



## MULTITALENTED KRITI

Actor Kriti Sanon shares a thoughtful poem on Instagram grabbing everyone's attention **LEISURE P2**



## BHARTI IN JUDICIAL CUSTODY

A Mumbai court Sunday remanded comedian Bharti Singh and husband Harsh Limbachiya to judicial custody till December 4 **TWO STATES P7**



## POMPEO'S FOCUS

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meets negotiators from Afghan government and Taliban in Doha **INTERNATIONAL P10**



## SHORT TAKES

### Not ready to accept Biden as Prez: Putin

**Moscow:** Russian President Vladimir Putin said he's ready to work with any US leader, but still isn't ready to recognise the election victory of Joe Biden. "We will work with anyone who has the confidence of the American people," Putin said on Russian state TV Sunday. "But that confidence can only be given to a candidate whose victory has been recognized by the opposing party, or after the results are confirmed in a legitimate, legal way." The comments are some of the most detailed since the election on Putin.

### Moderna vax to cost \$25-\$37

**Frankfurt:** Moderna will charge governments between \$25 and \$37 per dose of its Covid-19 vaccine candidate, depending on the amount ordered, Chief Executive Stephane Bancel told German weekly Welt am Sonntag (WamS). "Our vaccine, therefore, costs about the same as a flu shot, which is between \$10 and \$50," he was quoted as saying. An EU official involved in the talks said the European Commission wanted to reach a deal with Moderna for the supply of millions of doses of its vaccine candidate for a price below \$25 per dose.

### Chouhan chairs 1st 'Gau Cabinet' meet

**Bhopal:** The first meeting of the newly Constituted 'Gau Cabinet' (Cow Cabinet) in Madhya Pradesh began Sunday with an aim to bolster the economy based on cow and its progeny for making the state self-reliant. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan chaired the meeting through virtual mode from his residence here and wished participants on the occasion of 'Gopashthami', a festival dedicated to Lord Krishna and cows, a source said.

| WEATHER   |                      |        |
|-----------|----------------------|--------|
|           | BHUB                 | CTK    |
| TEMP. MAX | 29.8°C               | 30.2°C |
| TEMP. MIN | 21.1°C               | 19.5°C |
| Humidity  | 96%                  | 80%    |
| Rainfall  | Nil                  | Nil    |
| Forecast  | Fog/mist would occur |        |

# SCHOOL MERGER PLAN ON

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 22:** Scathing criticism and unruly protests in the Assembly during the past two days notwithstanding, the state government has decided to go ahead with its plan to merge schools with poor enrolment.

However, the government has agreed to slightly modify the norms for merger of schools in Scheduled area (tribal sub-plan areas) to mollify the Opposition. Making a statement in the House, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash Sunday said the government has decided to merge the schools in Scheduled areas having student strength below 15 with nearby schools. Earlier, the state government had decided to merge the schools with less than 20 students, he said.

The government had identified 14,382 schools across the state where the number of students is less than 40. However, following scrutiny at the district and state-levels, the number came down to 7,772 schools. Of these, the student strength in 6,048 schools is less than 20, he said.

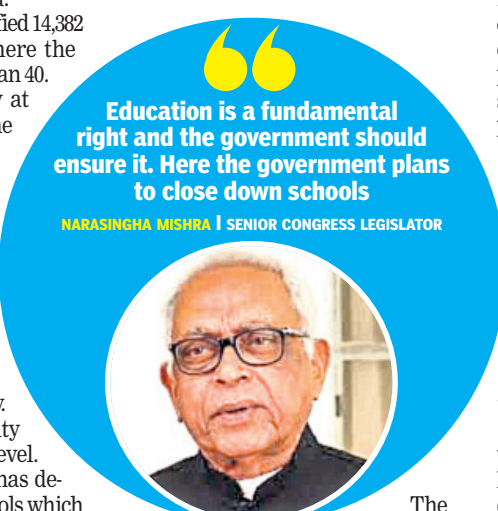
The government will spend around ₹300 crore to implement the merger of schools, Dash said.

"The government doesn't have any motive behind closing down schools arbitrarily. We want to improve the quality of education at the primary level. Therefore, the government has decided to rationalise small schools which are unfit for utilisation of resources for education," Dash said.

Such schools will be merged to create big schools and the government will provide adequate funds and human



resources to enhance the quality of education and create an environment conducive for education, he said.



Education is a fundamental right and the government should ensure it. Here the government plans to close down schools

NARASINGHA MISHRA | SENIOR CONGRESS LEGISLATOR

The merger of schools has been planned in accordance with law and guidelines of Niti Aayog. Besides, the new National Education Policy 2020 also has similar

## MOLLIFYING OPPN

Minister Samir Ranjan Dash agrees to modify criteria for merger of schools in Scheduled areas

Now, schools having 15 or more students in Scheduled area will not be closed down

The decision for closure of schools was taken in accordance with law and the provisions in the National Education Policy, 2020, says Dash

provision, he said.

The minister quoted NEP (7.2) saying, "The small schools have rendered it economically suboptimal and operationally complex to run vis-à-vis deployment of teachers as well as the provision of critical physical resources. Teachers often teach multiple grades at a time and teach multiple subjects, including subjects for which they may not have physical resources, such as lab and sports equipment and library books."

It is worth mentioning here that the Winter Session of the Assembly witnessed uproar Saturday and heated debate took place on Sunday too on the government's move to close down thousands of schools due to poor enrolment of students.

As soon the House assembled for the day, government Chief Whip Pramilla Mallick moved a motion to discuss the issue in detail and a full debate was conducted over the issue.

Initiating the debate, Mallick said schools are being merged, not closed. She said there are many schools that have two teachers for mere eight stu-

dents. Such schools will continue to run if the number of students increased, she said, adding, the motive of the state government is not to deprive anyone of education.

On the other hand, Leader of Opposition PK Naik demanded that no school in the KBK region, Scheduled area and hilly areas be closed. He also urged to include MLAs as member in the district-level committees formed to take decision on closure of schools.

Deputy leader of Opposition Bishnu Charan Sethi in his reaction said that the decision of the government will have serious consequences, while Opposition Chief Whip Mohan Majhi demanded a white paper on status of schools in the state, including the future plans of government.

Senior Congress legislator Narasingha Mishra too criticised this move of government saying, "Education is a fundamental right of children and the government should ensure it. While the norm says that education should be provided to the children at their neighborhood, the government plans to close down schools."

## 437 infra projects report cost overrun of ₹4.37L cr



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 22:** As many as 437 infrastructure projects have reported cost overrun of over ₹4.37 lakh crore as of September end, according to data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

A report by the ministry also showed that 531 Central sector projects are delayed from their original schedules.

"Out of the 1,663 projects, nine projects are ahead of schedule, 199 are on schedule, 531 are delayed, 437 projects reported cost overrun and 210 projects reported both time and cost overrun with respect to their original project implementation schedules," it said.

As per the report, the total original cost of implementation of the 1,663 projects was ₹21,09,236.41 crore

and their anticipated completion cost is likely to be ₹25,47,057.52 crore, which reflects overall cost overruns of ₹4,37,821.11 crore (20.76 per cent of original cost).

The expenditure incurred on these projects till September 2020 is over ₹11.61 lakh crore, which is 45.60 per cent of the anticipated cost of the projects.

During September, out of 1,663 Central sector projects, nine projects were added - four projects from Road Transport & Highways, two from Coal and one project each from Commerce, Urban Development & Petroleum sector - reported completion costing ₹452.80 crore.

Around 531 projects are delayed with respect to their original schedules and 82 projects have reported additional delays regarding their date of completion reported in the previous month. Of these 82 projects, 25 are mega projects costing ₹1,000 crore and above.

However, the report said that the number of delayed projects decreases to 430 if the delay is calculated on the basis of the latest schedule of completion.

Further, for 924 projects neither the year of commissioning nor the tentative gestation period has been reported, it said.

## Satellite images suggest new Chinese threat in Doklam

Satellite images obtained from Maxar Technologies reveal that China has built a 9 km-long road in the Doklam plateau inside the Bhutanese territory



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 22:** High resolution satellite images obtained from Maxar Technologies reveal that China has built a 9 km-long road in the Doklam plateau inside the Bhutanese territory, besides establishing an entire village about 2 kms inside Bhutanese territory.

According to experts, this road could provide the China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) an alternate route to the Zompehri ridge, where the Indian and Chinese armies clashed in the Doklam plateau in 2017. At that time, Chinese workers engaged in constructing the road attempted to extend their access close to the Indian Army's post at Doka La leading to a skirmish between the Chinese and Indian armies.

Had the PLA been able to access the Zompehri ridgeline, they would be in clear sight of the "Chicken's Neck" which connects India's north-east to the rest of the country.

According to a report in NDTV, three years after the incident, the Chinese construction workers have built a new road along the Torsa river bank, extending southwards from China to Bhutan. Lying 10 kms from the earlier construction site, the new road will help China to get access to the Zompehri ridge.

While evidence of Chinese road and village construction on the periphery of the Doklam plateau came to light Thursday when a senior producer of China's state-run television channel, Shen Shiwei, displayed a number of images of a village on the bank of a river.

## Tunnel unearthed in J&K's Samba

**JAMMU:** Border Security Force (BSF) troopers discovered an underground tunnel on the international border in J&K's Samba district Sunday, officials said. BSF officials said an underground tunnel was discovered by a patrol party and "could have been used for infiltration from across the border". Security forces have said that the four terrorists killed in an encounter near the Nagrota Toll Plaza on the Jammu-Srinagar highway last week, had infiltrated from across the international border in Samba sector. **P9**

The latest images released by Maxar Technologies offer comprehensive satellite images that are available commercially. "There has clearly been significant construction activity this year all along the Torsa River valley area with extensive road-building/construction activity underway as well as new military storage bunkers being built in China near the Doklam area," Maxar said in a release.

## IMA against allowing Ayurveda doctors to perform surgery

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 22:** The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has condemned the move by the Central Council of Indian Medicine authorising post-graduate practitioners in specified streams of Ayurveda to be trained to perform surgical procedures and described it as a "retrograde step of mixing the systems".

Demanding that the order be withdrawn, the IMA urged the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM), a statutory body under the AYUSH Ministry, to develop their own surgical disciplines from their own ancient texts and not claim the surgical disciplines of modern medicine as their own.

The notification by the CCIM listed 39 general surgery procedures and around 19 procedures involving the eye, ear, nose and throat by amending the Indian Medicine Central Council (Post Graduate Ayurveda Education) Regulations, 2016.

In a statement, the IMA said, "Such a deviant practice is unbefitting of a statutory body. The IMA will have no objections for the council to develop their own dedicated disciplines without mixing modern medicine surgical disciplines."

It also demanded that the government should refrain from posting any doctor of modern medicine in the colleges of Indian medicine.

"The IMA sees this development as a retrograde step of mixing the systems which will be resisted at all costs. All over India students and practitioners of modern medicine are agitated over this violation of mutual identity and respect."

"What is the sanctity of NEET if such lateral shortcuts are devised? IMA demands to withdraw the order and first delineate the Indian Medicine disciplines based on original Indian Medicine texts," the doctors' body said.

Meanwhile, AYUSH Ministry Secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha said the notification by the CCIM does not amount to any policy deviation or any new decision.

# 8.9L trained youths still unemployed in state: Govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 22:** In a written statement, the state government Sunday accepted that 8.9 lakh educated youths registered with the state employment exchange are still without jobs.

State Skill Development Minister Premananda Nayak tabled the date on the floor of the Odisha Assembly. The minister claimed that as on September 30 this year, 1,82,536 Under-Graduates, 11,358 Post-graduates and 1,97,504 youths with professional education such as ITI, BeD, MeD and others were registered with the state employment exchange. The registered unemployed in-

- The highest number of unemployed youths was reported from Raygada, where 1,005 aspirants are still without jobs
- 2,329 ITI students in the KBK region, Gajapati and Kandhamal districts did not get job even after getting their diplomas

clude trained teachers, diploma holders and others. In another reply to the Assembly, the minister admitted that most of the ITI students in the state did not get placement even after completing their studies. Giving details, the minister said



Staring at an uncertain future

that in the KBK region, Gajapati and Kandhamal districts a total of 2,329 ITI students did not get job

even after getting their diplomas. The highest number of unemployed youths was reported from Raygada,

where 1,005 aspirants are still without jobs. As of date, 4,169 ITI students are registered with the state employment exchange.

The minister, however, said that the government has been focusing on skill development and other aspects to ensure youths got jobs and also enhanced their skill. "To boost the employment rate in the state, the government launched the State Employment Mission in 2005-06. In 2016-17, the government launched the State Skill Development Mission and the earlier mission was merged with it," the minister said.

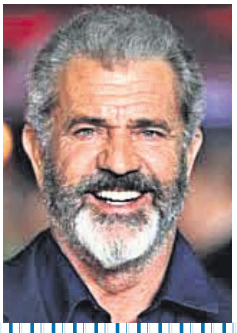
Under the State Employment Mission, several unemployed youths were recruited and self-employed by

various employment and self-employment programmes. To make the skills development programme more effective, the state government set up the Odisha Skills Development Authority in 2016-17," the minister said.

He added that the Chief Minister's Employment General programme was launched in 2014-15, providing training to 13,66,116 youths in the last six years. He said that 27 special Defence recruitment rallies resulted in providing jobs to 5,027 youths between 2014-15 and 2019-20.

Nayak also said that a total of 246 district level job fairs also helped in the recruitment of 1,31,647 youths from the state.





## GIBSON FELL IN LOVE WITH ABSURDITY OF FATMAN

Actor Mel Gibson says he was attracted to his new film for its absurd quality. The 64-year-old actor plays an unorthodox Santa Claus in his upcoming comedy film, *Fatman*. He says despite having a dark side, the story has a 'warm beating heart'.

## HILARY DUFF SAYS SHE WAS 'EXPOSED' TO CORONAVIRUS

Actress Hilary Duff, who is pregnant with her third child, says she was exposed to coronavirus. The actress shared on her Instagram Stories Saturday that she has been quarantining. "Exposed to covid Quarantine day 2 Fml," Duff wrote, reports *people.com*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
Are you a science and technology geek? Well, today you may have a chance to use your knowledge and zoom ahead of everyone! Ganesh says even students will excel in their studies. Housewives, try your own new recipe, the oven will not blast!

**TAURUS**  
Ganesh sees you acting very possessive about people and things. You are, consequently, likely to feel suspicious, uncertain and insecure about everything, particularly people. It's even possible that you may even suspect the feelings and intentions of those who are close to you.

**GEMINI**  
You are likely to take a break from daily routine. A pleasure trip to recharge your batteries is on the charts, predicts Ganesh. Winning favours from members of the opposite sex comes naturally to you. If you love someone, you will make your move today.

**CANCER**  
Ganesh portends that you will remain invincible and unbeatable throughout the day. However, today will be as boring and uneventful as it gets. It will be just another day at office, and an equally simple day at home.

**LEO**  
Sometimes, it takes courage to be honest and admit to your failures. Doing so only goes a long way in establishing your credentials as a real person, feels Ganesh. So understand that, while it is only human to make mistakes, it takes more than that to accept them.

**VIRGO**  
Ganesh says a turning point in life is important if you wish to understand it in a better way. You will excel in whatever you do today. Financial matters and relationships are on top of the priority list, but perhaps not in the same order. You will spend a lot of time praying to God.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says that you will be a different person today, full of vigor and enthusiasm. You will be able to showcase your creative skills in your personal life and at the same time you will be able to go ahead in your chosen field and gain prestige too.

**SCORPIO**  
A cascade of let-downs will dent your confidence and shake your determination, says Ganesh. But don't let these failures affect you as they are temporary. At work, your subordinates may force you to take drastic measures.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Conversation and interaction with like-minded people is going to make your day, says Ganesh. Shooting ideas, brainstorming and casual discussions may enlighten you today. Those around you will enjoy your company.

**CAPRICORN**  
You may not get as popular as Romeo did, but your exceedingly romantic nature will earn you quite a reputation, not to forget the hypnotic effect it will have on your sweetheart, says Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
Today, you will decide to clean up the pile of files on the desk at work. Also, you will do everything that it requires to lighten the burden. Ganesh advises you to plan out your career wisely and set targets for the future.

**PISCES**  
You are human enough to make mistakes, and humble enough to admit them, and it is this honesty that people admire in you. Your affectionate nature will see you excel at tending to the needs of your family members today, says Ganesh.

### KidZCINEMA-2020

## Czech, US and UK films bag 'Golden Gaja'

Despite the global Covid-19 pandemic, the children's film festival attracted a phenomenal 1,100-plus entries from 87 countries, of which 88 films made it to the official selection

**Mumbai:** Czech film *The Incredible Wardrobagadget of Dr Stein*, US film *Rebel* and British film *Music For The End of The World* bagged the top Golden Gaja awards at the end of the three-day first 'KidZCINEMA2020' international online children's film festival here Sunday.

The other winners in different categories include Silver Gaja for British film *Granny's Attic*, Slovak entry *Sonia Loves, Sonia Doesn't* and India's entry *My Neighbour's Window*.

The Bronze Gaja went to Iranian film, *Nail*, India's entry *White Flakes* and an Israel film *The Choice*, while US film *Piece of Me* and Ukrainian film *el Vulcano* earned Special Mention by the jury, said Festival Director



Poster of Czech film *The Incredible Wardrobagadget of Dr Stein*

Praveen Nagda. The festival jury comprised well-known names like Satish Kaushik, Madhu Chopra, Meghna Ghai-Puri, Vinod Ganatra, Bobby Sarma Baruah from India and international personalities in the field of children's films like Marion Creely, Sean Cisterna, Pierre Assouline and Josep Arbiol.

Eminent Indian film-maker and head of Whistling Woods International Subhash Ghai, lauding all the winners, said "cinema is all about storytelling, of peoples' own land and culture, which is a reflection of the society".

Nagda said that in its very first online edition, KidZCINEMA2020 - supported by UNESCO - became a truly global attraction with the participation of top names from the children's cinema worldwide, and despite the global Covid-19 pandemic, attracted a phenomenal 1,100-plus entries from 87 countries, of which 88 films made it to the official selection.

Other speakers included Elizabeth Venkataraman, Kotak Mahindra Bank's Joint President (Consumer, Commercial & Wealth Marketing), Ashish S.K., and Punnaryug Artvision Pvt Ltd founder and the Festival Artistic Director Manasvini Singh.

The three-day festival included a host of online activities, films and theatre workshops, a masterclass on smartphone filmmaking, acting, scriptwriting, etc, by eminent personalities in their respective fields. There were special panel discussions hosted and attended by experts on topics of concern like *Childrens Film Culture - A Lost Opportunity* and the futuristic subject of *Opportunities for Childrens Film in Broadcast and OTT Space*, added Nagda.

## Sharib Hashmi's *The Incomplete Man* is about minor rapists

**Mumbai:** Actor Sharib Hashmi feels juvenile laws, which protect rapists who are under 18 from punishment, need to be addressed. The *Slumdog Millionaire* actor plays a pivotal role in the upcoming film, *The Incomplete Man*, which highlights the issue.

"*The Incomplete Man* is a film with a unique storyline and I was super impressed after the first narration. The film is based on an issue that not only me but everyone feels strongly about. I am very excited about playing a pivotal role in the film."

The film's director Dhiraj Devendra Kotkar added: "If the age of the offender is not stopping him from committing rape, his age is also suitable for hanging or hard punishment. Heinous criminals are left (unpunished) under the guise of juvenile law. *The Incomplete Man* is one such film to highlight the matter."

The film also features Freddy Daruwala, Warina Hussain, Alankrita Sahai and Teena Singh. Shooting starts soon in Goa.



## Kriti Sanon's inner poet regales fans

**Mumbai:** Actress Kriti Sanon brought out her poet spirit in a latest post on social media.

Kriti took to Instagram to share a picture. In the image, she is seen sitting dressed in a beautiful white thigh high slit dress.

Alongside the picture she wrote: "Hug me like the wind does. Healing my heart, Calming my soul, While it wraps every inch of me. Caressing my hair, It gives me goosebumps, As it whispers something That takes my breath away. - Kriti Sanon #SanonScribbles #PoetryWithKriti."

Her fans showered praise on her timeline applauding her poem. Kriti, earlier, took to Instagram, almost two months after Sushant Singh Rajput's demise, to share a very thoughtful poem which also received fans' appreciation.

On the film front, Kriti will be seen sharing screen space with Akshay Kumar in *Bachchan Pandey*. She also has the heroine-centric *Mimi* coming up, where she plays a surrogate mother.



## Nolan's Dimple-starrer gets release date in India



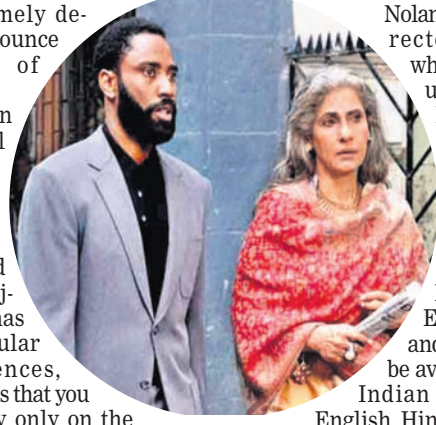
**Mumbai:** Veteran actress Dimple Kapadia has announced that her much-awaited Hollywood film *Tenet*, helmed by Christopher Nolan, will release December 4 in India.

"I'm extremely delighted to announce the release of Christopher Nolan's *Tenet* on December 4 all across cinemas in India. It has been an honour for me to be associated with this project. The film has some spectacular action sequences, turns and twists that you can best enjoy only on the big screen," Dimple said.

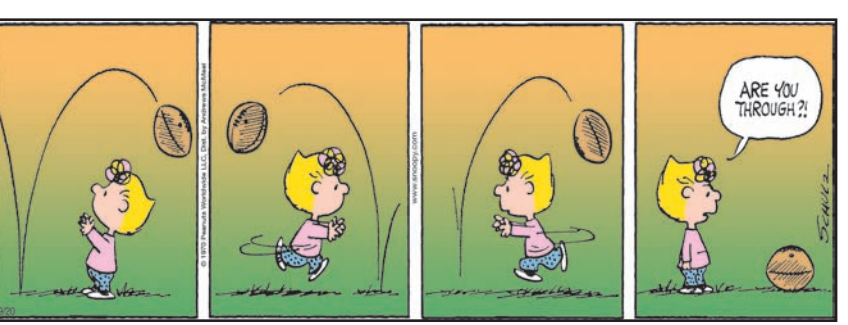
The sci-fi action film also stars Robert Pattinson, John David Washington, Elizabeth Debicki, Martin Donovan, Michael Caine and Kenneth Branagh.

Nolan wrote and directed the film, which is distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures in theatres.

*Tenet*, which was shot in India, the US, the UK, Denmark, Estonia, Italy and Norway, will be available to the Indian audience in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu languages.



### PEANUTS



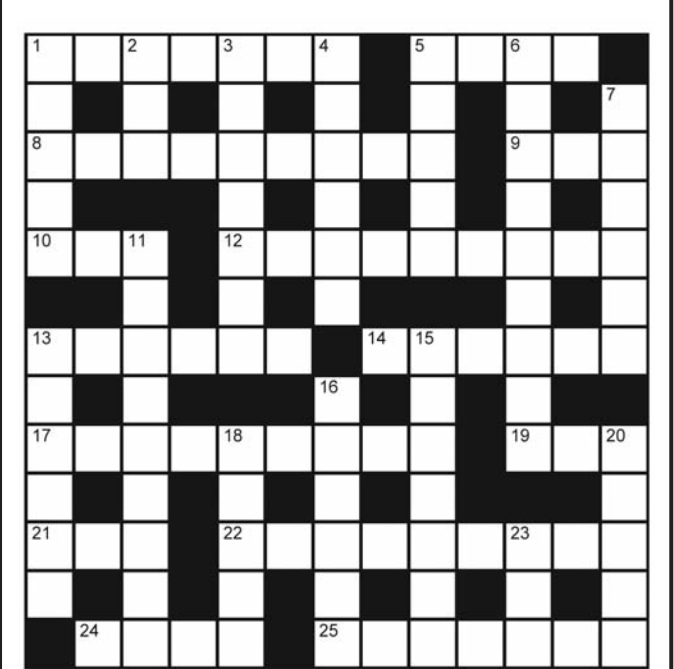
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



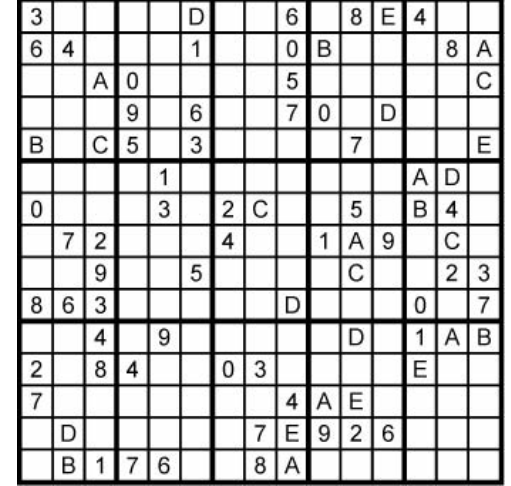
### FUN post CROSSWORD



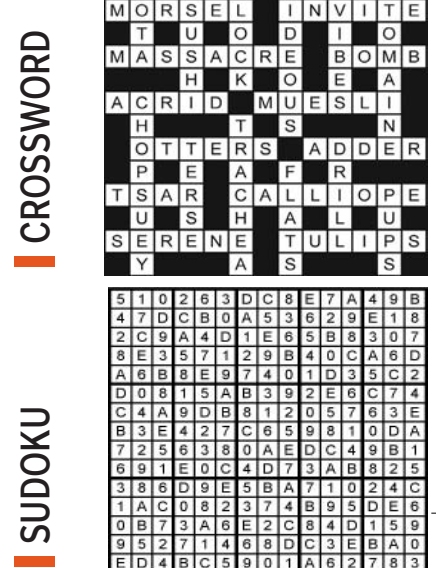
- Across**
- 1 Big talker?
  - 5 Notability
  - 8 Hospital vehicle
  - 9 Tourist's aid
  - 10 In shape
  - 12 They show up in hair (5,4)
  - 13 Type of excuse
  - 14 Evil spirits
  - 17 Embellish, as a story
  - 19 Congeal
  - 21 Swedish shag rug
  - 22 Gala affairs
  - 24 Theories
  - 25 Astronaut's concern
  - Down**
  - 1 Pier
  - 2 Collar
  - 3 Small round soft masses
  - 4 Docile
  - 5 Armada
  - 6 Kind of occasion
  - 7 Twitches
  - 11 Fast sailboats
  - 13 Felt hat
  - 15 Blight
  - 16 Recipe direction
  - 18 Gravy type (2,3)
  - 20 Delicious
  - 23 Young newt

### 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

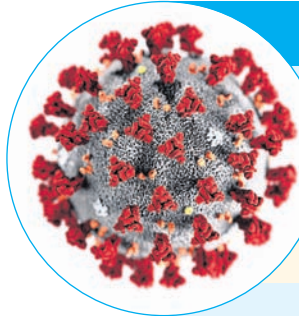


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# downtown

## COVID-19 TRACKER



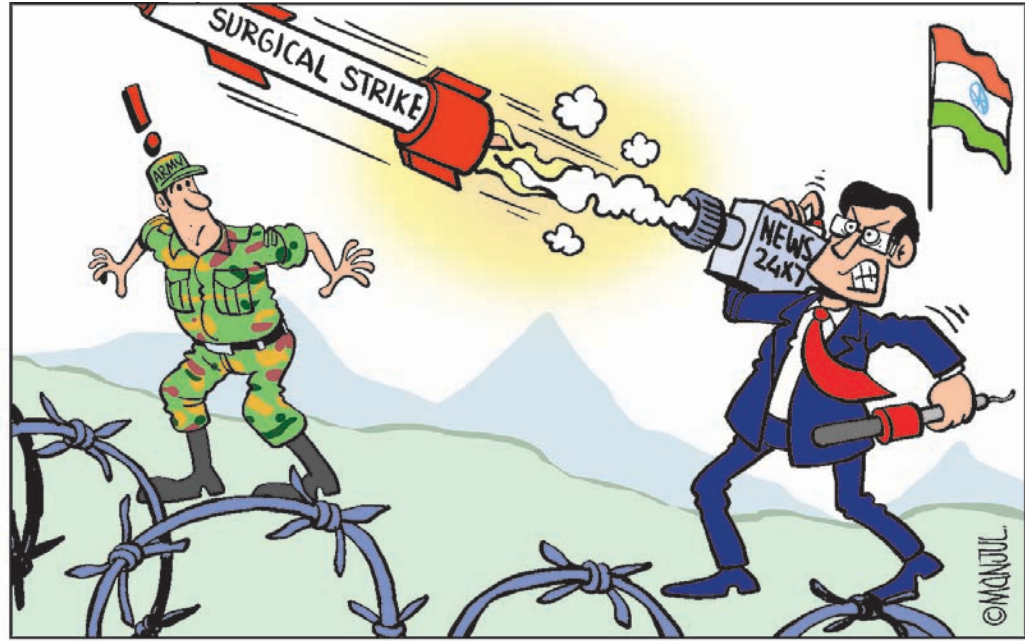
|        | INFECTED    | RECOVERED   | DEAD      |
|--------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| World  | 5,87,29,906 | 4,06,53,206 | 13,90,242 |
| India  | 90,05,322   | 84,28,185   | 1,32,207  |
| Odisha | 3,13,961    | 3,05,813    | 1,640     |

### HOLY COW

Puri Shankaracharya Nischalananda Saraswati worships a cow on the occasion of Gopashtami, Sunday



### POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# Crime-free Puri my priority: Kanwar Vishal

Kanwar Vishal Singh takes charge from outgoing Puri SP Akhileshvar Singh, who has been shifted to the Odisha Police headquarters in the wake of the alleged custodial death

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, Nov 22:** IPS officer Kanwar Vishal Singh Sunday took charge as the new Superintendent of Police (SP) for Puri district amid public outcry over the alleged death of a 32-year-old man in the custody of Baselisahi police here a few days ago.

Kanwar Vishal Singh took charge from outgoing Puri SP Akhileshvar Singh, who had been shifted to the Odisha Police headquarters in the wake of the alleged custodial death. Kanwar Vishal was earlier working as the SP of Sambalpur district.

"Making Puri a crime-free place would be my priority. Puri is the land of Lord Jagannath. Here, crimes would not be tolerated. I got an opportunity to work in Puri due to the blessings of the Lord," Kanwar Vishal told media soon after assuming the office.

The new SP said that he would put emphasis on the safety of tourists, devotees and the locals of Puri.

"The state government is working towards making Puri a heritage city. We will take stern legal action against the criminal elements. Steps would be taken to bridge the gap between police and



Kanwar Vishal Singh addresses the media in Puri, Sunday



Activists and locals hold a rally on the Grand Road in Puri to showcase their solidarity with the outgoing SP Akhileshvar Singh

todial torture of five accused at Pipili police station in the district, the new SP said, "The DIG Central Range has been assigned to probe the allegation."

Giving his views on the alleged custodial death at Baselisahi police station, Kanwar Vishal said, "The incident is being investigated as per the NHRC guidelines. The truth will come out soon. There may be a judicial enquiry into the

incident." In a related development, activists of voluntary outfit Jana Jagarana Manch and a group of local youths and intellectuals took out a rally on the Grand Road here to show their solidarity with the outgoing SP Akhileshvar Singh. They submitted a memorandum to the district administration and

### Puri bandh call by BJP

**BHUBANESWAR:** The state unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will soon announce Puri bandh in protest against the alleged custodial death. "We will call for a bandh in Puri soon. Besides, an adjournment motion will be brought in the state Assembly to discuss the issue tomorrow," said BJP leader Mohan Majhi. As per reports, K Ramesh, a resident of Puri had died under mysterious circumstances, hours after he was picked by a team of Baseli Sahi police, November 18 night. Following public outrage, the state government had transferred Puri SP Akhileshvar Singh and suspended a sub-inspector and two constables of Baselisahi police station.

urged the state government to retain Akhileshvar Singh as the SP of Puri.

Members of the outfit claimed that incidents of crimes including illegal drugs and liquor trade and extortion had gone down during Akhileshvar's tenure as Puri SP. The custodial death of K. Ramesh is a painful incident. The incident is being probed. But, it is wrong to blame Akhileshvar Singh for the incident, they said.

# Govt's e-learning application 'hacked' and contents 'stolen'

SENIOR MANAGER, OKCL LODGES COMPLAINT ON BEHALF OF THE CORPORATION WITH THE NAYAPALLI POLICE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 22:** The Odisha Knowledge Corporation Limited's mobile app has been allegedly hacked by a ghost website.

The officials of Odisha Knowledge Corporation Limited (OKCL), an e-learning platform under the administration of state Electronics & Information Technology (E&IT) department, have sought the help of police against an organisation for using its online educational contents. Pramod Kumar Rout, senior manager, OKCL, has lodged a complaint on behalf of the corporation with the Nayapalli police in this regard.

According to the complaint, the OKCL following the direction of the state School & Mass Education department has created a number of educational videos for the students of Class V to X and made it available through e-Vidyalaya programme of OKCLtv channel on popular video sharing website YouTube. However, the accused organisation, 'India Topper' 'illegally' copied the educational videos from the OKCLtv without seeking any



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

The accused organisation, 'India Topper' 'illegally' copied the educational videos from OKCLtv without seeking any permission from the concerned authorities

THE ORGANISATION (INDIA TOPPER) HAS BEEN USING THE VIDEOS FOR ITS OWN BUSINESS PURPOSES, IT IS ALLEGED

permission from the concerned authorities, it is alleged. The organisation has been using the videos for its own business purposes.

The Odisha State Council of Educational Research & Training has recently sought an application from students for admission into D.E.L.ED and B.Ed. OKCL has been providing e-content related to Preparation and Practice Test for D.E.L.ED and B.Ed Entrance examination through its mobile application, 'Learning Companion App' for the benefit of the aspiring students.

However, 'India Topper' organisation has 'illegally' copied the e-contents by hacking the OKCL's

mobile app available on Google's Play Store and is providing the same through a fake mobile app. It also used the logo of OKCL without its permission to fool the users, it is alleged.

The OKCL authorities mentioned that they failed to ascertain the actual owner of the ghost organisation through its details available on the website. The contact numbers given on India Topper's website are also out of order. OKCL sought stringent action against the organisation for 'illegally' hacking its mobile app and using its e-contents for business purposes 'bringing' bad name to OKCL.

### Another allegation of third degree by police in Puri town

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, Nov 22:** Six persons arrested in connection with an illegal drugs trade case were allegedly subjected to third degree torture by the police.

Police had arrested Ranjan Das, Bijay Nayak, Ramini Nayak, Kanha Nayak, Dinabandhu Pani and M. Nazir for possessing 7 grams of brown sugar.

The Marine police Sunday produced the six accused in the residential court of district sessions judge here.

"The accused showed their injury marks to the district sessions judge. The judge came down heavily on the inspector in-charge of Marine Police and the investigating officer," said lawyer Gopalkrushna Panda who pleaded for the accused in the court.

Panda further revealed that the judge directed the jailor of Puri district jail to submit the medical reports of the accused by Monday evening. The six accused, meanwhile, claimed that they were arrested from the jurisdiction of Kumbharpada police station. But, the Marine Police registered a case against them.

They alleged that they were taken to Baselisahi police station and were subjected to third degree torture for seven days.

# Puri Collector takes stock of school infra



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, Nov 22:** Collector Balwant Singh Sunday visited several high schools in the Holy City here and took stock of the infrastructure for quality education.

Singh along with other senior officials visited Puri Zilla School, Bishwambar Vidyapeeth, Government Girls' High School, Bholanath Vidyapeeth and Balagandi High School to review infrastructure and other issues, sources said.

It is learned that the Collector enquired about the status of classrooms, libraries, laboratories and playgrounds of the schools.

"The Collector put emphasis on proper playgrounds and sports activities in school. He asked the Works department executive en-

gineer to take steps for avoiding waterlogging on playgrounds," said an official of the district administration.

The Collector also asked the officials to arrange football ground, volleyball court and gym in schools. Besides, the administration would take steps for illumination of the playgrounds, said the official.

"The Collector asked the teachers to make effort for creating a positive thinking among students as the schools would reopen after a long gap in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. The administration will introduce measures to check trespassing into school campuses and anti-social activities near educational institutes," added the official.

The Collector directed the officials to repair the boundary wall of Puri Zilla School and arrange a parking place for additional 400 bicycles at the Government Girls' High School and complete the construction of 30 lavatories at Bishwambar Vidyapeeth.

Singh also held discussions with the old students' associations of the schools and sought their views for improving classroom teaching.

### DEFT HANDS



An artisan gives finishing touches to a sculpture of Gautam Buddha on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar

# Naseeruddin Shah receives Kalashikhar Puraskar award

Sangit Kala Kendra, an organisation by Aditya Birla Group announced the award

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 22:** The president of Sangit Kala Kendra Rajashree Birla announced the name of renowned Hindi film actor Naseeruddin Shah as the recipient of the coveted Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar Puraskar.

Also, two emerging stars, in the firmament of theatrics Neel Choudhary and Irawati Karnik were awarded the Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar Puraskars. This distinguished gathering was graced by Kumar Mangalam Birla and Neerja Birla.

Rajashree Birla said, "As you know, the Sangit Kala Kendra's, 'Aditya Vikram Birla, Kalashikhar Puraskar' and the 'Kalashikhar Puraskar', were instituted in 1996, as a befitting memorial to Aditya Vikram Birla ji and through it, create a significant pathway, for a singular recognition, of exemplary talent, in this domain."

She admired Naseeruddin Shah's illustrious career and said, "Naseeruddin Shah is an iconic actor. His breakthrough roles have



hit both the screen and the theatre, for now over 40 years. The films and the theatre roles still keep rolling and we see him do the most challenging roles with amazing ease, getting into the skin of the character. Having you, receive this award, Naseeruddinji, is truly a fulfilling moment, for all of us at Sangit Kala Kendra. We respect you and we admire you."

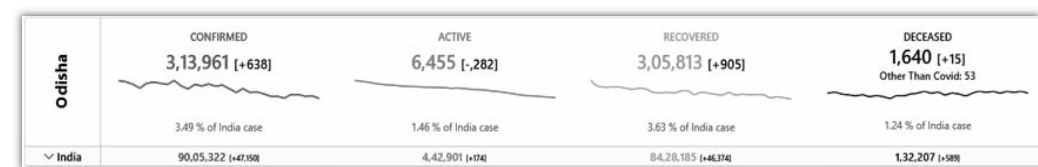
Birla also congratulated emerging stars Neel Choudhary and Irawati Karnik.

The panel of judges comprised of Nadira Babbar, Sanjna Kapoor, Akash Khurana, Sunil Shanbagh and Chhaya Ganguly.



# 638 fresh cases, 15 new fatalities

STATE'S COVID-19 CASELOAD NEARS 3.14L, TOLL RISES TO 1,640



Numbers vis-à-vis national data



Keonjhar: One each succumbed to the infection in Angul, Bolangir, Cuttack, Ganjam, Jharsuguda and Sambalpur; the H&FW department official said, adding that as many as 53 Covid-19 patients in Odisha have died due to comorbidities.

The positivity rate in the state stands at 5.64 per cent.

Over 55.63 lakh sample tests have been conducted in the state, including 45,282 Saturday.

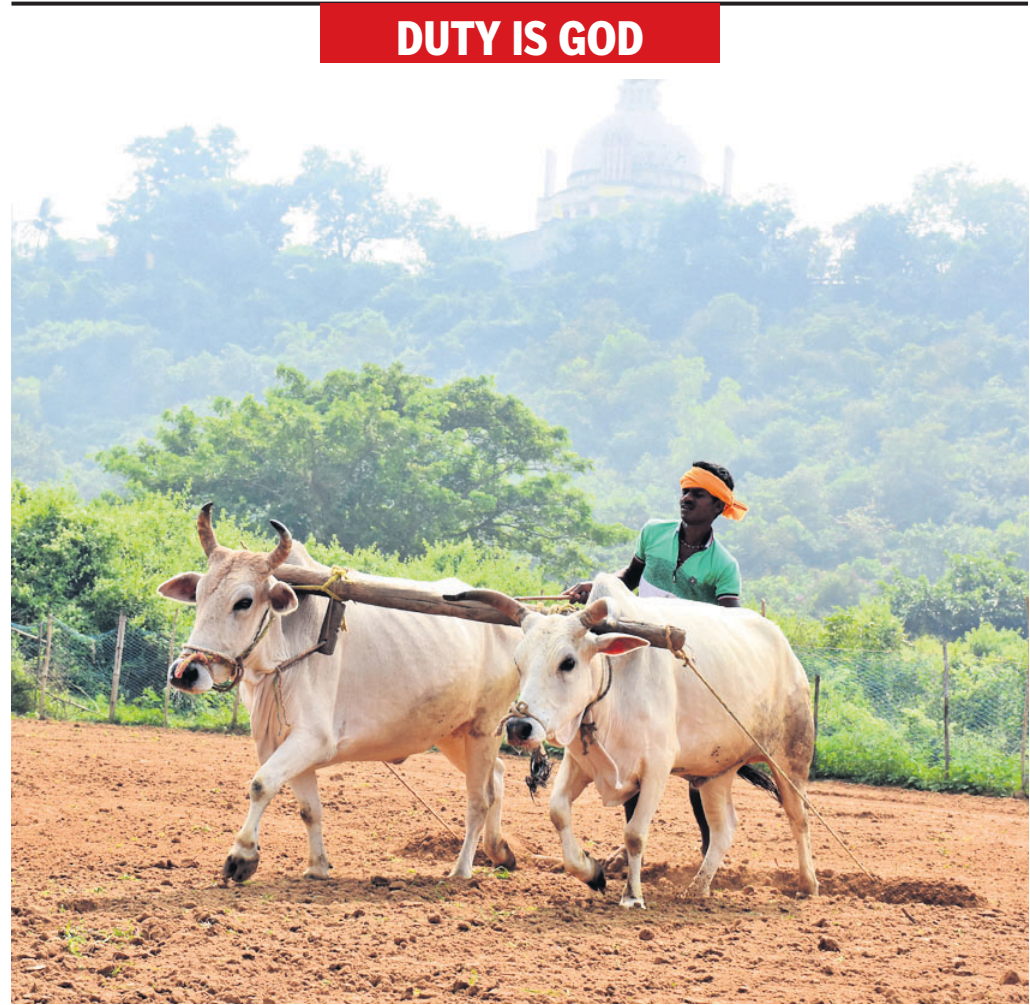
Meanwhile, another 905 Covid patients have recovered in Odisha,

## IN NUGGETS

- Khurda logs maximum cases at 70, followed by Mayurbhanj at 65 and Jagatsinghpur at 50
- Four fresh fatalities reported from Sundargarh, followed by three in Khurda and two in Keonjhar; one each succumbed to the infection in Angul, Bolangir, Cuttack, Ganjam, Jharsuguda and Sambalpur
- Over 55.63 lakh sample tests conducted in the state including 45,282 Saturday
- Positivity rate in Odisha stands at 5.64 per cent
- Another 905 Covid patients recover in Odisha, taking the total recoveries in the coastal state to 3,05,813

taking the total recoveries in the coastal state to 3,05,813, the H&FW department tweeted.

The recovered cases include 92 from Sundargarh, 60 from Keonjhar, 59 from Cuttack, 49 from Mayurbhanj, 48 from Khurda and 43 from Jagatsinghpur districts.



A farmer levels an agricultural land against the backdrop of Dhauili Peace Pagoda in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 22:** State's Covid-19 tally Sunday mounted to 3,13,961 with 638 more people testing positive for infection, while 15 fresh fatalities pushed the toll to 1,640, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

Of the 638 new cases, 373 were reported from various quarantine centres, and the rest detected during contact tracing exercise, the official said.

Khurda district, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, recorded the maximum number of new cases at 70, followed by Mayurbhanj at 65 and Jagatsinghpur at 50. The remaining 27 districts in the coastal state recorded less than 100 cases each. Four fresh fatalities were reported from Sundargarh, followed by three in Khurda and two in

## WHEN WILL NAYAGARH GET ITS SMART CREMATORIUM?

The town has two cremation grounds – one at Bhalukhol in Old Town area and the other near a residential area behind Krushak Bazaar on Khandapara road

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nayagarh, Nov 22:** The lack of a 'smart crematorium' in this town is causing huge problems to the residents. They are having a tough time cremating their near and dear ones.

The town has two cremation grounds – one at Bhalukhol in Old Town area and the other near a residential area behind Krushak Bazaar on Khandapara road. However, both have remained unused for a long time now. This problem has been there for more than 15 years with no steps being taken by the district administration to solve the issue, a report said.

Residents here said that entrance to the cremation ground at Old Town area has become a garbage dumping spot. The smell from the garbage is so nauseating that they cannot go near the dump. The other one behind Krushak Bazaar has residential colonies all around it. Some have encroached upon cremation ground. Last year an eviction drive was launched, however, the ground still cannot be used for cremation.

"We are not able to accord dignity to our departed loved ones. Some of us who can afford go to Swargadwar



Residents here say the entrance to the cremation ground at Old Town area has become a garbage dumping yard

**BOTH THE CREMATORIUMS IN THE TOWN HAVE REMAINED UNUSED FOR A LONG TIME NOW**

**THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN THERE FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS WITH NO STEPS BEING TAKEN BY THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**

in Puri for performing the last rites of our relatives do so. However, most have to perform the last rites at their own backyards," a resident said on condition of anonymity.

When contacted, executive officer, Nayagarh Municipality, Santosh Kumar Jena said he is aware of the difficulties due to the lack of a smart crematorium. "The problem will end soon as a smart crematorium is being built at the Old Town cremation ground at a cost of Rs 1.50 crore. It is spread across 1.5 acres. Four families can be accommodated simultaneously at the crematorium. Soon a tender will be floated for construction. Once the builder is finalised work will start," said Jena.

## Angry kin, locals gherao hosp over boy's death

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 22:** The relatives of a 15-year-old boy along with locals gheraoed a private hospital in Nayapalli area of the city alleging botched operations causing the death of the minor. The deceased, Subham Panda was a resident of Bharatpur area under Khandagiri police limits.

His parents had admitted him to the hospital for the operation on his fractured hand few days back. He died few hours after the operation, Sunday. The family alleged a botched up operation as the cause of their son's death and sat in protest in front of the hospital.

## CYBER CRIMINALS SIPHON OFF ₹1.5L

**BHUBANESWAR:** Unknown cyber crooks have withdrawn over Rs 1 lakh from the account of a woman here without her notice. The victim woman lodged a complaint with the Khandagiri police in this regard recently. According to sources, the lady had recently gone to the local branch of Axis Bank to withdraw some cash from her account. However, she was shocked when the bank staff informed her about the withdrawal of around Rs 1.50 lakh from her account through various small transactions carried out during August.

## Skeletal remains recovered from abandoned house

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jagatsinghpur, Nov 22:** A human skeleton was recovered from an abandoned house at Kiadingiri Brahmanasahi village under Erasama police limits in Jagatsinghpur district.

The skeleton was recovered Saturday afternoon but it became a matter of discussion Sunday; the police are tight-lipped in this regard. While the police investigation is still on to identify the deceased, the body is suspected to be that of Shankar Swain, a resident of neighbouring Bailo village.

According to sources, the house is owned by one Saroj Mishra, a resident of Brahmanasahi village. He has settled in Cuttack for many years. The house had been lying abandoned for a long period. Saroj had come to his house

November 21 afternoon. As he opened the door, a whiff of odour caught him. Smelling a rat, he informed the police. Upon reaching, the police carried out a search and recovered a skeleton.

They have launched a probe in this regard.



## WEEDING OUT

Workers remove hyacinth and algae from Bindusagar tank in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

OP PHOTO

## Bhub's diabetics' HbA1c level up amid pandemic

THE REPORT IS BASED ON A STUDY CONDUCTED BY NOVO NORDISK EDUCATION FOUNDATION, A NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 22:** The level of HbA1c (an indicator for diabetes) seem to have increased among the diabetics in Bhubaneswar during the pandemic, a study conducted by Novo Nordisk Education Foundation (NNEF), a non-profit organisation, revealed.

The organisation works towards creating awareness and education pertaining to the disease. In the study, NNEF analysed the levels of average blood sugar for a three-month time in September 2020 through the Glycolated Hemoglobin (HbA1c) testing.

In the study, it is said that in September the HbA1c levels showed a rise compared to its last year performance. This year, the levels of studied population in Bhubaneswar stood at 8.31 per cent. The study is based on the 1000-day Challenge programme of the institution.

HbA1c is the best recommended indicator of long-term blood sugar control and gives an average blood sugar control over the preceding three months. Around 200 people with an average age of 56 years were part of the analysis in the city, out of which 66 per cent were male and 34 per cent female.

Doctors claim that the disease has a direct link with COVID-19 as it can increase the chances of fatalities from the pandemic if uncontrolled diabetes is not taken care of.

Speaking on the report, Dr Jayanta Kumar Panda, professor and head of Department of

### What is HbA1c and its importance

- The hemoglobin A1c test tells you your average level of blood sugar over the past two to three months
- It's also called HbA1c, glycated hemoglobin test, and glycohemoglobin
- People who have diabetes need this test regularly to see if their levels are staying within range
- It can tell if you need to adjust your diabetes medicines
- The A1c test is also used to diagnose diabetes
- The sugar in your blood is called glucose; when glucose builds up in your blood, it binds to the hemoglobin in your red blood cells
- The A1c test measures how much glucose is bound

#### A1c Test Results

RED BLOOD CELLS LIVE FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS, SO THE TEST SHOWS THE AVERAGE LEVEL OF GLUCOSE IN YOUR BLOOD FOR THE PAST THREE MONTHS

IF YOUR GLUCOSE LEVELS HAVE BEEN HIGH OVER RECENT WEEKS, YOUR HEMOGLOBIN A1c TEST WILL BE HIGHER

Medicine, SCB Medical College, Cuttack said, "This high level of HbA1c in Odisha, Bhubaneswar is a matter of serious concern as the risk of fatalities from COVID-19 is 50 per cent higher among people living with diabetes. To keep the glucose level under check, it is essential to pursue a healthy lifestyle by eating clean and regularly performing physical exercises along with medication."

Doctors claim that with the existing pandemic situation with COVID-19, people with diabetes should keep an adequate stock of medications and supplies for monitoring blood glucose at home. If symptoms like difficulty in breathing or shortness of breath, fever, dry cough, tiredness, aches and pains, sore throat, headache, loss of taste or smell are experienced, immediate medical attention should be sought for these patients.

## SPL BHARAT DARSHAN TRAIN TO SOUTH INDIA

The boarding points will be at Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Srikakulam, Vizianagram, Vishakaptnam and Vijayawada

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 22:** Indian Railways will launch a Special Bharat Darshan tourist train to south India which will leave Bhubaneswar January 2, 2021 at 2200hrs towards Rameswaram, Madurai and Tirupati, a report said.

The decision comes after the Railways launched all-inclusive 'Tourist Special Trains' towards popular pilgrimage destinations in different parts of the country at an affordable price.

The passengers of this region who are not getting confirmed tickets or not getting direct trains to the



above particular religious destinations may avail the Bharat Darshan Tourist Train to south India from Bhubaneswar. People of this region may board this train from Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Srikakulam, Vizianagram,

Vishakaptnam and Vijayawada with tourist package system.

This all inclusive tour package for seven nights and eight days comes at a cost of Rs 8,085 and will cover the journey from January 2 to visit the above destinations with Sleeper

Class Train journey, accommodation, vegetarian meals, tourist buses, escorts and security guards and travel insurance among others. The booking can be made from IRCTC Website - <http://www.irctc-tourism.com>, and IRCTC Tourist Facilitation Centre. There is no fare for child below five years but children of five and above are entitled to pay the full adult fare.

All COVID-19 precautions will be taken such as periodic sanitisation, pre sanitisation of hotels/dharmshalas, sanitisation of luggage at arrival, temperature checks vide thermal screening, Covid kits with sanitizers and masks will be provided.

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# 64 Kendrapara villages face sea erosion threat

# Disabled woman killed over sorcery

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, Nov 22:** From a distance, villages near Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara district look picture perfect, full of trees, tidy homes and vast beaches. However, the picture is not as perfect as it seems to be. Residents of these villages are leading a life of constant panic as the sea is slowly but surely eating up their land. They are asking the Odisha government to take steps to prevent sea erosion.

"We have moved inwards thrice because the sea is moving forward and gobbling up our land. We have suffered tremendously in the last couple of decades," Gobinda Pradhan, a 75-year-old man Rajnagar, said.

Due to erosion by the sea, 88 square kilometres of mangrove forests in Bhitarkanika have been destroyed from 1960 to 2016. Even though a geo-synthetic tube sea wall was constructed to protect the villages, it is not serving much purpose. The wall has been damaged and holes have developed due to salt water contamination.

Four years back, the state government had built the 600-metre geo-synthetic tube wall under the Integrated Coastal Zone



## ECO-CONCERN

Residents of the coastal villages are leading a life of constant panic as the sea is slowly but surely eating up their land

Due to erosion by the sea, 88 square kilometres of mangrove forests in Bhitarkanika have been destroyed from 1960 to 2016

The state lost 153.8 kilometres or 28 per cent of its 485-km-long coastline between 1999 and 2016 to sea water ingress, according to a July 2018 study by the National Centre for Coastal Research in Chennai

Management (ICZM) programme at an estimated cost of Rs 39 crore with technical support of IIT-Madras. The project was executed to protect the Pentha coast nearby areas from high tides, cyclones and even tsunami. The pounding sea waves have gnawed away portions of the geo-synthetic tubes that may topple any time. A fire

mishap has also damaged a portion of the wall. As a result, the people of 64 villages living along the 48 km-long coastline in this district are in a state of panic over the constant erosion of shorelines and tsunami threat ahead of the rainy season. The frequency and magnitude of sea erosion in these areas have also increased in

recent years. Environmentalist Hemanta Kumar Rout said that to save the villages from erosion by the sea, mangrove forests would have been enough. However, the forests are being destroyed for the construction of various projects. Hence the magnitude of erosion has increased manifold. Villages like Habelikhati,

Satabhaya, Nasi and other localities are in danger of being engulfed by the sea.

The environmentalist also warned that rampant prawn farming in the sea is causing environmental problems. Rout said that dumping of chemicals and garbage into the sea will only speed up erosion. The state lost 153.8 kilometres or 28 per cent of its 485-km-long coastline between 1999 and 2016 to sea water ingress, according to a July 2018 study by the National Centre for Coastal Research in Chennai. The study also found that rising sea levels coupled with changing wind patterns are causing high tidal waves and inundating habitable areas.

"Sea water incursion has contaminated wells and increased salinity in the soil, making it less fertile. Coconut trees now yield only a handful of fruit each harvest, instead of dozens," said Manab Pradhan, a resident of Satabhaya. People who rely on the water from wells for drinking and bathing purposes have also reported health problems, such as jaundice, stomach, joint and digestive problems and skin diseases. "People are reluctant to marry their daughters off to boys in our village because there is no fresh water here," Pradhan added.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Digapahandi, Nov 22:** A 70-year-old physically challenged woman was strangled to death on the suspicion that she practiced witchcraft at tribal-dominated Chhanabgad village under Digapahandi police limits in Ganjam district, the police said Sunday.

The slain woman was identified as Saibani Mallick. The woman was unmarried and living alone in the village. The murder case was cracked after the police accompanied by a forensic team recovered the decomposed body of Saibani buried in a hill-locked forest about three kms from the village.

Preliminary inquiries indicated that the murder took place after some men and women died in quick succession during the last two years. The villagers suspected the deaths to be the fallout of witchcraft as she regularly worshipped some female deities in her house.

They decided to get rid of her and strangled her to death in her house with a bike accelerator wire October 8. Later, they buried the body inside the forest.

The matter came to the fore after



a niece of the woman Hemalata Mallick living in nearby Nuabandha Palli village learnt that she had gone missing. She searched for her in vain and lodged a complaint in the Digapahandi police station, October 10.

Police detained three youths but later released them after they failed to find any evidence. Later, the police tracked the cell phones of the villagers and found the mastermind living in a slum at Saliasahi in Bhubaneswar. A police team raided the place and arrested the mastermind Saturday evening. The body was handed over to her family members after completion of post-mortem at MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur.

# Brown sugar worth ₹10 lakh seized, 1 held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Balasure, Nov 22:** Brown sugar worth Rs 10 lakh was seized and one person arrested in Balasure district Sunday, the police said.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team raided Adar Bazar in Sahadevkhunta police station area and seized 100 gm brown sugar along with Rs 23 lakh in cash, a police officer said.

One drug peddler was arrested. The arrested person is part of a drug network whose kingpin was arrested earlier this year, the officer said. Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused and his accomplice were preparing to procure more brown sugar from West Bengal, he added.

# Funds of PMAY beneficiaries embezzled in Boudh district

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Boudh, Nov 22:** Massive irregularities in the implementation of rural housing schemes were alleged in Boudh district. In official records, even dead people were shown as beneficiaries and their funds have been misappropriated.

One such case was reported from Badamal village of Mundapada panchayat. Kartik Nayak of the same village died years ago, but Rs 70,000 sanctioned in his name under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) has been embezzled.

His daughter Manju Nayak has filed a complaint in this regard.

Many block-level officials are trying their best to provide con-



crete houses to ineligible for their vested interest, it was alleged.

On the other hand, lakhs of rupees under the housing scheme have been misappropriated in some tribal-dominated villages under Harbhanga block.

The BJP has raised the issues and claimed that funds of 18 beneficiaries of Sanakhajuri and Badakhajuri villages were embezzled by officials and some people's

representatives.

The party submitted a list of beneficiaries, whose housing funds have been misappropriated, to the District Collector Saturday.

Massive irregularities in the implementation of rural housing schemes are going on at panchayat levels in the district. Some politicians are encouraging all this to appease their supporters, alleged Boudh's BJP district unit president Bipracharan Mohanty.

Bills of housing units have been made in their names, but in reality they are not aware of their housing status.

The BJP has demanded a high level investigation into the housing scam and action against those involved in it.

## CLEAN BEACH DRIVE



Staff of local NAC conducting a cleanliness drive on Gopalpur beach, Sunday

OP PHOTO

# Siadimalia moat wallows in neglect

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Anandapur, Nov 22:** A sprawling moat locally known as 'gadakhai' built by the royals at Siadimalia in Anandapur block of Keonjhar district has been wallowing in neglect. It is alleged that the moat is gradually losing its charm while people have been encroaching upon its land.

The main attraction of the place is the moat built decades ago. The place is also known for a shrine dedicated to Maa Dhanei. A local outfit named Namo Sena has been advocating for the renovation of the moat so that it can be used for boating facilities. "If the moat is renovated and boating facilities are put in place, tourists could visit the site," said Bijay Kumar Mishra, president of Siadimalia Maa Dhanei Committee.

Goddess Dhanei is the witness of



the royal regime in the Siadimalia area. The moat and other structures sprawled over 200 acres at the royal times.

Over the years, the moat has been silted and will soon lose its ex-

istence if it is not renovated. The area was once rich with verdant greenery which used to offer a home to varieties of birds. The area seemed alive with chirping of birds, but they are not heard

any longer, locals lamented.

In 2013, some locals wanted to develop the place and formed the Maa Dhanei Thakurani Committee. Some renovation work was undertaken by the committee under the supervision of the administration. Encroachments in parts of Siadimalia had been removed.

Then in 2016, the forest department made an attempt to beautify the place with plantations. This had followed the visit of then DFO Sangram Keshari Behera to the area. He took stock of the area and assured that the moat area will be renovated.

However, many years have passed since the visit of the DFO, but the development of the place has been pushed to the backburner.

Locals have demanded renovation of the place that bears testimony to the glorious royal heritage.

# 3 years on, drinking water project yet to see light of day

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kesinga, Nov 22:** Three years have passed since the foundation stone for a drinking water project at Kesinga town of Kalahandi district was laid but the project is yet to see the light of day.

Apart from the delay, reduced flow of water in the Tel River has added to the woes of the people.

Although Kesinga town is surrounded by Tel River, water scarcity is reported from Ward No-1 to 12.

The town, which has a population of about 22,000, requires 3.7 million litres per day (MLD). For this the state government has decided to provide an intake well to the townspeople in order to solve their drinking water problem.



Though the Kesinga block administration is providing water to the townspeople through 190 stand posts, the facilities have failed to meet the water requirement. Out of the 4,500 households only 1,240 can be provided with water through the stand posts.

For this a new drinking water project - a 75-feet intake well was

initiated at an estimated cost of Rs 2.4 crore and the state government laid the foundation stone for the project in 2017-18.

It envisages to draw water from the intake well at Tel River and pump it to two overhead tanks for supply after filtration. The project aims to meet the drinking water needs of the entire town.

Procedures like purchasing of private land for the construction of the drinking water project were already carried out by the departmental authority in the same year. But the drinking water project yet to see the light of the day.

When asked, departmental officials said the project work has not started due to the heavy flow of water in the river.

## FOR HEALTHY LUNGS



Anganwadi workers, ASHAs and health workers take part in a door-to-door awareness campaign on prevention of pneumonia in Paikamal area of Bargarh district

OP PHOTO

# Dynamites for catching fish raise concern

SUCH ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES HAVE IMPACTED AQUATIC LIFE IN MAHANADI

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sonepur, Nov 22:** Influential people of the non-fishermen community reportedly carry out blasts with dynamites and pesticides in the Mahanadi to catch fish. Under the impact of blasts, thousands of fish die which makes it easy for the people to collect fish. The fish is then sold in the markets.

**Traditional fishermen have strongly objected to this unconventional and unsustainable method of fishing as it adversely affects fish population in the river**

This way of catching fish has adversely affected fish population in the river. Use of pesticide and explosives also contaminates the water, endangering aquatic life. Livelihood of thousands of traditional fishermen is affected due



Fishermen on their way to the Collector's office to submit a memorandum, Sunday

OP PHOTO

to the dwindling fish catch.

Traditional fishermen living in the Mahanadi region have strongly objected to this method of fishing.

They united under the banner of the Mahanadi Surakhya Manch and met the SP Sunday and apprised him of the matter.

As fish catch is on the decline, boats and fishing nets of traditional fishermen have become redundant, they lamented.

Over 150 fishermen of Tikiripada, Talpada, Tariapada and Sadakpada have lost their livelihood. Upset over this, they held a meeting at Lankeswar and opposed this unconventional and non-sustainable method of fishing in Mahanadi.

A delegation of Mahanadi Surakhya Manch comprising Rushabh Budek, Ganga Taria, Shyam Satpathy, Budha Nayak,

Surubabu Sahu, Baisakhu Badhei, Babulu Dansena, Kummun Mahalik and Belalsen Nayak met SP Debi Prasad Das and submitted a memorandum to him Sunday.

They urged the SP to take immediate steps to stop the illegal way of fishing. The SP has assured the fishermen that police patrolling will be conducted along the river banks and action will be taken against the accused.



FOCUS WORLD

# ROAD AHEAD FOR UN



**Judging by traditional and social media, the issues that the UN pushes tend to get little traction. Worse, when it comes to maintaining peace and security, the UN is often stymied by its dysfunctional Security Council, which itself reflects an increasingly divided world**



Mark Malloch-Brown

**WITH A CHARTER THAT RESTS SQUARELY ON THE LIBERAL-DEMOCRATIC VALUES OF THE WINNERS OF WORLD WAR II, THE UN HAS STRUGGLED TO ACCOMMODATE THE CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER**

For much of its life, the United Nations has hidden behind the comfortable maxim that, "If we didn't have it, we would have to invent it." Now at the venerable age of 75 (old enough to have been a 2020 US presidential candidate), the organisation still enjoys widespread approval in global opinion polls.

But beneath the surface, the UN faces difficulties that cannot be ignored. Judging by traditional and social media, the issues that the UN pushes tend to get little traction. Worse, when it comes to maintaining peace and security, the UN is often stymied by its dysfunctional Security Council, which itself reflects an increasingly divided world. Whether in Syria, Yemen, or Libya, progress toward securing peace has been glacial, with much more being decided on the battlefield than at the Security Council. These same divisions have also hampered human-rights advocacy, as has the recent election that awarded seats on the UN Human Rights Council to Russia, Cuba, and China.

Of course, the UN has always mirrored the world it represents. There was broad member support for a strong UN only in its initial years and during the early years of Kofi Annan's tenure as secretary-general in the late 1990s. Otherwise, the UN has typically operated against strong headwinds; and now, a number of political and demographic changes are rapidly reshaping the UN's world.

Today's world is younger overall. US power appears to have peaked, and the global distribution of power is being redistributed to China and others. At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic has ensured that the world will be poorer, just as digitalisation has made it less equal.

With a charter that rests squarely on the liberal-democratic values of the winners of World War II, the UN has struggled to accommodate the changing global order. Under its current secretary-general, António Guterres, the

UN has admirably continued to pursue gender parity and more diversity in its staffing. Still, too many top jobs remain in the hands of the founding member states. And, more fundamentally, the organisation seems out of touch with the world beyond its doors.

China, the second-largest contributor to the UN's assessed budget, has increasingly tried to assert global leadership on climate change and other issues, following America's abdication under outgoing President Donald Trump. At the UN General Assembly in September, Chinese President Xi Jinping took an extraordinarily consequential step, pledging that China would become carbon neutral by 2060. Yet the same regime that has committed to environmental sustainability is also brutally persecuting China's Uighur minority.

This points to the UN's central dilemma. In terms of population, most of today's world is under authoritarian rule, ranging from despots without even a pretense of democratic legitimacy to elected autocrats who have eroded democratic institutions and checks on their power.

With no choice but to contend

with this increasingly undemocratic world, the UN's challenge now is to fashion a practical, achievable agenda without betraying its founding charter and its commitment to human rights and other freedoms. It will have to tap into its current strengths. As a representative of "collective rights," the UN is uniquely positioned to mobilise action on issues like climate change, which threatens poor farmers in developing countries as much as it does rich Manhattanites who are exposed to rising sea levels.

Likewise, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to tackle inequality and exclusion everywhere, remain an example of the UN at its best, as does Guterres' call for "A New Social Contract for a New Era." The UN provides an indispensable global good by producing league tables of human development and organising broad coalitions to achieve steady progress on key indicators of well-being.

But just because the UN is a leading voice for social, economic, and environmental justice does not mean that it should be given a pass on human rights. The organisation has a duty to report human-rights abuses wherever it

finds them. Though it should be smart about passing evidence on to others and issuing denunciations, it must remain fearless in its advocacy. Here, its best allies are civil-society groups and the few brave countries that are willing to defy narrow commercial or political interests to take on the likes of China, India, or Saudi Arabia.

By contrast, the UN probably will have to bow to the logic of the twenty-first-century cold war: The Security Council will remain ineffectual until it is reformed, which is a distant prospect. But there are ways around this paralysis. During the original Cold War, the UN, without reference to the Security Council, launched major initiatives to address humanitarian crises and to support new members emerging from colonial rule. UN development and humanitarian agencies often drew on their own mandates and international law to intervene when the circumstances required it.

Today, UN Special Representatives in conflict areas and UN Resident Coordinators elsewhere do much unsung good, working tirelessly behind the scenes to avert local conflicts, defend civil society, and address inequality and other root causes of political instability. This field-based UN thrives out of sight and out of mind, safely removed from the obstructive state-driven politics of the Security Council in New York City.

It is here that the UN's future will be secured or lost. In a younger, angrier, increasingly impatient world, a distant club of men in dark suits is doomed to irrelevance. Where the UN matters is on the ground, deploying its remarkable mandate to fight for those who need it most.

*The writer, a former deputy United Nations secretary-general, is Co-Chair of the UN Foundation. This text was adapted from his UNU-WIDER annual lecture.*

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## Trump Vs Trump

While people across the globe are clueless and also disturbed about the inexplicable behaviour of US President Donald Trump questioning the legitimacy of the result of the Presidential poll in favour of his Democratic rival Joe Biden, here comes another Trump - the President's niece, Mary - offering a probable explanation. A clinical psychologist by profession, she bases her reasoning on her knowledge of her uncle's mental make-up and family background which she knows so intimately. This is a season of penning and publishing books by high profile public personalities in the USA such as Barack Obama and Mary Trump. The latter's book - *Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man* - has preceded Obama's book, *A Promised Land*. Mary in her book describes her famous uncle as someone capable of bullying others and indulging in financial malpractices. In a series of interviews she has given to the media on the obduracy of President Trump challenging the electoral verdict against him, Mary has said Donald Trump simply can't accept defeat. He has willy-nilly to be the winner. This she traces to his upbringing under the tutelage of his father and Mary's grandfather, Fred Trump who was a hugely successful real estate owner who never, supposedly, tolerated defeat, diffidence and failure. That is why, according to Mary, he despised his eldest son, Mary's father, for being a 'sensitive' man who didn't have the 'killer' instinct. Donald became his father's chosen successor since he cast himself in the mould his father wanted to see him in - a bully who would stop at nothing to achieve his end. In the climate in which Donald Trump grew up, defeat and weakness were loathsome. Mary has even charged her uncle with deceit and fraudulent transactions. She is convinced he wants to win so as not to face trials for his alleged irregularities during his presidency. She says she is also concerned about the fact that her uncle has got the second highest number of votes in the history of US elections. She finds this very disturbing because such a huge number of people of her country don't seem to be alive to 'the threat' that Trump and Trumpism pose.

Other than Mary, there's journalist Lysandra Ohrstrom, a school friend of Trump's daughter, Ivanka and a maid of honour at her wedding. She has written an article in *Vanity Fair* to reveal certain traits of the father and the daughter. She writes Ivanka was obsessed with status and used to blame classmates for her infringement of school rules while projecting a refined persona. "She had the Trump radar for status, money, and power, and her dad's instinct to throw others under the bus to save herself," alleges Ohrstrom, who describes Ivanka as her best friend growing up.

Ohrstrom has written that in their mid-20s she suggested to Ivanka to read the Pulitzer prize-winning novel by Richard Russo about working class people in a small town in Maine. Ivanka's response, according to the article, was: "Ly (sandra), why would you tell me to read a book about f...ing poor people? What part of you thinks I would be interested in this?"

Ohrstrom claims she has written the article to show the "true Ivanka," despite the risk of being branded a hypocritical, privileged elitist trying to capitalise on her first family connection.

Her article refers to Trump's anxiety to know whether Ivanka was "the prettiest or the most popular girl in our grade." She told Trump 'honestly' that she could probably be among the top five girls. But, Trump dismissed the suggestion outright with a rhetorical question: "Who's prettier than Ivanka?"

Such accounts tend to confirm Trump's ingrained hatred to be pipped to the post or accept the 'also-ran' tag.

Meanwhile, the USA is bracing itself up for an even more severe scourge of the pandemic as Trump clearly abdicates his responsibilities to tackle it and continues to block transition of power to the President-elect so that his team can chalk out its strategy. "The general strategy is abdication," said Angela Rasmussen, a virologist affiliated with Georgetown University, who says it's possible that as many as 300,000 more Americans could die of the virus before Inauguration Day, January 20. "There are going to be a lot of unnecessary deaths, unnecessary cases of Covid that didn't need to happen," she told the media. Other than travelling to his golf course, the President has remained holed up inside the White House.

All these show Trump not only in a bad light but also demonstrate how a democracy can throw up a very dangerous man to the top executive post and put the nation at peril. It is not just the USA that has to worry for Trump and Trumpers now. He had created a circle of global friends, people holding reins of governments in various other countries, who are watching and learning from his antics. If the concept of voting and democracy are weakened by Trump's constant hammering on his pet scream of 'rigged voting' in the USA, other democracies would be more than happy to follow suit. It is a period of great danger for the free world.

### WISDOM CORNER

- Be less curious about people and more curious about ideas. **MARIE CURIE**
- There is only one thing in life worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about. **OSCAR WILDE**
- Good advice is always certain to be ignored, but that's no reason not to give it. **AGATHA CHRISTIE**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Velocipedist

It appeared on English roads about 1818: a strange vehicle with two wheels, one behind the other, joined by a horizontal beam on which the rider sat, pushing the contraption along with his feet, a method which one US newspaper described as skating on land. This was an early precursor of our modern bicycle, the invention of a German named Karl Drais, whom an article in the *Bristol Journal* in 1819 described as "master of the woods and forests of his Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Baden". The name for the contraption was varied: Drais called it *Laufmaschine*, a running machine; the French at first named it *draisine*, from its inventor. The English had various names early on, including both of these, but also dandy-horse (since it was taken up by fashionable young men of the period called dandies) and hobby-horse (abbreviated to hobby), after the ancient child's toy of a stick with a horse's head. A US entrepreneur sold it as the *Tracena*, presumably a modification of *draisine*. Other names were walking accelerator and pedestrian carriage. However, everyone soon settled on the mock-classicism velocipede (which first appeared in French, as *vélocipède*, taken from the Latin *velox*, swift, and *pes*, a foot, via their combining forms *veloci-* and *ped-*). The term survives in the modern French *vélo*, roughly equivalent to our "bike". Its riders became known, of course, as velocipedists. The machines seemed innocuous enough, but they caused problems. They weren't easy to learn to ride, since nobody had any experience of the art of balancing required. The original Drais version had a brake, but the ripped-off French, English and American versions didn't, which resulted in accidents. Roads, even in towns, were often so rutted that riders took to the pavements (sidewalks), to the terror of pedestrians. Around 1850, velocipede began to be applied to a modification of the machine in which pedals were fitted to the front wheel, an early form of bicycle. The latter name eventually took over but more than a century after the machines that are correctly called velocipedes vanished from the roads, the name lingers on as a humorous way of referring to a bicycle and velocipedist to its rider.

### LOL COLLEGE WRITING

A visitor to a certain college paused to admire the new Hemingway Hall that had been built on campus. "It's a pleasure to see a building named for Ernest Hemingway," he said. "Actually," said his guide, "it's named for Joshua Hemingway. No relation." The visitor was astonished. "Was Joshua Hemingway a writer, also?" "Yes, indeed," said his guide. "He wrote a cheque."

### SPECTRUM TRADE POLICY

## India & RCEP: In or out, reorient policy

Keep China out is the new trade policy of India. Its prime approach is that anything that opens the door to Chinese products is a strict no. So there is no surprise in turning its back to keeping out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) free trade agreement (FTA), an initiative India was engaged since its inception.

It theoretically comes with a minimum cost as India has FTA with all but three RCEP members. Home Minister Amit Shah had last month told the RCEP member countries that they will have to come around to accepting India's terms. "Considering India's growing stature, RCEP members can't afford to ignore it for long, and will come around to agree to Government of India's terms. Meanwhile, India has maintained successful economic relations with ASEAN by the means of FTA," he said.

India had taken the decision in November 2019 to keep off RCEP, being seen as China centric and with perception that it would boost merchandise sales of Chinese products. India's approach on the deal comes as a result of unfavourable trade balances that it has with several RCEP members, with some of which it has FTAs. The commerce ministry finds the growth in trade (CAGR) with such countries was mere 7.1 per cent. India has trade

deficits with 11 of the 15 RCEP countries. It means while the partners are having access to Indian market, India does not have it. It cannot open up its market for the advantage of others.

Still India is having agreements with the ASEAN, South Korea and Japan, negotiating deals with Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. Treaties are there with Nepal and Bhutan. There are apprehensions that RCEP could impact the Australia-India-Japan network in the Indo-Pacific. India and like-minded countries, particularly the Quad countries - Australia, US, Japan, are keen for resilient supply chains and are along with New Zealand, South Korea and Vietnam negotiating with each other.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar delivering the Ramnath Goenka lecture in 2019 had said that India's stance was on a 'clear-eyed calculation' of the gains and costs entering a new arrangement. He also said that India would continue with its Act East policy.

It should also be remembered that the RCEP decision is linked to China's aggressive postures in South China Sea and on the LAC, including the June 15, 2020 Galwan incident in which 20 Indian and many Chinese soldiers lost their lives. It may be recalled that Jaishankar even in January had said that its doors to RCEP were not

closed. But in September, he said, "you cannot be a rising power without being a rising economy and to do that you have to build your domestic capacities." His views are not very different from that of Swadeshi Jagran Manch, which had been opposing most FTAs and stressing on improving domestic economy.

It certainly has not been an easy decision. India would have to weigh the gains of a bulk agreement and individual treaties. Similar concern was being expressed when India chose to opt out of the Belt and Road Initiative in 2017. It was said that New Delhi might be isolating itself. Now after three years, like-minded democracies appreciate India for its prudent decision, which many finally see as an exploitative Chinese method and many members are not enjoying their stay in the BRI. There is the contrary view as well. It says that India's economic decline occurred even as BRI went on to cover two-thirds of the world's population.

China dominates the psyche of policy makers. India is highly dependent on China for imports of lithium ion batteries, antibiotics, PCs, colour TVs, solar cells and toys. Despite recent initiatives by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for improving domestic production on many of these, the concern remains. What China has done is to consolidate its economy since 1979. The production cost is lowest

and it has a pricing mechanism that happens to be the lowest in any country - India or the US - in their currencies.

India has to learn the technique for creating a vibrant domestic system with a market across the world. Chinese merchandise today decides the international prices. While India successfully blocked imports of images and idols of deities, where it could not succeed is the consequent rise in prices of the India-produced items. This cannot be considered as good economy. Perhaps for this reason, China looms large in reports, submitted by eight groups of ministers (GoMs) formed during the COVID-19 pandemic. These have called for a balance between supporting the economic performance and geopolitics and most have focused on ways to counter China.

The obsession with China whether one joins its initiative or keeps off is too apparent. Of late, despite all efforts, India's policy approaches are China centric. India may have to rethink of reviving the planning process it gave up in 2014. The NITI Ayog, though is supposed to fill up that gap, has not been a proper replacement. India also has to consider moving out of growth centric approach and replace it by progress.

So RCEP or not, India has to have a holistic approach to economy.

## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

**OrissaPOST**  
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### Territorial integrity

Sir, Odisha's territorial integrity is being threatened by neighbouring states like Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. Encroachments by Andhra Pradesh in Kotia panchayat in Koraput district have once again exposed the expansionist attitude of our neighbouring state. Since Independence, Odisha has been plagued by border disputes and territorial disunity. Sareikala and Kharasuan are now in Jharkhand due to the lack of political will of our leaders. Odisha got a distinct political identity as a special state on April 1, 1936. The leaders of Utkala Sammilani took it as a mission to maintain the unity and territorial integrity of our state. It is the bounden duty of the state government to keep the state's territorial integrity intact. The government is duty bound to save the state's precious land from encroachments by neighbouring states. Let the martyrdom of our freedom fighters not go in vain. A comprehensive plan is the need of the hour.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

### Civil society shocked

Sir, The two recent custodial deaths in Puri and Biramitrapur are a big shock for the civil society in the state. However, such incidents are happening not just in Odisha but also in every part of the country. After 73 years of Independence, this type of brutal behaviour and attitude of some police personnel is not acceptable. In a democratic country, it is difficult to understand how laws are being misused by their very protectors. Everyone is equal before the law.

Santosh Kumar Mohanty, CUTTACK

### Congress crisis

Sir, The Congress party is losing its base in the country. The public is rejecting the grand old party in every election. The policies and organisational weakness of the party are the reasons for the party's dismal electoral performance. It is a matter of misfortune that the Congress has no new face to lead the party at present. If the Congress wants to reinforce itself, it should reconsider its policies. The party can regain its lost trust among the public through comprehensive internal reforms.

Amit Singh Kushwaha, SATNA (MP)





## Bharti, hubby in judicial custody

In their bail pleas, Singh and Limbachiya sought to be released saying they do not have any criminal antecedents

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 22:** A Mumbai court Sunday remanded comedian Bharti Singh and husband Harsh Limbachiya, arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau following seizure of drugs from their house here, to judicial custody till December 4.

The court will hear their bail pleas Monday.

The NCB arrested Singh on Saturday and her husband early Sunday morning following seizure of ganja (cannabis) from their house in suburban Andheri.

The couple was produced before a magistrates court here Sunday afternoon.

The court has remanded both the accused to judicial custody till December 4, NCB prosecutor Atul Sarpande told PTI.

The couple filed bail pleas through advocate Ayaz Khan soon after being remanded to judicial custody. The magistrate's court would hear the bail pleas November 23.

The NCB sought Limbachiya's custody for questioning but did not seek Singh's custody and told the



court that she may be sent to judicial custody.

Khan argued that there is no question of custodial interrogation as the alleged substance recovered is lesser than the 'small quantity' as prescribed under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The magistrate accepted the arguments and noted that custodial interrogation was not required and that the accused have already been questioned for a considerable time Saturday.

Singh and Limbachiya have been booked under sections 20(b)(ii)(A) (involves small quantity of drugs) and 8(c) (possession of drugs) and 27 (consumption of drugs) of the NDPS Act.

Under these sections, the punishment is six months to one year. This is not a case where the accused needs to be kept behind bars. I am surprised that the NCB is taking such an action of arrest in cases where the quantity (seized) is less than the prescribed small quantity. The NCB mandate is larger than this, Khan told PTI.

Singh's name had cropped up during the interrogation of a drug peddler, the official said. She has appeared in a number of comedy and reality shows on TV and also hosted a few such shows.

Singh's name had cropped up during the interrogation of a drug peddler, the official said. She has appeared in a number of comedy and reality shows on TV and also hosted a few such shows.

Singh and Limbachiya have

Limbachiya sought to be released saying they do not have any criminal antecedents and hence there is no question of them absconding.

Asked about the NCBs claim that both Singh and Limbachiya have accepted that they consume drugs, Khan said, Any statement alleged to have been made before the NCB or any of its officials is inadmissible pursuant to a recent judgment passed by the Supreme Court.

Acting on a tip-off, the NCB Saturday conducted search at Singh's office and residence as part of its probe into the alleged drug use in the entertainment industry.

Up to 1,000 gm of ganja is considered small quantity, which attracts jail term up to six months and/or fine of Rs 10,000. Possession of commercial quantity - 20 kg or more - can attract up to 20 years in jail. For the quantity in between, the punishment can be as much as 10 years in jail, an official said.

Singh's name had cropped up during the interrogation of a drug peddler, the official said. She has appeared in a number of comedy and reality shows on TV and also hosted a few such shows.

## Delhi's air quality to get worse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 22:** Delhi's air quality remained "poor" Sunday and government agencies said it is likely to deteriorate further due to unfavourable meteorological conditions.

The city's 24-hour average AQI was 274 on Sunday. It was 251 Saturday, 266 on Friday, 233 Thursday and 211 Wednesday.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

The central government's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi said Delhi-NCR's air quality is likely to deteriorate to the "very poor" category on Monday due to unfavourable meteorological conditions.

The predominant surface wind direction was northwesterly and the maximum wind speed 12 kmph on Sunday, it said, adding that the wind speed is likely to drop to eight kmph on Monday.

The central agency said the AQI is likely to deteriorate to the upper end of the "very poor" category between Tuesday and Friday.

As many as 649 farm fire counts were observed over Punjab, Haryana



### Gambhir inaugurates giant air purifier

**East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir** Sunday inaugurated the third giant air purifier of his constituency at the busy Krishna Nagar market area. Such air purifiers were earlier installed at Lajpat Nagar and Gandhi Nagar markets through the initiative of the East Delhi MP. "This purifier may not solve the problem of pollution completely but as someone born and brought up in this city, I cannot just sit at home and let things worsen. Allowing people to breathe clean air should be the top priority of the government, but the chief minister and his colleagues are not concerned (about it)," he said.

and adjoining regions on Saturday, according to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR.

## Pregnant woman dies due to ambulance delay



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Palghar, Nov 22:** A 25-year-old pregnant woman died due to alleged delay in the arrival of ambulance after she started having labour pains in Maharashtra's Palghar district, officials said Sunday.

The incident took place a few days back, they said, adding that the woman was a high risk category patient as she was underweight and had low blood pressure.

When contacted, District Medical Officer Dr Dayanand Suryawanshi told PTI that there was a delay in

the ambulance service as one vehicle of a local public health centre (PHC) was on COVID-19 duty, while another one had broken down.

November 17, Manisha Dhole, who was seven months pregnant, started having labour pains at her home in Amla village of Khodala area in Mokhada taluka following which her family members called for an ambulance.

However, as there was a delay in the arrival of the ambulance, some locals carried her in a 'dholi' (makeshift cloth stretcher) to the nearest main road.

The ambulance arrived at the

main road after over two hours and the woman was rushed to the PHC in Khodala. But, her condition became critical and she was shifted to the civil hospital in neighbouring Nashik district, the official said.

The woman, who was a member of the Suryamaharal gram panchayat, also lost a lot of blood in the intervening period, he said.

Doctors at the Nashik Civil Hospital performed a Caesarean surgery on the night of November 18, but the baby could not be saved. The woman, who was administered blood, also died the next morning, Dr Suryawanshi said.

Admitting there was a delay in the ambulance service, he said the ambulance of the Khodala PHC was on COVID-19 duty in neighbouring Vikramgad taluka, while the emergency vehicle assigned for the Mokhada PHC had broken down.

The official said he conducted a probe into the matter and informed that the victim had a bad obstetric history. She earlier had one abortion and another case of stillborn child, and doctors had advised her against conceiving as it could pose a risk to her life, he said.

Dr Suryawanshi said in the last seven months, he had himself conducted a checkup of the woman five times and she was found to be in the high risk category as she was underweight and had low blood pressure.

### AVIAN MIGRATION



Migratory birds fly over Yamuna river as a boat ferries across, amid hazy weather conditions, in New Delhi

## Cong's solo fight plan discussed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 22:** Fighting the 2022 BMC polls independently was discussed at a recent party meeting chaired by Maharashtra AICC in charge HK Patil, sources in Mumbai Congress said Sunday.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, with 27 corporator seats, is among the most prestigious and cash-rich civic bodies in

the country, and has been dominated for over three decades now by the Shiv Sena.

While the Sena and BJP have been in alliance for civic polls several times, the two parties fought the 2017 edition separately and the former emerged the largest group, while the Congress was left with 32 seats.

Fighting the next civic polls independently was discussed in a re-

### BMC POLLS



cent meeting chaired by AICC in charge HK Patil, a Congress leader, who did not wish to be named, said. Patil also discussed about who

should replace current city unit chief Eknath Gaikwad, the leader added.

If we strategise well with Shiv Sena, NCP, Congress, then we can keep the BJP at bay in the BMC polls, the senior Congress leader said. Polls to BMC and nine other civic corporations, as well as 27 zilla parishads and gram panchayats are scheduled for February, 2022.

## Delhi ranks 62 in list of world's best cities

DELHI MADE IT TO THE RANKING DONE BY RESONANCE CONSULTANCY LTD AND IS THE ONLY INDIAN CITY TO FEATURE IN THE LIST OF CITIES ACROSS THE WORLD

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 22:** As Delhi was ranked at the 62nd position in the list of the world's best 100 cities for 2021, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal congratulated the residents of the national capital. Delhi made it to the ranking done by Resonance Consultancy Ltd and is the only Indian city to feature in the list of cities across the world. It has jumped to the 62nd place this year from last time's 81.

"Such a good news for all Dilliwalas. All dilli walas have worked so hard in the last six years to make it happen. The world is noticing the positive changes happening in Delhi," Kejriwal tweeted.

Such a good news for all Dilliwalas. All dilli walas have worked so hard in the last six years to make it happen. The world is noticing the positive changes happening in Delhi. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader also tagged his deputy Manish Sisodia post in his tweet.

"Congratulations to all the proud people of Delhi and



Such a good news for all Dilliwalas. They have worked so hard in the last six years to make it happen. The world is noticing the positive changes happening in Delhi. ARVIND KEJRIWAL | CM

@ArvindKejriwal for the leadership. Our beloved Delhi is ranked 62 in World's Best cities. The only Indian city in the list. There is significant improvement from the past ranking i.e. 81," Sisodia has posted on Twitter earlier

in the day. Resonance Consultancy said it ranked the world's best 100 cities with populations of more than a million, using a "combination of statistical performance and qualitative evaluations" by locals and visitors in 25 areas grouped

into six core categories. The cities, with London on the Number 1 spot again for the sixth year in a row, were ranked on the basis of diversity, weather, number of parks and tourist attractions, the number of social media hashtags and check-ins and other points.

It also included factors like Covid-19 infections as of July, income congruity and unemployment for the first time this year to rank these cities. New York, Paris, Moscow and Tokyo followed on the second, third, fourth and the fifth positions respectively. India's Capital was de-

scribed as one of the "few places on earth with the hectic, pulsating pace of Delhi, which explains its #18 spot for Place, including a #29 ranking for Sights & Landmarks."

"Indeed, Delhi is a city built upon or near the ruins of a previous city, and today visitors can trace through the eras, exploring centuries-old forts, tombs, shrines and mosques. Old Delhi is where to soak it all in while weaving in and out of the chaos, shopping for trinkets and handicrafts in the frenetic street bazaars and gazing in wonder at the Red Fort," it added.

## 'BJP opposing MVA for sake of it'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 22:** Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut Sunday claimed BJP leaders in Maharashtra were opposing every move of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government just for the sake of it.

In his weekly column 'Rokhtok' in the Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana', Raut, referring to the controversy over reopening places of worship in the state, said those who link fight against COVID-19 to 'Hindutva' are enemies of the people.

He also said the unlock process in Delhi began too soon, leading to the present spike in COVID-19 cases there.

Blaming the Delhi government's overconfidence for the present crisis, the Sena's chief spokesperson apprehended another lockdown in the national capital.

Markets, public places and places of worship will be closed down again. Why did this happen, Maharashtra BJP leaders should think...They are opposing every move of the MVA government for the sake of it, he said.

The Rajya Sabha member further said BJP leaders staged protests over their demand for granting permission for the 'Chhath Puja' celebration in Maharashtra.

You may have won the Bihar polls, but there is no need to drag Mumbai's Bihar population into the controversy. Lakhs of people gather



The BJP wants to criticise every step of the state government even if it means people lose their lives. If the BJP feels there should be another lockdown in Maharashtra, it is the state's bad luck. SANJAY RAUT | MP

on Mumbai's seashore and in the pandemic, this is illegal, he said.

The BJP governments refused permission for Chhath Puja at public places in Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, but the party demands the same in Maharashtra, he said.

The BJP wants to criticise every step of the state government even if it means people lose their lives, he alleged, and said if the BJP feels there should be another lockdown

in Maharashtra, it is the state's bad luck.

Raut also said those who could not give the 'Bharat Ratna' to Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar are planning to rename Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi.

This is laughable...Create your own legacy instead of renaming institutions in whose creation you have no role to play. This country hasn't been built in last six years, Raut said.





Stray cows should be kept in cow shelters and then should be distributed among farmers. Every farmer rearing a stray cow should get ₹900 per month per cow

## MARGINAL IMPROVEMENT IN TARUN GOGOI'S CONDITION

The health condition of former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi improved marginally Sunday and he is currently semi-conscious, Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) Superintendent Abhijit Sarma said



## of the day quote

The way public servants are functioning as political workers is not a good indication for a democratic system



JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | GOVERNOR OF WEST BENGAL

I am sure that Ayurveda, Yoga and other systems will be greatly helpful for the entire world in dealing with the Post Covid difficulties



SRIPAD NAIK | UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR AYUSH

We all will have to take every precaution against COVID-19. No one wants their family members to be admitted to hospitals for days or lose a life because of the infection



MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Stalin hits back at Shah

Chennai: DMK president M K Stalin Sunday hits back at Union Home Minister Amit Shah for attacking his party with the 2G Spectrum scam allegation and dynasty politics barb, saying it was an amusing and conjuring trick ahead of the 2021 assembly elections in Tamil Nadu. The accusations were comical since the 'twins' who stood by Shah's side - Chief Minister K Palaniswami and his deputy O Panneerselvam - were 'involved in corruption,' over the past about four years, Stalin alleged, referring to the Home Minister as 'Delhi Chanakya.'

### RSS meet begins in Prayagraj

Prayagraj: A two-day meeting of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), spread over eight sessions, began in Prayagraj Sunday. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and senior general secretary Bhaiyyaji Joshi are participating in the meeting. Chief minister Yogi Adityanath reached Prayagraj in the evening and joined the discussions.

### Four killed in road mishap

Jaipur: Four people died and one was injured when a car rammed into a stationary tanker in the Beawar area of Ajmer district Sunday, police said. The crash took place on the Jaipur-Ahmedabad highway, they said, adding three occupants of the car and the truck's cleaner, who was cooking, died.

### Delhi Police ASI arrested

New Delhi: An Assistant Sub-Inspector of Delhi Police, who was allegedly the main accused in an extortion case filed in south Delhi's Hauz Khas area, has been arrested, officials said Sunday. The ASI has been suspended and proceedings for his dismissal are being contemplated, they said. The accused has been identified as Rajbir Singh, police said, adding that four other accused in the case were earlier arrested.

### Tigress dies

Nagpur: A pregnant tigress was found dead Sunday morning in Umred Paoni Karhandala Sanctuary in Maharashtra, an official said. Pench Tiger Reserve field director Ravikiran Govekar, in a statement, said the body of the tigress, between three to four years old, was found in Compartment 1452/1 of Tas beat of the sanctuary.

# 'LOVE JIHAD' SERIOUS PROBLEM, SAYS BJP

BJP-ruled states like Uttar Pradesh and Haryana have expressed their intention to bring a law against 'love jihad', a term coined by Hindutva groups for Hindu girls being allegedly forced to convert to Islam in the guise of marriage



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 22: The BJP Sunday termed 'love jihad' a "serious problem" and backed the decision of its state governments to enact laws against it.

BJP-ruled states like Uttar Pradesh and Haryana have expressed their intention to bring a law against 'love jihad', a term coined by Hindutva groups for Hindu girls being allegedly forced to convert to Islam in the guise of marriage.

Opposition parties have dismissed this as an attempt by the BJP to divide the society and said any such law will be violative of the Constitution.

"Love jihad is a serious problem. Many mothers and sisters have suffered its bad consequences. This is a state matter and state governments should enact law against it," BJP general secretary Arun Singh told reporters at a press conference.

Some state governments are working in this regard and will continue to do so, he added.

About Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's attack on the saffron party over the issue and his reference to interfaith marriages of some BJP leaders, Singh said Baghel should first answer

## OWAISI OPENS UP

HYDERABAD: AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi Sunday said that the laws planned to be brought by BJP-ruled states to check the so-called 'love jihad' are an attempt by the BJP to divert people's attention from real issues faced by the country. He alleged that unable to solve the problem of growing unemployment, arrest joblessness and economic crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the BJP was resorting to theatrics. The Hyderabad MP told reporters that such laws would be a violation of Article 14 and Article 21 of the Constitution of India. "They (the BJP-ruled state) should read the Constitution. They are going far ahead in their hatred. This won't work," said Owaisi.

whether his government has fulfilled the promises like waiving farm loans and starting unemployment allowance the Congress had made during the Assembly polls in 2018.

His government has become synonymous with corruption and malgovernance, the BJP general secretary said.

## COVID MANAGEMENT

### Centre teams rushed to UP, Punjab, Himachal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 22: The Central government Sunday sent high-level teams to Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh to support these states in their Covid-19 response and management.

These states have been either reporting a rise in the number of active cases or demonstrating a rise in the daily new cases.

These three-member teams will visit the districts reporting high number of Covid cases and support the state efforts towards strengthening containment, surveillance, testing, infection prevention and control measures, and efficient clinical management of the positive cases, said the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

# Congress leaders must shed 'five-star culture', says Azad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: There is a huge disconnect between people and Congress leaders and "five-star culture" has crept into the party, Congress veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad said Sunday as he called for overhaul in the organisational structure.

His remarks come after Congress' debacle in the Bihar assembly elections, in which the party had won 19 out of the 70 seats it contested.

RJD's Tejashwi Yadav-led 'Mahagathbandhan' of which the Congress was the second major partner ended up with 110 seats while the NDA retained power in a close contest, bagging 125 seats in the 243-member assembly in the recent polls.

There is an urgent need to overhaul the party structure by conducting elections from block to district and state level, Azad said, adding that Congress leaders at all



levels should shed five-star culture at least during elections.

Azad, who was the senior-most among the 23 letter writers demanding an organisational overhaul in the Congress, said they are raising issues as "reformists and not rebels". "There is a huge disconnect between the people and Congress leaders at the district, block and state levels. The party's connect with the public should be a continuous process and not only during elections," he told PTI.

The Leader of Opposition in the

Rajya Sabha, who has held several top positions in the Congress, said the party's leaders should shed "five-star culture" which he said has crept into the party.

"Congress leaders should give up this five star culture. At least during elections, they should avoid five-stars and stay in the field," he said. Speaking for the first time after the party's poor performance in the Bihar polls, Azad also said that leaders should tour a state along with state leaders and not just stay in five-star hotels and return. "Each leader must have knowledge of each assembly constituency. Merely going from Delhi and staying in five-star hotels and returning after two to three days to Delhi is nothing but a waste of money," he said.

Holding this as one of the main reasons for the party's defeat in Bihar, the former Union minister called for elections for all positions in Congress state, district and block units.

# Why loss of smell, taste is godsend for many nCoV patients

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 22: Amid the growing Covid-19 scare is light at the end of the tunnel. If you experience true loss of smell and taste along with gastric trouble (read diarrhoea) as Covid-19 symptoms begin to appear, have heart as this generally means a good prognosis and no severe respiratory attack that normally sets in in the second week of the 14-day virus cycle.

Observed worldwide, the phenomenon has now been documented by Indian health experts - as we enter the 10th month of Covid-19 pandemic - and according to them, Covid-19 patients who show severe symptoms or end up in the ICU do not generally give a history of true loss of smell or taste.

Those who observe coronavirus-induced loss of smell and taste generally feel an overpowering salty or

sweet taste, and water tastes extremely sweet. If they try perfume, the alcohol part dominates the olfactory senses sans any fragrance. And it takes 3-4 weeks for smell or taste or both to come back.

According to Dr. Arun Lakhanpal, chest physician, Interventional pulmonologist and Critical Care specialist, at Noida-based Yatharth Hospital, if true loss of smell and taste happens in the setting of Covid disease, which he is observing more often now, then it does indicate a good prognosis.

"It is being increasingly noticed that people with loss of smell and taste which happens in about 40 per cent patients is generally a good prognostic sign," said Dr. Lakhanpal, who and his team has helped thousands of Covid-19 patients recover and go back home healthy.

Dr. Sushila Kataria, Senior Director, Department of Internal



Medicine, Medanta who is also leading the Covid team at the Gurgaon-headquartered hospital, seconded Lakhanpal's observation.

"Yes, most patients who have loss of smell and taste in my observation do not get severe disease. They do not require oxygen support and

most of them do not require hospitalisation," Kataria told IANS.

"So in a way I feel a loss of taste and smell sensation is a good sign. And that is kind of a prognostic factor that the patient will not deteriorate further". The reason for a loss of smell and taste and diar-

# Unemployed man kills father to get job

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ramgarh (Jharkhand), Nov 22: A 35-year-old unemployed man allegedly killed his father, an employee of Central Coal Fields Limited (CCL) in Jharkhand's Ramgarh to get a job in the PSU (Public sector undertakings) on compassionate ground, police said Sunday.

Krishna Ram (55), head security guard posted in Central Workshop of CCL at Barkakana in Ramgarh district, was found dead with throat slit early on Thursday, police said.

Police officer Prakash Chandra Mahto told a press conference on Saturday that the 35-year-old elder son of Ram had killed him at his quarter in Barkakana on Wednesday night by slitting his throat.

Police have recovered a small hummer knife used in the crime



and mobile phone of the man who was killed, he said.

Police claimed that elder son of Ram confessed during interrogation that he killed his father to get a CCL job on compassionate ground.

As per provisions of CCL, legal dependent of an employee would be given a job if the employee die during his service tenure, police said.

rhea in Covid disease is not really known.

"Sometimes the taste can go because there is a loss of smell as the two senses are linked. And it is said that the cause of it is the coronavirus infecting the cells around the nerves for smell and taste. This can recover within a week or even after the patient turning covid negative," Lakhanpal explained.

It may take three to four weeks to get your smell and taste back, but reassuringly, the condition is reversible. One has to be aware that loss of smell and taste is not unique to coronavirus.

It can also happen in a number of conditions, such as rhinitis, sinusitis, brain tumours, with some medications and diarrhoea can happen with various infections of the chest or abdominal infections.

Another observation is that most of the people who have loss of smell

and taste sensation are young. "But I have also observed few elderly patients also complaining of this loss of sensation, and they're usually mild cases. If someone is experiencing sudden loss of taste and smell sensation, then they should isolate themselves. This is invariably Covid and as these patients may themselves be mildly symptomatic but they do have a potential to spread the infection," Kataria advised. Do not take these symptoms lightly and isolate yourself, get tested for Covid-19 and follow all infection control practices.

Monitor your temperature with a thermometer in the mouth every four hours and oxygen levels with the help of a pulse oximeter and seek medical advice if there is fever or a drop in oxygen saturation. "We are still learning about coronavirus and seeing newer and newer complications," said Lakhanpal.





**Shocked by the law made by the LDF government in Kerala, making so-called offensive posts on the social media punishable with 5 years in prison**  
P CHIDAMBARAM | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

## 78 COWS DIE OF SUSPECTED FOOD POISONING IN RAJ

A total of 78 cows belonging to a privately-run government-aided cattle shelter in Churu district have died of suspected food poisoning in the last 24 hours, an official said



## of the day quote

Sharad Pawar is a senior leader who has taken the initiative to cobble together the alliance in Maharashtra



DEEPAK KESARKAR | MAHARASHTRA SHIV SENA MLA

As compared to perception of UP among people earlier and the predictions made, the way in which projects are getting implemented one after the other, the image of the UP government and its officials is changing



NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

For the protection of children and to secure their future against exploitation; parents, teachers and all other stakeholders together should work to advocate and promote their rights



SARBANANDA SONOWAL | ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

# 'TERROR' TUNNEL UNEARTHED IN J&K

AGENCIES

**Jammu, Nov 22:** A 150-metre long underground tunnel suspected to be used by terrorists for infiltration was detected by the BSF at the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba sector Sunday, DGP Dilbag Singh said.

Singh, who along with Border Security Force (BSF) Inspector General, Jammu frontier, N S Jamwal, and Inspector General of Police, Jammu range, Mukesh Singh inspected the scene, said the tunnel was unearthed following investigation into the recent encounter near Nagrota on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

"Police shared some vital inputs found from the encounter scene with the BSF which after hectic efforts, managed to find the tunnel," the Director General of Police (DGP) told reporters. "The exit was in thick bushes carefully concealed and meticulously covered with soil and wild growth. The mouth of the tunnel is strengthened and rein-



Security personnel stand beside the tunnel

forced by the sand bags with markings of Karachi, Pakistan. It is a freshly dug tunnel and appears to be used for the first time. It appears that proper engineering effort has gone in making the tunnel which shows the hand of the establishment," the BSF said in a statement. Earlier, forces had launched a massive operation to detect a tunnel

## Pak targets villages, forward posts in J&K

Pakistani troops targeted forward posts and villages along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua and Rajouri district, drawing retaliation from Indian troops, officials said Sunday. However, there was no report of any casualty in the latest ceasefire violation which came a day after a personnel of the Indian Army was killed and three others including two women were injured in separate ceasefire violations by Pakistan in Rajouri and Poonch districts. "At about 11.15 am on Sunday, Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling mortars along the LoC in Nowshera sector of Rajouri. The Indian Army retaliated befittingly," a defence spokesman said. Jammu and Kashmir has recorded over 4000 ceasefire violations by Pakistan so far this year, which is the highest in the past decade, compared to a total of 3289 violations in 2019, officials said.

which was suspected to have been used by the four Jaish-e-Muhammad terrorists to sneak into the country from Pakistan. Security forces had received information about the four terrorists infiltrating into the country from across the international border in Samba sector. After receiving the information security forces carried out an encounter near the Jammu-Srinagar national highway toll on Thursday and killed all the four terrorists who were travelling in a Kashmir-

bound truck. A huge cache of arms and ammunition including 11 AK series rifle, 29-30 Chinese grenade, three pistols, two cutters and four-five kg of RDX was recovered from the slain terrorists. A remote, mobile phone, dry fruit, Pakistan-made medicines were also recovered from the slain terrorists.

The terrorists had come with the purpose to disrupt District Development Council polls, scheduled to be held in eight phases beginning November 28, said the police.

# Mercury dips in most parts of north India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 22:** Minimum temperatures dipped in most parts of north India on Sunday with Srinagar recording a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius, while a cold wave swept parts of Delhi which recorded its coldest November morning since 2003.

The national capital's minimum temperature dropped to 6.9 degrees Celsius while the air quality remained "poor" and government agencies said it is likely to deteriorate further due to unfavourable meteorological conditions.

The mercury dropped to 6.1 degrees Celsius at the Palam weather station. 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 the normal for two consecutive days.

Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar recorded the coldest night of the season as the minimum temperature dropped several degrees below the freezing point across Kashmir region, while the weather department predicted a spell of wet weather in the Valley from Monday.

The Shimla Meteorological Centre had earlier forecast rain and snowfall from Sunday-Wednesday. The minimum temperature in Manali in Kullu district was at 0.2 degrees Celsius, while Kufri and Dalhousie recorded 3.6 degrees Celsius and 3.8 degrees Celsius respectively.

Shimla recorded a low of 5.1 degrees Celsius.

## SHORT TAKES

### KCR alerts officials on nCoV 2nd wave

**Hyderabad:** Telangana saw 873 fresh coronavirus cases, taking the aggregate to over 2.63 lakh while four fatalities pushed the toll to 1,430. Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Nara Chandrababhan Rao directed officials to take all the preventive measures needed as some states are seeing a rise in number of infections, an official release said Sunday. Rao who held a review meeting with senior officials said all the required steps would be taken to withstand even emergence of a second wave of the COVID-19 in the state.

### Maoist commander gunned down

**Patna:** Three persons including a zonal commander gunned down in Maoist affected Barachatti area in Gaya district early Sunday morning. The Maoist Zonal commander is identified as Alok Yadav alias Gulshan. Beside him, two villagers including a brother in law of village head of Dewariya village also died in this incident. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Additional SP (Operation) of Gaya police confirms the incident. He said that the Alok Yadav was killed in retaliatory firing of CRPF Cobra team.

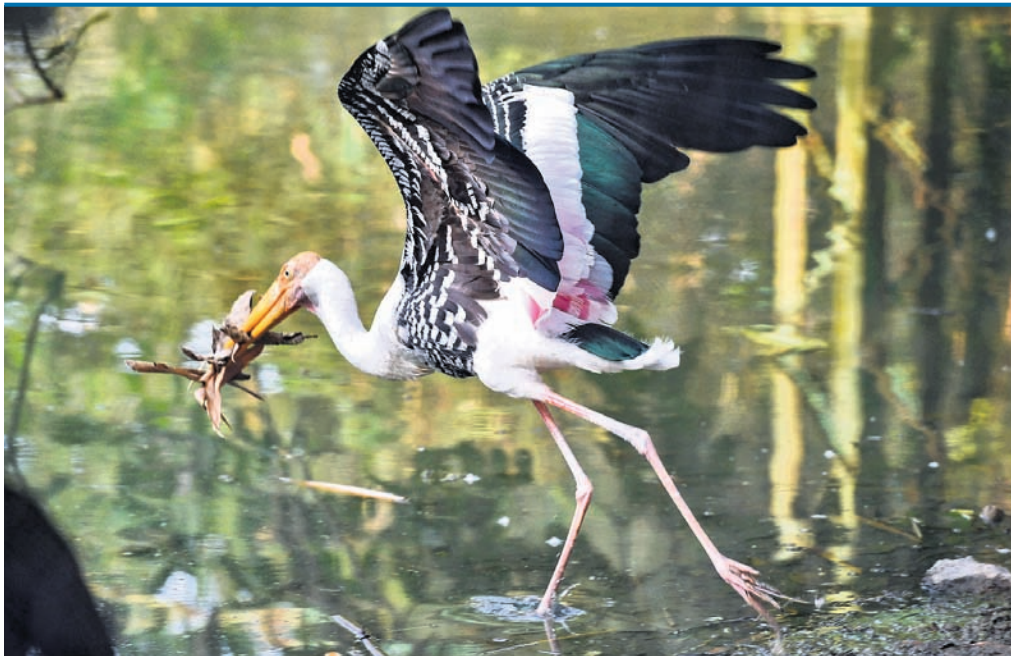
### Nigerian woman held

**New Delhi:** A 49-year-old Nigerian woman was arrested from New Delhi Railway Station for allegedly smuggling 840 cans of foreign-made beer, police said Sunday. The accused has been identified as Mariam Eni Edakwo, they said. "On Saturday, due to the suspicious movement, a woman was stopped and her luggage having 12 jute bags were checked. The bags contained 840 cans of beer. The woman was travelling in A-2 coach of Mumbai Rajdhani train from Mumbai to Delhi," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Railways) Harendra Kumra Singh said.

### Drone sighted near LoC

**Jammu:** A Pakistani drone was sighted hovering in the skies near the Line of Control (LoC) in Mendhar sector of Poonch district following which the Army has launched a search operation, officials said Sunday. The search operation was launched in Basoni, Dharana and adjoining areas shortly after the detection of the drone on Saturday evening, the officials said.

## WHAT A CATCH



A painted stork spotted at Alipore Zoo, in Kolkata, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

## 37 UP POLICEMEN TO FACE ACTION IN BIKRU CASE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, Nov 22:** The Uttar Pradesh Home Department has asked the Additional Director General of Police of Kanpur to take action against 37 policemen for their alleged links with slain gangster Vikas Dubey or dereliction of duty.

Action was recommended by a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) that probed the role of the police in the Bikru massacre that left eight policemen dead on July 3 in an ambush by gangster Vikas Dubey and his aides. The police team had gone to the Bikru village to arrest Dubey.

Dubey and five of his aides were later shot dead in separate encounters by the Special Task Force. The SIT report said the 37 policemen, who were or are posted in Kanpur, had leaked information to Dubey. According to official sources, of the 37 policemen, eight will face 'strict' action.

The eight policemen include the then Chaubeypur station officer Vinay Tiwari and sub-inspector K.K. Sharma. Both were suspended after the incident and later arrested.

They are among the 38 people who have been charge-sheeted in connection with the ambush. ADG Kanpur, Jai Narain Singh, has been asked to initiate proceedings against six other policemen for whom a 'lighter punishment' has been recommended.

Another 23 policemen will face an initial departmental probe. These include police officers from the Kanpur Nagar district as well as neighbouring Kanpur Dehat district.

The SIT had analyzed Dubey's mobile phone records going back up to a year and found that some policemen were in regular touch with him. Additional Chief Secretary Sanjay Bhoosreddy, Additional Director General of Police Hariram Sharma and DIG Ravindra Gaud are the three SIT members.

# Trilateral maritime exercise SITMEX-20 on in Andaman Sea

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 22:** Naval forces of India, Singapore, and Thailand are engaged in a trilateral maritime exercise 'SITMEX-20' in the Andaman Sea to strengthen mutual confidence and develop common understanding and procedures towards enhancing overall maritime security in the region.

As part of the second edition of the exercise, Indian Navy ships, including indigenously built anti-submarine warfare corvette Kamorta, and missile corvette Karmuk, are participating. The two-day exercise began on Saturday, the Defence Ministry said Sunday.

The first edition of SITMEX, hosted by the Indian Navy, was conducted off Port Blair in September 2019.

The SITMEX exercises are conducted to enhance mutual inter-



operability and imbibing best practices between the Indian Navy, Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), and Royal Thai Navy (RTN). The 2020 edition of the exercise is hosted by RSN.

RSN is represented by the 'Formidable' Class frigate 'Intrepid' and 'Endurance' Class Landing Ship Tank 'Endeavour' and RTN by the 'Chao Phraya' Class frigate 'Kraburi' in the exercise.

The exercise, conducted as a 'non-contact, at sea only' exercise in view of COVID-19 pandemic, highlights growing synergy, coordination and cooperation in the maritime domain between the three navies and maritime neighbours.

The two days of maritime drills will witness the three navies participate in a variety of exercises, including naval manoeuvres, surface warfare exercises and weapons firing.

## EYE ON 2024 POLLS, NADDA TO GO ON 120-DAY TOUR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 22:** BJP president J P Nadda will embark on a 120-day nationwide tour to tone up the party's formidable organisational machinery with an eye on the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, as the saffron dispensation looks to focus on regions where it did not fare well in the last general election.

BJP general secretary Arun Singh told reporters that Nadda will begin his travel from the first week of December and Uttarakhand will be the first state on his itinerary. December 5 is the likely date for the beginning of his tour. Singh said the BJP president will visit every state, hold virtual meetings with heads of all booth

units, the smallest organisational entity in the party, and meet every MP and MLA of the organisation besides its senior leaders, including district chiefs, in each state. Nadda will visit some booths to interact with ground

workers, he added. During the travel, he will also strategise with party leaders for strengthening the organisation in Lok Sabha seats and regions where the BJP did not win in the 2019 polls, he said.

With assembly polls in four states, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Assam, set to be held in the first half of the next year, he will also review the party's preparedness for the elections, Singh said. Nadda will spend three days in big states and two in others.



## Governors in the waiting!

With Bihar in pocket and plans for Cabinet reshuffle are afoot before mid-December, veterans in the party are eyeing gubernatorial positions. If reports are to be believed, gubernatorial changes may take place either before the Cabinet reshuffle or immediately after the changes in the Union Council of Ministers. Goa will need a new Governor as Satya Pal Malik has been transferred to Meghalaya and additional charge

has been given to another Governor. Tathagat Roy quit the Meghalaya Governor's post to go back to West Bengal politics. Anandiben Patel, Governor UP was given the additional charge of Madhya Pradesh after the demise of Governor Balraj Das Tandon. The tenure of Draupadi Murmu (Jharkhand) and Vajubhai Vala (Karnataka) has also ended. Kiran Bedi and Anil Bajjal, Lieutenant Governors of Puducherry and Delhi are also sitting in the exit lounges. Senior party leaders Prabhakar Jha, Renu Devi, Shyam Jaju, Avinash Rai Khanna are hoping for the key post in Raj Bhawans.

## Cabinet reshuffle in the offing!

Decks are being cleared for an impending reshuffle of the Union Cabinet. The grapevine has it that it may take place anytime after the Diwali festival. The Capital has been buzzing for the

reshuffle ever since BJP's organisational changes were made last month. The removal of as many as four general secretaries caused a ripple and there are reports that reshuffle may also give shock to many. Currently, there are 22 Cabinet Ministers including the Prime Minister which is the lowest ever. With the exit of Harsimrat Kaur Badal (Akali Dal), Arvind Sawant (Shiv Sena) and demise of Ram Vilas Paswan (LJP), the situation has become somewhat precarious. The Janata Dal (U), a key BJP ally, is not part of the Cabinet due to some differences. The Prime Minister called for the presentation from at least the Union Minister during the past two months and reviewed the performance of his colleagues. It is learnt a couple of them may be shown the door. There is a view that one Cabinet rank Minister be brought in from West Bengal. Now that the BJP has turned the corner in Madhya Pradesh, a big promotion for Jyotiraditya Scindia

is in the offing. Will someone come from Maharashtra into the Cabinet? No one knows.

## Battle for Bengal now

Union Home Minister Amit Shah may have ducked going to Bihar fearing that the BJP is already losing it and therefore, he avoided it. But he never allowed anyone to take charge of West Bengal in the party. He may have enjoyed delicious Bengali food but he faced a tough task handling various factions in the party. Mukul Roy who was instrumental in BJP's win during the Lok Sabha polls engineering defection from the TMC, was sulking. He did not go to receive Amit Shah at the airport and remained in his Bankura area. The BJP has been toying with the idea of projecting Saurav Ganguly or Pt. Ajay Chakravarty, a renowned person from the music and cultural world who hosted Amit Shah at his

residence. But supporters of BJP West Bengal Chief Dilip Ghose insist on him being declared as the face. Babul Supriyo and Rupa Ganguly have failed to make their mark. The BJP desperately needs a CM face against Mamata.

## Cong revamp delayed again

The Congress was all set for a revamp with major organisational changes after the Bihar elections hoping that there will be RJD-Congress alliance government in place. The reshuffle would have included AICC secretary-level functionaries, heads of some departments and cells and state in-charges and chiefs. The core committee comprising of seven key members including AK Antony and Ahmad Patel were to steer clear the path. But as the ill-luck would have it, Patel fell sick and was admitted to Medanta. All this will now go for a toss.

## Star rating for water devices now

Ever since PM Modi has come to power, he has set his eyes on giving star ratings- be it Clean Cities, Best villages, Best electric devices, best this & best that. Now his eyes are set on giving star ratings to water consumption devices. On the lines of electric appliances such as TV, fridge and air conditioner, star rating will be given to water taps, showers and flush cisterns as well, on the basis of their water consumption. Various standards are being finalised based on the water efficiency of such devices under the National Water Mission, by the ministry of water power and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The BIS, which works under the ministry of consumer affairs, has prepared a draft for determining the efficiency of water appliances and sanitary products for star rating.



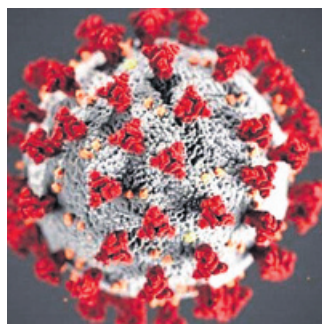
# international



Health as a fundamental human right, should not be subject to the pursuit of profit  
ANDRES MANUEL LOPEZ OBRADOR | MEXICAN PRESIDENT

## STUDY INFO

Testing half the population weekly with inexpensive, rapid-turnaround COVID-19 tests can drive the pandemic toward elimination within weeks even if the tests are significantly less sensitive than gold-standard clinical diagnostics, a new study says



## of the day quote

The government's efforts were praised by major international financial institutions, foremost of which is the official announcement of the IMF experts that the performance of the Egyptian economy has exceeded expectations



ABDEL-FATTAH AL-SISI | EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT

I hope that the Afghan Peace Negotiations can swiftly achieve a de-escalation of the conflicts and cessation of attacks



ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

It is very important to reactivate our economy and to do it responsibly



IVAN DUQUE | COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT

# Trump's team cried fraud, but courts found none

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philadelphia, Nov 22: As they frantically searched for ways to salvage President Donald Trump's failed re-election bid, his campaign pursued a dizzying game of legal hopscotch across six states that centered on the biggest prize of all: Pennsylvania.

The strategy may have played well in front of television cameras and on talk radio. But it has proved a disaster in court, where judges uniformly rejected their claims of vote fraud and found the campaign's legal work amateurish.

In a ruling late Saturday, US District Judge Matthew Brann — a Republican and Federalist Society member in central Pennsylvania — compared the campaign's legal arguments to "Frankenstein's Monster," concluding that Trump's team offered only "speculative accusations," not proof of rampant corruption.

Now, as the legal doors close on Trump's attempts to have courts do what voters would not do on Election Day and deliver him a second term, his efforts in Pennsylvania show how far he is willing to push baseless theories of widespread voter fraud.



It was led by Rudy Giuliani, Trump's personal lawyer, who descended on the state the Saturday after the November 3 election as the count dragged on and the President played golf. Summoning reporters to a scruffy, far-flung corner of Philadelphia on November 7, he held forth at a site that would soon become legendary: Four Seasons Total Landscaping.

The 11:30 a.m. news conference was doomed from the start. At 11:26 am, news outlets had started calling the presidential contest for Democrat Joe Biden. The race was over. Just heating up was Trump's plan to subvert the election through

litigation and howls of fraud — the same tactic he had used to stave off losses in the business world. And it would soon spread far beyond Pennsylvania. "Some of the ballots looked suspicious," Giuliani, 76, said of the vote count in Philadelphia as he stood behind a chain link fence. He maligned the city as being run by a "decrepit Democratic machine."

"Those mail-in ballots could have been written the day before, by the Democratic Party hacks that were all over the convention center," Giuliani said. He promised to file a new round of lawsuits. He rambled. "This is a very, very strong

case," he asserted.

Justin Levitt, a Loyola Law School professor who specializes in election law, called the Trump lawsuits dangerous. "It is a sideshow, but it's a harmful sideshow," Levitt said.

"It's a toxic sideshow. The continuing baseless, evidence-free claims of alternative facts are actually having an effect on a substantial number of Americans. They are creating the conditions for elections not to the future."

Not a single court has agreed with the strength of the case, but that did not stop Trump's team from firing off nearly two dozen legal challenges to Biden's victory in Pennsylvania, including an early morning suit on Election Day filed by a once-imprisoned lawyer.

The President's lawyers fought the three-day grace period for mail-in ballots to arrive. They complained they weren't being let in to observe the vote count. They said Democratic counties unfairly let voters fix mistakes on their ballot envelopes. Everywhere they turned, they said, they sniffed fraud. "I felt insidious fraud going on," Philadelphia poll watcher Lisette Tarragano said when Giuliani called her to the microphone at the landscaping company.

# Covid treatment given to Trump cleared for use



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, Nov 22: The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted emergency use approval to the Regeneron Pharmaceuticals antibody treatment which was given to President Donald Trump after he was diagnosed with Covid-19.

The emergency use authorisation is for the antibody cocktail casirivimab and imdevimab to be administered together — also known as REGN-COV2 or REGEN-COV2 — for recently diagnosed, mild to moderate Covid-19 in high-risk patients, the FDA said late Saturday.

Regeneron said that it is the first treatment of any kind to have prospectively confirmed and statistically significant anti-viral activity against SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for Covid-19. Casirivimab and imdevimab administered together are authorised for the treatment of mild to moderate Covid-19 in adults, as well as in pediatric patients at least 12 years of age and weighing at least 40 kg, who have received positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing and are at a high risk for progressing to severe Covid-19 and/or hospitalisation.

The clinical evidence from Regeneron's outpatient trial suggests that monoclonal antibodies such as REGEN-COV2 have the greatest benefit when given early after diagnosis and in patients who have not yet mounted their own immune response or who have high viral load, the company said.

"This FDA Emergency Use Authorisation is an important step in the fight against Covid-19, as

## Sputnik V to cost lower than Pfizer, Moderna's COVID vax

Moscow: Russia's Sputnik V vaccine against Covid-19 will cost governments much lower than that of Pfizer's and Moderna's, the official Twitter handle of the world's first registered vaccine against the pandemic said Sunday. "Translating pharma lingo: the announced price of Pfizer of \$19.50 and Moderna of \$25-\$37 per dose actually means their price of \$39 and \$50-\$74 per person. Two doses are required per person for the Pfizer, Sputnik V and Moderna vaccines. The price of Sputnik V will be much lower," said the tweet. According to a spokesman for the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), RDIF is Russia's sovereign wealth fund, the price of the Russian vaccine will be made public next week, TASS news agency reported.

high-risk patients in the United States will have access to a promising therapy early in the course of their infection," Leonard Schleifer, President and Chief Executive Officer of Regeneron, said in a statement.

"The science and technology investments Regeneron has made over three decades positioned us to move rapidly to invent, study and maximise production of REGEN-COV2. Even with these incredible efforts, demand may exceed supply initially, making it even more critical that federal and state governments ensure REGEN-COV2 is distributed fairly and equitably to the patients most in need."

## SHORT TAKES

### Civilian injured

Kabul: A day after 23 rockets hit Kabul killing nine people and injuring nearly 50 others, there were two separate IED blasts on Sunday in the Afghan capital which wounded one civilian, leading to widespread panic. The civilian was wounded after a sticky improvised explosive device (IED) attached to a wagon-type taxi detonated at 6.10 a.m. in Hesa-e-Hawal-e-Khair Khana Mina, Xinhua news agency quoted Kabul police spokesman Ferdaus Faramarz as saying to the media.

### Minor raped

Lahore: A seven-year-old girl was hospitalised after a shopkeeper allegedly raped her at gunpoint in Lahore, police said, adding the perpetrator has been arrested. The incident took place on Saturday in the city's Nawab Town area when the victim visited the shop, reports Xinhua news agency. According to the FIR lodged by the girl's father, the 35-year-old suspect took her to a portion of his shop, allegedly raped her at gunpoint and then fled the scene on finding her in serious condition.

### Israel strikes Hamas sites

Jerusalem: Israeli aircraft Sunday struck multiple sites in the Gaza Strip in response to a rocket fired earlier from the Palestinian territory, Israel's military said. There were no immediate reports of injuries. While several militant groups operate out of the Palestinian enclave, Israel holds Gaza's Hamas rulers responsible for all rocket fire out of the territory and usually strikes Hamas targets in response. The Israeli military said in a statement that fighter jets and attack helicopters hit two rocket ammunition manufacturing sites, underground infrastructure and a Hamas naval forces training compound.

### Man dies in shark attack

Sydney: A man died Sunday after being attacked by a shark in Western Australia, the eighth fatality in the county this year. Police were called to Cable Beach, a popular tourist spot on Australia's Indian Ocean coast, at about 8:40 a.m. The 55-year-old was pulled from the water with serious injuries and treated by police before paramedics arrived. He died at the scene, police said. Park rangers immediately closed the beach.

## Taiwan protests against US pork imports

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taipei, Nov 22: Thousands of people marched in Taipei's streets on Sunday demanding the reversal of a decision to allow US pork imports into Taiwan, alleging food safety issues.

President Tsai Ing-wen's administration lifted a long-standing ban on US pork and beef imports in August, in a move seen as one of the first steps toward possibly negotiating a bilateral trade agreement with the US. The ban is due to be lifted in January.

That decision has met with fierce opposition, both by the opposition Kuomintang party and individual citizens. The new policy allows imports of pork with acceptable residues of ractopamine, a drug added to animal feed that promotes the growth of lean meat that some farmers use in pigs.

The drug is banned by the European Union, but is legal in the US. "I came here today to oppose the import of ractopamine," said Kelvin Chen, a 54-year-old computer engineer who was marching. "I feel these days many who do business are not ethical. If they mix the US Pork with Taiwan pork and then sell it to us average consumers, we as individuals have no way to know the source of the pork." "I have a child and when we eat things with ractopamine, it's not good for our bodies," said Jacky Tsui, a factory worker.

## Pope cheers jamboree plans

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vatican City, Nov 22: With no papal travels abroad this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Pope Francis is cheering efforts for a youth jamboree, traditionally attended by pontiffs, in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2023.

Francis Sunday presided over a handover ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica involving young people gearing up for the next World Youth Day, which draws huge crowds of Catholics from around the globe.

When Francis attended the last such event in Panama in 2019, organisers announced that the next jamboree would be held in Lisbon in 2022. But pandemic concerns postponed the event to August 2023.

Francis applauded after youths from Panama symbolically slid across the basilica's floor a towering wooden cross to counterparts from Portugal as part of preparations for Lisbon. "This is an important step in the pilgrimage that will lead us to Lisbon in 2023," the Pope told the young people, several wearing hoodies or T-shirts emblazoned with the event's icon. No foreign trips are currently scheduled for Francis, who last travelled overseas in November 2019 on a pilgrimage to Thailand and Japan.

## GREAT HEIGHTS



Alexei Dudoladov, a student and blogger, climbs a birch tree while seeking better cellular network coverage in Stankevichi, Russia

## Scientists find signs of megafloods on Mars

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, Nov 22: Analysing data collected by NASA's Curiosity rover, scientists have found that floods of unimaginable magnitude once washed through Gale Crater on Mars' equator around four billion years ago.

The finding, published in the journal Scientific Reports, hints at the possibility that life may have existed on the Red Planet. The raging megaflood — likely touched off by the heat of a meteoritic impact, which unleashed ice stored on the Martian surface — set up gigantic ripples that are tell-tale geologic structures familiar to scientists on Earth.

"We identified megafloods for the first time using detailed sedimentological data observed by the rover Curiosity," said co-author Alberto Fairen, a visiting astrobiologist at Cornell



University, Ithaca, New York. "Deposits left behind by megafloods had not been previously identified with orbiter data."

As is the case on Earth, geological features, including the work of water and wind have been frozen in time on Mars for about four billion years. "These features convey processes that shaped the surface of both planets in the past."

## Pompeo meets negotiators in Doha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Nov 22: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has met negotiators from the Afghan government and the Taliban in Doha, amidst signs of progress in their stalled talks and an uptick in violence that threatens to jeopardise the peace push in the war-torn country.

This was the first meeting of the top American diplomat with the Taliban and the Afghans representatives after the US recent announcement that it will reduce the number of American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq to 2,500 each by January 15 next year. The US currently has a little over 4,500 troops in Afghanistan.

"Met with both Taliban and Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's negotiating teams in Doha. I commend both sides for continuing to negotiate and for the progress they have made. I encourage expedited discussions on a political roadmap and a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire," Pompeo said in tweet on Saturday.

Pompeo met today with Taliban Political Deputy and Head of the



Political Office Mullah Beradar and members of the Taliban negotiating team, State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson Cale Brown said.

During the meeting, Pompeo commended both sides for continuing to negotiate and for the progress they have made, he said. In his meeting with the Taliban, Pompeo commended both sides for continuing to negotiate and for the progress they have made. He called for a significant reduction in violence and encouraged expedited discussions on a political roadmap and a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire.

"Pompeo and the negotiators discussed ways to reduce violence, and he encouraged expedited discussions on a political roadmap

and a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire," Brown said.

Pompeo reiterated that the people of Afghanistan expect and deserve to live in peace and security after 40 years of war and bloodshed, he said, adding that the US Secretary of State also meet with Qatari Foreign Minister Al Thani in Doha and discuss bilateral and regional issues

"We appreciate Qatar's ongoing support as a host to the Afghan peace negotiations. A united Gulf remains crucial for countering Iran's malign influence in the region," Pompeo said in another tweet.

The US signed an agreement with the Taliban in February to promote a negotiated end to the protracted conflict. Afghan government and Taliban negotiators have been meeting in Doha on a regular basis to try to broker a peace deal but have yet to yield any major breakthrough. Meanwhile, violence in Afghanistan has spiked in recent months. Pompeo's visit came in the wake of a rocket attack which struck densely populated areas of Kabul, killing at least eight people in the latest outbreak of violence in the Afghan capital.

# Azerbaijanis who fled war look to return home

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baku, Nov 22: As Azerbaijan regains control of land it lost to Armenian forces a quarter-century ago, civilians who fled the fighting decades ago wonder if they can go back home now — and if there's still a home to go back to.

An estimated 600,000 Azerbaijanis were displaced in the 1990s war that left the Nagorno-Karabakh region under the control of ethnic Armenian separatists and large adjacent territories in Armenia's hands.

During six weeks of renewed fighting this fall that ended November 10, Azerbaijan took back parts of Nagorno-Karabakh itself and sizeable swaths of the



outlying areas.

More territory is being returned as part of the ceasefire agreement that stopped the latest fighting. But as Azerbaijani forces discovered when the first area, Aghdam, was turned over on Friday, much of the

recovered land is uninhabitable. The city of Aghdam, where 50,000 people once lived, is now a shattered ruin.

Adil Sharifov, 62, who left his hometown in 1992 during the first war and lives in Azerbaijan's cap-

ital, Baku, knows he will find similar devastation if he returns to the city of Jabrayil, which he longs to do.

Jabrayil is one of the outlying areas regained by Azerbaijani troops before the recent fighting ended. Soon after it was taken, one of Sharifov's cousins went there and told him the city was destroyed, including the large house with an orchard where Sharifov's family once lived. Nonetheless, "the day when I return there will be the greatest happiness for me," he said. For years, he said, his family had followed reports about Jabrayil on the internet. They knew the destruction was terrible, but Sharifov's late mother retained a desperate hope that their house had been

spared and held on to the keys.

"I will build an even better house," he vowed. Ulviya Jumayeva, 50, can go back to better, though not ideal circumstances in her native Shusha, a city that Azerbaijani forces took in the key offensive of the six-week war.

Her younger brother, Nasimi, took part in the battle and phoned to tell her the apartment their family fled in 1992 was intact, though mostly stripped of the family's possessions.

"According to him, it is clear that Armenians lived there after us, and then they took everything away. But our large mirror in the hallway, which we loved to look at as children, remains," Jumayeva said, adding: "Maybe my grandchildren will look in this mirror:"





**Going ahead, the market is likely to be volatile as sentiments oscillate between fear of rising COVID cases globally and optimism over vaccine progress. Investors would closely watch out development over the US stimulus talks**  
SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA | HEAD (RETAIL RESEARCH), MOTILAL OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD

## PENALISE E-COMM MAJORS: CAIT TO DPIIT

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has written to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to take action against e-commerce major Amazon and Flipkart for alleged violation of FDI and FEMA norms



## of the day quote

We had earlier expected that 15-20% of the total moratorium book will go for restructuring. But now we think only ₹1,000-1,500 crore from our total advances will come up for restructuring



AS RAJEEV | MD AND CEO, BANK OF MAHARASHTRA

Suno is available in just Hindi and English so far, and we have purposefully focused on those two languages. No doubt we are working on expanding to other Indian languages. I think that would take our audience expansion to other states as well



SHAILESH SAWLANI | COUNTRY HEAD (INDIA), AUDIBLE

We have imported some coking coal from Russia. Its east coast is a good source. We support the government's initiative to look at Russia as a source (of coking coal). It is a good option for us to have other sources as we are overdependent on Australia



TV NARENDHAN | MD AND CEO, TATA STEEL

## SHORT TAKES

### 'Centre keen on finding soln.'

**New Delhi:** The Centre is keen on finding a solution to the Goa mining issue as it is the core economic activity of the state, Union Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi said. Mining operations in Goa came to a grinding halt in March 2018 after the Supreme Court quashed 88 mining leases. "Goa has given some representation. These entire things we are looking at the various level. I cannot comment anything much."

### Relaxo to set up new facility

**New Delhi:** Relaxo Footwears Ltd plans to invest ₹150 crore in the current fiscal to set up a new manufacturing facility amid growing demand for open footwear such as slippers and sandals in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. "Demand for open footwear is going up due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are trying to increase production to meet that demand," Relaxo Footwears MD Ramesh Kumar Dua said.

### Prestige group to invest ₹2,000cr

**New Delhi:** Realty firm Prestige Estates Projects Ltd will develop 4 new housing projects in Bangalore, Goa and Hyderabad with an investment of nearly ₹2,000 crore amid recovery in demand for residential properties. The Bangalore-based company will develop nearly 3,400 housing units in these four projects over the next three and half years. "We are getting good traction in these projects. We have already sold 50% in Hyderabad," Prestige group Chairman Irfan Razack said.

### Govt plans 10% stake sale

**New Delhi:** The government is planning to sell up to 10% stake in defence PSU Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd (MIDHANI) in the current fiscal ending March, an official said. The company got listed on stock exchanges in April 2018 and the government had raised ₹438 crore by selling 26% stake through IPO. The official said that with the opening of space sector to foreign investment and bringing defence sector under automatic route for 74% FDI, MIDHANI shares are expected to attract investors.

# 'Manufacturing sector poised to witness recovery in July-Sept'

Based on expectations in different sectors, all the sectors except medical devices are likely to register low growth in Q2 2020-21

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 22:** India's manufacturing sector is poised to witness recovery in the July-September quarter, even as hiring outlook for the segment remains bleak, according to a survey.

Industry body FICCI's latest quarterly survey on manufacturing points towards recovery of the manufacturing sector in the second quarter ended September as compared to the previous quarter, with a rise in percentage of respondents reporting higher production.

The proportion of respondents reporting higher output during July-September rose to 24%, as compared to 10% in the previous quarter. Besides, the percentage of respondents expecting low or same production is 74% in the second quarter which was 90% in the first quarter of 2020-21.

However, hiring outlook for the sector, though improving slightly, shows a bleak picture as 80% of the respondents mentioned that they are not likely to hire additional workforce in the next three months.

"This presents slightly improved situation in the hiring scenario as compared to the previous quarter



Q1 of 2020-21, where 85% of the respondents were not in favour of hiring additional workforce," FICCI said.

Moreover, the average interest rate paid by manufacturers has reduced slightly to 9.2% per annum as against 9.4% per annum during the last quarter and the highest rate is reported to be 12.5%. The recent cuts in repo rate by the RBI has not led to a consequential reduction in the lending rate as reported by 55% of the respondents, found the survey.

Based on expectations in different sectors, all the sectors except medical devices are likely to register low growth in Q2 2020-21. The primary reason for such depressed expectations seems to be the imposition of lockdown, subdued demand, restricted exports and other guidelines in place as a response towards COVID-19 outbreak.

The survey covered wide areas of relevance for manufacturing

like exports, capacity utilisation, on-going restrictions, availability of labour/workforce and others. In many of these areas there are signs of operations inching towards normal and in coming months could see better performance.

The survey assessed the sentiments of manufacturers for July-September 2020-21 for 12 major sectors namely automotive, capital goods, cement and ceramics, chemicals, fertilizers and pharmaceuticals, electronics & electricals, leather and footwear, medical devices, metal & metal products, paper products, textiles, textile machinery, and miscellaneous.

Responses were drawn from over 300 manufacturing units from both large and SME segments with a combined annual turnover of around ₹3 lakh crore.

The survey showed that overall capacity utilisation in manufacturing has risen to 65% as compared to 61.5% in Q4 2019-20.

## WU buys \$200mn stake in Saudi Telecom unit

The acquisition of STC pay, will finance its capital and support long-term expansion plans

REUTERS

**Dubai, Nov 22:** Western Union, the world's largest money transfer firm, has acquired a 15% stake in the digital payment unit of Saudi Arabia's STC Group for \$200 million.

The acquisition of STC pay, which values the company at \$5 billion (₹1.3 billion), will finance its capital and support long-term expansion plans, Saudi Arabia's largest telecoms operator said in a statement Saturday.

STC Group chairman Mohammed bin Khalid Abdullah Al Faisal said the investment reflected the company's position as a "digital enabler". He said the

deal created the first "Saudi unicorn and the first fintech unicorn in the Middle East".

Unicorns are generally defined as private companies valued at \$1 billion or more. Sources told Reuters last month that STC had hired banks to arrange a potential initial sale of shares in its product and services development arm, Solutions by STC.

Reducing dependence on cash is part of Saudi government efforts to modernise the economy of the world's largest oil exporter.

STC said its stc pay unit is the first licensed fintech company by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority, the Saudi central bank, and has more than 4.5 million users.



## Small towns account for 16% of Mutual Fund asset base

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 22:** The contribution of small towns or B30 cities to mutual fund (MF) industry's average assets under management (AUM) of over ₹28 lakh crore stood at 16% as of October-end, while state-wise Maharashtra remained the biggest contributor to the assets base, industry body Amfi said.

Since last few years, markets regulator Sebi has been pushing asset management companies to reach out to small towns for increasing their assets base.

B30 (beyond top 30 cities) accounted for 16% of the total industry Average Assets Under Management (AAUM) in October this year, and the balance was contributed by T30 cities, or the top 30 locations in India, the Association of Mutual Fund Industry (Amfi) said.

Assets from B30 locations increased to ₹4.61 lakh crore as of October-end from ₹4.47 lakh crore at September-end, a 3% growth.

"There has been a constant increase in investments from B30 locations. They have close to 27% share in the overall equity assets held by individual and it is growing at a reasonable rate," said Harshad Chetanwala of MyWealthGrowth.Com.

"This is encouraging as investors



The acquisition of STC pay, which values the company at \$1.3bn, will finance its capital and support long-term expansion plans

across country should get the benefit of investing in instrument like mutual funds. Even the interest levels from these cities have been high to understand how mutual funds can help them in long term," he added.

B-30 locations tend towards equity schemes as 65% of assets are

from equity schemes, while same is 35% for 'Top 30' cities.

About 15% of the retail investors chose to invest directly, while 24% of HNI assets were invested directly.

"Besides, 47 per cent of the assets of the mutual fund industry came directly. A large proportion of direct investments was in non-equity oriented schemes where institutional investors dominate," Amfi noted.

In terms of state-wise contribution, Maharashtra continued to be the biggest contributor (43.8%) of the industry's AAUM in October this year, followed by 8.4% by New Delhi, 6.9% each by Gujarat and Karnataka and 5.2% by West Bengal.

## ROAD TO RECOVERY

The demand for blue-collar workers is back to 100% of pre-COVID-19 levels in the food and grocery delivery segment in the post lockdown phase

The report finds that the hiring from delivery segment is followed by manufacturing, ancillary and BPO sectors

Vahan, which uses WhatsApp-based virtual assistant to automate hiring of blue-collar workforce, said it saw a rapid surge in uptake of its technology solution by both job seekers and job providers looking to get connected



**Demand for blue-collar jobs, which saw an overall dip during the Covid lockdown, has witnessed sharp recovery led by the delivery segment which include food as well as grocery delivery**

MADHAV KRISHNA | CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, VAHAN

sumer optimism in India about economic recovery amid the pandemic, he added.

"Blue-collar industry is an underserved market in India. At Vahan, we are leveraging the power of technology to create India's em-

ployment exchange 2.0 that seamlessly connects employers and job seekers effectively, with speed and at an unprecedented scale," he said.

## RBI Twitter gets one million followers

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Nov 22:** In a first among central banks, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has become the first monetary authority in the world to have more than 1 million followers on its official Twitter handle.

Despite much less monetary firepower, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has beaten the world's most powerful central banks - the US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank - on Twitter by a wide margin, emerging as the most popular central bank on the microblogging site with over 1 million followers.

As of Sunday, the RBI handle is followed by as many as 10,00,513 people around the world.

The achievement is impressive as the 85-year-old Reserve Bank was also a latecomer to the world of Twitter as it created the account only in January 2012.

According to the latest information available on the RBI's Twitter handle '@RBI', the number of followers has increased from 9.66 lakh on September 27, 2020 to over 10 lakh as of Sunday.

"RBI Twitter account reaches 1 million followers today. A new milestone. Congratulations to all my colleagues in RBI," Governor Shaktikanta Das Tweeted Sunday.

The second slot is the much lesser known central bank of Mexico (Banco de Mexico) with 7.74 lakh followers, followed by Bank of Indonesia (7.57 lakh). The US Federal Reserve, the world's most powerful central bank, has only 6.77 lakh followers, placing it at a distant fourth slot.

With 5.91 lakh followers the Frankfurt-headquartered European Central Bank, the second most powerful monetary authority in



India's central bank becomes the first monetary authority in the world to have more than 1 million followers on its official Twitter handle

the world, comes fifth.

At the sixth rank is the Central Bank of Brazil with 3.82 lakh followers and the Bank of England is at a distant seventh with 3.17 lakh followers.

The Bank of Canada comes next with 1.80 lakh and the State Bank of Pakistan is the ninth largest with 1.16 lakh followers.

At the tenth slot is the Reserve Bank of Australia with 49,200 followers.

The central bank of France has just about 37,100 followers, while the Deutsche Bundesbank has around 30,000 followers.

The third most powerful monetary authority, the Bank of Japan, has only 28,900 followers on its Twitter account.

The US Fed joined Twitter in March 2009, while the ECB has been active on the microblogging site since October 2009.

Governor Das, who assumed office in December 2018, has a separate Twitter handle with 1.35 lakh followers.

## Khimji partners Odisha FC in ISL 2020-21

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 22:** With the start of 7th edition of country's biggest football extravaganza - Indian Super League (ISL) 2020, the entire nation is witnessing strong fever of football which is adding warmth this winter.

This is the first mega sporting event amidst the COVID 19 pandemic, to be hosted by Goa November 20 onwards. The black and white jersey to be donned by the Odisha FC team will have Khimji's logo visible on their arms with other sponsors. The mega event is played without spectators in the stand owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mitesh Khimji, Director of Khimji Jewellers and Khimji Group said, "We are very glad to be the official partner of Odisha FC, our state's very own ISL team. Odisha FC's last endeavour in its debut season was amazing, and we hope to see a more powerful foot print this season."

As one of the oldest home grown business group of the state (since 1936), we feel the responsibility for such partnering and are looking forward to be associated with more such ventures to encourage different talents and skills from the state." Odisha FC had made their debut last season in 2019-20 and finished sixth in the league (points) table.

# Blue-collar jobs on recovery path led by delivery segment: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 22:** After witnessing an overall dip in blue collar jobs due to the coronavirus induced lockdown, there has been a sharp recovery led by delivery segment, including food and grocery, according to startup placement firm Vahan.

The demand for blue-collar workers is back to 100% of pre-COVID-19 levels in the food and grocery delivery segment in the post lockdown phase and the delivery sector is now creating 2.5 lakh-3 lakh delivery jobs every single month buoyed by IPL and the festive season, the company said.

Citing data captured by Vahan's app, the company said the hiring from delivery segment is followed

by that from manufacturing, ancillary and BPO sectors.

Commenting on the development, Vahan Co-founder and CEO Madhav Krishna said, "Demand for blue-collar jobs, which saw an overall dip during the covid lockdown, has witnessed sharp recovery led by the delivery segment which include food as well as grocery delivery."

This trend points to growing con-



SHORT TAKES

Odisha cueist Huq breathes his last



**Bhubaneswar:** Nine-time Odisha billiards champion Ahsan Ul-Haq breathed his last Sunday at a hospital here. Huq was 55. He had not been keeping well for the last few months. Popularly called 'Huq Bhai' by all and sundry, he was the first player in Odisha to become a full-time cueist. He spent hours on the greens of the billiards table sharpening his own skills as well as helping out others. He regularly participated in the nationals and was one of the most prominent players in East Zone for close to two decades. A native of West Bengal, the cueist had made Odisha his home in the 1990s due to his love for the game.

AFI in huge soup

**New Delhi:** Athletics Federation of India's (AFI) high performance director Volker Herrmann has resigned from his post. "After one-and-a-half fruitful and inspiring years in India, the day has come when I could not any longer meet the self-imposed expectations coming along with the role of AFI's high-performance director, which is why I resigned from my position three weeks ago," Herrmann wrote on his Facebook page Sunday. It should be stated here that Herrmann's contract was recently extended by the Sports Ministry till the end of 2024 Olympics. An AFI source said that Herrmann resigned a few weeks ago but he did not give any 'specific reason'. AGENCIES

DJOKOVIC, NADAL SENT PACKING IN SEMIFINALS OF ATP FINALS

# Upstarts dominate O2 Arena

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, Nov 22:** Instead of No. 1 Novak Djokovic versus No. 2 Rafael Nadal for the ATP Finals trophy, it'll be No. 3 Dominic Thiem against No. 4 Daniil Medvedev.

Nadal had won 71 matches in a row coming into the match against Medvedev. The Spaniard looked on course for his 72nd successive victory winning the first set and serving for the set at 5-4 in the second. But Medvedev broke at love there and came all the way back to win 3-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 at the O2 Arena court here Saturday.

That stunning victory came after Thiem frittered away four match points in his semifinal against Djokovic because he was

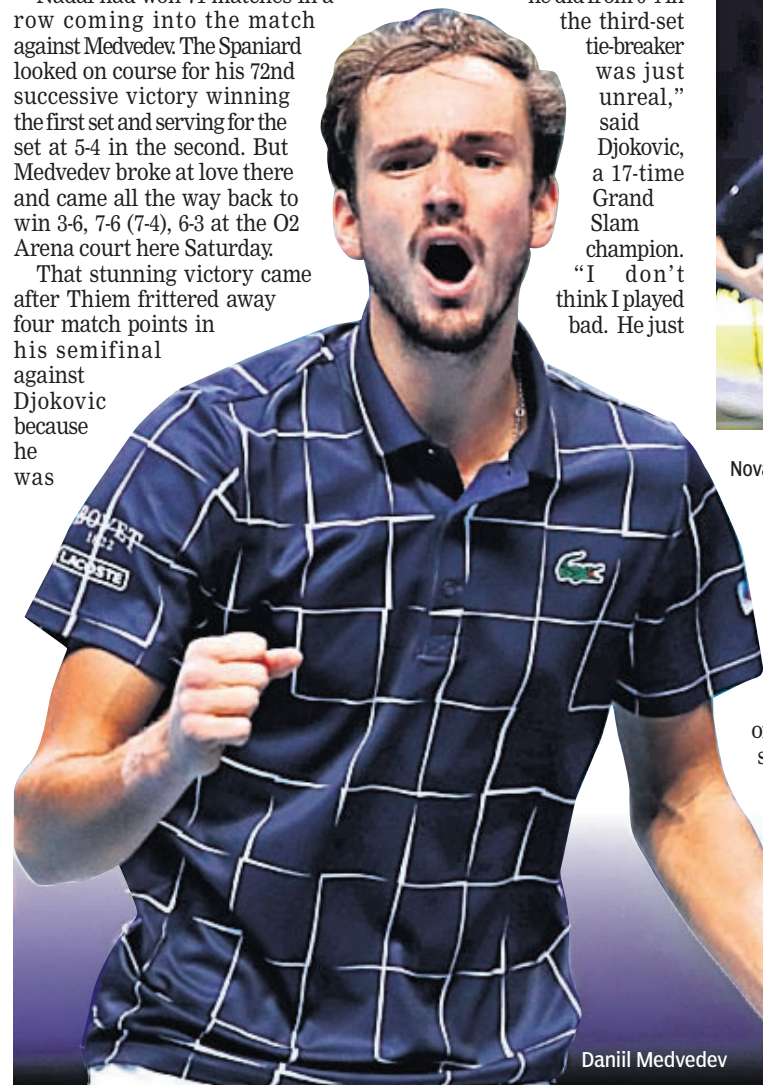
'tight and nervous' during a second set tie-breaker.

Thiem gathered himself and eventually reeled off seven of the match's last eight points after trailing 0-4 in the last tie-breaker, winning 7-5, 6-7 (10-12), 7-6 (7-5). "What he did from 0-4 in the third-set tie-breaker was just unreal," said Djokovic, a 17-time Grand Slam champion. "I don't think I played bad. He just

crushed the ball and everything went in," the Serbian added.

Thiem ended Djokovic's bid for a record-tying sixth ATP Finals trophy, while Medvedev prevented

in the second set to give himself the chance to serve for the match. He surprisingly stumbled there. Once he was back in the match, Medvedev took advantage, domi-



Daniil Medvedev



Novak Djokovic (L) congratulates Dominic Thiem after the latter's win Saturday

Nadal from continuing to pursue the most significant title the 20-time Major champion hasn't won. Nadal seemed on his way to the final when he reeled off four consecutive games

nating the ensuing tie-breaker with the help of a shanked lob, a forehand winner that claimed a 26-stroke exchange and a leaping backhand that drew a netted forehand.

Nadal couldn't shake that off, dropping the match's last three games as he serve-and-volleyed more than usual, sliced his backhand more than usual and made forehand errors more than usual.

Earlier Thiem in the second set against Djokovic hit an ace to go up 6-5 in the tie-breaker and go within one point of victory. But Djokovic saved that one and then stole the set with three successive points from 9-10. However, Thiem regained composure in the third set to close out the match.

AT A GLANCE

Daniil Medvedev bt Rafa Nadal : 3-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3  
 Dominic Thiem bt Novak Djokovic : 7-5, 6-7 (10-12), 7-6 (7-5)

ISL opener against Hyderabad

# Odisha FC eye new beginning



TWO TO TANGO: Odisha FC coach Stuart Baxter (L) and skipper Steven Taylor having a discussion during the training session Sunday

AGENCIES

**Bambolim (Goa), Nov 22:** Odisha FC will begin their ISL campaign against Hyderabad FC here Monday. No doubt, they will try to put behind their poor show last season and look for a fresh start. They had finished sixth in the table and failed to qualify for the semifinals finishing on 25 points from 18 games scoring 28 goals in the process.

More importantly they conceded 31 goals, something which head coach Stuart Baxter will try to avoid at any cost. It should however, be stated here that in the last season Odisha FC had beaten their Hyderabad rivals on both occasions they played.

Baxter however is not ready to rely on history. "That's history and it doesn't help anybody. We've got two new teams now. Both sides have undergone transformations. We will be playing a new Hyderabad," Baxter stressed Sunday at the pre-game virtual press conference.

Baxter has attractive options in attack, with the signing of Brazilian striker Diego Mauricio and the capture of Marcelinho from Hyderabad. But the English coach reiterated that his game plan involved a lot more than just relying on individual players.

"I think relying on players is

**No use depending on history. It will not have a role to play this season. We will have to start afresh and face new challenges**

STUART BAXTER

risky. You've got to play without (depending on) anybody if you can. In football, there are no comfort levels. Your job is to stretch those levels," asserted Baxter.

Baxter also hailed the spirit of the team. He said players and officials have worked extremely hard to put things in place ahead of their first game. He also said that he is keen to make a good start with points on board.

"Players have faced the COVID-19 challenge really well. They have worked hard. So, when the kick-off comes, we will be as ready as we can be. A winning start is important, we all say that. But what I am really looking for is performance. It is because performance leads us to good results," informed Baxter.

Odisha FC captain Steven Taylor said he was enjoying the responsibility. "Big responsibilities; I think setting standards, the values, making sure that I take the pressure off my teammates and lead by example, those are my goals," said Taylor.

# 'Kohli most chilled out'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sydney, Nov 22:** Virat Kohli's on-field image might be that of a combative batting superstar but Australia leg-spinner Adam Zampa has said the India captain came across as a 'chilled out guy' during their interactions in the recent IPL.

The duo played for RCB and Zampa, who is in Australia's limited-over squad for the upcoming ODI and T20 series against India starting Friday, said he forged a bond with Kohli over meat-free eating, coffee and cricket.

Revealing Kohli's caring attitude towards teammates, Zampa said on his first day in this year's IPL, a WhatsApp message popped up on his phone from a number he did not recognise. It later turned out to be that of Kohli.

"It was the first day I arrived (and) he WhatsApped me Zamps, here's the USD 15 off voucher at a vegan restaurant from 'Deliveroo'. It's a re-



ally good restaurant'. I didn't have his number. He made it as if we've known each other forever," Zampa told the 'Sydney Morning Herald'.

Like Kohli, the 28-year-old Australian is also a vegan. He said Kohli also agreed to be the first guest on a podcast he is launching. "He's absolutely not what you see on the cricket field. He always brings his intensity to training and game; he loves competition, he hates losing as much as anyone. He probably shows it more than

anyone," Zampa said. "Once he's off the park, he's the most chilled guy. He's watching 'YouTube' clips on the bus, he'll laugh out loud," added the Australian leg-spinner.

Zampa who has got Kohli out seven times said, he will relish the battle in the upcoming series as they have bonded well. It'll (the battle) be interesting now we're closer. I love the challenge of bowling to Virat. He's probably the best player of all time," added Zampa.

# Shastri worried over Rohit's availability

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sydney, Nov 22:** India head coach Ravi Shastri has expressed his apprehensions about senior players Rohit Sharma and Ishant Sharma's participation in the upcoming Test series if they don't reach Australia in the next few days. Both Rohit Sharma (left hamstring) and Ishant (side strain) are at the NCA undergoing rehabilitation. The BCCI is yet to announce when the duo would reach Australia.

Considering the mandatory 14-day quarantine requirement, it is clear that both Rohit and Ishant would miss the first warm-up game against Australia A, at Drummoyn Oval to be played December 6-8, if they don't depart by Monday.

"He (Rohit) was never going to play the white-ball series, they were just looking to see how long he needed the rest, because you can't afford to be resting for too long," Shastri told 'ABC Sport'. "If you need to play in the Test series or any red-ball cricket, you've got to be on the flight in the next three or four days. If you aren't, then it's going to be tough," the coach added.

# Atletico shock listless Barca

AGENCIES

**Madrid, Nov 22:** Atletico Madrid pulled off their first La Liga win over Barcelona in more than a decade as Yannick Carrasco capitalised on a blunder from Barca keeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen to secure a 1-0 victory Saturday at an empty Wanda Metropolitano here.

Belgian winger Carrasco broke the deadlock at the end of the first half, pulling off a classy back-heel to knock the ball through the legs of Ter Stegen and keep his composure in front of goal after the German had charged out of his area.

Lionel Messi had won the fixture last season with a late solo goal but the Barca captain had a match to forget this time.

Barca's former Atletico forward Antoine Griezmann missed the target in each half while defender Clement Lenglet had their best chance when, unmarked, he could only send his header straight into the arms of opposition keeper Jan Oblak.

# FC Goa, BFC share points

AGENCIES

**Margao, Nov 22:** FC Goa came back from a two-goal deficit to hold Bengaluru FC (BFC) to a 2-2 draw in the third game of the ISL here Sunday. In a fast-paced game BFC scored through Cleinton Silva (27th) and Juanan (57th) and were on course for all the three points the game had to offer. However, FC Goa hit back in a space of three minutes through Igor Angulo (66th and 69th) which



Bengaluru FC players celebrate after scoring the first goal in their opening ISL game against FC Goa at Margao, Sunday

helped the Gaurs salvage a point.

It was BFC who looked dominating from the start. FC Goa players construed a number of passes among themselves. However, they invariably gave the ball away to Bengaluru in the middle third of the pitch.

Bengaluru FC took the lead when Harmanjot Singh Khabra threw the ball strongly into the opposition box. Goa's James Kevin Donachie tried to head the ball away, but only managed to nudge in front of his own goal. An opportunistic Silva was quick to pounce on the mistake and head in for the goal.

It became 2-0 early in the second half when Juanan scored off a lovely combined move. He was quick to spot a gap in the FC Goa defence and he fired home a powerful volley.

But then what followed, no one expected. A combined move down the left between Sanson Pereira and Brandon Fernandes opened up the BFC defence. The latter was quick to find an unmarked Angulo who slotted the ball into the net. Three minutes later, he was again at the right spot to connect with his waist a cross from the right by Jesuraj leaving Gurpreet Singh Sandhu under the BFC bar watching the ball nestle into the far corner of the net.

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