargarh, planned to cater to the needs of the patients of Western Odisha.

In a virtual meeting, Tripathy took stock of the overall development and pace of the construction work for the hospital. He also directed the officials concerned to expedite the work and make the hospital a reality. It had been decided that the new cancer hospital would come up on the premises of Bargarh district headquarters hospital (DHH). The hospital would have advanced facilities for cancer patients. "The major facilities include

radiotherapy, CT simulator, HDR Brachytherapy, dosimetry, immobilization, histopathology laboratory, emergency care and day care chemotherapy. A bunker of 100 ft x 100 ft area will be constructed for radiotherapy unit. It is proposed that the hospital will start functioning with 50 beds," a statement from the office of the Chief Secretary said.

During his interactions with the officials of the state health department, National Health Mission and others, Tripathy directed them to ensure the recruitment of adequate trained doctors and paramedical staff for providing health-care at the new cancer hospital.

It was decided to recruit adequate paramedical staff including radiation oncologist, medical physicist,

radiotherapy technician, emergency doctors, nurses, front office executives, pharmacist and chemo-nurses along with auxiliary personnel for the hospital. Tripathy also directed the officials to arrange appropriate housekeeping and sanitization system for upkeep of the hospital.

Additional Chief Secretary, H&F W department, Pradepta Kumar Mohapatra, National Health Mission director Salini Pandit, Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer director Lalatendu Sadangi, Odisha Medical Corporation director Yamini Sarangi, Information and Public Relations department director Krupasindhu Mishra along with senior doctors and officers from respective departments participated in the deliberations.



However, only about 13,000 business units under the civic authority have obtained trade licences, leading to huge revenue loss to the exchequer

limits. However, only about 13,000 business units under the civic authority's jurisdiction have obtained trade licences, leaving a majority of business establishments out of the trade licence ambit. This results in heavy revenue loss to public exchequer.

"We intend to hire the services of private agencies to carry out door-to-door survey of all the business units in order to assess the availability of trade licence with the business units and gather information on the business units lacking the same.

The hiring of a private agency is in tender stage and an agency

2006 of BMC.

Furthermore, after the above said information is collected, the BMC shall approach all the business units through the SHGs engaged for collection of trade licence and holding tax. The application procedure has been eased to a greater extent by introduction of online mechanism. Interested parties can log in to www.bhubaneswar.mn.gov.in for new application and renewal of trade licence.

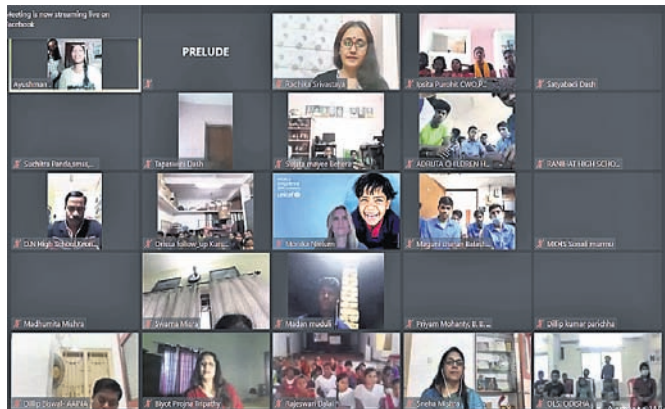
The move came after the civic body initiated Digital Door Numbering system for mapping of all properties within BMC area on GIS platform.

Kallola-2020 explores creativity among kids

THE CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL WILL SHOWCASE SHORT VIDEOS AND JINGLES PRODUCED WITH SCRIPTS WRITTEN BY 500 KIDS FROM CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT-RUN SCHOOLS IN THE STATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: Children's film festival 'Kallola 2020' was inaugurated here Friday by its host UNICEF Odisha in collaboration with Aaina, an Odisha-based voluntary organisation.



This Children's Film Festival (Season 6) of Kallola 2020 theme is based on 'Children and Covid-19' which also celebrates children's creativity. The festival was launched with support of Women and Child Development (W&CD) department and Mo School Sangathan.

Speaking on the occasion, W&CD

The scripts were produced through a series of online workshops organised for the children by filmmakers in Odisha

very happy that children have utilised this pandemic time innovatively and in a disciplined way."

Mo School, chief operating officer, Amarjit Jena said, "We are very pleased with the scripts produced by our students. Along with studies, such creative activities are very essential for children. We will use our channels and networks to share these videos and jingles."

This year Mo School Abhiyan Parichalana Sangathan, which is an umbrella body for all government run schools in Odisha, also par-

ticipated in Kallola activities. Students in government-run schools took part in the workshops and produced scripts and content for radio jingles.

Sharing his experience, participant Subham Sahu, 15, from Manikewari High School from Kalahandi district, said, "I had a lot of fun learning about the different aspects of writing a script. We also watched movies to understand how an idea is converted into a script. I worked with four other fellow students and we are so happy to see a film made with our script."

Chief of Field Office, UNICEF Odisha, Dr Monika O Nielsen, said, "Today, as we celebrate the World Children's Day, we are acutely aware of the impact the pandemic has made on the lives of children. We need to find avenues of hearing their views directly from them."

Pay ₹2L to victim of police highhandedness: OHRC

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) in yet another incident has found police officials torturing poor and hapless citizens by misusing power. Recently, the OHRC has directed the state Home department and DGP police to pay ₹1.50 lakh compensation to the relatives of a youth of Rayagada district who was killed in fake encounter case in 2016. The OHRC, while hearing a plea filed by one Minakshi Pattnaik, directed the state government to pay within two months ₹2 lakh as compensation to the husband of the complainant for illegal detention and harassment by the cops of Aska police station in 2013.

NO LESSONS LEARNT!



THE RIGHTS BODY DIRECTED THE ODISHA DGP TO IMMEDIATELY REPAIR THE CCTV CAMERAS LYING DEFUNCT AT VARIOUS POLICE STATIONS OF THE STATE

The OHRC, while hearing a plea filed by one Minakshi Pattnaik, directed the state government to pay within two months ₹2-lakh compensation to the husband of the complainant for illegal detention and harassment by the cops at Aska police station in 2013

The commission found that the police official, the then SI, Rajib Kumar Behera, falsely implicated Purna Chandra in a bike theft case

plaignant's family was harassed by police when they sought their money back from Bahadur family who had taken ₹1.10 lakh on the promise of providing job to Pattnaik's daughter in the Railways.

The commission also held IIC of Aska police station Bichitrananda Samal guilty of not taking any remedial action despite knowing all the details in the case.

Samal was also warned by the OHRC for denying any knowledge

about the incident as his plea was proved wrong from the records of station diary. He was asked not to submit false statements in future.

The rights body also directed the Odisha DGP to immediately repair the CCTV cameras lying defunct at various police stations of the state. The OHRC warned that if the IIC's found neglecting in repairing the defunct CCTV cameras at earliest, they will be held guilty for any human rights abuse charges.

UTP 'falls to death' at Banapur sub-jail

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, Nov 20: At a time when the police in Puri and Sundargarh districts have found themselves in a tight spot over two custodial deaths reported Thursday, an undertrial prisoner (UTP) allegedly died at Banapur sub-jail in Khurda district.

The incident took place Thursday evening. According to reports, the victim fell off the jail roof and died. The sub-jail authorities have lodged a report at Banapur police station in this regard.

The deceased has been identified as Shabun Kusku, a man from Assam. According to a source, Shabun was brought from Jharpada jail in Bhubaneswar to Banapur sub-jail November 18. He fell off the jail roof November 19 evening and died.

While police investigation is underway, locals suspect foul play in the incident. Notably, two alleged custodial deaths had triggered protests in Puri and Sundargarh districts Thursday.

SERVITORS' PLEA



Members of Odisha Temple Servitors' Association hold a demonstration at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Friday, seeking reopening of the shrines which have been shut for people amid Covid-19 pandemic

ECOR to run three more special trains

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) has decided to run three more special trains under its jurisdiction. These trains are: Nagarcoil-Shalimar-Nagarcoil, Trivandrum-Shalimar-Trivandrum and Ernakulam-Patna-Ernakulam.

The Nagarcoil-Shalimar-Nagarcoil weekly special from Nagarcoil will leave at 2:45pm every Sunday w.e.f. November 22, 2020 and 02630 Shalimar-Nagarcoil Special from Shalimar will leave at 11:50pm every Wednesday w.e.f. November 25, 2020 till further advice.

Trivandrum-Shalimar-Trivandrum bi-weekly special will leave Trivandrum at 4:55pm every Thursday and Saturday w.e.f. November 28, 2020 and 02642 Shalimar-Trivandrum Special from Shalimar will leave at 11:50pm every Sunday and Tuesday w.e.f. December 1, 2020 till further advice.

Similarly, Ernakulam-Patna special will leave Ernakulam at 5:55pm every Monday and Tuesday w.e.f. November 23, 2020 and 02644 Patna-Ernakulam Special will leave Patna at 2pm every Thursday and Friday w.e.f. November 26, 2020 till further advice.

With 16 fresh deaths, state's Covid toll goes past 1,600

ODISHA'S COVID-19 CASELOAD MOUNTS TO 3,12,545 WITH 757 NEW CASES IN 24 HRS

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: With 757 new cases in the past 24 hours, Odisha's Covid-19 tally rose to 3,12,545, while 16 fresh fatalities push the coastal state's virus toll to 1,608, an official of the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said, Friday.

Four of the latest fatalities were reported from Sundargarh district, three from Cuttack, and two each from Ganjam and Sambalpur districts. One patient each died in Bargarh, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Puri and Subarnapur, the official said.

Of the fresh cases, 436 cases were reported from different quarantine centres, said the official, adding 321 were reported from local contacts. Angul recorded the highest



Four of the latest fatalities were reported from Sundargarh district, three from Cuttack, and two each from Ganjam and Sambalpur districts. One patient each died in Bargarh, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Puri and Subarnapur

75 new cases, followed by Khurda 70 and Cuttack 67, said the H&FW department official. Khurda district, which comprises state capital Bhubaneswar, accounted for 272 of the total deaths, followed by Ganjam (236), Cuttack

Angul recorded the highest 75 new cases, followed by Khurda 70 and Cuttack 67. The state has so far tested 54.71 lakh samples for Covid-19, including 46,419 Thursday

(129) and Sundargarh (114). The state has so far tested 54.71 lakh samples for Covid-19, including 46,419 Thursday. Odisha's positivity rate currently stands at 5.71 per cent, the official said.

SCB NEPHROLOGY DEPT HEAD DIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 20: Expert on kidney ailments and SCB Medical College and Hospital's Nephrology department head, Chitta Ranjan Kar, Friday, died at a hospital in Chennai, a few days after he recovered from Covid-19 infections. Kar, 58, had tested positive for the deadly virus August 20. However, he developed some infection in his lungs following his recovery from Covid-19.

Kar was shifted to Chennai in an air ambulance October 7. The state government had provided ₹65 lakh for the treatment of Kar. He was instrumental in introducing kidney transplant at SCB in 2012. Around 180 kidney transplants were conducted under his supervision at the premier health-care institute.

Phase-3 trial of Covaxin begins at SUM Hospital

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: The third phase human trial of Covid-19 vaccine candidate 'Covaxin' began at the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital here, said an official Friday.

This is the only institute in the state chosen by the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) for the human trial of the vaccine. The vaccine was administered to

while phase two was meant to test its immunogenicity.

The third phase trial would check the efficacy of the vaccine, he said.

While safety check (Phase 1) primarily looked at its safety aspect for human use without any significant side effect, immunogenicity check (Phase 2) measured the antibody level in the human blood and checked whether it was sufficient to protect the person from the infection. Phase three would

This is the only institute in the state chosen by the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) for the human trial of the vaccine.

The vaccine was administered to two recruits at the Preventive and Therapeutic Clinical Trial Unit at the hospital



Miscreants snatch gold chain from woman in Capital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: Two bike-borne miscreants decamped with a gold chain worth over ₹70,000 from a woman in Laxmisagar police limits, Thursday night, cops said Friday. The woman was identified as the wife of city-based photo journalist Piyush Mohanty Laxmisagar police registered a case and began a probe after the victim lodged a FIR in this connection.

"Last night, I had been to my sister-in-law's house at Old Town area in Bhubaneswar. On way back home, I realised that my earrings were missing. I started searching for them on the street in front of my house. It was then that the bike-borne miscreants came and snatched my gold chain," she said Friday.

Laxmisagar police IIC, Bharat Kumar Sahoo said, "We are examining the video footage captured by the CCTV cameras near the spot."

two recruits at the Preventive and Therapeutic Clinical Trial Unit (PTCTU) at the hospital, said Dr E Venkata Rao, Principal Investigator in the Covaxin human trial.

The indigenous vaccine, being developed by Bharat Biotech and ICMR, has received the approval of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) for initiating the third-phase trial.

The trial is being conducted at 21 selected medical institutes across the country.

Rao, who is a Professor in the Department of Community Medicine at IMS and SUM Hospital, said the vaccine's first phase trial was aimed at measuring its safety

evaluate if the vaccine was actually able to prevent development of the disease among the recipients of the vaccine, he said.

"In fact, phase three of the trial is crucial and tedious as we have to wait till the development of the disease which was dependent on the frequency of the disease in the population. So, we need to recruit a large number of subjects and more than 25,000 volunteers were being recruited for the trial across the country," Rao said.

In phase three, two doses would be administered to each volunteer 28 days apart but the follow-up period would extend to 12 months to look at its long term and side-effects, he said.

Youth held for carrying ₹30 lakh

Bhubaneswar: The Commissionerate Police arrested a youth for carrying a bag containing ₹30 lakh cash in Tapoban area under Khandagiri police limits here, Friday. The youth identified as Mahavir Prasad Das told the police that he had brought the money from Paralakhemundi in Gajapati district. Das was caught by the police on suspicion while he was waiting for a bus at Tapoban. According to sources, Das' friend, Pralaya Kumar Padya, a Paan Masala trader from Chhatia in Jaipur reached Khandagiri police station and claimed that the money found in the possession of Das belongs to him. Padya claimed that many traders at Paralakhemundi usually buy Paan Masal products from him and a huge amount of money worth over lakhs was pending with the traders due to the Covid-19 induced lockdown. Padya told the police that he had sent Das to collect the money from the traders.

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: A week-long 31st Children's Festival organised by voluntary outfit People's Cultural Centre (PECUC) on virtual platform came to an end, Friday. Many children Odisha and other states with talents in various fields participated and exhibited their skills at this festival.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Chief Guest Justice Birakishore Mishra, Honourable former Justice of Orissa High Court, said that children should dream big and work towards achieving the same.

Odia film actress Anu Chaudhury, who attended the valedictory session, said that children should be nurtured

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: Odisha Parents' Federation (OPF), Friday, conducted a meeting with 18 political parties of the state regarding government's decision to close down government-run schools with poor attendance. This apart, 17 civil society organisations also participated in the meeting to resolve the issue.

In the meeting, the participating leaders decided that a delegation of political parties and civil societies will meet the Chief Minister and request him to withdraw the decision of closure of schools. Also they discussed that government must take

CURTAINS DOWN ON 31ST PECUC CHILDREN'S FEST

'Children should dream big & work accordingly'

POST NEWS NETWORK

properly for their all-round development. Sulochana Das, state commissioner for persons with disabilities, said that in this stressful Covid-19 situation children should be kept safe and parents and guardians should encourage them to develop their inner potential.

Former chief secretary Sahadev Sahoo also emphasised on safety of children during the pandemic. The programme was presided over by president of Sisumela Committee and renowned journalist Proshod Kumar Pattnaik. PECUC secretary Ranjan Kumar Mohanty presented the introductory note.

Talks on several relevant subjects were given by experts like Dr Sarojini Sarangi, gynaecologist, Dr



Swaroop Mohanty, dentist, and Madhumita Das, consultant, Women and Child Development department. On this occasion, children and various personalities were honoured with prestigious annual awards for outstanding performance in different fields. Child Artist

received 'Baji Rour Memorial Award 2020' for bravery and courageous activity and Lorismita Dalai of Phulnakhara was given 'Pranath Pattnaik Memorial Award 2020' for social work. Moreover, change-maker and leader Chanchala Pujari of Koraput received 'Adaramoni Boral Memorial Award 2020' for her leadership.

Senior Journalist Papu Mohanty was honoured with prestigious 'Swarup Jena Memorial Award 2020' for outstanding contribution to the field of journalism whereas 'Abani Baral Memorial Award 2020' went to retired teacher Kalicharan Jaysingh.

Several other personalities were also felicitated on the occasion.

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Traders sneak into system as farmers; admin orders probe

Fallow, cotton-producing land, playgrounds are shown as paddy-producing fields during registration in Sonepur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, Nov 20: Even as procurement of paddy started in Sonepur from Friday, farmers have alleged various irregularities in registration. As result, middlemen are taking advantage of the irregularities. An investigation into alleged irregularities has started Thursday.

Reports said, the civil supplies department will procure through 62 PACS and 38 SHGs in the current year. The target in the first phase is 23.05 lakh quintals.

Meanwhile, 55,702 farmers have registered themselves which is 8000 more than that of last year.

Though the department assures farmers of smooth procurement via online tokens, the latter are doubtful of the system.

Farmers are producing their land pattsas for registration, but the authorities do not go in for checking the category of the land and quantities of paddy produced by the farmers concerned.

The district has a bumper crop, but the government is aiming to buy only 60 to 70 per cent of the harvested paddy. Some traders are managing to get into the system as farmers. They are producing records of fallow land, cotton producing land and playground as paddy produc-



RIGGING OF REGISTRATION

Farmers are producing their land pattsas for registration, but the authorities do not go in for checking the category of the land and quantities of paddy produced by the farmers concerned

The district has a bumper crop, but the government is aiming to buy only 60 to 70 per cent of the harvested paddy

Some traders are managing to get into the system disguising as farmers by producing records of fallow land, cotton-producing land and playground as paddy producing farmlands at PACS and SHGS

ing farmlands at PACS and SHGS, it was alleged. There is a need for an investigation into this aspect, farmers alleged. The Collector had ordered a probe into the land status of the registered farmers in September. Officials had conducted field investigation of land of those farming having more than 10 acres.

The investigation revealed that 817 farmers had less land as com-

pared to their documents. Fallow land, cotton producing land and playgrounds were shown as farmlands in Birmaharajpur, Ulunda and Tarabha block. Now, Collector Monisa Banerjee has asked the revenue, cooperation and civil supplies departments to examine the status of the fallow land and if paddy was raised in the land. The investigation has started from Thursday.

TAINTED CDPO SUSPENDED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jeypore, Nov 20: Koraput District Collector Madhusudan Mishra Friday suspended Nandapur Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) Snigdharani Mishra. She was caught red-handed while accepting Rs.1.75 lakh from a member of Tini Bhairavi Self Help Group (SHG). Snigdharani was later arrested by the Vigilance Department officials October 27. The suspension order was issued as per the directive of the Odisha government.

The CDPO had allegedly demanded the bribe for passing a bill of Rs 9,47,843 against purchase of sattu as well as for the renewal of an agreement on supply of 'take home ration' in favour of the SHG.

The woman officer was sent to judicial custody by Jeypore Special Vigilance Judge Srikant Mishra, following her arrest last month.

The Vigilance Department had earlier registered a case against Snigdharani for possessing assets disproportionate to her known sources of income in 2016.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



Staff of Sambalpur Municipal Corporation taking part in an awareness campaign on sanitation

OP PHOTO

Satellite transmitters for 30 turtles



FILE PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Nov 20: To gather detailed information about the migratory trajectory of Olive Ridley turtles, marine ecology, weather and other information, scientists of Wildlife Institute of India (WII) have decided to fit more advanced 'Platform Transmitter Terminals' (PTTs) or satellite transmitters on 30 Olive Ridelys this year at the three major nesting sites of Gahirmatha, Devi and Rushikulya river mouths.

This was announced by WII's marine expert Dr Shivkumar Kuppaswamy.

He pointed out that transmission contacts through PTTs fitted on the turtles in 2017 had got disconnected within a year. "This year, more advanced PTTs will be

used," he added.

Notably the first satellite telemetry study on Olive Ridley turtles was conducted in April 2001. The WII with the forest department and turtle biologist Jack Frazier of the Smithsonian Institute fitted PTTs on four turtles at Devi nesting beach for an online monitoring of migratory routes.

Of the four PTT-fitted turtles, only one migrated towards Sri Lanka. However, all the four turtles stopped transmitting after some months either due to technical problems or trawler-related mortality.

The second study was conducted in 2007. PTTs showed that the turtles undertook open-ocean migrations in the Bay of Bengal and exhibited migratory corridor between Sri Lanka and nesting sites along

the Odisha coast.

To prevent turtle mortalities during mating and nesting season, the forest department has imposed a seven-month ban on fishing along the coast between November and May. Last year, over 4.7 lakh turtles had thronged the nesting sites. Their number is expected to go up this year, if weather permits.

The satellite transmitters on turtles are meant to gather information on their movements for three years. PTTs have temperature sensors and surface time counters to indicate the proportion of time spent on the surface.

The battery of PTT is designed to last a year; if the turtle spends 30 per cent of its time on the surface. The data will be received, analysed and mapped.

The PTTs will be fitted on the turtles during their mass-nesting. Debasish Bhoi, the range officer of Gahirmatha marine sanctuary, said the WII will pick up 10 turtles each at Devi river mouth, Rusikulya river mouth and Gahirmatha sanctuary to be fitted with PTTs. He added that PTTs have temperature sensors and surface time counters to indicate the proportion of time spent on the surface.

Experts will also gather data about weather through PTTs.

TATA COVID hospital to continue op in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 20: Gearing up for a possible second wave of COVID-19 infections in Ganjam district, the district administration has decided to continue running of the TATA COVID Hospital at Sitalapalli in Berhampur.

Notably, the administration November 18 decided to shut the functioning of the hospital from November 30 as COVID-19 cases were declining in Odisha. The district administration had asked the hospital authority not to admit any new COVID-19 patient from November 30. In a letter to the CEO of Hi-Tech Medical College and Hospital, Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange asked him to continue the functioning of the hospital.

The Collector said, "Looking into the second wave of COVID-19 infections, you are hereby requested to continue functioning of the hospital."

Patna: Woman's body found from under kiln

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patna, Nov 20: Police recovered a woman's decomposed body from a brick kiln at Baunsanali village of Machhgarh panchayat under Patna police limits in Keonjhar district Friday.

The deceased was identified as Pramila Munda, aged 40 of Baunsanali village. The brick kiln is owned by Jena Munda, a resident of the same village.

Some villagers first spotted the body and immediately informed police. Patna IIC Somnath Jena, Saharpara outpost in-charge Siba Prasad Aich along with a team reached the spot and recovered the body. Police sent it to Champua government hospital for post mortem.

Middlemen scout for needy farmers

WESTERN ODISHA FARMERS SEETHE OVER TOKEN MESS, WARN OF STIR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Padmapur/Sambalpur, Nov 20: Paddy procurement has started in some parts of Bargarh and Sambalpur districts, but scores of farmers have not yet received their tokens. Farmers in Padmapur subdivision of Bargarh are reportedly upset over the token mess and are gearing up for agitation.

Reports said, paddy procurement was started since November 9 in Padampur area. Although more than a week has passed, procurement is yet to start properly.

In Padmapur sub-division, the administration has announced to procure paddy through 70 mandis, including 53 primary cooperative

societies and 17 marketing yards. Farmers alleged that tokens have not come, thus hampering procurement at mandis.

Though the administration said farmers can sell their produce within 30 days after getting tokens, the reality is quite different, they added. About 60 per cent of paddy in the area has been harvested. Many farmers have stoked their paddy either in farmlands or along roads instead of being taken directly to mandis. "As long as we do not get tokens, there is no use to carry paddy to mandis. Token is mandatory," lamented some farmers.

Middlemen have started visiting villages while needy farmers are in a hurry to sell off paddy at the

prices offered by the former.

However, officials say, the issue will be resolved soon.

Similar is the situation in some parts of Sambalpur. Some mandis wear deserted look as farmers are reluctant to turn up at mandis without tokens. Farmers of Kunchinda, Bamara, Jamankira have already staged protests over the token issue.

"Paddy in non-irrigated land has been harvested, but tokens have not come. We have no adequate storing facilities till the procurement. In such situation, farmers will be bound to sell paddy to middlemen," some farmers lamented.

They warned of agitation unless immediate step is taken to solve the token mess.

Legends surround Kupari's Buddha Stupa

RESTORATION OF THE BROKEN STUPA CONTINUES TO ATTRACT TOURISTS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khaira, Nov 20: Kupari area under Khaira block in Balasore has a treasure trove of ancient Buddhist relics. A Buddha stupa is at Shamuka village, which is 30 km from Soro and 20 km from Ranital. Locals say, many legends of past centuries lie hidden in the Buddha stupa.

Sculptural ruins of Buddhist culture have been lying scattered in Kupari village. One of the major attractions is a Boudha mandap or Mandira as it is called by local people. Near the stupa is a broken stone image of Lord Buddha in yogic posture. However, there is hardly any research on the antiquity of the culture. Some researchers say, the Buddhist cul-



Sculptural ruins of Buddhist culture lie scattered in Kupari village. The Budha mandap is the major attraction for tourists

ture here belongs to 9th century. It is believed that monks of Mahayana sect of the Buddhism had visited Kupari area centuries ago when stupas and stone statues of Lord Buddha had been built.

These sculptural remains are believed to be of Bhoumkar's time. They bear much similarity with those found at Sishupalgarh, some historians say.

In 1869, the then collector of

Balasore John Beams used to visit Kupari area and proved the place as a hub of Buddhist culture after an intensive research.

In an article published in a journal of West Bengal's Asiatic Society, Beams had claimed that all those scattered sculptural ruins exclusively belonged to Buddhism. Besides, he had sent samples of the sculpture to the Asiatic Society.

In 1934, there was research on

the Kupari site and its cultural remains.

After the stupa was handed over to the tourism department, restoration works have been done. The archeology department took about a year to restore the broken stupa by spending about Rs 1 crore. The restoration work was done particularly by Jyotiprakash Panigrahy after he was made tourism and culture minister.

Significantly, after restoration work, tourists have started making their footfalls in the village to see the ancient Buddhist culture.

Sarat Kumar Biswal, president of the Baristha Nagrika Manch and villager Biswanarajan Mohapatra observed that after restoration of the broken stupa, tourists were gradually coming here.

Man brutally murders wife in Baripada, held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Nov 20: A man brutally murdered his wife Thursday night by slicing her head open with an axe. The incident took place at Malihata village under Morada police station in Mayurbhanj district. Police recovered the body Friday morning after coming to know about the incident. The deceased has been identified as Parbati Mohanta, wife of Sibaprasad Mohanta.

Sources said the two frequently quarreled over Siba's addiction to liquor. Siba used to physically assault Parbati leaving the latter crying in pain.

Like any other day, they again had a quarrel Thursday night.

Then both fell asleep after dinner. Late in the night in a fit of rage, Siba got up and picked up an axe. Then he started hitting Parbati on the head with the blunt butt, leaving her dead.

Acting on tip-off from villagers, the police sent the body for post-mortem. The accused was arrested immediately.

Angul municipality turns waste into wealth



THE SHG MEMBERS ARE DOING THE ENTIRE PROCESS CAREFULLY. THE FINISHED PRODUCT, I.E. THE ORGANIC MANURE IS BEING SOLD FOR RS 20 A KILOGRAM

WHILE A LION'S SHARE OF THIS MANURE IS GOING TO A BIO-ORGANIC FIRM, SOME FARMERS ARE BUYING THIS MANURE REGULARLY. THAT APART, TOWN DENIZENS HAVE ALSO BECOME CUSTOMERS OF THIS MANURE. THEY ARE BUYING TO APPLY IT IN THEIR GARDENS AND ROOF-TOP GARDENS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Nov 20: Once a headache for Angul municipality, the garbage generated in the town has now become a source of earning for the civic body.

This is how the municipality is earning from waste. In Angul town, the municipality has set up a micro composting centre (MCC) each at Hemasurapada, Mishrapada and Hularisingha. These centres are being managed by self help groups. While Maa Ambika self help group is in charge of Hemasurapada MCC, Mishrapada and Hularisingha MCCs are being taken care of by Chandrasekhar self help group and Dharitri self help group respectively. Every month, the civic body is providing a sum of Rs 35,000 each to the three MCCs.

After receiving the garbage at the MCC, the first step is to separate wet garbage from dry stuff. Then

the processing of this garbage is started.

In the next step, the garbage is laid out in sun to dry after mixing them with a certain type of organic chemical. Then, it is mixed with cow dung. Now, the organic manure is ready for sale.

The SHG members are doing the entire process carefully. The finished product, i.e. the organic manure is being sold for Rs 20 a kilogram.

While a lion's share of this manure is going to a bio-organic firm, some farmers are buying this manure regularly. That apart, town denizens have also become customers of this manure. They are buying to apply it in their gardens and roof-top gardens.

"All of us are well aware of the harmful impact of chemical fertilizers. This is the reason why we have a liking for organic manure. We are using the manure sold by the municipality for our gardens and

kitchen gardens. The municipality will get more customers in coming days but its advertisement is required," observed Kanchan Singh, a town resident.

According to Chandrasekhar SHG, president, Dhulana Dehury they have so far sold 50 kilograms of manure. "We are getting customers on a daily basis. In future, the number of customers will definitely increase," said Dehury.

When contacted, executive officer, Angul municipality, Binod Chandra Panda said, "Organic manure is being produced at three MCCs in Angul town. As of now, the manure is being produced manually. To increase the production, machines have already been installed at these MCCs but not connected with power sources. Once these machines are made functional, the volume of production will go up. This means we will be converting more waste into money."

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NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH
E-PROCUREMENT
Bid Identification No. EEPHJSG- 07 /2020-21 Dt. 18.11.2020

01. Number of Work	1 No work.
02. Type of Bid	Two Bid System
03. Estimated Cost	Rs. 73.77 Lakhs
04. Period of Completion	6 (Six) Calendar Months
05. Class of Contractor	B & A
06. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 11.00 Hrs. of dt. 25.11.2020 to 17.00 Hrs of 09.12.2020
07. Last date / time of seeking clarification	17.00 Hrs of 02.12.2020
08. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	17.00 Hrs of 09.12.2020
09. Date & Time of opening of Technical bids	At 11.00 Hrs. of 10.12.2020
10. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Jharsuguda, Black Diamond College Road, Near D.H.H. Jharsuguda At - Ballijori, Dist- Jharsuguda-768 203.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in"
OIPR-1305711/0006/2021 Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Jharsuguda

FOCUS CIVIL LIBERTIES

TIME FOR NEW RIGHTS CHARTER



It is high time that we listen to the international criticism of India's recent record on human rights and, at the same time, we must draw up a more just and equitable Charter of Human Rights and present to the UN General Assembly

community. The result has been that human beings are not under any obligation to discharge their duties alongside demanding their human rights. This leads to ever increasing violation of the rights of others. Our tradition, on the other hand, speaks only of duties. Gita says "duties alone are your right." The Declaration should be amended to make human rights contingent on the discharge of human duties.

The Declaration endorses the present constitution of the Security Council, which is based on inequality. But the Article 29(3) says that nothing shall be said against the principles of United Nations.

The civil and political rights of all human beings stipulated in Articles 4, 5, 14(1), 15, 16, 19 etc. have universal applicability. But the economic rights are restricted within the borders of nations. Article 13 restricts the freedom of movement to "within the borders of each State." If all human beings in the world are entitled to equal rights then why should certain human beings be restricted from movement into another country? Article 21(2) provides that the right of equal access to public services will be applicable only within 'his country'. Pray, why? When civil rights are universal then why should not access to public services be universal? Article 22 limits the right to social security "in accordance with resources of each State." Why should then political rights also be provided in accordance with resources of each State? The result of these provisions is that the industrial countries can interfere in the affairs of the developing countries in the name of political rights, but the developing countries cannot interfere in the industrial countries to secure their economic rights.

It is high time that we listen to the international criticism of India's recent record on human rights while, at the same time, we must draw up a more just and equitable charter of human rights and present to the UN General Assembly for adoption.

The writer is a former professor at IIM, Bangalore. The views are his personal.

India is being criticised by various International Human Rights watchdogs. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has expressed "concern over restrictions on non-governmental organisations, arrests of activists and implications of the Citizenship Amendment Act." The Human Rights Watch has recently said, "The Indian government is using counterterrorism operations to silence peaceful dissenters, human rights activists, and journalists." There is much substance to these allegations.

The human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is indeed a milestone when seen in the backdrop of autocracies like Hitler's Germany and slave-harboursing George Washington of the United States. The position of India is different since we had a "developed" concept of society. For us, the Declaration is actually a regression on many points. While taking the above criticisms seriously and restoring human rights as enshrined in the Declaration, India must simultaneously prepare an alternate Declaration and present it before the United Nations.

Article 1 of the Declaration stipulates that all human beings are "equal in dignity and rights." Article 3 stipulates that all have rights to life, liberty and security. Article 13 speaks of rights of freedom of movement. Article 26(1) provides for right to education. The difficulty is that no two of these many equalities can go together. If we were to secure equality of dignity between a weak and strong student in the class, it would be necessary to accept inequality of rights between the two. The right of the bright student would have to be restricted and more time provided to the weaker student in the laboratory to establish equality of dignity between the two. No two of these rights can go together. It was necessary to state upfront which would be the key "right" in which equality would be secured; and to acknowledge that inequality in all other parameters would be acceptable. The Declaration is a hotpotch of mutually inconsistent equalities. Our tradition has specified that

equality will be secured only in 'opportunities of self-realisation.' Human beings are different in their *samskaras* (inner tendencies) and capacities. Each should be provided with such opportunities that are necessary for her self-development. One who has the *samskara* of making money should be given the freedom to do business; but one who has the *samskaras* of kingship must be deprived of that very freedom. It is necessary to amend the Declaration to say, "Every human being is entitled to equal opportunities to realise his inner tendencies and inequality would be accepted in all other parameters."

Article 7 of the Declaration provides that "all are equal before law." This means that the weak and the strong have equal legal rights. Naturally the weak would not be able to enforce their rights. Our tradition asks for an affirmative approach. Yudhishtira was selected as Yuvaraja because he awarded lesser punishment to the Sudra and progressively higher punishment to Vaisya and Kshatriya. The principle was that punishment should be awarded in keeping with one's social responsibilities. This affirmative inequality needs to be built into the Declaration.

Article 29 of the Declaration emphasises the primacy of the rights of the individual and permits them to be limited if necessary, for the 'general welfare of

the society'. The problem here is that rights of the individual are primary. The result is that individual rights of the terrorists are given primacy while the larger society suffers because establishing that the activities of the terrorist are indeed against the welfare of the society is a hard task. Our tradition, on the other hand, puts "general welfare" in the center. It is said that "give up one for the family, family for the village, and the village for the society." Recently India has seen extra-judicial killings of the rapists and the society has lapped them up with glee because the society thinks that its welfare is secured by eliminating the rapists rather than harping about their human rights. It is necessary to amend this Article to say, "Human Rights of the individual will be subservient to the larger social interest."

Article 29(1) mentions that "everyone has duties to the community." But the discharge of these duties is not compulsory. These are empty advice without teeth. Article 26(2) says that education shall strengthen "respect for human rights and freedoms." It does not say that education shall strengthen the respect for "duties to the community." Articles 18, 19 and 20 provide for freedom of thought, expression and assembly. These are not contingent on one discharging his duties to the com-



Bharat Jhunjhunwala

INDIAN TRADITION HAS SPECIFIED THAT EQUALITY WILL BE SECURED ONLY IN 'OPPORTUNITIES OF SELF-REALISATION'



There is a thirst for Love which no human relation can quench. It is only the Divine's love that can satisfy that thirst.

THE MOTHER

Who's afraid of Nitin Gadkari?

Union Road and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari's recent sharp rebuke of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) officials for the delay in the construction of the NHAI headquarters was delivered with his typical smiling demeanor but carried a lethal punch that shocked the babus. It was surprising in its candour (rare for politicians) and turned what was meant to be a joyous event – the inauguration of the building – into a scathing critique of bureaucratic inefficiency in the country.

This was not meant to turn out like this, more than six years into the NDA government. When the Modi sarkar came to power six years ago, it rode in on huge expectations that it would re-energise the economy, oversee infrastructure development, and improve the functioning of the government and tackle corruption.

Many of its big-ticket economic reforms are still on the anvil or have been watered down following political resistance. Two big "reforms", namely demonetisation and a badly implemented GST, have been disastrous. But the one area where the winds of change were felt the most was the bureaucracy. It is clearly evident that despite what some saw as a streak of authoritarianism in Prime Minister Modi's approach, bureaucracy in India was shaken out of its long slumber and was compelled to sit up and take note of the new style of proactive governance.

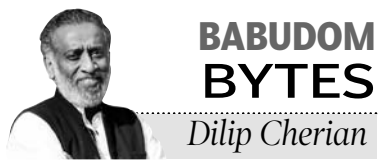
Now, from hearing it from Gadkari, it appears that in this respect, too, the recalcitrant babus have refused to fall in line with the Modi sarkar's stated culture of direct access, simplifying procedures and eliminating delays in decision-making and implementation. The situation seems to hark back to the days when an administrative paralysis had set in during the UPA-II regime. Despite green signals from the highest levels, the babus in Lutyens' Delhi refuse to take a decision and keep the file moving from one ministry to the other.

It is indeed rare for the political executive to haul up the bureaucracy in the manner that Gadkari did, though the present dispensation at the Centre has moved far more decisively against bureaucratic corruption and inefficiency than its predecessors – compulsorily retiring hundreds of babus for corruption and inefficiency. When it came back to power last year, it started with compulsory retirement of 27 IRS officers and followed this up with instructions to various departments to identify deadwood that the government needed to get rid of. This message was underlined again by Gadkari to his captive audience, just in case some babus felt the government was not serious.

But is this the entire picture? Could there be a flip side – that perhaps it is the workman who is quarreling with his tools for his own failures? After all, the same babus, who were lambasted by the minister, used the same rules and procedures to build the national highways at a stupendous rate of 30kms a day! It could also be pointed out that the political executive also should share the blame for allowing the "naalayak" and "nikamma" babus to fester in the system because it suits them and their populist policies?

Can Gadkari and the government seize the courage to follow through with its campaign to purge corruption in governance or will the corrosive forces of corrupt netas and babus manage to paper over the cracks and survive?

Share a babu experience! Follow [@dilipthecherian](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian) on twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

WISDOM CORNER

- Write it. Shoot it. Publish it. Crochet it, sauté it, whatever. MAKE. JOSS WHEDON
- Whatever you are, be a good one. ABRAHAM LINCOLN
- If we have the attitude that it's going to be a great day it usually is. CATHERINE PULSFIFER

WORDSWORTH

Bellwether

It's not uncommon these days, even though the word is still widely used, to find it spelled bellwether or even bellwhether. For example – I do not shrink from naming the guilty – the Washington Times for 29 October 2006: "That's why we should have used some bellwether event like the signing of the Iraqi constitution, or the parliamentary elections as our moment to declare victory and exit stage left." There's some excuse for this, assuming a lack of prior knowledge and the absence of a dictionary, since the second part of the word is now rare in our urbanised existence. Wether is an old English word for a castrated ram. The experts think it comes from a prehistoric root meaning a year, perhaps because the ram concerned was a yearling; it's a relative of veal, via the Latin vitulus, a calf. The shepherd used a wether as the leader of the flock, whom the rest would follow. To be sure to know exactly where he was, a bell was hung around his neck. So: bellwether. By the fifteenth century, it was being applied to people, as a contemptuous term for a leader whom only sheep would follow, especially one who possessed a loud mouth but little judgement. That was still in use centuries later, as you may tell from Francis Grose's Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue of 1811, in which the word is defined as "[t]he chief or leader of a mob". In more modern times – within the past century or so – it has moved sense to refer to things, rather than people, that lead or indicate a trend, such as the way we are likely to vote in an election. A bellwether security is one that predicts the way the stock market is moving. To blindly follow trends as though we were sheep, of course, merely returns us to the old meaning.

LOL

TENT STOLEN

There are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful, and that we are a small and insignificant part of the universe. "But what does it tell you, Holmes?" Holmes is silent for a moment. "Watson, you idiot!" he says. "Someone has stolen our tent!"



SPECTRUM PATENTS

Breaking America's patent stalemate

Lisa Larrimore Ouellette & Heidi Williams

MANY PATENT OWNERS ARE LOBBYING TO REMOVE LIMITS ON ELIGIBLE INVENTIONS, BUT OPPOSITION FROM OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING SEVERAL SOFTWARE FIRMS, HAS STALLED PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Economic growth is increasingly reliant on technology-based industries. That has made reforming the US patent system a subject of renewed focus – and of a contentious and deadlocked debate.

Many patent owners are lobbying to remove limits on eligible inventions, but opposition from other stakeholders, including several software firms, has stalled proposed legislation. Reformers similarly disagree on whether "patent trolls" – firms whose only business is filing patent-infringement lawsuits – are a drag on truly innovative companies, or whether efforts to combat trolls have weakened the US patent system and innovation. The critical role of innovation in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic has only heightened such concerns.

In a recent policy proposal, we argued that there currently is little credible evidence to support strengthening or weakening patent protection, such as by modifying patent-eligibility standards. Nonetheless, the US patent system can still be improved through more modest changes that have stronger empirical support.

For example, while patents are intended to disclose information about new technologies and who owns

the rights to them, they often fail on both counts. The good news is that the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) can address both shortcomings without waiting for congressional action.

One way in which patents fail to disclose accurate information stems from the practice of including hypothetical experiments and results, known as "prophetic examples," in ways that are hard to distinguish from real data. Of course, fabricating results in a scientific paper would be considered fraudulent. But, as Fordham Law School's Janet Freilich has documented, prophetic examples are common in granted US patents.

Freilich found that at least 17% of examples in recent US chemical and biological patents are prophetic, and at least 24% of patents with examples include some that are prophetic. Moreover, these hypothetical experiments confuse even qualified scientists. Ninety-nine percent of prophetic patents cited in scientific publications were cited with phrases such as, "has been carried out," suggesting that the authors did not understand that the experimental work in question was hypothetical.

Patent insiders distinguish

prophetic examples by verb tense: examples based on work that has actually been done are typically in the past tense, whereas prophetic examples must be in the present or future tense. Thus, when a patent describes a chemical reaction in which "230 milliliters of hydrogen is attained," or treatment of a patient whose "pain is substantially alleviated," or a diagnostic patch with micro-needles that "automatically draw small quantities of blood," the present tense signals that the work needed to support these claims most likely had not been carried out at the time the application was filed.

But this tense rule can be misleading for non-specialist audiences, including scientists and investors in new technologies. The USPTO can and should require patent applicants to distinguish prophetic examples more clearly from completed work. The USPTO can also address a second flaw of America's patent system: its failure to provide clear notice about who owns patent rights.

The first page of a patent lists the owner at the time it was granted, but if that patent is sold to a new owner, the change does not need to be recorded at the USPTO. And, be-

cause there is no standardised method of referring to patent owners, different names, abbreviations, or spellings for a single company are not uncommon. Even more confusingly, some patent applicants use shell companies to conceal the real owner.

Lack of transparency regarding patent ownership can make it harder for other companies to search for relevant patents and determine whether their products are infringing them or with whom they should negotiate licenses. This needlessly increases business costs.

The USPTO can improve ownership transparency without legislation. Based on this experience, we propose a more tailored set of reforms. For all patents, the USPTO should require owners to link ownership records to unique IDs and to record changes in ownership. This would reduce the patent system's transaction costs while imposing relatively little burden on patent owners.

Lisa Larrimore Ouellette is Professor of Law at Stanford University. Heidi Williams, Professor of Economics at Stanford University, is a member of the National Bureau of Economic Research.

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Energy audit

Sir, Time and again the exploitative operandi of Discoms in the state is posing a big threat of survival for common man despite several regulating mechanism including the 'Mo Sarkar' to 5T to protect people from such autocratic works of few. Very cunningly the distribution utilities have started imposing and collecting an additional 20 paise in every slab in bills of consumers. The energy department of government is now under Mo Sarkar & 5T and it needs to be responsive towards public needs instead of a top down approach to two-way work modalities. Such approach have already cost the pilfering of thousands of crores public funds. Regulatory bodies like OERC and the Energy department have maintained a stoic silence on this matter. In 2016, the government allocated ₹100 crore to OERC for energy audit to find out the lapses in this sector, but it has not materialised till date. The losses of government revenue are in the range of ₹6,000-8,000 crore during the last few decades. The matter should be taken up immediately to protect people from the increasing exploitative operandi of power utilities. The Lokayukta needs to immediately order for a detail inquiry into the murky dealings in this essential public service. There needs to an audit of the energy sector in state, and simultaneously the Mo Sarkar and 5T must come up with effective remedies to end the menace. **Janaki Ballav Dash**, MAYURBHANJ

Empower differently-abled

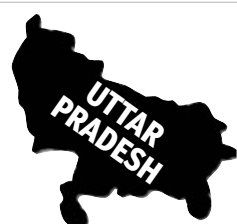
Sir, It is welcome to note that the Punjab Government has approved a new scheme – 'Punjab Divyangyan Sashaktikaran Yojana' (PDSY) to empower differently-abled persons in a phased manner across the state. The first stage of the scheme will involve strengthening the existing programmes to ensure that their benefits reach the persons with disabilities in a more effective manner, while in the second phase 13 new interventions are proposed to be undertaken for the empowerment of such persons. The PDSY aims to fill the backlog of persons with disabilities in government jobs and a barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities by making government and public centric buildings, public transportation, and websites accessible to them. A consultative group would review the performance under the scheme and also suggest measures for improvement. The need of the hour is that all government and private authorities must execute the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016 and ensure a disabled-friendly environment, full participation in society, and equal opportunities for the differently-abled community. **Amit Singh Kushwaha** SATNA (MP)

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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'STATUS OF HINDUS IN BENGAL'

BJP leader's tweet sparks social media debate

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

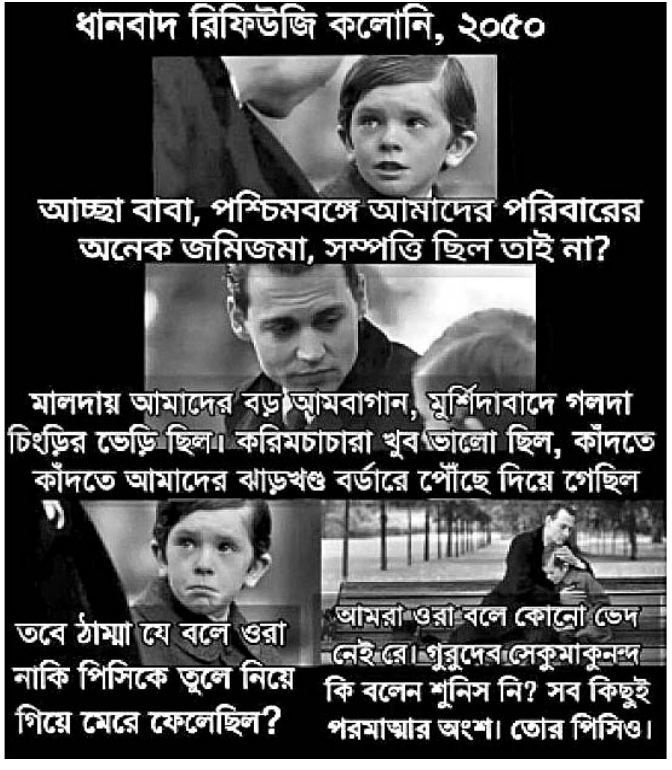
Kolkata, Nov 20: A meme shared by former Meghalaya Governor and senior West Bengal Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Tathagata Roy on a social networking site sparked serious controversy over the status of Hindus living in West Bengal.

The issue triggered netizens to engage in a raging debate, with just five months left ahead of the state Assembly polls.

"The meme shared by the senior politician, read: A child and his father, refugees from West Bengal in 2050, in Bengali Hindu refugee colony in Jharkhand. The child asks what they had left back, how his aunt was picked up by 'them' and killed. Father says: "Karim chacha (uncle) was very kind; He was crying when he saw us off at the border." The little boy asked: "Then why did my grandmother say that they picked up my aunt and killed her?"

The controversial post of Roy reminded of the atrocities against Hindus in neighbouring Bangladesh when thousands of Bengali-speaking people were brutally killed in the hands of Muslims in undivided Bangladesh, then known as East Pakistan. "Yesterday I tweeted a meme of a Bengali Hindu father and son in 2050, forced to leave Muslim-dominated West Bengal. Some called me mad. Ask any Hindu who lived in Dhaka or Barisal in the 1930s. If u told them then that you will have to leave your home in 10-15 years, they would have laughed at you," he tweeted Friday.

Always accepted by the educated middle-class Bengalis for his erudite nature and intellectual refinement, Roy was the state BJP



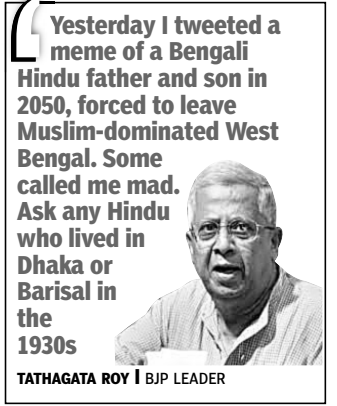
president between 2002 and 2006 and also a member of the BJP's national executive committee from 2002 to 2015. Later, he was appointed as the governor of Tripura in May 2015. In August 2018, he took over as the Governor of Meghalaya.

Roy's post was retweeted by various members of the Twitterati who supported him for championing the cause of the Hindus in West Bengal. "They laughed at the minority complex of the majority in Central Asia, Khurasan, Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey (Asia Minor) of today, Buddhism, Saivism, Christianity, Zoroastrianism, Yezidis, Pagans

vanished like a hare's horn after a few beheadings. God saved India till now," tweeted Anand Kumar.

Another member, Sid M wrote: "India won't be saved in future, not because coz of Muslims; but because of liberals and seculars who will ensure India's transformation to a Muslim state! Just a matter of time! The only solution to survival - forced conversion of X and M to the Hindu fold and you will have Sanatan Bharat again!"

The West Bengal Police had to turn to fact-checkers on communally sensitive posts ahead of the crucial state Assembly polls. Earlier,



the state police had tweeted a screen grab of a post by BJP MP Arjun Singh calling it misleading.

They wrote: "Misleading. Legal action is being taken. Please do not get carried away by provocative and mischievous posts." The tweet by the Barrackpore MP had referred to vandalism of a temple in Murshidabad district. The district police said a fire had damaged the temple. On August 28, they had also taken note of a video tweeted by Pakistani-born Canadian writer Tarek Fatah and called it fake.

"A video clip from Bangladesh is being circulated intentionally to defame the West Bengal administration. Legal action is being taken," the state police had tweeted from their official Twitter account.

Amid political speculations on who would become BJP's poster boy in Bengal for the upcoming Assembly elections, Roy's comeback definitely stands out as the most significant one. He had also met state BJP president Dilip Ghosh and other central leaders like Kailash Vijayvargiyaji upon his return.

BJP demands central intervention

AGENCIES

Kolkata, Nov 20: Opposition BJP in West Bengal Friday demanded central intervention in the Malda blast case and alleged that the state has turned into a hub of illegal bomb-making factory under the TMC rule.

On the other hand, the ruling Trinamool Congress retorted sharply accusing that the BJP was trying to communalise the issue before the 2021 state polls.

Six persons were killed in a blast in a plastic factory at Sujapur in Malda district Thursday. This had triggered a political slugfest with BJP demanding a NIA probe into it and the TMC asking it not to politicize the issue.

"We think there is a need for central intervention in Malda blast probe. Only central agencies can probe the matter impartially. The state police, instead of probing the matter will try to hush it up," state BJP president Dilip Ghosh said.

"The culprits behind this blast should be identified and punished," he told reporters here.

Wondering why regular incidents of blasts are taking place



"only in Bengal", Ghosh alleged that the state has turned into a hub of illegal bomb-making factory in the state. "Bomb blasts have become a regular affair in West Bengal. Every other day, there is an incident of bomb blast in the state. The state has become a hub of illegal bomb-making factory during the TMC rule," he said.

BJP national general secretary and Bengal minder Kailash Vijayvargiya Thursday said the party will write to the union home ministry requesting it for an NIA probe to bring out the truth.

The Mamata Banerjee-headed TMC, which had already ruled out the need for an NIA probe,

accused the BJP of trying to communalize the issue ahead of the assembly polls. "BJP is trying to communalise the issue ahead of the Assembly polls. A few years ago a similar blast has taken place inside a chemical factory in Gujarat. Few people had died and several others were injured. We didn't try to find any terror angle in it," West Bengal minister Bratya Basu said.

"There is no need to communalise an accident just because state elections are approaching. The BJP wants communal polarisation in Bengal," he said.

Assembly polls in the state are due in April-May 2021.

Yogi planning 'strict' law against love jihad

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Nov 20: The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has decided to bring in a stringent legislation against 'love jihad' cases on the rise in the state.

The Home Department has sent a proposal to the Department of Law in this regard.

The Law Department will work out the legal modalities after which



the government is likely to issue an ordinance in this regard.

The state government's decision comes after the Chief Minister had said in a by-election meeting

in Jaunpur in October that his government was planning a strict law against love jihad.

The Shivraj Singh Chouhan government in Madhya Pradesh has also said the state would soon have a law against 'love jihad'.

Chouhan's Home Minister Narottam Mishra has said non-bailable charges would be applicable in cases of 'love jihad' in Madhya Pradesh.

OFFERINGS TO THE LORD



A devotee offers arghya to the Sun God during Chhath Puja celebrations at the bank of Yamuna river in the backdrop of Taj Mahal in Agra, Friday. PFI PHOTO

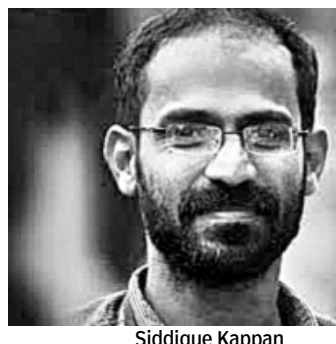
Kerala scribe was going to Hathras to create caste divide: UP Police to SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: Kerala-based scribe Siddique Kappan, arrested on his way to Hathras where a young Dalit woman had died after allegedly being gang-raped, was going there under the "garb of journalism" with a "very determined design" to create caste divide and disturb law and order situation, the Uttar Pradesh government said in the Supreme Court Friday.

In an affidavit filed in the apex court, the state government has alleged that Kappan is the office secretary of Popular Front of India (PFI) and was using a "journalist cover" by showing identity card of a Kerala-based newspaper which was closed in 2018. Opposing the plea filed by Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) questioning Kappan's arrest and seeking his bail, the state has said it is "not maintainable" and the petitioner has "no locus" as the accused is already in touch with his advocates and relatives and he himself can file proceedings through his lawyers.

"It is revealed during investigation that he along with other PFI activists and their student wing (Campus Front of India) leaders were going to Hathras under the garb of Journalism with a very determined design to create a caste di-



Siddique Kappan

vide and disturb law and order situation were found carrying incriminating material," the affidavit said. The matter came up for hearing before a bench comprising Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Uttar Pradesh, said they have filed an affidavit. "Last time there was misreporting. I am worried about the inaccurate reporting," the CJ said, adding, "The reports said that the journalist was refused relief".

The bench asked senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who was appearing for KUWJ, to go through the reply filed by Uttar Pradesh and file rejoinder. "You have the right to file bail and you read the reply and then we will hear you committedly," the bench said. The bench



said the state has no objection to an advocate approaching the accused to get his signature for availing the judicial relief.

"List after one week. In the meantime, the accused person's signature can be obtained in jail for taking recourse in courts," the bench said. Sibal said that lawyers were earlier restrained from approaching Kappan to get his signature.

Mehta countered Sibal's contention and said they were neither stopped earlier and nor there is any opposition on this. Kappan was arrested October 5 while he was on his way to Hathras, home to the young Dalit woman who died after being allegedly gang-raped by four upper-caste men.

The police had said it has arrested four people having links with the PFI in Mathura and identified the arrested persons as

Siddique from Malappuram, Atiqur Rehman from Muzaffarnagar, Masood Ahmed from Bahraich and Alam from Rampur.

In its affidavit filed in the apex court, the state government has said that Kappan is not in "illegal custody/confinement" but is in judicial custody. "The petitioner has resorted to falsehood and has made several false statements on oath only to sensationalise the case which would become clear on perusal of the following facts," said the affidavit, filed by senior superintendent of jail, District Jail Mathura.

"The person in custody namely Siddique Kappan is the Office Secretary of Popular Front of India (PFI) using a journalist cover by showing identity card of a Kerala based newspaper...Which was closed in 2018," it claimed.

It alleged when Kappan was brought by special task force (STF) to Delhi for probe, he "misled the police by giving wrong residential address which was found invalid" and he did not assist in the investigation and gave misleading details. It alleged that KUWJ has concealed the fact that a lawyer hired by them was appearing before the magistrate at Mathura on October 6 and had full knowledge of the time and place of production of the accused.

UP farmers rewrite their destiny with dragon fruit farming

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 20: Four years ago, Ram Sakal Yadav, a young farmer in Uttar Pradesh's Kaushambhi district, had almost packed his bags. He was set to migrate to Mumbai in search of a job that would ensure him a steady income.

"Our agricultural income was reducing and the family was increasing. I had no option but to migrate and feed the family", he recalls.

It was then that a district official in Kaushambhi persuaded Ram Sakal Yadav to stay back and try out an alternative.

The then district magistrate, Akhand Pratap Singh, had got saplings of the dragon fruit from West Bengal and he encouraged Yadav and other farmers to plant it.

Initially, not many were willing to experiment but later about 60 farmers agreed to plant the sapling.

"Within 18 months, the fruits appeared. No one in the village had seen these types of fruits. The district magistrate made arrangements to send the fruit to Mumbai and Delhi and then the profits started pouring in", says Yadav.

Sources, however, insist that the



first crop of the fruit was consumed by farmers from the district who wanted to savour its taste.

With help from horticulture experts, the local farmers not only started planting trees but even started cultivating saplings that could be exported. "Degan phal", (as the fruit is known in local parl-

ance) ne hamari kismat badal di", says Binda Devi, a 62-year-old widow, who has a daughter-in-law and four grandchildren to take care of after her son abandoned them and left home four years ago.

Explaining the technique of dragon fruit farming, Binda Devi says that the tree is very fragile

and needs to be supported by wooden planks. "You can use one wooden plank to support four trees that require mild watering. The fruits start appearing by the end of 18 months and each tree can yield up to 60 to 120 fruits. The officers have helped us understand the details of 'degan phal' farming", she says.

Horticulture expert DK Trivedi said that the soil of Kaushambhi was conducive for dragon fruit farming.

"The fruit, also known as 'pitaya', sells in big cities at Rs 350 to 500 per kilogram and the only major cost of cultivation is the wooden planks that are needed to support the tree. One tree yields fruits for several years and animals do not eat it because of the thorns around it", he said.

The fact that dragon fruit is said to be helpful in the treatment of diseases like diabetes and asthma and has anti-ageing and anti-cancer properties, has also made it popular in the region.

A horticulture expert, Mewa Ram, meanwhile, says that there are about 7,500 dragon fruit trees now in Kaushambhi and the fruit from here is sold in Mumbai, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh.

Seeing this, farmers in Sultanpur have also started dragon fruit farming. Gaya Prasad who has opted for dragon fruit farming recently met UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and said that his agricultural income had gone up eight-fold since he started dragon fruit farming.

Rescued jumbos celebrate decade of freedom

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agra, Nov 20: Celebrating a decade of freedom, elephant couple Maya and Bijli Friday enjoyed a grand feast at the Elephant Conservation and Care Centre in Farah on Agra-Mathura district borders.

The two spent many hard years in shackles till they were freed by the Wild Life SOS in cooperation with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department in 2010.

A former circus trained elephant, Maya was forced to undergo a rigorous training schedule to learn entertaining tricks for the audience. On the other hand, her companion, 40-year-old Bijli, was used as a begging elephant in Uttar Pradesh.

A functionary of the Wild Life SOS said, "The life of a performing elephant is an oppressive one, where it is forced to perform unnatural tricks for people's amusement. The elephants are starved and brutally beaten into submission as part of their indoctrination process. Maya would spend hours practicing standing on two legs or to carry circus performers on her



back at the whip of a stick or sharp bullhook ('ankush'). When not performing, she would be restrained by tight ropes and spiked chains around her limbs with no access to food or even clean drinking water."

Years of overwork, abuse and neglect had not only left her with ailments such as swollen limbs, cracked toenails, and damaged footpads and cuticles with severe toenail abscesses, but she also suffered from psychological trauma.

Shortly after her arrival at the Elephant Conservation and Care Centre (ECCC) in Mathura, Maya was introduced to an elephant named Phoolkali, and her presence has played a significant role in Maya's decade-long recovery journey.

national



We purchased power at a very cheap rate...We gave concession to the poor and farmers during our rule. If you (the government) have the courage, you also do it
DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | BJP LEADER

ANIL VIJ GETS TRIAL DOSE OF COVID VACCINE

Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij was administered a trial dose of India-made coronavirus vaccine Covaxin Friday. He was among the first volunteers for the third phase trial of the vaccine



of the day quote

Heartiest greetings to the people of Bengal, India and all over the world on the auspicious occasion of Chhath Puja. May Lord Surya fulfill all your wishes
MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

Electricity bills will be burnt across Maharashtra on November 23 if no relief is given to consumers
CHANDRASHEKHAR BAWANKULE | BJP LEADER

A weekend curfew will be imposed from Friday night only in Ahmedabad city as a precautionary measure following a sudden spike in coronavirus cases. There is no question of imposing a lockdown in Gujarat at present
VIJAY RUPANI | GUJARAT CM

SHORT TAKES

Lawyer arrested

Dhubri: A lawyer was arrested in Assam's Dhubri district for allegedly cheating people by promising them government jobs in exchange for money, police said Friday. Monirul Islam, a resident of Geramari village in Gauripur police station area of the district, took money from a youth, Safiqul Houque, by promising him a government job, they said. Islam claimed that he knew several top officials in different government departments, besides some ministers, police said. A deal was fixed at Rs 5 lakh for a government job and Houque paid the lawyer Rs 2.5 lakh as an advance, promising him to pay the rest on getting the appointment letter.

5 robbers held

Gurugram: The Gurugram police have arrested five robbers for allegedly robbing a jewellery shop in Gururam's Roshan Pura area on September 9, police said Friday. The arrested accused have been identified as Mintu (24), Harsh alias Sagar (19), Tonny (24), all residents of Gurugram, Varun alias Sonu (32) of Kaithal and Sunil, a resident of Kapashera, Delhi. According to the police, Mintu and Sonu were arrested from Delhi on Tuesday with the help of technical support and specific inputs. Based on the information from Mintu and Sonu, the police arrested Harsh, Tonny and Sunil were arrested on Wednesday from Badshahpur area in Gurugram.

IED defused

Srinagar: Security forces Friday defused an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by militants in J&K's Kulgam district. Police said security forces including the local police and the counter insurgency Rashtriya Rifles spotted a suspicious object in Shurat village of Kulgam district. "The suspicious object turned out to be an IED which was successfully defused by the security forces thereby a tragedy was averted", police said.

Amit Shah to visit Chennai

Chennai: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit state capital Chennai Saturday to lay foundation stones of a slew of government projects and to meet BJP state leaders. Police has since beefed up security in the city. It is not yet clear if Shah will meet superstar Rajinikanth, who had earlier said that he would take the plunge in electoral politics.

PM lauds forces for thwarting Jaish plot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday held a review meeting with top security brass in the wake of the killing of four JeM terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, and asserted that security forces have thwarted their efforts to wreak "major havoc and destruction".

Government sources said that the terrorists were planning "something big" on the anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack. In his tweets following the meeting, Modi said, "Neutralising of 4 terrorists belonging to Pakistan-based terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed and the presence of large cache of weapons and explosives with them indicate that their efforts to wreak major havoc and destruction have once again been thwarted."

Hailing the security forces, he said they have once again displayed utmost bravery and professionalism. "Thanks to their alertness, they have defeated a nefarious plot to target grassroots level democratic exercises in Jammu and Kashmir," the prime minister added.

In the review meeting, Home Minister Amit Shah, NSA Ajit Doval, foreign secretary and top intelligence officials were present as Modi took stock of the situation. Four Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists were killed



Government sources said that the terrorists were planning "something big" on the anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack

Four Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists were killed and two policemen were injured in a gunbattle in Nagrota Thursday

Hailing the security forces, the PM said they have once again displayed utmost bravery and professionalism

and two policemen injured in a gunbattle in Nagrota on Thursday after a truck carrying newly infiltrated militants was intercepted, police had said.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Jammu, Mukesh Singh, had said after the encounter that the terrorists had come to execute a "big plan" which has now been foiled.

Delhi records coldest Nov morning in 14 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: The national capital recorded a minimum of 7.5 degrees Celsius Friday, the lowest in the month of November in 14 years, according to the India Meteorological Department.

It is Delhi's lowest minimum temperature in November since November 29, 2006, when the city recorded a minimum of 7.3 degrees Celsius, said Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the IMD's regional forecasting centre. The city was also on the brink of a cold wave, the first this season.

For the plains, the IMD declares a cold wave when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or below and is 4.5 notches less than normal for two consecutive days.

"The criteria has been met on Friday. We will declare a cold wave in Delhi if the situation persists on Saturday," Srivastava said. Delhi had recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 11.5 degrees Celsius last year, 10.5 degrees Celsius in 2018 and 7.6 degrees Celsius in 2017 in the month of November.

The all-time record for the lowest minimum temperature in November is 3.9 degrees Celsius recorded on November 28, 1938.

Mahesh Palawat, an expert at Skymet Weather, a private forecasting agency, said cold winds blowing from snow-laden western Himalayas have led to a dip in the mercury and a similar situation will continue till Saturday.

Manmohan to head Cong panels

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: Congress president Sonia Gandhi has set up three separate committees for discussing policy issues related to economic affairs, foreign affairs and national security, with former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh part of all the three panels.

While former finance minister P Chidambaram, and party leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Digvijaya Singh will be part of the economic affairs committee, Jairam Ramesh will be its convener. The committee on foreign affairs will have Anand Sharma, Shashi Tharoor, Salman Khurshid and Saptagiri Ulaka. Khurshid will be the convener of



the panel.

The committee on national security will have leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, party leaders Veerappa Moily, Vincent H Pala and V Vaithilingam, with Pala as its convener.

"The Congress president has constituted three committees to consider and discuss issues and policies related to the subjects of economic affairs, foreign affairs and national security," an official statement from AICC general secretary KC Venugopal said.

Incidentally, among those nominated in the committees include senior party leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Veerappa Moily and Shashi Tharoor, who were part of the 23 letter-writers seeking an organisational overhaul of the Congress. While Sharma is the chairman of the AICC foreign affairs department, Shashi Tharoor heads the party's Professional Congress.



A farmer harvests radish crop in a field, on the outskirts of Jammu, Friday

PTI PHOTO

14 killed in road accident

The road accident took place late Thursday night when the victims were returning from a wedding function in the Nawabganj area of Pratapgarh, Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Awanish Awasthi said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow/Pratapgarh, Nov 20: Fourteen people, including seven children, died when their car collided with a stationary truck on the Lucknow-Allahabad highway, around 70 km from Pratapgarh district headquarters, an official said Friday.

The road accident took place late Thursday night when the victims were returning from a wedding function in the Nawabganj area of Pratapgarh, Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Awanish Awasthi said.

Pratapgarh Superintendent of Police (SP) Anurag Arya said the speeding SUV dashed into the truck parked by the road in the



Manikpur police station area after one of its rear tyres got punctured near Deshraj Inara.

While five bodies could be taken out initially, a JCB machine had to be used to pull out the SUV from under the truck to retrieve the remaining bodies, he said, adding the bodies have been shifted to CHC Kunda and will be sent for autopsy later in the day.

It took almost two hours to pull

the car out from under the truck, the SP said. Arya, who visited the spot, said the police have spoken to the family members of the victims and assured all possible help.

Awasthi said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed senior officials to reach the spot and extend all possible help. The CM has extended ex gratia of Rs two lakhs to each of those killed in the crash, he added.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra expressed deep anguish over the loss of lives in the accident. "I am saddened thinking about the plight of the families of the deceased. I pray for all of them. May God give them the strength to bear the loss," she said in a Facebook post in Hindi.

Quad coalition's naval drill ends

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 20: The Malabar exercise between navies of the Quad or Quadrilateral coalition - an informal security forum comprising India, the US, Japan and Australia - in the Indian Ocean Region concluded Friday.

The naval drill of the Quad members holds significance as China is making attempts to get a wider footprint in the Indo-Pacific region. The Indo-Pacific region spans from the west coast of India to the US' west coast. The exercise, hosted by the Indian Navy,

took place in two phases in November. The first phase of the exercise involving participation by the Indian Navy, the United States Navy, the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force and the Royal Australian Navy, was conducted off Visakhapatnam in Bay of Bengal from November 3 to November 6. The second phase was conducted in the Arabian Sea from November 17, to November 20.

The first phase of Malabar witnessed participation of Indian Navy units with United States Ship (USS) John S McCain, Her Majesty's Australian Ship (HMAS)

Ballarat with integral MH-60 helicopter, and Japan Maritime Self-Defence Ship Onami, with integral SH-60 helicopter.

"Indian Navy's participation in this phase was led by Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, and included destroyer Ranvijay, indigenous frigate Shivalik, Offshore Patrol Vessel Sukanya, Fleet Support Ship Shakti, submarine Sindhuraj, P8I and Dornier maritime reconnaissance aircraft and Advanced Jet Trainer Hawk," said Indian Navy's Commander Vivek Madhwal.

'Marriage between first cousins illegal'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Nov 20: The Punjab and Haryana High Court has said that marriage between first cousins is illegal.

The court said that marriage which petitioner man wants to perform with a girl, who is his first cousin, was also per se illegal. "...The submission in the present petition that as and when she (the girl) attains the age of 18 years, they will perform marriage is also per se illegal," the judge said on Thursday while hearing the petition.

The assertion came after a 21-year-old man moved the high court against state of Punjab seeking anticipatory bail in a case registered under Sections 363 (kidnapping), 366A (procuration of minor girl) of the IPC at police station Khanna City-2 in Ludhiana district on August 18.

The state counsel, while opposing the bail plea, contented that the girl was a minor and her parents had lodged the FIR as she and the man were first cousins and their fathers were brothers. The man's counsel told Justice Arvind Singh Sangwan that the petitioner had also filed a criminal writ pe-



tion, along with the girl, for protection of life and liberty.

The court file of the criminal writ petition was summoned during the hearing and as per its memorandum of parties, the girl was stated to be 17 years of age and the petitioner man had filed the petition with the submission that both of them were in a "live-in-relationship".

It was stated in the petition that date of birth of the girl was August 2003 and on the date of filing the petition on September 3, 2020, she was of the age of 17 years and 14 days. Along with petition, a representation was also annexed, in which the girl had stated that her parents loved their sons but ignored her; therefore, she decided to live with her friend (petitioner) and on that account, she was apprehending that her parents can harass them and disturb the peace of their mind.

GOLD SMUGGLING CASE

NIA conducts searches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday carried out searches in five places in Kerala in connection with the gold smuggling case, its spokesperson said here.

The searches were conducted at the residences of five accused -- Mohamed Aslam, Abdul Latheef, Nazarudheen Sha, Ramzan P and Muhammed Mansoor.

These accused conspired with the already arrested accused and facilitated smuggling of gold through import cargo addressed to the UAE Consulate General and its disposal, the agency aid. During searches, several electronic items and documents have been seized, the spokesperson said.

The NIA has so far arrested 21 people in the case so far. The NIA registered a case to probe the international ramification of the gold smuggling case pertaining to the seizure of 30 kg gold worth Rs 14.82 crore on July 5 this year at Trivandrum International Airport from the baggage addressed to the UAE Consulate in the Kerala capital.

China rapidly building infrastructure for its military along LAC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 20: China is rapidly constructing infrastructure for its military along the 3,488 km Line of Actual Control (LAC) even at a time when it is in talks with India to resolve the border disputes.

India and China are engaged in an eight-month-long standoff along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. Both the countries are also engaged in military and diplomatic talks to resolve the border disputes. A total of eight rounds of corps commander-level talks have taken place between both the countries' military and the ninth round of talks is scheduled very soon to disengage troops.

Amid this, China is aggressively

developing infrastructure along the LAC. China is developing infrastructure near the Karakoram Pass and Rechin La. The Indian security establishment has observed the movement of cranes and building equipment.

China is also building permanent integrated habitable infrastructure termed as model villages. Such villages have been noticed across the LAC. Top sources said that in Rudok, located near Pangong Tso stretching between India and China, new complexes have come up approximately 5.5 km North-East of Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) camp, also known as Gobak Camp. Construction activity has also been carried out south of the PLA camp



in Gyantse. Two buildings, 12 sheds and other structures have come up in these areas.

China has also constructed a new building and six bunkers in Dejabu area under Yatung County for the accommodation of PLA personnel. Shelters have come up at

Bumdro, which is opposite Kameng. Six to seven concrete huts have been constructed at Bumdro near Domsongrong to accommodate PLA personnel during their patrolling activity in Mera La, Thag La and Yangtse area.

After construction of a single

lane gravelled at the linking of Sangsam with Chayul Dz in Shannan prefecture, the PLA has now commenced the construction of a camp. In the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, China has actively promoted the resumption of highway construction projects in all parts of the region. Bidding work for the 572 km rural road construction project has been completed and new construction has been started.

China has also made a road from the Tirkangto Shivung La. The work was being undertaken from the uphill side of Tirkang village in the South-West direction towards Shiyung La. Two mobile communication towers have also been installed at Tirkang village. The

Transport Department of Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) has also come up with seven projects, including the New Re-construction Project (Control Project) of Lhasa-Rikaze (Shigatse) Airport Section on NH-318.

The project management centre of Rikaze Municipal Transport Bureau is constructing 39 village roads in five counties, including Nammulin and Angren County of Rikaze. China is also carrying out construction at the Nielamu County opposite Nepal. They are making a township in the area. Not only this, China is relocating its troops across the LAC. This clearly indicates that they are preparing for a long haul even when engaged in talks with India.

of the day quote

As I have pointed out the Grand Alliance lost to the NDA by a whisker of 0.03 per cent. The elections turned on 8 seats. If the Alliance had won 8 more seats, the result would have been 118 to 117 (instead of 110 to 125). Significantly, the HAM and VIP won 8 seats

P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

At present all the competitive exams for recruitment to posts in the Central government, Central public sector undertakings, Indian Railways, defence services, nationalized banks, etc., are held in only two languages, i.e., Hindi and English. The students who do not study in English medium or those who are not from the Hindi speaking states face serious disadvantage in these competitive examinations

K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO | TELANGANA CM

The gradual reduction in the number of new COVID-19 cases and the positivity rate is a clear indicator that the spread of the virus is decreasing in the national capital

SATYENDAR JAIN | DELHI HEALTH MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Cop injured
Raipur: A police personnel from the bomb disposal squad (BDS) was injured when a pressure IED, planted by Naxals, went off in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district Friday, police said. The blast took place on Gorna-Mankeli road, where a team of security personnel along with the BDS of the District Force (DF) was carrying out a demining operation to ensure safety during road construction work, an official said. A demining exercise is conducted to trace and remove landmines planted by Naxals to target security forces, he said.

Bodies found
Thane: The decomposed bodies of a man and a woman, who was reported missing, were found in a flat here in Maharashtra, police said Friday. The deceased were identified as one Sandeep Saxena (33) and Jayanti Shah (36) and their bodies were found in the flat in Ambernath town of Thane district on Thursday, they said. The woman was the wife of Saxena's friend and was reported missing since November 17, the police said.

Two arrested
Palghar: Two brick kiln owners from Navi Mumbai have been arrested for allegedly kidnapping tribals from Maharashtra's Palghar district to make them work at their establishment, police said Friday. The police have registered a case against brothers Chandrakant and Vishal Bhoir and six of their associates under relevant sections of the IPC, Atrocities Act and Bonded Labour Eradication Act, an official from Mokhada police station said.

Leopard kills girl
Bhraich (UP): A 5-year-old girl was killed by a leopard in a village adjoining the forest area in the Murthi range here, leading to a violent protest by locals, who pelted stones at Forest department officials and damaged their vehicles, police said Friday. The victim, Shriya, was having lunch with her grandmother, Sumitra, at their farm in Golhaha village on Thursday evening when the leopard pounced on the child and dragged her into the forest, Superintendent of Police (SP) Vipin Mishra said.



The concept of Indo-Pacific is a rejection of the spheres of influence and a reiteration that the world cannot be frozen for the benefit of a few even if that is the case with the United Nations

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

SONIA ARRIVES IN GOA

Interim Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi arrived in Goa Friday, after doctors advised her to move out of Delhi for some time owing to her chest infection to avoid severe pollution in the national capital, according to party sources



COVID caseload breaches 90L-mark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, Nov 20: India's COVID-19 caseload surpassed the 90-lakh mark Friday with 45,882 new cases, while the recoveries surged to 84.28 lakh pushing the national recovery rate to 93.6 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 90,04,365 and the death toll climbed to 1,32,162 with the novel coronavirus virus claiming 584 lives in a span of 24 hours in the country, the data updated at 8 am showed. The COVID-19 case fatality rate has further declined to 1.46 per cent. There are 4,43,794 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 4.92 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 12,95,91,786 samples have been tested up to



November 20 with 10,83,397 samples being tested on Thursday. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23 and 40 lakh on September 5. It went past 50 lakh on September 16, 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11 and crossed 80 lakh on October 29.

The 584 new fatalities include 154 from Maharashtra, 98 from Delhi, 53 from West Bengal, 39 from Uttar Pradesh, 26 each from Kerala, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka, 20 from Haryana, 19 from Tamil Nadu and 15 from Punjab.

A total of 1,32,162 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 46,356 from Maharashtra and followed by 11,604 from Karnataka,

THERE ARE 4,43,794 ACTIVE CASES OF CORONAVIRUS INFECTION IN THE COUNTRY WHICH COMPRISES 4.92 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL CASELOAD, THE DATA STATED

11,550 from Tamil Nadu, 8,041 from Delhi, 7,873 from West Bengal, 7,480 from Uttar Pradesh, 6,910 from Andhra Pradesh, 4,556 from Punjab and 3,830 from Gujarat.

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

Ban on 'love jihad' soon, says CT Ravi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Bangalore, Nov 20: A ban on 'love jihad' and cow slaughter would be a reality in Karnataka very soon, BJP national general secretary C T Ravi said Friday.

The former Karnataka Minister, who is in-charge of party affairs in Maharashtra, Goa and poll-bound Tamil Nadu, said a law banning both practices would be passed in the coming Assembly session. He said there are serious deliberations going on in government circles as BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel has also urged Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa to take steps in this regard.

"Love Jihad and cow slaughter ban has been approved by the BJP core committee. The clamour to bring in a law banning cow slaughter has grown louder. We intend to do so," the Chikkamagaluru MLA told a press conference. He pointed out that the Karnataka government has already constituted a committee to ban cow slaughter.

Based on its recommendation, the law will be passed shortly, he said. Ravi said he had already spoken to Animal Husbandry Minister Prabhu Chauhan to get "The Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Bill" passed in the cabinet and present it in the coming assembly session.

The law was to have been passed in the previous assembly session, but it did not happen "due to political reasons," he said. Claiming that there was a ban on cow slaughter during the reign of Mughal emperor Akbar, Ravi pointed out that the existing law was inadequate to check the practice.

"Collecting fines from offenders will not discourage this practice. We will review the provisions in the anti-cow slaughter laws in Uttar Pradesh and other states," Ravi said. In 2010, the then BJP government led by B S Yediyurappa had got the 'Prevention of Slaughter



and Preservation of Cattle Bill', which proposed to replace the 'Karnataka Prevention of Cow Slaughter and Cattle Preservation Act, 1964', passed.

The bill had widened the definition of 'cattle' and imposed a blanket ban on cattle slaughter, coupled with stringent penalty clauses for violations. However, the Congress government headed by Siddaramaiah that came to power in 2013 withdrew the bill that was before the President for his assent.

On Love Jihad, Ravi had said earlier this month that on the lines of the Allahabad High Court's order, Karnataka would enact a law banning religious conversions for the sake of marriage. "We will not remain silent when Jihadis strip the dignity of our sisters," he had said, adding that anyone involved in any act of conversion would face severe and swift punishment.

The Allahabad High Court in its October 31 order said that religious conversion just for the sake of marriage was not valid. The court made the remark while dismissing a plea by a newly married couple in Uttar Pradesh that had approached it to direct police and the woman's father not to disturb their marital life. In the petition, it was stated that the couple got married in July this year, but family members of the woman were interfering in their marital life.

AVIAN CARE



Devotees feed migratory gulls at Narmada river in Jabalpur, Friday

Jilted lover kills girl, then ends life

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
Sambhal (Uttar Pradesh), Nov 20: A 19-year-old girl was allegedly shot dead by a 24-year-old man in Sambhal district.

The incident took place Thursday evening. The accused later shot himself with the same country-made pistol when police tried to arrest him outside his house. Police have sent both the bodies for autopsy. Heavy force has been deployed in the Babrala village in the Gunnaur area as the victim and the accused belonged to different communities. According to the police, the girl was working in a field when the accused tried to engage her in a conversation, but she refused. Enraged at her behaviour, the man took out a country-made pistol and shot at her. He then fled from the spot. The girl was taken to a community health centre by locals and the police were informed.

RS polls triggering Cong crisis?

MANY LEADERS, ACTUALLY SAID TO BE A GROUP OF 23, INCLUDING THE LIKES OF KAPIL SIBAL HAVE QUESTIONED THE LEADERSHIP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, Nov 20: The Congress Friday said it is a vibrant democratic party and if someone is raising questions or issues about its functioning from within the party fold, it only goes to show that its style of functioning is indeed "democratic" in nature and it encourages "internal democracy".

However, it has also categorically said that speaking in public is not good for the party. The Congress is witnessing turmoil within, especially fuelled further by the Bihar Assembly polls and states bypolls debacle. One issue perceived to lie at the root is the selection of the Rajya Sabha candidates.

Many leaders, actually said to be a group of 23, including the likes of Kapil Sibal have questioned the leadership. However, several others have rushed to defend former President Rahul Gandhi. Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said: "I will not second guess on the future but Congress workers want Rahul Gandhi as President and



CEA headed by Madhusudan Mistry will decide on the AICC session and election."

The crisis came to the fore after 23 leaders wrote a letter to Sonia Gandhi for sweeping reforms in the party. Sources say the internal crisis could be related to the Rajya Sabha elections in which senior leaders like Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma, whose terms are expiring were overlooked, and people close to Rahul Gandhi like K.C. Venugopal and Rajeev Satav were nominated.

A Congress leader questioned if the party will be able to send a north Indian leader from the south to the Rajya Sabha. While leaders

like Mukul Wasnik were hoping to be nominated, however, except for Digvijaya Singh and Mallikarjun Kharge, most of the senior leaders were ignored.

Even Jitin Prasada, Sandeep Dikshit and Randeep Surjewala, who hoped for tickets, were denied the opportunity. The former two were signatories in the letter written to Sonia Gandhi. The earlier Rajya Sabha elections also saw the revolt and exit of Jyotiraditya Scindia which cost Congress its Madhya Pradesh government.

The dissenting leaders want fresh organisational elections from block to the Congress Working Committee level to rejuvenate the cadres. The party's central election authority (CEA) has met twice to set the ball rolling for elections, and has sought the list of the AICC members but the G23 wants that process of AICC members elections should be done first as the old system of nomination should be done away with, and the election of the party president should be done only after new AICC members are elected.

CAN MOUTHWASH REALLY KILL COVID?

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, Nov 20: As we go through studies claiming that widely-available mouthwashes can kill the deadly novel coronavirus, health experts in India cast doubts on such studies, stressing that people should not treat mouthwash as a prevention method from Covid-19 unless proven in clinical settings.

According to them, any study should not be referred to till it confirms the final outcome and the results cannot be assured till researchers themselves share the final report.

Recently, a study from Cardiff University in the UK, which has not yet been peer-reviewed or published in a medical journal, found that some mouthwashes

could help to kill the coronavirus in saliva.

Speaking to IANS, Dr. Manoj Goel, Director, Pulmonology, Fortis Hospital in Gurugram, said that the study claim needs to be peer-reviewed before its publication to establish its merit. "Covid-19 can infect a person through the nose and eyes also besides the mouth. The infection through the mucous membrane occurs much faster. Hence theoretically mouth wash for prevention from Covid-19 appears to be doubtful," Goel said.

"But having said maintaining good oral hygiene is an important component of healthy living and should be practiced regularly irrespective of Covid infection," he added.



For Himachal farmers tomatoes are 'apple of their eyes'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
Shimla, Nov 20: Tomatoes turned the new 'apple of eyes' for the Himachal Pradesh farmers this season, literally.

The reason: lack of plantation amidst Covid-19 scare in the kharif cropping season has drastically reduced its overall production in Himachal Pradesh by 35-40 per cent, triggering a massive price hike for the vegetable in north Indian cities.

Currently, the tomatoes are selling between Rs 50 and Rs 65 per kg in Chandigarh and Delhi retail markets, much higher than the price of Rs 20 to Rs 25 they got last year at this point in time, say traders. In Solan town, the hub of tomato plantation, its price ranging between Rs 40 and Rs 45 per kg in whole-



sale.

With majority of vegetables gone rotten in the fields, or lying unsold or unharvested due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown from April, the growers in the state were uncertain about the future of kharif crops from August to November, an official with the Agriculture Department familiar with the development said.

He said the farmers opted less plantation of kharif vegetable crops owing to fear and uncertainty. "Our

vegetable crops largely remained unsold during the lockdowns. That is why we have decided to go for less plantation of vegetables during the kharif season. So was the low yield of most of the vegetables that led to shortage and rise in prices," vegetable grower C.D. Verma of Jubbarhatti village, on the outskirts of the state capital, said.

He said during the harvesting season of tomatoes in June-July, its production was good but there was no market owing to country-wide lockdown. Like other vegetables, most of the tomatoes remained either unsold or unharvested. "The farmers who went for normal plantation despite uncertainty and odds, they are making money now," an elated Verma added.

Trade representatives said 80-90

per cent of the tomato crop in the state had sold out. Puran Chand, an agent at Shimla market, said the supply of tomatoes from the local fields has declined with its harvesting almost over. "Now tomatoes from Delhi are meeting the local demand."

Himachal Pradesh is a major tomato-producing state of the region. As per 2019-20 figures, tomato was grown in 13,185 hectares in the state. The total production in 2019-20 was 5,39,540 tonne against 5,02,422 tonne in 2018-19. It was 4,81,936 tonne in 2017-18. About 50 per cent of the state's total plantation is Solan district with more than 90 per cent of the produce going to markets in northern states. The other growing belts are in Shimla, Mandi, Sirmaur, Bilaspur and

Kullu districts. Ramesh Thakur, a farmer near Kandaghat town, said this season tomato selling turned profitable.

"In July, the price of tomato during lockdown was Rs 15-Rs 20/kg and now tomato is selling for Rs 40-50/kg in the wholesale," he added.

Sellers at the Solan wholesale vegetable market said now the tomatoes from Delhi and Bangalore would meet the demand in north Indian cities till the next crop from Himachal Pradesh will start arriving in June.

About 81 per cent of the total cultivated area in the state is rain-fed.

The major harvesting of tomato is during the kharif season that starts from August-mid and lasts till November-end.



As people's behavioural patterns shift due to Covid-19, accelerating digital transformation is crucial. I will establish an agency in charge of digital transformation to serve as a command in the government

YOSHIIDE SUGA | PM, JAPAN

ANCIENT TEMPLE DISCOVERED

A Hindu temple, believed to have been constructed 1,300 years ago, has been discovered by Pakistani and Italian archaeological experts at a mountain in northwest Pakistan's Swat district



of the day quote

Research was slowed by low infection rates over the summer, but the Phase III trials are now accumulating the data needed to report results as a renewed surge of the pandemic hits countries around the world

ANDREW POLLARD | PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Until now even after 75 years of the founding of the UN, the Security Council does not extricate itself from the stigma of an undemocratic organ devoid of impartiality

KIM SONG | NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR

What I want people to take away from this (new book based on Partition of British India) is to make more of an effort of understanding the different perspectives. The India-Pakistan conflict doesn't seem to be reducing, on the contrary it seems to be ratcheting up

MARINA WHEELER | UK-BASED AUTHOR

China will have to play by rules: Biden

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Nov 20: US President-elect Joe Biden has said that he wants to make sure that China plays by the rules and announced that his administration will rejoin the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Biden was responding to a question Thursday about his remarks during the presidential debates that he wanted to punish China over the way Beijing has been behaving. He was asked if that could include economic sanctions or tariffs on China, the world's second largest economy.

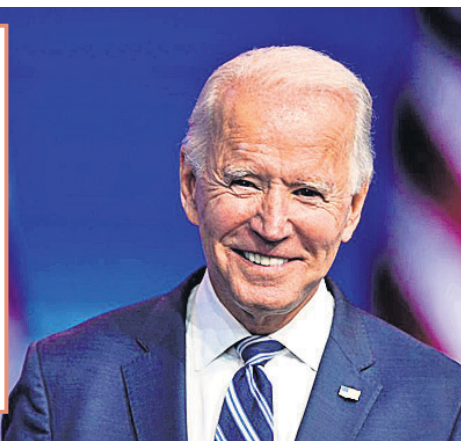
In April, President Donald Trump announced that the US would withdraw from the WHO, accusing the UN organisation for failing to oversee the onset of the coronavirus as it began to spread in China.

"It's not so much about punishing China, it's about making sure China understands they've got to play by the rules. It's a simple proposition," Biden said during a meeting with a bipartisan group of governors in his hometown in Wilmington, Delaware.

He said that is one of the reasons why his administration is going to rejoin the World Health Organisation.

It's not so much about punishing China, it's about making sure China understands they've got to play by the rules. It's a simple proposition

JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT-ELECT UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



"We're going to rejoin on day one as well and it needs reform, acknowledge, and rejoin the Paris Climate Accord. And we have to make sure that the rest of the world and we get together and make sure there are certain right lines the Chinese understand," Biden, a Democrat, said.

President Trump's four years in power were the worst phase in China-US relations as the ruling Communist Party of China headed by President Xi Jinping struggled to deal with what Chinese officials say is the most elusive and unpredictable American leader ever since former US president Richard Nixon

in 1972 established ties with the Communist nation.

During his tenure, Trump, a Republican, pushed aggressively on all aspects of US-China ties, including with his relentless trade war, challenging China's military hold on the disputed South China Sea, its constant threats to Taiwan and branding coronavirus as "China virus" after it emerged from Wuhan in December last year.

Chinese strategic experts said Biden entering the White House is expected to provide an opportunity for breakthroughs in resuming high-level communication and rebuilding mutual strategic trust between the two major countries.

Biden wins Republican stronghold Georgia

Washington: President-elect Joe Biden has won the Republican stronghold of Georgia, a top state official said after a manual recount, becoming the first Democrat to have won the key battleground state since 1992. After a hand recount of nearly five million votes, that lasted for several days, Democrat Biden won by 12,284 votes over President Donald Trump. Before the recount Biden's lead was about 14,000 votes. "Georgia's historic first statewide audit reaffirmed that the state's new secure paper ballot voting system accurately counted and reported results," said Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger Thursday.

A day earlier, Senator Jim Risch, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, published a majority report entitled "The United States and Europe: A Concrete Agenda for Transatlantic Cooperation on China," to advance greater collaboration between the US and Europe on the challenges posed by China.

Morrison vows justice for alleged crimes in Afg

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Canberra, Nov 20: Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has vowed that allegations of war crimes committed by his country's soldiers in Afghanistan between 2005 and 2016 will be taken "very seriously".

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) Thursday released the findings of a landmark four-year inquiry that found "credible evidence" of the special forces soldiers' murdering 39 prisoners, farmers and civilians during the war in Afghanistan, reports Xinhua news agency.

It recommended that the Australian Federal Police (AFP) open criminal investigations into 19 individuals for their roles in the incidents. Morrison, who previously warned that the report contained "difficult and hard news" for Australians, said the allegations would be pursued until "justice is indeed served".

"Where things don't measure up to those standards as a country and indeed as a Defence Force, we look seriously at those issues, take them seriously and deal with them seriously to uphold those standards," he told



The Australian Defence Force Thursday released the findings of a landmark four-year inquiry that found "credible evidence" of the special forces soldiers' murdering 39 prisoners, farmers and civilians

Sky News Australia. "And that this report will be received and provided to the office of a special investigator to pursue any matters that must be pursued and can be pursued under our rule of law and that justice is indeed served. "And these are the assurances that I have provided to the Afghan government, that this is the process that we will follow," he added.

SHORT TAKES

32,000 flee Tigray region

Nairobi: The United Nations refugee agency says about 32,000 people have fled Ethiopia's embattled Tigray region into neighbouring Sudan, and it is preparing to take in up to 200,000 in the next six months if necessary. Axel Bisschop, the agency's representative in Sudan, told reporters that "nobody at this stage can say exactly how many will come," but UN officials said fighting continues between Ethiopian government and Tigray regional government forces.

Pompeo visits Israel museum

Jerusalem: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo wrapped up a trip to Israel Friday with a visit to a museum in Jerusalem that honors Christian Zionists and was founded by a prominent evangelical adviser to the Trump administration. The museum visit came a day after Pompeo became the first secretary of state to visit an Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank. He also announced a new policy allowing settlement products exported to the US, to be labelled: "Made in Israel" and a new initiative to combat the Palestine-led international boycott movement.

China FM to visit Japan

Tokyo: Japan's foreign minister announced Friday that his Chinese counterpart will visit Tokyo next week as the two Asian powers discuss ways to resume bilateral visits to revive their pandemic-hit economies. "There are various issues of concern between Japan and China, and it is important that we resolve them one by one through high-level meetings like this," Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said.

Four sue Vatican

New York: Four accusers of former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick have filed a lawsuit against the Vatican, arguing it should be held liable for allowing the now-disgraced cleric to serve in multiple positions in New York and New Jersey when it knew of numerous allegations of sexual abuse against him. The lawsuit was filed in federal court in Newark, New Jersey, where McCarrick served as archbishop from the mid-1980s until 2000.

BOOKER PRIZE 2020

Douglas Stuart wins for 'Shuggie Bain'

AGENCIES

London, Nov 20: New York-based Scottish writer Douglas Stuart has won the prestigious 50,000-pound Booker Prize for his autobiographical debut novel 'Shuggie Bain', a coming of age tale of love and alcoholism set in 1980s Glasgow and "destined to be a classic", beating five other shortlisted authors including Indian-origin Avni Doshi.

Stuart, 44, dedicated the book to his mother, who died of alcoholism when he was 16-years-old. After graduating from the Royal College of Art in London, he moved to New York to start a career in fashion design. "I cannot believe this. Shuggie is a work of fiction but writing the book was extremely healing for me; hugely cathartic," Stuart said, adding that he was "absolutely stunned" to win the coveted prize.

"I always wanted to be a writer so this is fulfilling a dream. This has changed my entire life," he said in his acceptance speech on Thursday.

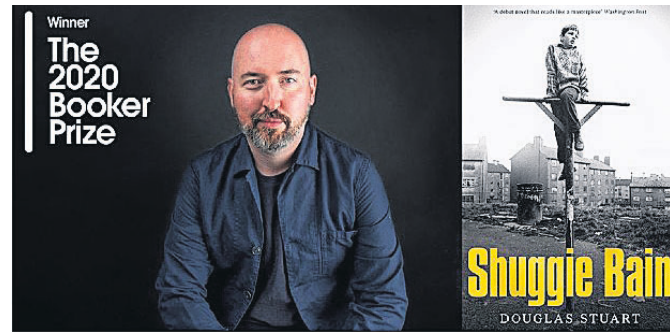
Stuart has worked for various brands, including Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren and Gap. He started writing in his spare time a decade ago. Dubai-based Indian-origin writer Doshi, who was shortlisted among the final six authors for her

debut novel 'Burnt Sugar', lost out on the top prize. She was in the running for this year's prize alongside Zimbabwean writer Tsitsi Dangarembga for the third novel in her trilogy 'This Mournable Body' on a shortlist otherwise dominated by US authors - Diane Cook for 'The New Wilderness', Maaza Mengiste for 'The Shadow King' and Brandon Taylor for 'Real Life'.

The 2020 Booker Prize judging panel was chaired by Margaret Busby, editor, literary critic and former publisher, and consists of author Lee Child; author and critic Sameer Rahim; writer and broadcaster Lemn Sissay; and classicist and translator Emily Wilson.

"We bonded across Zoom meetings. It was a wonderful experience... please read all the books on the shortlist," said Busby, who led the panel through whittling down the finalists from 162 entries.

Dubai-based Indian-origin writer Doshi, who was shortlisted among the final six authors for her debut novel 'Burnt Sugar', lost out on the top prize



GROUNDING BOEINGS



Grounded Boeing 737 MAX aircraft are seen parked at Grant County International Airport in Moses Lake, Washington

Muslim teen shoots, kills minority Ahmadi man in Pakistan

AGENCIES

Multan, Nov 20: A sixteen-year-old Muslim youth opened fire Friday and killed a member of Pakistan's minority Ahmadi community in eastern Punjab province, police and the community's spokesman said. The shooting came as a group of Ahmadis were gathered for worship at a home in the district of Sanghla Hill, local police chief Malik Shamshair said. The attacker, Mohammad Mohab, was arrested, the police chief said.

The slain main, Tahir Ahmad, 31, was a homeopathic doctor. Three other Ahmadi men were wounded in the shooting, including the doctor's father whose condition was described as critical. According to Shamshair, the teen said he opened fire at the Ahmadis because they were insulting Islam.

Pfizer seeks emergency use of Covid vaccine in US

AGENCIES

New York, Nov 20: Pfizer said Friday it is asking US regulators to allow emergency use of its COVID-19 vaccine, starting the clock on a process that could bring limited first shots as early as next month and eventually an end to the pandemic -- but not until after a long, hard winter.

The action comes days after Pfizer Inc and its German partner BioNTech announced that its vaccine appears 95 per cent effective at preventing mild to severe COVID-19 disease in a large, ongoing study.

The companies said that protection plus a good safety record means the vaccine should qualify for emergency use authorization,

something the Food and Drug Administration can grant before the final testing is fully complete.

In addition to Friday's FDA submission, they have already started "rolling" applications in Europe and the UK and intend to submit similar information soon.

With the coronavirus surging around the US and the world, the pressure is on for regulators to make a speedy decision.

"Help is on the way," Dr Anthony Fauci, the top US infectious disease expert said on the eve of Pfizer's announcement, adding that it's too early to abandon masks and other protective measures. "We need to actually double down on the public health measures as we're waiting for that help to come."

INDIANS PROLIFIC USERS OF SELFIE FILTERS, FINDS STUDY

RESPONDENTS IN INDIA, SIMILAR TO OTHER COUNTRIES, STRIVE FOR A NATURAL LOOK IN THEIR FILTERED PHOTOS. HOWEVER, THEIR IDEA OF 'NATURAL' IS MUCH MORE LIBERAL, WITH SOME FACIAL ALTERATIONS ACCEPTABLE, THE STUDY SAID

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Nov 20: The use of filters to enhance selfies is widespread in India and the US, according to a global study conducted by Google which says selfie-taking and sharing is such a big part of Indian women's lives that it affects their behaviour and household economics.

Unlike Germany, Indian respondents expressed low levels of concern about the impact of filters on their children's wellbeing. And filter use for beautification purposes is highly normalised and socially accepted in South Korea, the study noted.

More than 70 per cent of the photos taken on an Android device use

the front-facing camera, Indians are active selfie takers and sharers, and they consider filters a useful tool in enhancing their appearance and presenting their best self, it said.

"Indian women, in particular, are enthusiastic about their ability to beautify their images, and they make use of a variety of filtering apps and editing tools to achieve a desired look. The most popular filter apps are PicsArt and Makeup Plus; Snapchat is used by younger users (age 29 and under)," it said.

"The selfie-taking and sharing is such a big part of Indian women's lives that it affects their behaviour and even household economics: several women reported that they never wear the same dress again if



they had taken a selfie in it," it said. "As a young woman reported, 'I told my mom, I'll never wear this dress again because I posted a selfie in it. She said, 'do you think money comes from the trees?'" the study

said. Indian men are also active selfie-takers and users of filters but they tend to focus more on the story aspect rather than their appearance, it said.

Indian respondents expressed

low levels of concern about the impact of filters on their or their children's wellbeing. They exhibit a relaxed attitude towards their children's use of filters, considering it a fun activity, it said, adding that some parents are comfortable using slight beautification filters like lipstick on their child's photo.

Indian parents were more concerned about their children's excessive use of mobile phones or privacy and safety of smartphones rather than the use of filters, it said.

Indian respondents are sensitive to the social ramifications of over-filtering. While some levels of filtering are widely accepted (brightening background, lightening skin tone, application of makeup), major changes

that alter the appearance (high cheekbones, eyebrows, hair color) are considered unacceptable, it said.

Respondents in India, similar to other countries, strive for a natural look in their filtered photos. However, their idea of "natural" is much more liberal, with some facial alterations acceptable, the study said.

"The quality of phone camera is very important to Indian users: it's the most important factor in selecting a new phone. Both men and women in India reacted very positively to having automatic beautification function on their phone's cameras. Like respondents in other countries, they do want to have the ability to control the on and off setting," it said.

business



We will work in a public-private partnership to engage and ensure the availability of proper COVID healthcare to over 1.3 billion Indians. This will ensure the success in the battles that lie ahead

PIYUSH GOVAL
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

RAYMOND FINED FOR VIOLATIONS

An investigation by SEBI has found that Raymond Ltd failed to take necessary approval for certain related party transactions in the matter of leasing or renting JK House in the city, among other violations of regulations



of the day quote

We are delighted to announce 8 MoUs with our Global Innovation Alliance partner countries today. These MoUs will be strategic institution level collaborations to focus on further enhanced skilling, R&D and startup collaboration.



CN ASHWATH NARAYAN
DEPUTY CM, KARNATAKA

India will see an investment of ₹2 lakh crore in setting up 5,000 plants that will produce gas from bio and crop wastes by 2023-24



DHARMENDRA PRADHAN | OIL MINISTER

The solar industry in India is glad to see the back of 2020, which will end up as one of the worst years for solar in India as COVID-19 took a heavy toll on the industry.



RAJ PRABHU, CEO | MERCOR CAPITAL GROUP

RBI committee recommends reshaping domestic banking

REUTERS

Mumbai, Nov 20: A working group at India's central bank has recommended a series of changes that could transform the country's banking landscape by paving the way for large industrial conglomerates to set up banks.

The proposals could also allow large non-banking finance companies and niche payment banks to convert into lenders.

In a report made public Friday, the committee recommended that banking regulations be amended to allow large industrial houses to act as so-called bank promoters, meaning they could take a significant stake in a lender, something the central bank has strongly resisted in the past.

"Allowing corporates into banking is a path that the regulator should tread on carefully because how much ever ring-fencing they do, problems may crop up," said Ashvin Parekh, an independent financial services consultant.

Analysts said the move could be aimed at pumping more capital into the banking sector and increasing competition, but warned supervisory challenges could intensify.

Bajaj Group, Piramal Group and Reliance Industries are well-positioned to expand into banking, said



Allowing corporates into banking is a path that the regulator should tread on carefully because how much ever ring-fencing they do, problems may crop up

ASHVIN PAREKH | FINANCIAL SERVICES CONSULTANT

an investment banker who did not wish to be named. As well as opening up the banking sector, the committee suggested adjusting the size of the stakes major shareholders can hold in a lender.

For investors not involved with the bank at the outset, or non-promoter shareholders, a uniform cap

of 15% instead of a current tiered structure was suggested by the committee, which was formed in June to review ownership guidelines and the corporate structure of Indian private sector banks.

It recommended increasing the size of the stake that promoters in private banks can hold to 26% from

the current 15% over a 15-year time frame. In 2018, billionaire banker Uday Kotak, managing director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, took the central bank to court over an order from the regulator to reduce his stake in the lender to 15%.

The panel's recommendations may also pave the way for shadow banks to convert into lenders. A Non Banking Financial Company (NBFC), or shadow bank, with assets of 500 billion rupees (\$6.75 billion) and above may be considered for conversion into a bank after 10 years of operations, the report said.

India's central bank has invited comments on the report which can be submitted until January 15, 2021.

Infosys, ATP extend digital innovation partnership for 3 yrs



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 20: Infosys and the ATP Friday announced the renewal of their partnership for a further three years that will see the IT services major continue as the latter's Global Technology Services Partner and Digital Innovation Partner through 2023.

ATP is the governing body of the men's professional tennis circuits — the ATP Tour, the ATP Challenger Tour and the ATP Champions Tour.

"As the technology partner of the ATP since 2015, Infosys has been instrumental in supporting ATP's development of key digital assets and infrastructure, including ATP PlayerZone, ATP Stats Leaderboards, ATP Second Screen, and the ATP app," Infosys said in a regulatory filing. Through the extended partnership, Infosys will continue to develop and accelerate innovations in advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics, and Cloud, leveraging its dedicated tennis platform to deliver diverse experiences for players, media, and fans across the world, it added.

Through Infosys ATP Stats, ATP Performance Zone, and Win-Loss Index, the ATP will continue to focus on data driven insights for match statistics.

EU could pay over \$10bn for Pfizer, CureVac vaccines

THE BLOC HAS AGREED TO PAY 15.50 EUROS PER DOSE FOR THE COVID-19 VACCINE CANDIDATE BEING DEVELOPED BY PFIZER AND BIONTECH

REUTERS

Brussels, Nov 20: The European Union could pay more than \$10 billion to secure hundreds of millions of doses of the vaccine candidates being developed by Pfizer-BioNTech and CureVac, an EU official involved in the talks told Reuters.

The bloc has agreed to pay 15.50 euros (\$18.34) per dose for the COVID-19 vaccine candidate being developed by Pfizer and BioNTech, according to the official.

That would mean an overall price of up to 3.1 billion euros (\$3.7 billion) for 200 million doses, rising to 4.65 billion euros if another optional 100 million doses are purchased under the deal, the official said. The pricing information, previously undisclosed, confirms the EU is paying less per dose than the United States for an initial supply of that vaccine, as reported by Reuters last week.

The deal includes an insurance for EU countries to get compensation if the companies divert doses to the United States, according to the source, who requested anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.



The EU has separately agreed to pay 10 euros (\$11.84) per dose for an initial supply of 225 million doses of the vaccine candidate from CureVac, a discount from the 12 euros the company set as the price for the shot, the official said.

The bloc struck the deal with CureVac this week to secure the supply of up to 405 million doses, of which 180 million are optional.

The official said CureVac had committed to starting deliveries by the end of March. It is unclear whether the additional 180 million doses would cost 10 or 12 euros each. Under the 10-euro price, though, the bloc would pay 4.05 billion euros for 405 million doses.

A spokesman for the European Commission, the bloc's executive

body, declined to comment on terms and pricing of vaccine contracts because they are confidential.

Germany's BioNTech and CureVac declined to comment.

US drugmaker Pfizer said it and BioNTech were using a tiered pricing formula based on volume and delivery dates and that the EU deal represented the largest initial order of its vaccine candidate to date.

"We are not disclosing further details of this agreement," it added.

AMERICAN PRICE
Pfizer and BioNTech said on Wednesday that final data showed their shot was 95% effective against COVID-19, and that they could start distributing shots before Christmas should they secure emergency authorisations.

Reliance-Future Group deal cleared by CCI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: The Competition Commission has approved Reliance's proposed acquisition of retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing businesses of Future Group. The ₹24,713 crore deal that would boost Reliance Industries' fast growing retail business was announced in August.

In a tweet Friday, the regulator said it has approved "acquisition of retail, wholesale, logistics & warehousing businesses of Future Group by Reliance Retail Ventures Limited and Reliance Retail and Fashion Lifestyle Limited".

Deals beyond a certain threshold require approval of the Competition Commission of India (CCI), which keeps a tab on unfair business practices across sectors. As per the notice submitted to the CCI, there are at least seven target entities. They are Future Enterprises, Future Consumer Ltd, Future Lifestyle Fashions Ltd, Future Retail Ltd, Future Market Networks Ltd, Future Supply Chain Solutions Ltd and Futurebazaar India Ltd and its subsidiaries.

"The Transferor Companies consists of several listed and unlisted companies, primarily engaged in retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing businesses. "These businesses operate on a pan-India basis, and include retail operations across segments



In a tweet Friday, the regulator said it has approved "acquisition of retail, wholesale, logistics & warehousing businesses of Future Group by Reliance Retail Ventures Limited and Reliance Retail and Fashion Lifestyle Limited"

such as food and grocery, apparel, footwear and accessories, other merchandise, etc," the notice said.

Meanwhile, e-commerce major Amazon has opposed the deal between Future Group and Reliance.

Last year, Amazon bought 49 per cent stake in one of Future Group's unlisted firms, with the right to buy into the listed flagship Future Retail Ltd. Amazon has claimed that its contract with the unlisted Future Coupons Ltd barred a transaction with a number of persons and companies, including Reliance.

SHORT TAKES

Japan, NZ for open markets

Kuala Lumpur: Leaders from Japan and New Zealand on Friday warned countries against the temptation of retreating into trade protectionism, saying that keeping markets open is the way to restore a global economy battered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Speaking by video link from Tokyo to a meeting of Asia-Pacific CEOs, Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said a "free and open Indo-Pacific will be the cornerstone for the prosperity of this region."

DGGI to write to ICAI

New Delhi: GST investigation arm DGGI is in the process of writing to the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to take necessary action for alleged professional misconduct against three chartered accountants who have been arrested in alleged GST fake invoice cases, sources said. Sources at DGGI and Central GST Commissionerates said 41 GST invoice fraudsters have been arrested as part of the nationwide drive to check evasion by issuing fake invoices. This included three chartered accountants (CAs) - two from Hyderabad and one from Ludhiana.

Bank credit rises 5.67 pc: RBI data

Mumbai: Bank credit grew by 5.67 per cent to ₹104.04 lakh crore, while deposits increased by 10.63 per cent to ₹143.80 lakh crore in the fortnight ended November 6, according to RBI data. In the fortnight ended November 8, 2019, bank credit stood at ₹98.46 lakh crore and deposits at ₹129.98 lakh crore. In the previous fortnight ended October 23, 2020, bank credit had risen by 5.06 per cent and deposits by 10.12 per cent.

OIL launches seismic campaign

New Delhi: State-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) Friday launched a ₹220 crore seismic campaign to locate oil and gas in the Mahanadi basin in Odisha, as it is boosting the country's hydrocarbon resource base. Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the seismic survey campaign at Kakatpur in Puri District (Odisha), the company said in a statement. OIL had won five blocks for hydrocarbon exploration in Odisha in two bid rounds under Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP).

'Need further efforts by G20 to end Covid crisis'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 20: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday emphasised the need for further efforts by the G-20 countries to end the COVID-19 crisis, and highlighted affordability and accessibility of vaccines for all as a crucial step in this direction.

At a virtual meeting Friday, the finance ministers of G-20 countries, which is a grouping of developing and developed nations, gathered to discuss their views on the global economic outlook and downside risks in the wake of COVID-19 crisis and how G20 could carry forward the collective global action initiated during the crisis. "The Finance Minister emphasised the need for further efforts by

the G20 members to end the crisis and highlighted affordability and accessibility of vaccines for all as a crucial step in this direction," an official statement issued here said. Sitharaman highlighted the G20 Action Plan as the mainstay of



the G20's economic response and shared that it not only coordinates our immediate response but also guides our long-term recovery efforts.

The G20 finance ministers and central bank governors in April published an Action Plan for the international response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Action Plan covers healthcare, economic and fiscal responses that G20 members have agreed to undertake, as well as measures to ensure a return to a strong and sustainable global economy.

DEPM rate system will continue: State govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: The Odisha government considered the request of small and medium scale industries of the state and decided to continue Directorate of Export, Promotion & Marketing (DEPM) rate system further to support SMEs.

The Joint Action Committee of Industries Associations thanked Chief Minister of Odisha for his personal and timely intervention to save thousands of local MSEs generating about one lakh employment from utter ruin.

The decision was informed through the virtual meeting convened by the Principal Secretary, MSME Department. Satyabrata Sahu (IAS) and other senior officials of MSME Department. Various industry associations were making long standing demand for retention of DEPM rate contract procedure. The associations had decided stage dharana for the same



Representational pic

demand on November 21. However, with this announcement, industry associations like OSSIA, OYEA, OASME, OIA and UPMA decided to put on hold the proposed sit-in dharana scheduled. State's Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) units had expressed their concerns over state government's one-sided policy that mandates procuring materials from Government e-Market (GeM) place alone.

Earlier, the associations had said, "To help MSEs in marketing their products, Directorate of Export

Promotion and Marketing (DEPM) was created which was entrusted with registration of MSE manufacturing units and formulating a process of procurement for the State Government known as "Rate Contract System".

Since then this time tested procurement system is followed for procurement of goods and services and has been incorporated in OGFR as one of the procurement processes for goods and services benefiting majority of MSEs of our state."

UNDP, Invest India identify investment prospects for catalysing SDGs

The development pathways that India chooses will set an example for other emerging nations and determine the achievement of global environmental and social targets

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 20: UNDP and Invest India launched the SDG Investor Map for India Friday, laying out 18 Investment Opportunities Areas (IOAs) in six critical SDG (sustainable development goals) enabling sectors that can help India push the needle forward on sustainable development.

"India occupies a key role in determining the success of the SDGs, globally. Invest India is pleased to have partnered with UNDP India to develop the first-ever 'SDG Investor Map for India'. This initiative is an instrumental stride in India's development trajectory, and I believe it couldn't have come at a better time. We hope our data-

backed research and insights serve as useful blueprints to understand how best the SDG financing gap can be narrowed in India", Deepak Bagla, CEO & MD, Invest India, said on the occasion.

The development pathways that India chooses will set an example for other emerging nations and determine the achievement of global environmental and social targets. It is thus critical to ensure that these pathways are sustainable, resilient and equitable.

However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the SDG financing gap has widened by an estimated \$ 400 billion in developing countries, adding to the pre-Covid shortfall of \$ 2-2.5 trillion per annum.

Whilst the government continues



to show strong support for the SDGs and a sustainable recovery, mobilising this kind of capital and supporting the on-ground innovation needed to meet the SDG targets by 2030, requires the collective efforts of the public and private sector transition from short-term recovery to long-term sustainability.

This is where the SDG Investor Map for India comes in. By mapping the overlaps and gaps between public sector priorities and private sector interest, the SDG Investor Map lays out pathways that can bring together private-sector investment

and public sector support for 6 SDG-enabling sectors including education, healthcare, agriculture & allied activities, financial services, renewable energy & alternatives and sustainable environment.

These sectors and the IOAs within them were selected through a rigorous analytical process that included extensive consultations with a number of major domestic and international investors, government stakeholders and think-tanks. This ensured that the Map's findings were truly reflective of market sentiment, a UNDP statement said.

Of the 18 IOAs identified, 10 are already mature investable areas that have seen good Private Equity and Venture Capital activity, and feature companies that have been able

to unlock scale and demonstrate profitability. The remaining eight IOAs are emerging opportunities, which have seen traction from early-stage investors. The map has also identified eight White Spaces, which have seen investor interest and have the potential to grow into IOAs within a 5-6-year horizon. However, these require further policy support and private sector participation to mature into commercially attractive IOAs, UNDP said.

Nearly 50% of the shortlisted IOAs have historical investments that have yielded IRRs in excess of 20%. About 84% of the IOAs have investment timeframes ranging from the short term (less than 5 years) to the medium-term (between 5-15 years).



Former India pacer feels bowlers will decide the fate of India-Australia series

ONUS ON BOWLERS: ZAHEER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 20: Former left-arm pacer Zaheer Khan believes bowlers will decide the fate of this summer's India-Australia contest as both the teams boast of some of the world's finest bowlers in their squads.

The Indian cricket team is currently in Australia for a full series that includes three ODIs and as many T20 Internationals followed by a four-Test rubber. The tour will start with the ODIs here November 27.

With the likes of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammad Shami, Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins, to name a few, up their ranks, both India and Australia have formidable bowling attacks.

"The Australian pitches have always had good bounce and pace, so I think the area which will decide the ODIs, T20Is and Tests will be the bowlers and how well the team bowls as a unit to restrict the opponent to a lower total on the scoreboard," said Zaheer, who was part of the 2011 World Cup winning Indian team.

"When someone talks about the top line bowlers in the world right now, the names of the players that come to our mind will all be on the

pitch in this series," he added. Zaheer also said that India are set to face a stern test in Australia this summer due to the presence of Steve Smith and David Warner.

India had defeated Australia 2-1 in their last Test series Down Under in 2018-19 in the absence of Warner and Smith, as both the players were serving a year-long ban for the infamous ball tampering scandal.

"Now with the return of Steve Smith and David Warner to the Australian side, the Indian team is definitely going to face a stiffer competition than their previous tour Down Under," the former India

fast bowler said in a release issued by official broadcasters of the series, Sony Pictures Sports Network.

"There are no favourites going into the series as both the sides have quality batting and bowling line-up in their squad and that is what will make the upcoming tour interesting and exciting to watch."

Zaheer's thoughts were echoed by Australian pace legend Glenn McGrath, who also feels that the Virat Kohli-led side will face a tough competition this time around.

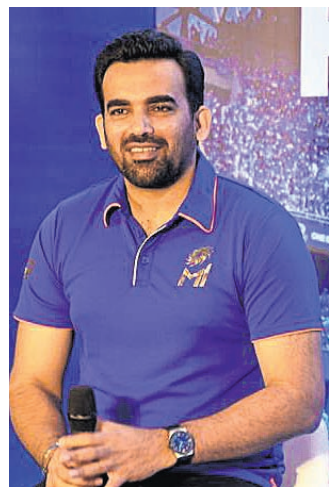
"The Indian cricket team will face a much tougher Australian team now that Smith and Warner are back but the Indian team is

equally strong and have an aggressive mentality and determination to win the series," said McGrath, who has staggering 563 Test wickets.

"The current Indian team has got the confidence of playing in Australian conditions now and they know how to do it as they've been successful here in the last tour."

Former India batsman Sanjay Manjrekar too feels the same. "Australia's Test team will be stronger than it was on India's

previous tour. The experience of Smith and Warner will add muscle to the Aussie side but I believe India's bowling attack is ready to have their names carved in the history of Indian cricket by winning a consecutive series Down Under," he said.



Maxwell backs Rahul to shine in Rohit's absence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 20: Rohit Sharma's absence from the upcoming white ball series is a big 'positive' for Australia but KL Rahul is as good a player to fill in the void, feels dashing batsman Glenn Maxwell.

Rahul will be Virat Kohli's deputy in the white-ball leg since regular vice-captain Rohit is recuperating from a hamstring injury sustained during IPL.

"He (Rohit) is a class performer, so consistent as an opening batsman with a couple of (three) double hundreds. So anytime he is

not in the line-up against you, it is a positive," Maxwell said during an interaction organised by series official broadcasters Sony.

For Maxwell, Rahul is as good a back-up as any team can wish for. "But in saying that, India have still got back-ups, more than capable of playing that role. We saw KL Rahul, the performance that he put on during the last IPL was extraordinary. Whether he opens the batting or not, I am sure he will be just as good a player," Maxwell said.

In Rohit's absence, it is expected that Mayank Agarwal will open the innings along with Shikhar Dhawan

as Rahul, who will keep wickets is expected to bat middle-order.

However Maxwell is a big fan of Agarwal-Rahul opening pair that did really well during the first phase of IPL. "Well, I would say they (Mayank-Rahul) are the two lovely guys, I have ever met. It was a pleasure to spend the change room (with them), two very good players, they score all-round the wicket and have got very limited weaknesses," Maxwell was all praise for them.

For India, key in the upcoming series will be Mohammed Shami's skills as both a 'new ball and old ball' bowler. "A guy like Mohammed Shami, (I) saw the skill that he has. He has got good skills at the end (death overs) as well as with the new ball. His ability to get moving on pitches will be key to them," said Maxwell.



Nadal in ATP Finals semis



DJOKOVIC SETS UP LAST FOUR DATE WITH THIEM AFTER SHOWING THE DOOR TO ZVEREV IN A LOSPISDED CONTEST

finally held and broke again for a 5-2 lead before the clinching the win on his second match point.

Nadal, who improved to 6-1 against Tsitsipas, will play Daniil Medvedev in the semifinals Saturday.

The early match between Thiem and Rublev was delayed after the lights went out unexpectedly at the O2 Arena. Thiem was short of energy too, when play eventually began.

"It was difficult to keep that amazing intensity like I had in the first two matches," Thiem said. "I wanted to win the match, 100 per cent, but the first two matches were pretty tough, pretty long. So with the fact I was already qualified, in the back on my mind it was difficult to keep the intensity alive."

Rublev played like someone with nothing to lose, overwhelming Thiem with his serve and fierce groundstrokes to take the Austrian's first two service games and clinch the first set in less than 26 minutes. He dropped only three points on serve and had no unforced errors in that set.

The second set was much closer, though Rublev was on top and serving at 4-3 when he lost eight straight points to get back on serve.

Rublev regrouped, broke Thiem after a long next game featuring some intense rallies, then served out the match for his first win in his debut at the season-ending tournament.

"It was not easy for Dommy," said Rublev, who has won five events on the tour this year in a breakthrough season. "I think he (was) focused on the semis. I wish him good luck — he deserves to be where he is and he deserves to win the title."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 20: Rafa Nadal advanced to the semifinals at the ATP Finals for the first time in five years and knocked out the defending champion in the process, beating Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 at the O2 Arena.

Novak Djokovic also advanced to the semifinals and eliminated Alexander Zverev by beating the German 6-3, 7-6(7-4).

The top-ranked Djokovic set up a match against Dominic Thiem Saturday as he goes for a record-tying sixth title at the season-ending event, and a first since 2015.

It is the sixth time in 10 appearances that Nadal has reached the last four of the season-ending tournament, which is the biggest title he has yet to win in his il-

lustrious careers.

Tsitsipas won it on his first try last year but exited after a second loss of the group stage, done in by a shaky serve in the third set when he was broken three times.

Earlier Thursday, the already eliminated Andrey Rublev beat US Open champion Thiem 6-2, 7-5 in a contest that had little real consequence for either player. Thiem was assured of winning the group after beating Tsitsipas and Nadal in the first two rounds.

Nadal never looked threatened on his serve against Tsitsipas until the final game of the second set, when he double-faulted to hand the Greek a way back into the match.

Suddenly, neither player could hold serve as the third set started with three straight breaks, with Nadal taking a 2-1 lead. The Spaniard

Pep plays down chance of Messi reunion at City

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, Nov 20: Pep Guardiola distanced himself Friday from suggestions that his decision to extend his contract at Manchester City was linked to the possibility of Lionel Messi moving to the club next year.

City was linked with the 33-year-old Messi after he put in a transfer request at Barcelona during the offseason. The Argentina forward ultimately chose to stay at Barcelona, somewhat against his own wishes, but his contract expires at the end of the season.

Guardiola signed a new two-year deal with City this week that ties him to the club until 2023. He was asked Friday whether the possibility of working with the six-time world player of the year again was motivation for his decision.

"Leo Messi is a player from Barcelona. And you ask me my opinion, as a person who has huge gratitude for what Barcelona has done for me in the academy as a football player and, after, a manager who gave me absolutely everything, what I want is he finishes his career there," Guardiola said.

"That is what I want. I would wish — as I've said I don't know how many times, maybe a thousand times — I would like as a Barcelona fan for Leo to finish there."

It is not the first time Guardiola has downplayed a talk of a reunion with his former player at City. This time, though, he left the door ajar. "But he finishes the year of his contract," he added. "I don't know what is going to happen in his mind. Right now, he is a Barcelona player. The transfer market will be in June, July. We have incredible targets we want to achieve and this is all we have in our minds. The rest I cannot say anything else."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bambolim, Nov 20: In their new avatar, ATK Mohun Bagan (ATKMB) kicked off the seventh season of the Indian Super League (ISL) on a high, defeating Kerala Blasters by a solitary goal here Friday.

Fijian hitman Roy Krishna, who was ATK's top goal scorer with 15 goals last season, struck the all-important goal after a 67 minute deadlock to give the all important three points for the green-and-maroon brigade.

The Yellow Brigade playing with a heavy defensive lineup of 4-2-3-1 managed to thwart ATKMB throughout the first half but after the hour mark they left a loose ball as the Fijian International pounced on it with a calm and composed finish.



GANGJEE MAKES CUT IN DUNLOP PHOENIX OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Miyazaki, Nov 20: India's Rahul Gangjee carded a one-over 72 to negotiate the first hurdle of getting into the weekend rounds of the Dunlop Phoenix Open here Friday. At one-over 143, Gangjee, winner of the Panasonic Open Japan in 2018, is T-47th.

Last week Gangjee played the Taiheiyo Masters, his first event after a gap of 35 weeks. "I had to spend two weeks in quarantine here in Japan, before I started. I was rusty, but things are looking better this week. It has been a hard year and we are getting very few events this season, which will end soon. The 2021 season begins in April."

On his arrival into Japan, Gangjee said, "I arrived at Narita airport October 20 and did the Covid test at the airport and I had to wait for three hours. Then I got a rental car and drove straight for

seven and a half hours to Hyogo Prefecture to the Joys Golf Club where I quarantined for 14 days.

"This is a course about two hours from Kobe. It is in the middle of nowhere and in the middle of hills. After the end of the quarantine I played last week and now this week."

Gangjee hoped things will look up in the coming weeks. "Almost 20 events were cancelled. I am happy to finally be playing competitive golf. Hopefully things will be better in the coming months," he said.

Tomohiro Ishizaka (67-66) played his second straight bogey free round to lie nine-under and one ahead of Thai pro Gunn Charoenkul, who arrived into Japan armed with 300 masks among other COVID protection material.

Gunn shot 67-67 and was second, while first-round leader Atomu Shigenaga (65-74) slipped to T-20. Dunlop Phoenix is one of the most prestigious events on Japan Tour.

Krishna helps ATKMB off to a winning start

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

All eyes were on the 131-year-old legacy club Mohun Bagan as they were making their ISL debut following their 'marriage' with three-time defending champions ATK.

The match had an interesting sub-plot as Kibu Vicuna, who had guided Mohun Bagan to their fifth I-League title last season, sat in the opposite dugout in KBFC jersey, while the most successful ISL coach Antonio Lopez Habas was at the helm of ATKMB.

KBFC, who were the designated home team, looked more threatening and came out with an attacking intent in the second-half.

But KBFC were made to pay for it as Roy Krishna made amends for his three misses in the first half with his poacher goal to become the difference between the two sides.