

BHUBANESWAR | MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30 | 2020

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I think a vaccine with 70% success rate is pretty good. You see, I am doing a terrific iob while I never scored more than 40%

SHORT TAKES

CoBRA officer killed in IED blast

Raipur: An officer of the CRPF's jungle warfare unit, CoBRA, was killed while nine commandos were injured after Maoists triggered an IED blast in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, security officials said. They said the improvised explosive device blast took place in the Chintalnar forest area of the district around 9 pm Saturday and the injured personnel were evacuated by a Mi-17 V5 helicopter of the IAF around midnight. Assistant Commandant Nitin Bhalerao, 33, succumbed to injuries suffered in the blast in the early

34 killed in Afghan suicide bombings

hours of Sunday.

Kabul: Afghan officials said Sunday at least 34 people were killed in two separate suicide bombings that targeted a military base and a provincial chief. In eastern Ghazni province, officials said 31 soldiers were killed and 24 others wounded when the attacker drove a militarv humvee full of explosives onto an army commando base before detonating the car bomb. In southern Afghanistan. officials said a suicide car

BJD EXPELS MLA PRADEEP PANIGRAHI

A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE BJD SUNDAY SAID THAT PANIGRAHI WAS GUILTY OF BEING INVOLVED IN 'ANTI-PEOPLE' ACTIVITIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Sunday expelled senior MLA and former minister Pradeep Panigrahi from the primary membership of the party for his 'anti-people activities'

An official release issued by the BJD read, "Pradeep Panigrahi, Gopalpur MLA, is expelled from the primary membership of the party with immediate effect for his anti-people activities." Panigrahi is the first leader of the regional party who has been expelled on charges of 'anti-people' activities, while many members in the past were removed from the BJD for their 'anti-

party' activities. The action against Panigrahi came after the Vigilance department established his alleged association with suspended Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Abhay Kant Pathak and his son Akash Kumar Pathak.

The father-son duo has been arrested and sent to jail in connection with a disproportionate asset case. Panigrahi had allegedly helped Pathak's son Akash to operate a job racket.

Pathak's son has been accused of cheating youths in Ganjam district by luring them with jobs in a reputed com-



pany. The MLA allegedly helped Akash in the cheating case, sources said. However, Panigrahi refuted the

charges leveled against him, saying, "I am not involved in any kind of anti-people activities. The party should clarify as to what kind of activities it is referring to and also present proof in this regard." "I was pulled up for call-ing the Chief Minister to warn him about an attempt by some people who were planning to topple his government. In fact, many senior party leaders resent that they are not able to meet the CM directly," he alleged.

He also defended the suspended IFS officer Abhay Kant Pathak and his son Akash Kumar Pathak saying that the bureaucrat is an efficient officer and if there is any proof supporting the alI am not involved in any kind of anti-people activity. The party should clarify as to what kind of activities it is referring to and also present proof in this regard PRADEEP PANIGRAHI

legations against the officer, it should be brought to the fore.

"Akash was working in Romania but returned to Odisha to look after his ailing mother. He had scored highest mark in GMAT in 2016 and was given employment by the Tata Group," he claimed. However, Panigrahi failed to provide any proof to substantiate his claims.

Citing another example, Panigrahi said that he spoke to the Chief Minister over telephone after Biswaranjan Mohanty (a BJD leader) apprised him about the possibility of toppling the state government.

"Following this incident, MLA Pranab Prakash (Bobby) Das and MP Achyuta Samanta came to my house and pulled me up for making a call to the Chief Minister. I had told them that if the party

doesn't need me, I will quit and leave the state also. If you have any allegation against me, please place the proof before me," he said.

"Bobby also told me, there is proof that I have met top BJP leaders. I told them, if you have any proof, please bring it to the fore," the legislator said. "Later, they inquired about my daugh-

ter's marriage which was scheduled for December 11 and said let us see," alleged Panigrahi, adding, "The entire episode is to stop my daughter's marriage."

Pointing figure at state administrative system, the Gopalpur legislator said, "The administration is not being run by the Chief Secretary, who is supposed to be the head of bureaucracy in the state. But, only one person is calling the shots here".

Stating the leaders who founded the party are being sidelined, Panigrahi alleged that there is discontent among senior leaders in the BJD as they are not able to meet chief minister and party president Naveen Patnaik directly.

Meanwhile, BJD leader PK Deb said, "The party president has taken the decision and he must have some prima facie evidence against him (Panigrahi). If someone cheats people and collects money promising jobs, it will be treated as anti-people.



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PRICES IN BHUB

Petrol ₹82.99 (+0.21)

Diesel ₹78.91 (+0.32)

marketing companies Indian Oil, Hindustan

Petroleum and Bharat

Petroleum have raised do-

mestic fuel prices on nine

occasions, following a two-

week hiatus. In Delhi, petrol

rates have been raised by

₹1.28 per litre and diesel by

The three state-run com-

panies currently review the

domestic petrol and diesel

rates on a daily basis, and im-

plement any changes to align

them with global bench-

₹1.96 during this period.

NINTH HIKE IN FUEL **RATES IN 10 DAYS**

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 29: Oil marketing companies continued to increase the prices of petrol and diesel Sunday. This marks the ninth hike in fuel rates in past 10 days. In Delhi, the price of petrol was revised to ₹82.34 per litre from ₹82.13 with effect from 6 am November 29, and that of diesel to ₹72.42 per litre from ₹72.13 per litre, according to notifications from Indian Oil Corporation.

Similarly, in Mumbai, petrol and diesel rates were raised toRs89.02 per litre and ₹78.97 per litre, from ₹88.81 per litre and ₹78.66 per litre respectively. Since November 20, oil

marks with effect from 6 am.

UP REGISTERS FIRST CASE UNDER 'LOVE JIHAD' LAW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow. Nov 29: Uttar Pradesh has registered its first case under the new anti-conversion law in Bareilly district based on a complaint from the father of a ____ young woman.

The case was registered at the Devarniyan police station in Bareilly district Saturday, officials said.

In a statement issued here on

Defiant farmers reject talks offer

Farmers pledged to continue the blockade, rejecting the Centre's appeal to move to the Burari ground

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 29: Rejecting the Centre's offer to hold talks once they move to the Burari ground, agitating farmers who have been staying put at Delhi's borders for four days said Sunday they will not end the blockade and will continue their stir against the new farm laws. The agriculture reforms have not only freed peasants from various shackles but also bestowed

S Phul, Bhartiya Kisan Union's Punjab president, told reporters.

"The condition put for talks is an insult to farmers. We will never go to Burari. It is not a park but an open jail," he added. After spending another night in the cold, thousands of farmers continued to



bomber targeted the convoy of a provincial council chief in Zubal, killing at least three people and wounding 12 others including children. P10

Restricted zone in front of Assembly

Bhubaneswar: The Commissionerate Police Sunday restricted the plying of general vehicles and movement of pedestrians on the stretch from Javadev Bhawan to Ravindra Mandap on Sachivalava Marg. Police took the decision following repeated attempts of self-immolation before the Assembly building and nearby areas. Police will stop commuters coming from Javdev Vihar near 120 Battalion and those coming from Acharva Vihar will be stopped at Keshari Talkies. The restrictions will be in effect only during Assembly sessions.

Delhi's air quality remains poor

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality remained "poor" Sunday and is likely to deteriorate further amid a dip in the mercury and the wind speed. The city's 24hour average air guality index (AQI) was 268. It was 231 Saturday, 137 Friday, 302 Thursday and 413 Wednesday. An AOI 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 maximum wind speed was eight kmph Sunday.

	WEAT	HER			
ſ		BHUB	СТК		
		31.0°€	31.6°C	1	
	H MIN	16.2℃	15.0℃	Forecast	
.	Humidity	86%	69%	Fog/mist in the	
F	Rainfall	Nil	Nil	in the morning	

on them new rights and opportunities

NARENDRA MODI I PRIME MINISTER

After a meeting of over 30 farmer groups Sunday, their representatives said they will not move to the Burari ground as it is an 'open jail'. They said the farmers will not accept any conditional dialogue and will block all five entry points to Delhi. The condition laid down by

Home Minister Amit Shah is not acceptable to us. We will not hold any conditional talks. We reject the government's offer. The blockade will not end. We will block all five entry point to Delhi," Surjeet

protest against the Centre's new agri laws on the fourth consecutive day Sunday, staying put at the Singhu

and Tikri border points. We do not accept the condition of their (govt) proposal. We are ready to talk but will not accept any condition now," said Gurnam Singh Chadhoni, Haryana unit president for the Bhartiya Kisan Union. Darshan Pal, Punjab president of Krantikari Kisan Union, said, "The government has invited us to talk with conditions. The environment should be created for a conversation. We will not talk if there are any conditions".

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had appealed to the farmers to shift to the Burari ground and had said the Centre was ready to hold discussions with them as soon as they move to the designated place. A delegation of the farmers has

been invited for a discussion December 3, he said, adding now that some of their unions have demanded that talks should be held immediately. the Central government is ready to do so as soon as the protesters shift to the ground in Burari.

View of illuminated Golden Temple on the eve of 551st birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, in Amritsar, Sunday PTIPHOTO

ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED SINE DIE BEFORE A MONTH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: The winter session of the state Assembly adjourned sine die Sunday, a month before the schedule conclusion of the session on December 31.

As per a notification issued by the Assembly secretariat, the session, which began November 20, was supposed to have 40 working days

After the passing Appropriation Bill to authorizing the state government to spend ₹11.700-crore in addition to the annual Budget, government Chief Whip Pramilla Mallik brought a proposal for adjournment of the House for an indefinite period stating there is no other official business for the session.

Mallick's proposal was supported by BJD legislator Amar Prasad Satpathy and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Bikram Keshari Arukh. Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro announced adjournment of the House for an indefinite period.

However, Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati opposed the motion while the BJP members staged a walkout of the House in protest and staged dharna near Mahatma Gandhi's statue.

Expressing displeasure of the government's move, Leader of Opposition Pradipta Naik said,

"The session was supposed to continue till December 31. Many problems faced by the people were to be discussed in the House during the month-long session. We will submit a memorandum to the Governor protesting against the adjournment of the session.

Bahinipati said there were lots of issues to be discussed and debate on adjournment notices are yet to be held. The state government did not take the Opposition into confidence on the proposal moved by the government Chief Whip. There is a need to run the House for a few more days to discuss many important issues, he stated.

Sunday, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi said a case was registered by Tikaram, a resident of Sharif Nagar village under Devarniyan police station (in Bareilly), who accused a man - Uvaish Ahmed - of the same village of trying to convert his daughter through "allurement" (bahla-phuslaakar).

The case was registered against Uvaish Ahmed under the IPC and the new anti-conversion law.

Senior Superintendent of Police Rohit Singh Sajwan said four police teams have been formed to arrest the accused.

According to the complaint, Tikaram's daughter and Ahmed studied together in Class 12.

Three years ago, the accused started exerting pressure on her to undergo religious conversion and perform 'nikaah' (marriage). But when the woman opposed, he threatened to kidnap her, Tikaram alleged. Tikaram got his daughter married to someone else in June this year. However, Ahmed continued to harass her family members, the complaint said.

'Covidshield' vax trial participant alleges neuro breakdown

SERUM INSTITUTE OF INDIA FILES ₹100-CRORE CASE AFTER MAN SAYS VACCINE LEFT HIM ILL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 29: A 40-year-old man who took part in the 'Covidshield' vaccine trial here has alleged serious side effects, including a virtual neurological breakdown and impairment of cognitive functions and has sought ₹5 crore compensation in a legal notice to Serum Institute of India (SII) and others, besides seeking a halt to the trial.

Alleging that the candidate vaccine was not safe, he has also sought cancelling approval for its testing, manufacture and distribution, failing which legal action would be taken.

The legal notice has been sent to Pune-based SII, which has collaborated with Oxford University and Astra Zeneca, a pharmaceutial company, in connection with making of the vaccine, 'Covidshield.' The Indian Council of Medical Research, one of the sponsors besides SII, and Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, which administered the vaccine to the man, have been served with the notice.

The man, it alleged, suffered acute encephalopathy, damage or disease that affects the brain, following vaccination and all tests confirmed that the setback in his health



was due to the test vaccine.

The trauma he underwent after taking it 'clearly proves' that the vaccine was not safe as made out to

be and all the stakeholders were trying to hide the adverse effect that the vaccine has had on him, the

notice claimed. An electroencephalogram (EEG) test showed that the brain was affected

partially (dysfunction involving both hemispheres and the ascending sensory pathways on both sides from both the lower extremities).

A psychiatric evaluation revealed mild deficit in verbal and visual memory functions and an under functioning in overall cognitive functions, it said.

"He has gone through extreme sufferings, both neurologically and psychologically. The vaccine had led to a virtual neurological breakdown in him.

The notice said it is impossible to 'quantify monetarily, the sufferings, trauma, pain and humiliation (of hands, legs and body being tied and fastened firmly to the bed), which he and his family have undergone and are likely to undergo for a long time to come". When contacted, a spokesperson for Ramachandra said, "We also have got the notice," but declined to elaborate. According to the legal notice, the information provided in the 'Participant Information Sheet (PIS)' was absolutely certain that Covishield, the vaccine developed by Oxford University, is safe and the man was hence led to believe it.

Meanwhile, a report said the Serum Institute has responded to "malicious and misconceived" allegations by preparing a ₹100 crore defamation suit against the Covishield coronavirus vaccine trial participant who claimed to suffer a 'virtual neurological breakdown" after being administered a dose.

A report in NDTV quoted the Serum Institute as stating that while it sympathised with the volunteer's medical condition there was "ab-vaccine trial and the medical condition of the volunteer".











VICTORIA BECKHAM HAS A RARE RED LIP MOMENT

Singer-turned-designer Victoria Beckham upped the temperature by sporting red lips in her latest photo. In her latest Instagram photo, she has opted for red lips to promote her make-up range, reports dailymail.co.uk.

ANNE HATHAWAY REVEALS HER LOCKDOWN CHALLENGE AS A MOM

Actress Anne Hathaway is also a mother, and the lockdown brought along a set of challenges for her. Hathaway has sons Jonathan and Jack with husband Adam Shulman, and she opened up about motherhood during an interview with a magazine, reports dailymail.co.uk.



Tanuj Virwani in the web series

Tandoor, an investigative thriller

about a married couple whose

lives take an unexpected turn

for her Tandoor co-star

Tanuj Virwani.

FORTUNE **FORECAST**



You will desire absolute freedom in whatever you do today. A lot of enter-

tainment is on the cards for teenagers, like window shopping or going for a movie. Kids may demand a treat from you.

TAURUS

Your unfailing punctuality, your insistence on following time schedules is due to be noticed and appreciated today. Your colleagues and superiors will be singing praises as soon as you arrive for work

GEMINI

You will make a reputation for yourself as a leader in your social circle. You yearn for something in your heart, and need to concentrate your energies upon attaining it. Your creative mind will come up with solutions today, to certain questions that have been perplexing you for quite some, says Ganesha

CANCER With Ganesha's grace,



ful. Students will excel and finish pending work. You can display vour imagination excellently. In short, a day of happiness and variety.

You will relentlessly try to find means to progress at the workplace today. You will

remain steadfast in your resolutions. You will not allow those working under you to slack. You will need to let go of your inhibitions and fears to be happy in life

VIRGO Emotions that have been locked in the inner recesses of your heart might just surface today. You may develop an emotional attachment with your material possessions. However, Ganesha savs. if you don't find your surroundings conducive, you will feel extremely restless LIBRA Ganesha savs todav will be an auspicious day for

TISCA OPENS UP ON HER DIRECTORIAL DEBUT

Mumbai: If you have stories to tell, then you have to make them yourself, feels actress-producer Tisca Chopra, who has tried her hand at film direction for the first time.

Tisca has made her debut as director with the short film Rubaru, which she has co-written with her husband, Captain Sanjay Chopra. The screenplay has been penned by Namrata Shenoy. Talking about her debut directorial, Tisca said: "The film

talks about a Bollywood actress who was very big once, but her career is now sort of slipping because there are younger and newer people on the block. The story shows how she is losing her confidence and what she does to bring herself

back What

prompted Tisca to try direction? The actress replied: "As an actor, you are always part of telling other peo-

ple's stories. Somebody else has written it, somebody else has directed it, somebody else has produced it and you do vour best to

help fulfil

their idea of the story with vour imagi nation of the char

acter think, if you have stories to tell, then you have to make them yourself." IANS

PEANUTS

ment this year. IANS



Hrithik Roshan's beard chronicle

Mumbai: Actor Hrithik Roshan took to Instagram to share a last glimpse of his beard before shaving it off, and sent his fans in a state of excite-

The actor shared a selfie featuring a tight close-up of his face. He looked straight into the camera in an intense manner, giving a glimpse of his grey and green eyes.

"Before the beard goes," he wrote with the picture, in which he posed shirtless.

The post delighted his fans, with many fans requesting him to not shave his beard. A user commented, "Nooooa," while another wrote, Your selfies are no less than a photoshoot.

Some were excited to see the transformation and complimented the actor on his good looks. One user wrote: "Closeup of the year."

Hrithik, who made his debut as a hero with the hit film Kaho Na ... Pyaar Hai, completed 20 years in the industry in January

Rashami sizzles in hot pink bikini photoshoot

Mumbai: Television actress Rashami Desai on Sundav set Instagram on fire with her hot pink bikini photoshoot!

The actress shared photographs after a murder. of herself where she can be seen Rashami also took to Instagram Sunday to share birthday wishes standing in a swimming pool wearing a hot pink bikini underneath a white net dress. The photoshoot

has been done in Lonavala Captioning the photographs, Rashami wrote that she wants to

with the flow" Commenting on her post, Rashami's fans show ered her with love and admira-

On the work front, plays the lead opposite

Pancham Veda's 15-day theatre workshop begins

BHUBANESWAR: Ranga Pancham, a 15-day state level production-oriented theatre workshop kicked off Sunday on the office premises of Pancham Veda, a prominent troupe of the city. The event is being organised by the troupe in collaboration with Easter Zonal Cultural Council (EZCC) Kolkata.

Bhubaneswar Central MLA Ananta Narayan Jena inaugurated the workshop. Among others, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi secretary Prabodh Rath, senior journalist Pradosh Pattanaik and theatre directors Dhirendranath



in attendance were city-based drama directors Prashanta Mohapatra.

rolled their names to learn drama in the workshop which will be directed by renowned theatrician Gajendra Nayak. Eminent dramatists, directors, actors and music directors have given their consent to attend the workshop, the organisers said and added that the participants will be issued certificates and a short play will be staged December 13, on the last day of the workshop.

The workshop could be conducted due to the cooperation by EZCC and it will certainly help create a pool of talents in the state, said Haren Sahoo, troupe's working president Haren Sahoo who also presided over the programme. Prakash Maharana, secretary, Pancham Veda, proposed a vote of thanks PNN



assigned new positions and you shall excel in the same. Whatever work is undertaken by you will see you attain success in it. Today is a lucky day for you Ganesha says

SCORPIO

starting any new work.

Being a workaholic may divert your attention from your family and you may have to bear the conse

quences. It's time to sort differences with your spouse. But, all this while, you need to be calm and patient. Watch your words in case of any arguments, warns Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

It's time for invitations and grooving all night long. And even eat like a glutton. But, for a change

you are not on a mood to party, though it is unlike you. You reject the idea of socialising and hitting the dance floor. And you friends do not like your changed avatar, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

Not everyday is the same day. And, today is one of those days when you fee extremely confused, feels Ganesha. While you won't be able to get rid off negative emotions, your hard work will be paid off and lay a strong foundation for future.

AQUARIUS

Cooperative and support ive, your colleagues will help you improve your performance at work Also, your creativity will win you praises from one and all, foretells Ganesha.

.....

PISCES

Today you will get attention from the opposite sex and this will play an important role in your success in the near future. Due to the favourable alignment of the planets you will recieve more than your expectations

BREVITY





CALVIN AND HOBBES







Bhajakrushna Mohanty and Kailash Mohapatra.

As many as 15 students have en-



CROSSWORD

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

	111		А			8	Е	7		D	2	В		
1									А	В			6	
5	4	D	7				\Box			Е			9	
	0	7		9				С				4		
	С									5	3	8	1	
7	9	6		4		D	1		8					1
		Α		8									В	1
					3		2		D		9			
	Е					В			3	2	5			1
0	3								С				Е	1
	8						6						7	1
		9		6		0	Α		Е		1			1
		0	9	С		7		В				5		
					4						8		D	1
	Α	5	D		Е			2		0		9	3	1

SOLUTIONS COVERTBUTTON

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



23 22 Copyright ©2020 PuzzleJunction.com Across 20 Social 4 Academy 7 Mouselike butterfly Award 5 Deep-six jumping rodent 21 Ceremony 8 Do a slow burn 22 Cavort 6 Hurled 9 Terrarium plant 23 Aare and 12 Squid's 10 Driver's hope Arno, e.g. appendage on ice 14 Eagles and 11 In love hawks, e.g. <u>Down</u> 13 Applying 1 Cash in, as a 16 Stingy 15 Forebodings 18 Ripe coupon 17 Wine bottle 2 Shade of black 19 Flashlight sizes 3 Palaces 21 Great review

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



15

16









DECKED UP

The road to an open-air theatre decorated with colourful lights for this year's Konark Festival, scheduled to be kick started December 1



World	6,27,41,363	4,33,52,008	14,61,09
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
COV	/ ID-19 1	FRACK	ER

.7,41,303	4,33,32,000	14,01,092
3,35,462	87,43,161	1,35,992
3,18,307	3,11,256	1,734

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



State PSUs to be 'target' oriented

The state has 36 PSUs and of these, 26 are profit-making, nine in loss and one reported no profit no loss

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: The state government Sunday informed the Assembly that it has been planning to set targets for the state-run Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to make them viable and profitable.

The response from the government came when a query was raised through an un-starred question. Responding to the query, Ashok Chandra Panda, Minister of State for Public Enterprises told the Assembly through a written statement about the steps taken by the government to improve the efficiency of the PSUs.

The minister said that the department has started signing memorandum of undertakings (MoUs)



with the PSUs, with their administrative departments, with monitorable targets. Induction of strategic investors in the loss-making units for better functioning of the PSUs has also been planned, he added.

"We have planned rightsizing of PSUs to implement their voluntary manpower as per the requirement retirement schemes, which should

We have planned rightsizing of manpower as per the requirement of the PSUs...Public

Enterprises Selection Board

professionals from the open

managerial and Board level

positions of the state PSUs

of the PSUs by introducing Model

Scheme/Model Voluntary

Separation Scheme for the State

PSUs. In the process, the state is pro-

viding financial aid to the state

Retirement

ASHOK CHANDRA PANDA MINISTER OF

STATE FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

Voluntary

is in place to select

market in the top level

be in line with the schemes of the state government," he said.

He also talked about implementation of corporate governance manual, pursuing clear policy framework by categorising state PSUs. He said that decision has also been taken to induct independent directors into the Board of Management of the state PSUs.

"Public Enterprises Selection Board is in place to select professionals from the open market in the top level managerial and Board level positions of the state PSUs for quality management," he said.

According to the minister, the state has a total of 36 government PSUs and of these, 26 are in profit, nine in loss and one reporting no profit no loss.

Potato at 50 & onion at 60; once necessity, now luxury

WITH THE HOLY MONTH OF KARTIK GOING ON, MANY RESIDENTS OF THE CAPITAL STICK TO VEGETARIAN DIET ONLY

AVIRAL MISHRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: With denizens sticking to vegetarian diet in the holy month of Kartik, prices of vegetables has been skyrocketing since the last two months. While the common man has been waiting for the inflation to cool down, the price increase seems to be far from over.

Take for instance, in September, potato was priced between Rs15 and 20 per kg but now it is being sold between Rs 45 and 50; registering about a 150 pc increase. Similarly, onion which was costing Rs 30-35 per kg has shot up by 50 pc and costs Rs60-65. Other vegetables such as Okra, Ladyfinger and Eggplant have also shown a similar increase.

"It is becoming immensely tough to make our monthly budget with rising prices," complained Shashi Kanti Behera, a homemaker here. "Prices of certain vegetables such as Puttol (Pointed Guard) are rising every week. Since its Kartik when we practice consumption of only vegetarian foods, the inflated prices are burning a hole in our

pockets," she added. Experts opine the inflation dur-



Potato at ₹50... You tell me, which is the basic item for a person maintaining vegetarian diet...Forget onion which has crossed the 60-mark! How would a middleclass

SHASHI KANTI BEHERA | HOMEMAKER

People are cutting on their consumption... We are unable to meet our daily sales targets too. With vegetables being perishable goods, either we are throwing away the unsold products or disposing them at man survive? throwaway prices SUKANTI BEHERA STREET VENDOR RASULGARH

buying. We would buy our usual also been blamed for the continuquantity from the vegetable markets ous rise of vegetable rates

LORD'S SUNA **BESHA TODAY**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Nov 29: Lord Jagannath and his siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra would be adorned with the Suna Besha (golden attire) at the Ratnasinghasan (bejewelled throne) of Srimandir here on the occasion of Kartika Purnima, Monday.

As per the tradition, the deities would be decorated with several varieties of gold ornaments as part of the Suna Besha ritual, Srimandir sources said.

However, devotees would not be allowed to witness the golden attire of Srimandir deities as the shrine has been shut for people in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

"Devotees would not be allowed to enter into Srimandir and witness Lord's Suna Besha. However, they can have the glimpses of 'Patitapaban' or the image of Lord Jagannath at the Lions' Gate, said an official of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA). The district administration, meanwhile, urged people not to gather on the beach, riverbanks and at any of the holy ponds in the Pilgrim City to sail boats on the occasion of Kartika Purnima or the full moon day of Hindu month of Kartika

Puri Sub-Collector Bhabataran Sahu urged people to celebrate the occasion at home in the wake of the pandemic. Earlier, the state government had imposed restrictions on the sailing of boats in the Puri sea and at the holy ponds of the city. The district administration has deployed around 15 platoons of armed police personnel and 50 police officials to maintain law and order in the city and check people's congregation near water bodies.

BJP CONTINUES PROTEST ON PARI MURDER CASE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Nov 29: Opposition BJP members continued their protest inside and outside the Assembly demanding dismissal of Agriculture Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo. They reiterated their demand for a CBI probe into the kidnapping and killing of a 5-year-old girl (Pari) in Nayagarh district.

During the morning session of the House, while some Saffron party members attempted to climb the Speaker's podium, Congress members said there is no point in disrupting the proceedings, after the state government announced a high courtmonitored Special Investigation Team (SIT) for the case.

As BJP MLA Mohan Majhi was seen trying to climb atop the podium, Speaker SN Patro adjourned the

ERP

SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS FOR

SEAFOOD

THE SAFFRON PARTY **ALLEGES 'TACIT UNDERSTANDING**¹ **BETWEEN THE BJD AND CONG**

later till 3 pm. Similar scenes of chaos were witnessed when the House reassembled in post-lunch session. The House was then adjourned till 4 pm and later, the Speaker an-

Assembly, Naik alleged that both the parties have a tacit understanding to bail each other out. He alleged that the Congress "suddenly" withdrew its agitation demanding resignation of the Agriculture minister as part of "a secret understanding" with the BJD. Naik, however, said his party will continue its agitation till the girl's family gets justice.

"As state government officials will be there in SIT, we don't have trust on such probe. Therefore, we are demanding CBI probe into the case." said BJP legislator Jay Naravan Mishra.

Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra said one should not think that a minister can influence an investigation if the probe was being monitored by the High Court. "Everybody should have faith in the judiciary," he said.



proceedings first till 11.30 am and



ing Kartik month as 'normal' and said the inflation will cool down during first week of December. However, with state's heavy dependency on other states, no fall in prices is yet being observed and November is set to end. Consequently, this is said to have affect on small traders involved in the business.

"People have started limited their

but our sales are getting hit, consequently, either we have to dispose them off or sell them at throwaway prices as they are perishable products," lamented Sukanti

Behera, a street vendor at Rasulgarh. While traders have blamed unseasonal rains in Odisha and other states as prime reason for rise in prices, Covid and poor monitoring of price check by authorities have

"The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) is selling onions at unfair prices. While the market rate of onion is about Rs17,000 per quintal, it is being sold at Rs20,000. The state government is also ignoring such unfair practice," Sudhakar Panda, Secretary of Odisha Traders Association had earlier alleged.

ORISSA HIGH COURT RETIRED JUDGE

RAGHUBIR DAS WAS APPOINTED THE HEAD

OF THE JUDICIAL COMMISSION

THE STATE GOVT SPENT ₹22,27,918 ON THE

JUDICIAL PANEL

a 16-member team of experts and

senior government officials opened the

Bahara (outer chamber) Ratnabhandar

and examined its status April 4, 2018

after receiving the required permis-

However, the team did not open

the inner chamber of Ratnabhandar

but examined its status from outside.

Later, it came to the fore that the keys

to the inner chamber of Ratnabhandar

were missing. The issue was raised

at a meeting of the Srimandir man-

The state government had formed

aging committee May 28, 2018.

sion from the state government.

'Missing' Ratnabhandar keys still a mystery

A judicial commission, constituted by the state govt to look into the issue, submitted its final report Nov 30, 2018

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Nov 29: The mystery with regard to the missing keys of Srimandir Ratnabhandar (treasure house) is yet to be solved even though two years have elapsed since the submission of a report by a judicial commission, constituted by the state government to look into the issue

The judicial commission, headed by Orissa High Court retired judge Raghubir Das, had submitted its 324page final report on the missing keys to the state government November 30, 2018.

It is learnt that the state government had spent Rs 22, 27, 918 on the judicial panel to probe the missing key episode.

Many devotees and social activists, meanwhile, have expressed displeasure over the state government's failure to solve the issues related to the missing kevs and take stock of the ornaments and precious items stored at the inner chamber of Ratnabhandar. They have also raised apprehensions on the safety of ornaments stored at the temple treasure house.

Servitors of the 12th century shrine usually open the outer chamber of the temple treasury quite a few times in a year to collect ornaments for the Suna Besha (golden attire) rituals of the presiding deities. However, the inner chamber of Ratnabhandar was opened for the last time in 1985, sources said. The Shree Jagannath Temple



THE STATE GOVT HAD FORMED A JUDICIAL COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO THE ISSUES RELATED TO THE MISSING **KEYS JUNE 6, 2018**

Managing Committee had deliberated on the structural status of the Ratnabhandar in a meeting March 20, 2018. Some members of the temple panel had raised issues related to the structural status of Ratnabhandar in the wake of major repair work at Srimandir Jagamohan. The issue had also reached Orissa High Court. The court had directed the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) to examine the structural status of the temple treasury.

In accordance with the HC order,

the issues related to the missing keys June 6, 2018 after facing criticism from several quarters. The commission was told to submit its report within three months. The SJTA, Puri district adminis-

a judicial commission to look into

tration and some private individuals and organisations had submitted their affidavits to the judicial panel. In the meantime, the then Puri Collector Aravind Agrawal informed the media June 13, 2018 that 'duplicate' keys to the inner chamber of Ratnabhandar were found from an envelope at the district treasury. In this scenario, the state government had extended the tenure of the judicial panel till December 7, 2018.

Recently, Dillip Baral, a devotee, has written to the chairman of Srimandir Managing Committee seeking early inspection to the ornaments and precious items stored at the inner Ratnabhandar.

"The judicial panel had submitted its final report two years ago. But, the state government is yet to reveal anything on the missing keys. So, it is natural that apprehensions have been raised with regard to the safety of ornaments stored at the temple treasure house. To allay people's concern, the state government should take immediate steps to open the inner chamber of Ratnabhandar and take stock of the ornaments," said a social activist.







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downtown

Covid graph takes a dip

STATE REPORTS SINGLE DIGIT COVID-19 DEATHS FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE SEPT 6

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: State's Covid-19 tally Sunday surged to 3,18,307 after 518 more people tested positive for the infection, while four fresh fatalities pushed Odisha's death toll to 1,734, a senior Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department official said.

Of the 518 new cases, 297 were reported from various quarantine centres, and the remaining detected during contact tracing, the official said

Sundargarh recorded the maximum number of fresh cases at 52, followed by Mayurbhanj at 49 and Cuttack at 45.

Taking to Twitter, the Health department said, "Regret to inform the demise of four Covid positive patients while under treatment in hospitals."

Khurda district, of which



Bhubaneswar is a part, reported two fatalities and one each succumbed to the infection in Balasore and Dhenkanal.

Since September 6, this was the first time the coronavirus death toll in a day came down to a single digit, the official said.

The positivity rate stands at 5.43per cent.

Over 58.63 lakh samples have been examined in the state, including 43,615 Saturday.

Meanwhile, another 707 Covid

IN NUGGETS

Sundargarh recorded the maximum Snumber of fresh cases at 52, followed by Mayurbhanj at 49 and Cuttack at 45

hurda reported two fatalities and None each succumbed to the infection in Balasore and Dhenkanal

Odisha's positivity rate stands at 5.43 per cent

Over 58.63 lakh samples have been examined in the state, including 43,615 Saturday

patients recovered, taking the total

recoveries in Odisha to 3,11,256, the H&FW department tweeted. The recovered cases include 65 from Cuttack, 65 from Khurda, 58

from Keonjhar, 48 from Mayurbhanj, 46 from Angul and 42 from Jagatsinghpur, the department said.

This comes after residents of Parjang tehsil of Dhenkanal district

approached the SEIAA seeking its intervention into the issue POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has ordered an investigation into the allegations of illegal lifting and use of murram in the construction of National Highway in Dhenkanal district.

This comes after the residents of Parjang tehsil of the district approached the government body seeking their intervention into the issue. The villagers raised the issue of unauthorised use of murram by a private contractor in the area.

The SEIAA in its order said, "In inviting a reference to the subject, I am directed to inform you that complained petition received...in re-

PANDEMIC AXE ON TRADE FAIR

FILE PHOTO

Probe ordered into murram mining

gard to illegal lifting of murram/soil from various sources in Parjang Tahasil. The petitioner has alleged the violation of environment Protect Act, Forest Protection Act and EIA Notification 2006 and others.

'Therefore, you are requested to launch an enquiry into the matter and take appropriate action as per law and furnish action taken report to SEIAA positively," the order

The petitioner has alleged the violation of environment Protect Act. **Forest Protection Act and**

EIA Notification 2006 and others

READS THE SEIAA ORDER

the villagers and endangered the local environment.

The villagers claimed that as morrum is a minor mineral, they cannot be lifted without approval from the SEIAA, an approved mining plan and consent from the State Pollution Control Board while lifting was also not allowed if the area was not mentioned in the District

of the body addressed to Dhenkanal district Collector said.

Earlier, a petition was filed by the villagers of affected areas to the SEIAA regarding rat hole mining of murram illegally in the area for the construction of National Highway 53. It was said that the rat hole mining without considering the impact on the local environment has added to the woes of

Survey Report. The villagers had also informed the government body about lifting of murram from areas near Sal trees, threatening the plant species and making those areas prone to soil erosion. It was alleged that the lifting of murram was done without adequate approval and thus, qualified as blatant violations of the environment laws.

Five felicitated with Dharmapada award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: Odia Language, Literature and Culture Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi felicitated five eminent personalities in the field of art with the prestigious Dharmapada Award for five years-2016 to 2020- at an event organised at Sanskruti Bhawan here, Sunday.

Eminent painter Mahendra Prasad Mahapatra received the honour for 2020 while noted pattachitra artist Binod Maharana was felicitated for 2019. Known painter Jagdish Chandra Kanungo received the prestigious award for 2018. Noted sculptor Shyam Sundar Patnaik, on the other hand, received the award for 2017, while renowned painter Banabihari Parida got the award for 2016. The Culture Minister handed over a cheque of Rs 5 lakh and a citation to each of the awardees.

Dharmapada Award is the highest honour given by Odisha Lalit



Cold-wave situation



Rabinarayan Rath, Bijay Kumar Parida, Pravakar Moharana, Dinabandhu Mohapatra and Brundaban Moharana received the award for 2020. While Srinibas Padhiry, Laxmidhar Rana, Brajakishore Jena, Prasant Kumar Jena and Gouranga Barik were felicitated for 2019, Sridhar Moharana, Gokulananda Das, Tunendra Patnaik, Kalpataru Moharana and Ashok Kumar Moharana were awarded for 2018. Likewise, Radhashyam Bisoi, Debendra Das, Banmali Mohapatra, Lalat Mohan Patnaik and Dr Alekh Charan Sahoo were awarded for 2017, while Chandra Kumar Samantray, Sarat Chandra Mohanty, Basant Kumari Samant, Banchanidhi Patnaik and Jogesh Prasad Dani were honoured for 2016.

The Minister handed over a cheque of Rs 1 lakh and a citation to each of the awardees, sources



Bali Yatra ground in Cuttack wears an empty look, Sunday, as the district administration has decided not to organise the annual trade fair in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic OP PHOTO

23rd Kalinga Book Fair launched digitally

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: The digital edition of the 23rd Kalinga Book Fair 2020 was unveiled digitally, Sunday. The opening ceremony was inaugurated by Satkadi Hota, former president of Odisha Sahitya Akademi.

cretary of Kalinga Book Fair



And Glory Of Bali-yatra'

8th edition of 'The Pride

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: Though the pandemic has dented festive fervor and resulted to cancellations of many celebrations including Bali Yatra in Cuttack this year, 'Resource Indica: Roots & Revelations' will be celebrating the yatra through the eighth edition of 'The Pride And Glory Of Bali-vatra'.

Notably, 'The Pride And Glory Of Bali-yatra' is an initiative that is driven by the glorious maritime history of Odisha and dedicated to throw new light on Odishan cultural influence across South East Asia. Presentations include pictorial

exhibitions, coffee-table books and documentary films - all of which have been put together after extensive research on the subject and many visits to Indonesia, Cambodia and Vietnam to interact with people and shoot there

The project is headed by Sudip Sen, a communication consultant

yatra' initiative has been acknowledged by Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik, as truly neverbefore; and the curtain-raiser was held at the Odisha State Maritime Museum, Cuttack, in November 2013. Thereafter, between 2014 and 2019, there have been six other editions that were presented in New

by profession and writer, photographer and filmmaker by passion.

Sudip was born and brought up

in Cuttack; and, as a child, had

keenly observed the tradition of

Boita Bandana and the annual Bali-

'The Pride And Glory of Bali-

yatra trade-fair in Cuttack.

Delhi, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack; and these editions were in association with Indian Council For Cultural Relations (ICCR). Indian National Trust For Art, Culture & Heritage (INTACH), The Asiatic Society, Alliance Francaise, Embassy Of Indonesia, New Delhi and Odisha Tourism.

FINAL YEAR BPUT STUDENTS **DEMAND SPECIAL EXAMS**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: The United BPUT Students' Association Sunday protested near the residence of Skill development and Technical Education minister Premananda Navak demanding special exams for the final year students. They also demanded immediate conductance of back paper examination of second and fourth semester students. After assurance from minister of declaring special dates of special exams within a week, the students called off their protests. Earlier, the BPUT had decided to conduct the final semester theory examinations for all courses online with open book system and

set of innovative questions based on outcome based education, which ____ tests the applied knowledge of the students.

Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT), Rourkela, Odisha, had said the students who have been appearing in the online examinations will be given another chance to sit for offline examinations as a regular student. Deepak Kumar Sahoo, Director Examinations, had said in a statement that the students, who could not pass in their theory subjects for whatsoever the reason, will be given the chance to re-appear in the final year exams once the colleges are re-opened and normalcy is restored.

On the occasion, Renuka Mishra,

ASSIFIED

LOST

I. Suresh Kumar Agrawal aged about 58 years, S/o. Late Gopiram Agrawal, Ward No.- 5, Daga Chowk, P.O.- Khariar Road, P.S.-Jonk, Dist.- Nuapada, Aadhaar No.- 997764661376 has applied for financial assistance to Central Bank of India, Khariar Road. I have expressed my inability to Bank to produce the Original Sale Deed No. 1383/74 dt.12.08.1974, executed by Mr. Maikul Nigam, S/o. Mr. Ganga Ram Nigam of Khariar Road, Dist.-Nuapada, in my favour as the same had been lost from my possession on 02.01.2018. I have also reported this matter before Jonk PS. on 06.01.2018, SDE No.- 10, but the same is not traced out. If anyone has found the same please return it to undersigned within 15days. SURESH KUMAR AGRAWAL, Khariar Road, Dist.- Nuapada, Mob.-9437084902.

grips interior areas

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: Coldwave situation griped interior pockets of the state with mercury falling down to 15 degrees Celsius at 13 places.

Sonepur was the coldest place in the state Sunday; recording a minimum temperature of 9.4 degrees Celsius while the night temperature at Phulbani and Daringibadi was 10 degrees each.

The other places where mercury fell down below 15 degrees Celsius included Angul 12 degrees, Jharsuguda 13.2 degrees, Bhawanipatna 13.5 degrees, Keonjhar 13.6 degrees, Sundargarh 14.5 degrees, Koraput 14.6 degrees and Baripada 14.9 degrees.

Cuttack, Bolangir and Sambalpur each recorded a minimum temperature of 15 degrees Celsius. The Met department said minimum temperature is very likely to fall by 2-3 degrees Celsius at a few places during the next 48 hours.



said that this year the book fair was organised digitally and students and experts of the state will be discussing on various issue and will review books online till

December 8. Until now, more than 2,500 students of different educational institutes have registered themselves through Google Meet. This apart, various competitions such as poetry reading, essays and other contests will also be organised

everyday.

8, 2020.

This year a total of 11 books in

nine categories such as Novel, Essay, Drama, Poetry, Children's book Satire, short story, Religious and translation have been selected for the Annual Kalinga Book Fair Award. The authors of these books will be awarded at Sambadik Bhawan concluding day November

Bijaya Mishra, former Vice

Chancellor of Ramadevi University, said that in today's time such digital sessions of books reading will be good way to make students attract towards book reading.

On the occasion, writer Adhyapaka Biswaranjan said, "Digitalization of book reading is the reality and this edition of Kalinga digital book fair is the example of accepting the reality in positive way."

Youth held for posing as Maoist

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kandhamal, Nov 29: The

Kotagada police in Kandhamal district arrested a youth Sunday who has been extorting money

from the villagers by posing as a Maoist. The accused has been identified as Purna Tadingi. Sources said, the fake Maoist had been threatening a

youth named Uttam Uthana

Singh, who was a Gram Rozgar in the Dharakota panchayat. Uttam said that he even re-

ceived death threats from the youth for not giving him money. He registered a complaint re-

garding this at the Kotagada poice station.

After the FIR was registered, the police started an investigation. However, during investigation and raids in the area, police learnt

about the involvement of a fake racket. This fake Maoist has been involved in such cases in Jharkhand. The vouth shortlists big industrialists. businessmen and extorts money

from them. The miscreant had mastered the art by using the language mostly spoken by Maoists. He even followed their accent. style and looks. The accused has since been arrested

Man arrested for killing nephew, step brother in Mayurbhani

Udala, Nov 29: Police Sunday arrested a man for killing his stepbrother and nephew at Chanchunia village under Kaptipada police limits in Mayurbhanj district.

The accused has been identified as Sushil Hembram and his stepbrother as Ghanshyam Hembram. The identity of the

Nine fishermen nabbed in Gahirmatha marine sanctuary

Rajnagar, Nov 29: Nine fishermen were arrested and a trawler was seized by forest personnel Sunday for unlawful fishing activities along the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary.

The trawler used by them for fishing along the prohibited marine sanctuary was seized by the patrolling unit of the forest department.

Ghanshvam. Sushil's nephew was working on his field Friday. Sushil reached there and they had a verbal duel. Later, Sushil slit his nephew's throat with a sharp weapon and dumped the body in

nephew is yet to be ascertained.

Sources said Sushil had a long-

standing land dispute with

After receiving a missing report from the family members, police started an investigation and zeroed in on Sushil. At first, he refused his involvement but later confessed to have killed his nephew Friday and his stepbrother four days before, police said.

a nearby jungle.

They also seized a GPS, 3 VHPs, a fish finder, eight trailing nets and two quintals of marine fish. The arrested were produced at Pattamundai JMFC and their bails were rejected. tles

It may be noted here that prohibition on sea fishing remains enforced round the year within the marine sanctuary limits. However, sea patrolling is stepped

up within the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary territory during November-May in view of the annual mass nesting season of endangered Olive Ridley sea tur-The fishermen were sent to jail

custody under provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act and Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act, said forest officials.

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state

MIDDLEMEN SCUTTLE LABOUR WELFARE; DEPT SITS PRETTY



SITTING DUCKS

labour welfare

Middlemen are taking advantage of the gullibility of labourers and extracting handsomely from them on the promise of getting them the identity cards

pretty to such fleecing of labourers while various outfits have demanded an investigation and action against middlemen Various quarters have alleged that lakhs of rupees are being coughed up from the poor

official formalities for the regis-

tration. Middlemen are taking ad-

vantage of their gullibility and ex-

tracting handsomely from the

farmers on the promise of getting

Even though such illegality is

going on in most parts of the dis-

trict, the administration is taking

A broker has taken money from

a labourer several times to get

him a card in Papadahandi block.

But the broker is playing hide and

seek and is not giving him the

card. The labour department is

also allegedly sitting pretty. Various

outfits have demanded an inves-

tigation into such illegalities and

them the identity cards.

no action.

and gullible labourers on the promise of

The labour department is allegedly sitting

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Nov 29: The government has launched a host of welfare programmes for construction workers. Identity cards are being issued to the workers before providing them sops. But middlemen have come into play, exploiting the labourers financially on the promise of getting them identity cards in Nabarangpur district, a report said.

As per provision, the registered labourers are entitled to get free education and scholarship for their children, housing benefit, safety kits and free bicycles

Labourers are unaware of the

Ganjam rolls out strategy to prevent Covid second wave

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 29: Even though new COVID-19 cases are steadily declining in Ganjam district, the administration has adopted a new strategy to keep the outbreak under control and prevent a second wave of the deadly disease

Sources said the district administration has decided to conduct another screening and testing at transit points and major market places in order to avoid the second COVID-19 wave in the district.

District Colle

action against middlemen. It was alleged that middleman collects Rs 350 to Rs 900 from each labourer in Papadahandi.

The middleman has also collected Rs 450 each from over 100 labourers of Dunadangari village. Samandhu Pujari, Saita Gouda, Padam Gouda, Bhuban Gouda, Dhanapati Bhatra, Damuni Gouda and Suru Gouda accused the middleman of doing nothing even after taking money from them.

Such illegal activities have allegedly being going on in many other panchayats.

It was also alleged that some forged cards are provide to labourers. Another middleman has col lected Rs 500 to Rs 1000 each from over a hundred people at Makia village in the same block. Suna Bisoyi, Jagannath Ganda, Suru Gouda, Sata Gouda, Mungai Gouda, Maina Gouda and Jaga Gouda of Makia have paid to the middleman for identity cards and registration. Various quarters have alleged that lakhs of rupees are being

coughed up from the poor and gullible labourers on the promise of labour welfare. They said that labour welfare of the state government has been hijacked by brokers while most labourers end up being exploited at the hands of middlemen. They said that the district administration should take such illegalities seriously and act accordingly.

The labour department is doing little to check the illegalities which are scuttling the very purpose of labour welfare. When asked, district labour of-

ficer Narendra Gaipai said the matter will be investigated if any complaint comes

Robbers, villagers engage in group clash; four injured



Farmers of Galumunda crossing a creek, carrying paddy sacks on shoulders and bicycles, to a mandi in Khaprakhol of Bolangir district

Construction of rest house for attendants at MKCG in limbo

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 29: Even as the authorities of MKCG Medical College and Hospital have identified land for the construction of a rest house for attendants there is no headway in the project due to unknown reasons, a report said.

The Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati Medical College and Hospital (MKCG) in the city is the only referral hospital in South Odisha which caters to various healthcare needs of patients in the region. The hospital is daily visited by over 15,000 patients from various parts of South Odisha, Khurda district and from areas in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh bordering the state

However, the attendants accompanying patients are being subjected to unfair and harsh treatment due to lack of a rest house in the hospital. With no roof over their heads the attendants could be seen taking rest on verandahs of the wards which is causing them

OSAP jawan to be rewarded for foiling armed assault

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Nov 29: OSAP jawan



much hardship and discomfort.

A few months back an attendant resting on the verandah of a ward had to pay with his life and was robbed of his money after miscreants gave him poison laced biscuits to eat. The incident had then created shockwaves on the hospital premises and in the city.

Minor girl alleges rape in captivity, rescued by locals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 29: A man al-

off due to alleged red-tape.

The attendants accompanying patients remain with them till they are discharged from the hospital either after recovery or deaths. They spend their time here and there or on the verandahs of the wards due to lack of a rest shed.

A rest shed was constructed in 2005 but it was soon closed down much to the disappointment of attendants. The rest shed is now in a dilapidated state due to lack of maintenance while hospital authorities have allotted a room to drivers of 108-ambulance services as rest room. The remaining rooms have become store houses for broken and damaged materials and equipment.

When contacted, Dr Santosh Kumar Mishra, hospital superintendent, said the land has been identified and the state government has been informed about it but they are vet to receive any communiqué from the PGCI authorities regarding the start of the construction

POST NEWS NETWORK

comprising Mohana police, Gajapati district excise, revenue and forest department officials destroyed cannabis cultivation worth over Rs 10 crore at Bama vilage of Juba panchavat in the dis-

The team raided Bama and its

Later, the plants were torched

nearby areas. Police felled cannabis

plants cultivated on 52 acres of

under active supervision to make

those unusable, official

The destroyed cannabis plants

were worth around Rs 10.4 crore.

Massive ganja cultivations of more

than Rs 50 crore have been destroyed during the last seven days,

The joint team had destroyed

ganja cultivation worth Rs 13 crore

Friday near Buduni village in

a Mohana police official said.

8 hardcore criminals arrested, arms and ammunition seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 29: In a major breakthrough, Aska police in Ganjam district Sunday arrested eight hardcore criminals and seized a huge cache of arms and ammunition from them.

According to Ganjam SP Brijesh Kumar Rai, the police were tipped off about the presence of a gang of dacoits at Gangapur area. As part of the drive against criminals, a special team has been formed. Acting on the tip-off, Aska IIC Prashant Sahu and the IICs of Badagada and Dharakote police stations and other team members raided the place where the dacoits

were hiding and nabbed them. Police seized 10 pistols, 53 rounds of ammunition, 13 crude bombs, sharp-edged weapons and four

bikes from their possession. The gang was involved in several crimes including murder.

Ganja plants worth **₹10 crore destroyed**

Mohana, Nov 29: A joint team



Reports said the Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCI) has agreed to construct a 200-room rest house for attendants. The hospital authorities have also identified the land but the project has failed to take

ped a minor girl in ca tivity on the pretext of marriage in Rairakhol police station area of Sambalpur district.



trict Sunday.

land.

sources said.

Gajapati district.

Kulange ordered Berhampur Municipal Commissioner, all BDOs of the district, and all executive officers of NACs to taken following strategies in their civic bodies: target test per block per day: 200 antigen tests and 25 RT-PCR tests; target testing points: bus stops/stands, railway stations, markets, major business centres, vegetable markets, grocery shops, medicine shops, vendors and shopkeepers in market places: target persons: those having COVID-19 symptoms such as cough, fever, breathing difficulties, headache, diarrhoea.

Vendors and shopkeepers will be tested while the existing mobile testing teams at block levels are to be assigned the task. Additional manpower are to be engaged by MOs of the CHCs.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Nov 29: Four persons were critically injured in a group clash with a gang of robbers at Haridapada village under Soro police limits in Balasore district Saturday night.

According to a source, Sudam Charan Bauli, a resident of Haridapada, was returning home riding a bike Saturday night. At Pitakalia Chowk, a gang of robbers stopped him on his way and asked him to hand over whatever valuables he had with him.

Sudam somehow managed to pass the information to his family members seeking their help. Seeing him talking to his family over mobile phone, the miscreants started

beating him up

Hearing his cries, some local residents came to his rescue and his family members joined later. The next scene turned uglier. A violent group clash ensued between the villagers and the robbers. While

the villagers were trying to hold them till the arrival of the police, the robbers were trying to escape from the clutches of villagers.

On being informed, police reached the spot but by then all but one managed to flee from the spot. The police have detained the robber and launched a manhunt to nab his accomplices.

In the melee, three villagers and Sudam suffered critical injuries and are undergoing treatment at a hospital in Soro.

Himanshu Sekhar Patra has earned accolades from all quarters for thwarting an attempt of firing inside a bus under Bhuban police

limits in Dhenkanal district. The brave OSAP jawan will be conferred with 'DGP's Disc', as a token of recognition for his extraordinary service. DGP Abhay had invited Patra to his office for a cup of tea, during which he sounded this Saturday evening.

Police said, Patra confronted three miscreants after they tried to open fire inside a bus with an intention to commit crime at Baji Rout overbridge in the district Friday night. The bike-borne youths abused the bus driver for overtaking and stopped the bus near Nilakanthapur. One of them tried to open fire when the jawan snatched away the firearm.

The incident came to the fore after the victim was rescued by some locals in the afternoon. Subsequently, she lodged an FIR with the police.

According to police, the accused Basant Sahu had kept the 17-year-old girl from Uparamunda area in a rented house at Shyamapur under Rairakhol police limits in the district.

"The man accompanied me to Rairakhol and physically abused me in a room where he had kept me confined. He was trying to sell me off to someone for money. I learnt about it when he was finalising a deal over phone," the minor girl said

After the girl vehemently opposed, the accused locked her in the Swain said.

room and went out. However, she was rescued by some neighbours who heard her screams for help. Acting on the FIR, police regis-

Cannabis cultivation has gone up substantially since the outtered a case and launched a probe, Rairakhol SDPO Hadibandhu break of the pandemic in various parts of the district.



A health camp exclusively for sanitation workers of Jeypore municipality in Koraput is under way

OP PHOTO

This tiffin stall is not as lucky as 'Baba Ka Dhaba'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 29: The coronavirus outbreak and the subsequent lockdowns and shutdowns have dealt a body blow to several small businesses across the country. While stories as that of Kanta Prasad and his wife Badami Devi -- owners of 'Baba Ka Dhaba'' in New Delhi's Malviya Nagar - exist where support of denizens made a difference, a vast majority of small business owners continue to struggle to make ends meet.

Bidvadhar Sahoo is a case in point. Life was smooth for Bidyadhar -- a sexagenarian -- until the outbreak of the pandemic. Originally from Nayagarh, Bidvadhar has settled with his family in Keonjhar town for over 10 years. He used to have a tiffin stall at Mining Road. Whatever he would earn from this stall was enough to run his family comprising of his wife and two sons. His sons would help him at the stall as well.



Then COVID-19 came, bringing misfortune for Bidyadhar and many others along with it. While students of the Mining Engineering College consisted of a major chunk of his customers, closure of educational institutions meant that Bidyadhar had to close down his shop

Bidyadhar presently sells

'Dahibara-Aludam' on his bicycle in the lanes and bylanes of Keonjhar. "With no option left, my younger son left for Cuttack a few months back and he is also selling 'Dahibara-Aludum' there. My elder son is with me, helping me in preparation," says Bidyadhar.

Bidyadhar says his 'never say die' attitude keeps him going.

STRUGGLE FOR LIVELIHOOD

Life was smooth for Bidyadhar -- a sexagenarian -- until the outbreak of the pandemic which brought misfortune for him

Students of the Mining Engineering College consisted of a major chunk of his customers but closure of educational institutions meant that Bidyadhar had to close down his shop

Like many, Bidyadhar also lives with the hope that 'this time shall pass and better days will come.'

"With two huge pots, moving on bicycle is a difficult task for me. And the earning is also comparatively less. But I have no other option than this," he claims.

Like many, Bidyadhar also lives with the hope that 'this time shall pass and better days will come.' Heeagerly waits for the opening of educational institutions.

power post

FOCUS WEST ASIA

Our actual enemy is not any force exterior to ourselves, but our own crying weaknesses, our cowardice, our selfishness, our hypocrisy, our purblind sentimentalism

SRI AUROBINDO

Tibet in White House

hen the president (Sikyong) of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), Lobsang Sangay, entered the precincts of the White House on November 20, it marked a red-letter day for the Tibetan governmentin-exile. It also injects a new element into Sino-Indian relations. His meeting with Robert Destro, the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, at the invitation of the US State Department is "an acknowledgement" by the USA of both the democratic system of the CTA and its political head, claims the CTA. The Tibetan government-in-exile, which is yet to be recognised by any country, was in the past denied entry to the US Administrative buildings. "The logic for the denial was that the US government does not recognise the Tibetan government-in-exile," according to the CTA. Be that as it may, the momentous event of Sangay's entry into the White House opens a new chapter in the struggles of the Dalai Lama and his followers in the Tibetan government-in-exile to get international acceptance and support to the cause they have been championing since they fled their country in 1959 to evade reprisals by Communist China and get refuge in India.

In sharp contrast to the US state department's open invitation to the CTA, the visit of Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla to Dharamshala in July was kept under wraps. India's scared reactions in the backdrop of the acrimony over Chinese incursion into Indian territory in Ladakh sends only wrong signals. China is not only continuing to adopt belligerent postures over its Ladakh adventure, but is slowly and steadily encircling India through strategic alliances, trade pacts, and military build-up close to Indian borders with Pakistan and Nepal. If South Block opens regular dialogues with the Dalai Lama and the CTA officials, it may be good for both the Tibetan cause and India. But is India in any position to cock a snook at China in this manner is a big question that probably no one is willing to answer.

Shortly before Sangay's visit to the White House, the US House of Representatives passed a resolution 'affirming the significance of the advocacy for genuine autonomy for Tibetans in the People's Republic of China and the work His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has done to promote global peace, harmony, and understanding.' Among other things, the resolution said that 'it would be beneficial to convene a bipartisan, bicameral forum ... between Members of Congress and His Holiness the Dalai Lama to discuss peaceful solutions to international conflicts.' During the debate on 18 November Representative Ted Yoho also strongly criticised Beijing for violating the Tibetans' religious freedom: "The CCP sees Tibet culture and religious heritage as a threat to its control

The US legislation has even gone to the length of lending its support to the role the Dalai Lama can play in choosing his successor, the 15th Dalai Lama. "The wishes of the 14th Dalai Lama, including any written instructions, should play a determinative role in the selection, education, and veneration of a future 15th Dalai Lama," it categorically states. If India is serious about taking on China, the least that New Delhi can do is simply to declare that India is ready to put its seal of approval on all decisions the Dalai Lama takes on his reincarnation and that it will welcome the 15th Dalai Lama as an honoured guest of India, the status the present pontiff has been enjoying since 1959.

India's prevarication on the Tibetan question will be at its own peril since the country will have to bear the brunt of changes in the Tibetan plateau effected by China to extract the plateau's rich natural resources. The US Bill recognises the key role of the Tibetan plateau containing glaciers, rivers, grasslands, and other geographical and ecological features that are crucial for supporting vegetation growth and biodiversity, regulating water flow and supply for an estimated 1.8 billion people.

India had a full-fledged mission in Lhasa for about two decades since 1947. An ICS officer Hugh Richardson served as the first head of the Indian Mission. However, the Prime Minister quietly downgraded the Mission into a Consulate General in 1952 and it was closed down for inexplicable reasons in December 1962. What exactly happened during the crucial two years before the Sino-Indian conflict is still shrouded in mystery. There are unconfirmed reports that the Indian Consul General in Lhasa had virtually been kept under house-arrest for thirteen months before the war broke out. But, there was no retaliation or complaint lodged by the Indian government.

Decades later Shivshankar Menon, as Ambassador in Beijing and Foreign Secretary, took initiatives for reopening the Mission in Lhasa, but to no avail. Nepal still has a representative in Lhasa today. That speaks volumes for the importance Nepal is getting in China's scheme of things in the Himalayan region.

Taking all things into consideration. India seems to be floating into a dan-

UNLIKELY COMRADESHIP

or the new team being announced by the Biden administration any innovation can only follow repair work of the considerable wreckage that is being left behind by the outgoing team.

At this moment of transition, what construct does one place on the outgoing Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo's participation in the cloak-and-dagger meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman and Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu in the mega city of Neom being built on the Red Sea? The drama of this meeting was heightened by Netanyahu's office denying the meeting in tones which seemed to suggest that the Israelis were not busting their guts to keep the meeting secret. A pretense of secrecy was essential because otherwise 'MBS' would be in 'trouble'

Netanyahu's Education Minister Yoav Galant, could not contain his joy at the 'amazing achievement' because the 'Sunni world' was joining the Israel-US alliance to counter 'Iranian Shiite extremism.

This Shia-Sunni confrontation, real or simulated, has been the game ever since the Shah was toppled in Iran. Why then this secrecy now? Why is MBS so scared being seen in an embrace with Netanyahu on Saudi soil? Because his people will find out? Do his people matter? But it turns out that human rights is an article of faith with the incoming Secretary of State, Antony Blinken. This may well be a source of anxiety not just for Saudi Arabia but all monarchies and authoritarian systems.

Are there any in our vicinity? A hint about MBS' source of anxiety was available in the other crucial meeting the Saudi king had with President Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey. The Turkish strongman is part of a quadrangle which both, Washington (the incoming administration) and MBS, Netanyahu too, should by analysing.

After the Soviet collapse in 1991, it was elementary that creating a distance between Moscow and Beijing would remain a US strategic goal. But George W Bush and his deluded neo-cons asked for the moon -- full spectrum global dominance into the American century. The financial crisis of 2008 rapped them hard on the knuckles. American decline was well underway when Trump greased the downward slide even more effectively.

The evolving Biden team will contemplate at the menacing quadrangle I mentioned at the outset. To begin with, Moscow and Beijing have never been closer. The duet spotted the potential of Iran too. and included it in the club. After all, Washington is just about to dust up the Iranian nuclear file for a resumption of a conversation with Tehran.

No sooner had Trump lost the election, when Imran Khan was on his maiden trip to Kabul. This, when the US troop withdrawal from the Afghan capital had run into the sort of snags which US representative for Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad was trying to sort out. Was the Pakistan Prime Minister now effectively being positioned to handle the Afghan file? This became a very real anxiety in both Tehran and New Delhi, But Iran being re-invited on the nuclear file, mollifies it somewhat. How happy New Delhi should be with

the holy task of killing Otaybi and his men. This 'rebellion within' gives Saudis nightmares. But they feel more secure externalising the threat. They have persistently targeted Iran and Shiaism as threats to themselves, Israel, indeed, the West. When did you last hear of the 15 days siege of the Mecca Mosque?

To point fingers at the Muslim Brotherhood (Akhwan ul Muslimeen) as the enemy would isolate most of the GCC Sheikhdoms from the larger Muslim 'Umma.' They would then be perceived as only the 'Wahabi' sect of the Sunni world.

Incalculable Saudi wealth, particularly after the quadrupling of oil prices following the 1973 Yom Kippur war, had the Western Military Industrial Complex salivating on Arab petro dollars. The oil rich Sheikhs are, by formal agreements, dependent on Western arms. Their wealth plus their links to Israel give them considerable control on Western media which has guite shockingly harped only on the Shia-Sunni conflict.

When the Arab Spring dethroned Hosni Mubarak, Muslim Brotherhood's Mohamed Morsi became Egypt's Prime Minister. Coming to power of a Brother in Egypt caused the Saudis to load their camels with their billions and turn up in Cairo to stabilise Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi's coup in Cairo. Brothers in power in Egypt was anathema to the Israelis too because the Hamas in Gaza would now have help from all sides Brothers in Turkey, Qatar and Egypt. They were ideologically coherent with Hamas.

At the Shia end, the Hezbollah in Lebanon, Iran, the Alawi elements in the Syrian Army, the Shia majority in Iraq, Houthis of Yemen are all supporting the Palestinian cause to the hilt.

No, it is not the Shia-Sunni divide which is bothering MBS and Netanyahu. What worries them deeply is the Shia-Sunni combine zeroing in on the Israelis and the Wahabis in unlikely comradeship.

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

SPECTRUM NATION

Listen to farmers, bankers & workers

put up a strong challenge to the

have even raised questions on the

Indian farmers and bankers have ing is invariably disastrous. They scrapping of the Electricity Act protesting but even organisations 2020 that does away with subsidised BKS, part of the sangh parivar are farm tariff. The All India Kisan Sabha says that replacing the subopposing the move. sidy with transfer of benefit to their bank accounts was not a solution and would aggravate their problems. The overall aim of the law is to reduce subsidies in the power sector and push for privatisation, especially in distribution. People in UP are up in arms against the whimsical functioning of power companies. BKS ideologue Rajav Agarwal says the Shanta Kumar report, Niti Aayog draft paper on farmers' sustainable income, Commerce Ministry report on agriculture export, and three farm laws indicate the government's keenness for handing over domestic food market to select big retailers. "This will break the spine of unorganised wholesale food market and small-marginal farmers will turn to mere labourers to the mercy of corporates. if land lease bill comes without upper cap on land aggregator." The government's move may impact future electoral courses or not but it has certainly brought to the fore that rushing through legislations against workers and farmers in favour of corporate and MNCs is not in the interests of the nation. It is not only farmers, bankers and the Opposition that are

ike Swadeshi Jagaran Manch or





Saeed Naqvi

THE SHIA-SUNNI CONFRONTATION, **REAL OR SIMULATED, HAS BEEN THE GAME EVER** SINCE THE **SHAH WAS**

TOPPLED **IN IRAN**



No, it is not the Shia-Sunni divide which is bothering Mohammad bin Salman and Benjamin Netanyahu. What worries them deeply is the Shia-Sunni combine zeroing in on Israelis and Wahabis in unlikely comradeship

its exertions in the Quad (US,

Australia, Japan, India) only time

can tell. The Japanese Foreign

Minister has already clarified:

our membership of the Quad is not

So, while the US was on the

Trump rollercoaster and coping

with the social mayhem and gal-

loping Covid, other countries were

moving increasingly in concert.

There has been so much continu-

ous chanting of the Shia-Sunni

conflict that real and abiding an-

tipathies have been lost sight of

ture to explain this narrative are

the two events in December, 1979,

which rattled the Saudis, indeed the

world -- Ayatollah Khomeini's re-

turn, signalling the Iranian revo-

lution. Around the same date, an

anti-monarchy, Sunni, an extreme

version of the Muslim Brotherhood,

Juhayman al-Otaybi, defied the

Saudi state by occupying the holi-

his armed supporters, Saudis

sought Western help. A situation

emerged which to a non Muslim

would read like a situation comedy.

Since non Muslims are not al-

lowed in Mecca. US and French sol-

diers had to be converted to Islam

to enter the mosque and accomplish

Unable to flush out Otaybi and

est Muslim mosque of Mecca.

A convenient point of depar-

directed against any country.

gerous phase in the neighbourhood politics. While India's chest thumping may be acceptable at home by some, bravado on the international scene seems to be unacceptable by all our neighbours. India's failed diplomacy seems like it will soon bring forth tremendous amount of despair and grief to all of us.

WISDOM CORNER

Sometimes we stare so long at a door that is closing that we see too ate the one that is open. ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep movina.

AI REPT FINSTEIN The optimist thinks this is the best of all possible worlds. The pessimist fears it is true

J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER

WORDS**WORTH**

Vilipend

lilipend is a verb meaning to regard as worthless or of little value or to despise or vilify. Etymologically speaking, to define vilipend using vilify is to commit a tautology, since both derive from Latin vilis, vile or worthless, which is also obviously enough the source of English vile. Vilipend also includes the verb pendere, to weigh or estimate. To vilipend is to weigh somebody in the balance and find them not worth considering. It appeared in English in the fifteenth century and was a popular term right down into the nineteenth, though it has since dropped out of sight. In 1771 Tobias Smollett put it into the mouth of a character in Humphry Clinker: "I would not willingly vilipend any Christian, if, peradventure, he deserveth that epithet." Sir Walter Scott employed it in Waverley in 1814: "He became a gay visitor, and such a reveller, that in process of time he was observed to vilipend the modest fare which had at first been esteemed a banquet by his hungry appetite, and thereby highly displeased my wife." If you would like an obscure deprecatory term and for some reason calumniatory and contumelious don't meet your needs, you could do worse than the related word vilipenditory.

LOL

Visit the barber

man and a little boy entered a Abarbershop together. After the man received the full treatment shave, shampoo, manicure, haircut, etc. - he placed the boy in the chair. "I'm goin' to buy a green tie to wear for the parade," he said. "I'll be back in a few minutes." When the boy's



barber said, "Looks like your daddy's forgotten all about you." "That wasn't my daddy," said the boy. "He just walked up, took me by the hand and said, 'Come on, son, we're gonna get a free haircut!"



RUSHING

THROUGH

LEGISLATIONS

AND FARMERS

AGAINST WORKERS

AND IN FAVOUR OF

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TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

CORPORATES IS

NOT IN THE

INTERESTS OF

THE NATION

L move of privatisation, corporatisation of the economy and curtailment of labour rights. The government is under WTO

pressure to rush through the changes and bankers and farmers simultaneously organised Bharat bandh to oppose privastisation of banks and farmers' march to Delhi against the recently enacted farmproduce marketing laws and the draconian Electricity Bill 2020.

In a way the two simultaneous protests by the most influential sections of the society are causing a churning. The All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA)sponsored opposes bank privatisation, allowing corporates to open banks, outsourcing, contract system and demands increase in rate of interest on bank deposits and reduction in service charges.

The bankers took cue from assertions of former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan and ex-deputy governor Viral Acharya that the RBI proposal to allow business houses into banking is fraught with risk for financial system. They argue that the corporates are the largest borrowers, and the economic (and political) power would be concentrated in certain business houses and in-house or connected lend-

capacity of the regulators to remain independent.

Banks were nationalised in 1969 for the reasons now enumerated by Rajan and Acharya and to free the public money in the then private banks for access by the people. The nationalised banks have made significant contribution through democratisation of the lending process. Many banks in 1960s were stated to have been on the verge of collapse for siphoning of funds by corporate owners. Recent laxity of the regulator, since 2009, has also led to severe NPA crisis. Economic prob lems in the farm and banking sectors, curtailing of labour rights through three new labour laws dismantling 27 enactments are turning into a political crisis as tens of thousands of farmers from Punjab and Haryana crashed into Delhi.

Surprisingly enough Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS) led by Dinesh Kulkarni lent its support to the farmers' causes and Delhi's Kejriwal government refused to allow police to use stadia to detain protesters. It is said to have changed the stance of the Centre and restrained the police. May be it has brought the concept of federal polity at the centre of national capital.

The farmers are also demanding

Great loss for Iran

Sir, There is no doubt that the recent assassination of the Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh is the handiwork of Israel. The whole world knows what the Israelis are capable of doing. The Eichmann kidnapping, the Entebbe operation, the hunting down of the killers of the Israeli Olympic team, the bombing of the Iraqi Osirak nuclear reactor. Their operations are well known throughout the world. The CIA and the Israeli intelligence services work closely. The most important thing is the Israeli leadership is always capable of taking bold decisions. Iranian General Qasem Soleimani was assassinated by the CIA-Mossad cooperation. In Israel there are different teams which work with the Israeli intelligence. But their real work remains the same -- to stop any anti Israeli activities. Iran will do what it wants, but sure the killing of Fakhrizadeh is a great loss for Iran.

Sunil Pradhan, KHARIAR (NUAPADA)

It is being perceived as changing the pattern of labour, banking and agriculture in the country. Across the board apprehensions are being expressed of the country succumbing to corporate and WTO pressures to further aggravate the problems already ruined by lockdown, severe production thawing, job losses and critical reduction of money flow. The perception of viewing MSP as subsidy is not correct. It only decides a floor. It should be agreed and ensured by law. Similarly, despite inflation galloping, keeping interest rates at a low of less than 5 per cent convolutes the basic principles, causes severe economic woes as value of deposits crashes and markets cringe. It is also a fact that the country cannot be left

The situation needs dialogue and the Centre has agreed to one though the date remains in suspense. It is prudent to listen to farmers, bankers and workers. The government should relent on its rigid stance to the drastic changes it made into farm, banking and labour laws. The country needs growth but it has to be for overall progress.

Unrelenting farmers

Sir, The 'Delhi Chalo' march showed no signs of easing, with thousands of farmers digging in their heels and staying put at the Singhu border between Delhi and Harvana. Even the Centre's assurance that it will hold talks with farmers' groups before December 3 if they vacated the roads and moved to the Nirankari Ground in Burari didn't appease the farmers. The stalemate has created a siege-like situation at the entry points to the national capital, and reining in the protesters is a tall order.

> NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

We learn nothing

Sir, This refers to the news report "Maintenance people were 'unfit': PESO" published in Orissa POST on 29 November 2020. More than a month after the deadly explosion at a petrol pump near Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) report says that the maintenance contract was awarded to an unfit party which in turn gave subcontract to a local party. Bypassing the safety in industries dealing with explosives material often results in accidents. One of the reasons is corruption in awarding contracts to unfit parties and lack of supervision by competent technical authorities during work. Everybody forgets such accidents till the next accident. We learn nothing.

> Gopal Prasad Mittal. BHUBANESWAR



MP LOSES 26 TIGERS IN 2020 Govt sees farmers as terrorists: Raut

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Nov 29: Madhya Pradesh, which is known as the 'Tiger State' of India, has lost 26 striped animals so far this year, as per the National Tiger Conservation Authority

Reacting to it, Madhya Pradesh Forest Minister Vijay Shah told PTI that the average death rate of tigers was less compared to their birth rate in the state in last six vears

According to the National Tiger Conservation Authoritys (NTCA) website, out of the 26 tiger deaths reported since April this year, MP lost 21 felines inside the tiger reserves, including 10 in the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve.

No tiger death was reported in the first three months of this year, as per the data.

In 2019, the state lost 28 tigers while three cases of seizures of body parts due to poaching were also reported

Karnataka, which is on the second position in the number of tigers in the country, registered eight deaths and two seizures of tiger body parts this year, as per the data. The southern state lost 12 big

cats last year. "Right now, MP has 124 tiger

cubs. The cubs were not counted during the last census (in 2018). In the next count, we are going to have more than 600 tigers," Shah said. "We have more tigers than the

area for them. Take the example of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve-it has 125 tigers whereas it has the territory to house only 90," he said.

The minister attributed the big number of tiger deaths in Bandhavgarh to the territorial fight among the big cats for space and dominance.



Vijay Shah said In 2019, the state lost 28 tigers while three cases of that the average seizures of body parts due to poaching were death rate of tigers

was less compared

the state in last

pared to 300 in Karnataka.

tiger protection force.

6 years

also reported to their birth rate in Karnataka, which is on the second position in the number of tigers in the country, registered eight deaths and two seizures of tiger body parts this year

Earlier, MP had lost the 'Tiger thus tigers there are protected." he State' tag to Karnataka in the all said. The Centre in 2006 asked states to form the special force and of-India tiger estimation exercise for fered to bear its expenditure, but MP 2010, primarily due to alleged poach-

ing in the Panna Tiger Reserve. has not formed it, he noted. That time, MP had 257 tigers com-Karnataka has five tiger reserves and the number of striped animals In the 2014 tiger census, MP there (as per the last count) was slipped to no.3 position in the counjust two less than Madhya Pradesh, try with 308 striped animals after which has around six tiger reserves. Uttarakhand (340) and Karnataka "MP should learn from this," he (408). However, MP regained the said. A tiger was allegedly killed and tag in the 2018 census with 526 big buried in Shahdol district earlier cats, two more than in Karnataka this month, he said, noting that Wildlife activist Ajay Dubey said some people have been arrested in

Madhya Pradesh lacks a special the case. The recovery of a severed tiger We have filed a petition in the head in the Panna Tiger Reserve last high court for the formation of the month suggests that poachers are special force which is pending. operating in the wildlife areas, Karnataka has such a special force, he said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 29: Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut Sunday said farmers protesting against the Centre's new agri laws are being treated as if they are terrorists, and it is sad that they are not being allowed to enter Delhi

The government should consider the farmers' demands sympathetically, Raut told reporters here.

Thousands of farmers, protest ing against three agriculture laws enacted by the Centre, have gathered at border points of the national capital as part of their 'Delhi Chalo' march. It is sad they are not being allowed to come to Delhi and are being treated as if they are terrorists and have come from outside the country. The government should consider the demands of farmers

sympathetically, Raut said. Consider all other demands sym-

is sad they are not being allowed to come to Delhi and are being treated as if they are terrorists and have come from outside the country SANJAY RAUT SHIV SENA MP

pathet

ically. Different states are not doing well. It is up to the Centre to step in and help them, the Rajya Sabha member said.

Replying to a query, Raut claimed farmers were being dubbed as divisive because they come from Puniab.

Do you want to create instability by reminding the Punjab farmers of the Khalistan movement period, he asked the Centre.

Thousands of farmers continued their protest for the fourth con-

secutive day Sunday, staying put at the Singhu and Tikri border points, with farmer leaders deliberating upon their future course of action about proposed talks with the government.

of Delhi being blocked, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had appealed to the farmers to shift to the Burari ground, and said the Centre was ready to hold discussions with them as soon as they move to the desig-

With many roads and entry points nated place

BJP attacks Uddhav over quota impasse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 29: NCP leader turned BJP Rajya Sabha MP Udayanraje Bhosale Sunday said the issue of reservations for the Maratha community in Maharashtra was being delayed deliberately and asked people to seek answers from those responsible.

Speaking to reporters, Bhosale said Maratha quota was overlooked even at the time of the implementation of the Mandal Commission report as the party which ruled the state during that period (in 1990) overlooked problems of the community.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar was the Congress chief minister of



Maharashtra at the time.

"All communities, except Marathas, were given reservations under Mandal Commission. The people you trusted and voted for

missed a hearing of the quota issue in the Supreme Court, adding that the "community will react to such tactics".

He praised former CM and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis and said the latter "took the initiative and enacted a law to give Marathas reserved vations".

Bhosale said Maharashtra Public Services Commission (MPSC) exams should be conducted now by keeping aside seats that will be part of the Maratha quota as the issue was now being heard in the apex court.

The SC recently stayed the implementation of the 2018 law granting reservation to Marathas in jobs and education and referred the matter to a larger Constitution bench

Christian conversions raked up Panna Reserve begins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Nov 29: BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh is all set to move the Freedom of Religion Bill, 2020 to curb 'love jihad' cases in a threeday assembly session beginning 28 December.

While the term itself is a coinage by Right-wing groups that seeks to accuse Muslim men of converting Hindu women by marriage, the new bill in Madhya Pradesh will skip the word 'Muslim', according to sources in the state government

Also, of late, various state leaders have suddenly started targeting Christian missionaries for car-



vultures' radio-tagging

will pull you down," Bhosale said.

Thackeray dispensation for "not

taking the issue ahead" and claimed

"the state government lawyer'

He also hit out at the Uddhav

THERE ARE SEVEN SPECIES OF VULTURES IN PTR. OF THESE. FOUR ARE NATIVE TO THIS AREA. WHILE THREE OTHERS ARE MIGRATORY SPECIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panna, Nov 29: Scientists have started a project of radio-tagging vultures in Madhya Pradesh's Panna Tiger Reserve to study the movements and habits of these birds, an official has said.

Talking to reporters Saturday, Panna Tiger Reserve's field director claimed this is probably the first time that radio-tagging of vultures is being done in India.

"As many as 25 vultures are going to be radio-tagged in the Panna Tiger Reserve under a programme started with the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) so that a data could be generated about their movements and habits," the official said. Scientists of the WII took train

"Vultures cover long distances, not only from other states, but also from one country to another. This study will find out how they_ reach PTR or go to other places and what are their routes and habits," Sharma said.

As per the WII programme, a cage with a door has been put up at PTR's Jhalar grassland where baits of fresh meat will be laid inside to attract the birds. 'The process of radio-tagging will be done once vultures become habitual of taking meat put inside the cage," the official said.

rying out conversions in the guise of offering seva (service).

Allegations of 'forced' religious conversions to Christianity is an issue which the state has been battling for decades.

Madhya Pradesh was the first state to pass a law curbing forced religious conversions for any purpose, including marriage, in 1968. This was mainly aimed at arresting conversions from Hinduism to Christianity.

Addressing two events in tribaldominated Umaria and Badwani districts in the last four days, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had accused Christians of forcibly trying to convert tribals.

While addressing an event at Badwani Friday, Chouhan recalled how Birsa Munda, a 19th century tribal freedom fighter from present-day Jharkhand, took on missionaries who sought to engage in large-scale conversions.

The chief minister also went on to say that missionaries should offer services but not in the hope of converting the beneficiary's faith

Any attempt at conversion, either by force or offering allurement will be strictly punished, he added

At Umaria, however, Chouhan restrained from using the word missionaries even as he attacked conversions to Christianity.

The Archbishop of Bhopal, Leo Cornelio, however said Chouhan's allegations were part of the BJP's politics

"This is politics, not religion. Politicians make laws to create divisions in the society and to ben-

efit electorally from them. My fear is that more laws you make the more rogues are likely to use them against minorities and the weaker sections," Corenlio told ThePrint.

He added, "Everyone enjoys freedom of religion in the country. We don't forcibly convert people. Conversion is not man's activity...it's god's grace. One can always return to one's original religion.' When queried by scribes

whether a full-fledged law against love jihad will be framed in MP as hinted by UP and Haryana, the MP CM said, "They (UP and Harvana) are also contemplating legal provisions and we're also considering appropriate legal provisions against the nefarious practice.

Last week, a 21-year-old college student Nikita Tomar was shot dead outside her college in Haryana's Ballabgarh town by a man.

The student's family alleged later that the accused was pressuring her to convert to Islam in order to marry him. Some outfits have alleged that the girl's killing is a case of 'love jihad.

The Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar had hinted towards legal provisions against 'love jihad' Sunday, a day after UP CM Yogi Aditvanath had dropped enough hints about formulating a law against the practice.

The programme, which began two weeks back, is expected to go on for a month, he said.

ing from other countries for the exercise, he said.

There are seven species of vultures in PTR. Of these, four are native to this area, while three other are migratory species.



Farmers dump guavas as prices crash



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Nov 29: A video showing a group of farmers dumping freshlyharvested guavas into a civic garbage collection vehicle here has gone viral on social media, with the experts saying that a bumper crop of the fruit this year has resulted in its prices falling.

The wholesale prices of this vitamin C-rich fruit at Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Fruit and Vegetable Market in Indore currently ranges between Rs 4 and Rs 10 per kilo, sources in the market said Sunday. Farm sector experts said the

prices of guava have nosedived due to its abundant crop, which is ultimately causing losses to the cultivators

Due to the falling prices, disappointed farmers are leaving behind the fruits in the market after finding that they are not getting enough returns.

The farmers know that transporting the fruits back was not beneficial due to the costs involved, they added. Talking to PTI. Rajesh Patel, who grows this fruit in Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam district, said, "The bumper guava harvest in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and other states has sent its prices crashing." The wholesale market of guava in Delhi, which supplies this fruit to the northern part of the country, has been hit hard due to the coronavirus situation there, he said.

Country guavas perish in threefour day after being plucked, he added

We are providing sipper, straw to Stan: Jail authorities

Stan Swamy, 83, who is suffering from various health issues including Parkinson's disease, was arrested October 8

Mumbai, Nov 29: Tribal rights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

activist Father Stan Swamy an accused in the alleged Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, is being provided sipper and other facilities in the Taloja prison from the day of his arrest, a senior prison official said Sunday.

Swamy, 83, who is suffering from various health issues including Parkinson's disease, was arrested October 8 and has been lodged at the Taloja prison near here in Navi Mumbai.

Talking to PTI, a senior prison official said the allegation that prison authorities were not providing sipper and straw to Swamy were "baseless". "Not just sipper and straw, we are providing him other facilities too like wheelchair, walking stick, walker, and two attendants were also provided to him," the official said.

'We know he is a patient, he suffers from Parkinson's disease. Why would we not provide him things which he requires," the official said.

Meanwhile, some Delhi-based lawyers have also sent straws and sippers for the activist in a parcel along with a letter to the Taloja prison Saturday

"As lawyers, we were pained by the situation as all jail manuals provide for special facilities for inmates who have special needs," said Nandita Rao, one of the advocates who have signed the letter sent to the jail.

"We felt if someone does not even have a right to dignified

drinking water in judicial custody, then the basic values of our Constitution and humanity are being disrespected," she added. Swamy had earlier filed a plea in a special NIA court

here, seeking that he be provided a straw and a sipper. The court Thursday rejected his previous application seeking a direction to the National Investigation Agency to return the straw and sipper allegedly seized

from him during the arrest. Swamy had said he needs a straw and sipper as he has trouble eating and drinking because his hands shake due to the Parkinson's disease.

Thursday, the National Investigation Agency, which is probing the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links' case, denied that

it had confiscated Swamy's straw and sipper.

Swamy's lawyer Sharif Shaikh then filed a fresh application to obtain these things, besides winter clothing.

The activist Thursday also filed a bail plea in the special NIA court. As per the NIA, Swamy was involved in the activities of the banned CPI (Maoist), and had received funds through an associate for furthering Maoist agenda.

He was also the convener of \rightarrow the Persecuted Prisoners Solidarity Committee (PPSC), a frontal organisation of the PI(Maoist), the NIA claimed. Swamy in his bail plea de-

nied the allegations and saidthat the prosecution had failed to bring on record any evidence.









The Prime Minister's visit would serve as a strong motivation for **Bharat Biotech to take its** efforts forward in making the Coronavirus vaccine 'Covaxin'

N. CHANDRABABU NAIDU | TDP PRESIDENT

NIGHT TEMP IMPROVES

Minimum temperatures across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Union Territories improved marginally Sunday due to partial cloud cover as the weather is likely to remain dry till Thursday, Met officials said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

security officials said.

gered an IED blast in Chhattisgarh's

Sukma district on Saturday night,

They said the improvised ex-

plosive device explosion took place

in the Chintalnar forest area of the

district at around 9 PM and the in-

jured personnel were evacuated by

an IAF helicopter at around mid-

night. Assistant Commandant Nitin

P Bhalerao, 33, succumbed to in-

juries in the early hours of Sunday.

team leader second-in-command

rank officer Dinesh Kumar Singh.

were injured in the incident, they

said. Seven commandos are being

treated at a hospital in Raipur.

while two are being given medical

care at a unit hospital at Chintalnar,

located in the south Bastar area

tance of about 400 km from here. The

injured troops belong to the 206th

Sukma district is located at a dis-

of the state, they said.

Nine commandos, including the



growing metropolis and a leading

information technology destina-

tion. With sizeable Muslim popu-

lation, the city is considered strong-

hold of the MIM, which is trying to

The MIM is also buoyed over its

impressive performance in recent

Bihar elections, where it won five

seats. The party, which is holding

the Hyderabad Lok Sabha seat for

nearly four decades, expanded itself

in recent years to increase its tally

of Assembly seats in Hyderabad

to seven. It also established itself as

a force in Maharashtra by winning

expand its base across the state.

GHMC POLLS: HIGH OCTANE CAMPAIGN ENDS uote

Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Serum Institute, Bharat Biotech and Zydus Cadila was a recognition of Indian scientists and their work to produce the vaccine for COVID-19. That alone will lift morale of frontline warriors and reassure the nation

Prime Minister

ANAND SHARMA CONGRESS LEADER

So many companies are coming to Hyderabad, lakhs of people are getting jobs. We are getting so many

investments. We have to save our city. All religions and castes should be together K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO TELANGANA CM

Few people asked me whether we could rename Hyderabad as Baghyanagar. I said why not

YOGI ADITYANATH UP CM

SHORT TAKES

Two cops commit suicide

Raipur: Two policemen have allegedly committed suicide in different districts of Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Bastar division, officials said Sunday. Constable Dinesh Verma, belonging to 4th battalion of the Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF), allegedly shot himself with his service rifle around 8.50 am on Sunday at his units camp in Pushpal police station premises in Sukma district, Additional Superintendent of Police Sunil Sharma said. In another incident, police constable Vinod Porte (32) allegedly shot himself with an SLR rifle on Saturday afternoon in Pamed police station of Bijapur district, a local police official said.

Boy killed

Thane: A 20-year-old man from Palghar has been arrested for allegedly killing a minor boy from Bhiwandi in Thane district over a love affair, police said

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Nov 29: The election campaign for any municipal body in the country has not been as shrill as it has been for Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), which is all set for polls Tuesday.

The campaign saw a bitter war of words with leaders of the main contenders for power engaged in noholds-barred attack on their opponents. With central leaders and top leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) too plunging into the electioneering to take on both ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and its friendly party Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM), the Hyderabad civic polls have turned into a high-octane battle.

Upbeat over the victory in the Bihar Assembly elections and in bypolls in various states including Dubbak seat in Telangana, the BJP has entered the frav firing on all cylinders. For the saffron party, elections to the 150-member GHMC is not merely a 'gully' election but a semi-final in the run-up to the 2023 Assembly battle. Claiming to have emerged as the main opposition party replacing the Congress, the BJP is



Union Home Minister Amit Shah participates in an election campaign roadshow, ahead of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections, at Warasiguda in Hyderabad PTI PHOTO

aiming for power in Telangana to begin what its leaders call saffronisation of entire south India. With a considerable support base

among the urban electorate, the BJP hoping to reap rich dividends in a municipal body with over 74 lakh voters, covering 24 Assembly segments and five Lok Sabha constituencies. With Secunderabad Lok Sabha seat already under its belt, it is looking to cement its position further.

What made the GHMC polls fiercer is the history and unique character of Hyderabad, the fastest

Aurangabad Lok Sabha seat and a couple of Assembly seats.

As the BJP entered the GHMC fray with full steam amid the MIM's plans to have pan-India presence, the campaign saw many fireworks. Both the sides attacked each other, using some harsh words, calling names, throwing barbs and challenges.

The rabble rousers had a field day during the 10-day electioneering as they went all out to ensure polarization of votes. They used words like "surgical strikes, razakars, terrorists, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, Bin Laden, Babar and biryani" to attack each other.

Perhaps the most controversial comment came from state BJP chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar, who is also a Member of Parliament. "If BJP wins GHMC polls, surgical strikes will be carried out in the old city to drive out Pakistani supporters and Rohingyas," he thundered at an election rally and even alleged that illegal immigrants have been enlisted as voters. Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi hit back. "If there are illegal immigrants here, what was Home Minister Amit Shah doing. Was he sleeping?" he asked.

9 hurt in IED blast

for Resolute Action (CoBRA). Raipur, Nov 29: An officer of the A joint team of the CoBRA and CRPF's jungle warfare unit, CoBRA, local police was out for an area domination exercise when the blast was killed while nine commandos took place, the officials said. The were injured after Maoists trig-

CoBRA officer killed,

team was scouting the area for the proposed induction of some new battalions of the Central Reserve Police Force and establishment of their new camps in this area and that is when the IED went off, official sources said Five more CRPF battalions are

battalion of the Commando Battalion

expected to be inducted in Chhattisgarh for anti-Maoist duties after the Union home ministry recently gave its approval. CRPF director general A P Maheshwari, who took a morning flight from Delhi to reach Raipur, laid a wreath and paid tributes to the officer at a force camp here.

"CRPF stands shoulder to shoulder with the family. The sacrifice won't go waste. We would carry forward the mission with more vigour and synergy and not let adversaries succeed in their dastardly acts," he said on his

DRONE SPOTTED ALONG INDIA-PAKISTAN BORDER

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov 29: Alert security forces deployed on the international border with Pakistan spotted a drone in Jammu district in J&K and fired to force it to return to the neighbouring country, police said Sunday.



Police said the drone was spotted on the Indian side of the international border in Arnia Sector in RS Pura area on Saturday evening. "The BSF troops fired at

the drone after which it withdrew to the Pakistan side," police said.

Drones have been used in recent times by militants and their handlers to drop weapons etc on the Indian side of the international border. After shooting down a drone that carried a huge consignment of weapons two months back, the se-

Drones have been used by militants and their handlers to drop weapons on the Indian side of the international border

curity forces are maintaining extra vigil against unmanned aerial vehicles along the international border and the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir.



Union MoS Home Nityanand Rai releases a pigeon during the National Cadet Corps (NCC) anniversary celebrations at Gandhi Maidan, in Patna, Sunday PTI PHOTO

WOMAN USES SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter handle. **COVID TALLY NEARS 94 LAKH**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 29: With 41,810 new coronavirus infections and 496 deaths in the past 24 hours, India's overall tally stood at 93,92,920 on Sunday, as the fatality toll touched 1,36,696, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said.

Currently, there are 4,53,956 active cases, whereas 88,02,267 patients have been cured and discharged so far. The recovery rate stands at 93.71 per cent, and the fatality rate is 1.46 as per cent, the Ministry said.

Maharashtra continued to be the worst-hit state with 18,14,515 cases till date. There are 90,965 active cases and 46,986 Covid-19 deaths. According to the ministry, almost 70 per cent of the daily new cases are contributed by eight States and UT, i.e., Maharashtra, Delhi, Kerala, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Chhattisgarh.

The overall number of global coronavirus cases has surpassed the 62 million mark, while the deaths have surged to more than 1.45 million, according to Johns Hopkins University In its latest update on Sunday, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload and death toll stood at 6,21,47,874 and 14,50,326, respectively. The US is the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 1,32,33,884 and 2,66,009, respectively, according to the CSSE. India comes in second place in terms of cases

Man booked for killing elder

Sunday. The 14-year-old victim was in love with the accused's minor sister and this was the cause of murder, a Narpoli police station official said. "The girl's family had reprimanded the victim several times on this issue. However, the two continued to remain in touch. On Friday evening, the accused called the victim to Dapoda village, killed him and hid his body under a pipeline. He was arrested late Saturday night," he said.

Body found

Palghar: The decomposed body of an unidentified woman has been found by police in Maharashtra's Palghar district, a police official said Sunday, Some passersby experienced foul smell in Sativali Khind area here on Saturday and alerted the police. Later, the police went to the area and found the decomposed body of a woman, believed to be around 30 to 35 years of age. the official said.

ATM gutted

Thane: An ATM centre of a nationalised bank has been gutted in a fire that broke out in the premises in Badlapur town of Maharashtra's Thane district, a civic official said Sunday. No one was injured in the blaze that erupted at the ATM located at Kulgaon in Badlapur around 9.30 pm on Saturday, Thane Municipal Corporation's regional disaster management cell chief Santosh Kadam said. A fire engine from Badlapur was rushed to the spot and the blaze was brought under control around 10.15 pm, he said. The ATM centre was completely gutted in the fire, the official said. The cause of the fire was not yet known, he added.

son, raping daughter-in-law

AN FIR HAS BEEN REGISTERED AGAINST THE MAN WHO HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH RAPE AND MURDER. HE IS PRESENTLY ABSCONDING

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh), Nov 29: A 56-year-old man has been booked for allegedly shooting his elder son dead after the latter accused him of sexually assaulting his wife.

An FIR has been registered ther's side. against the man who has been charged with rape and murder. He is presently absconding. The incident took place on Saturday when the daughter-in-law alleged that she was sexually assaulted by her father-in-law when she was alone at home on November 25. Her husband and other relatives had gone to attend a wedding func-

tion in another city. She said that she had informed her husband and her mother-inlaw on Saturday who confronted the accused and threatened to lodge a police complaint. A heated argument ensued and the younger brother of the accused took his fa-

During the argument, the father took out his licensed revolver and shot at his elder son. Superintendent of Police (SP) Amit Kumar Anand said, "An FIR has been registered against the father and his younger son under IPC sections 302 (murder), 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) and 376

(rape) on the complaint of victim's wife. The younger brother of the deceased is absconding along with the main accused. We have set up teams to arrest them.

The SP further said, "The complainant will be sent for medical examination as she alleged that she was sexually assaulted. This is a sensitive matter and we are investigating all the aspects. The statements of the tenant, victim's mother and others will be recorded and verified.

The accused works at a security agency while the victim was employed as a support staff of a private hospital. The deceased son had been married a year ago.

TO SEARCH FOR BROTHER

and his friend. My family is very

upset. I have posted an appeal so

that if anyone has any informa-

tion about my brother, they can

Mini Devi, Sonam's mother,

told reporters, "On November 18, my son had left home for

Rishikesh to celebrate his 22nd

birthday which falls on November

20. Nikhil said that he was going

with his three friends. I asked

him not to travel now but he was

adamant." Purkazi SHO Jitendra

Yadav said, "We are still search-

ing, divers are looking for them

in the water, downstream.

inform us.'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh), Nov 29: After the police failed to trace her missing brother, a young woman has posted an appeal on social media, asking people to help her trace her brother.

Five days ago, on November 24, an Alto car fell into the Upper Ganga canal in the Purkazi area in Muzaffarnagar district after the driver lost control of the vehicle. All four occupants, who were residents of Delhi, were in the car. The divers rescued two women out of whom, one died later in the hospital.

The two young men -- Nikhil and Praveen -- who were in the car could not be traced. Nikhil's sister Sonam Kumari, who has appealed to the people to help find her brother, told local reporters, "It has been five days but we have no information about my brother



Doubts raised ver since Bharat Biotech, a Hyderabadbased pharma company, became a

partner with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for the development of Covid-19 vaccine, doubts were raised over the project. First, ICMR is a regulator of drugs and vaccine approval body and if it partners with a private company, it would favour the private company compared to others. Since India was in desperate need of vaccine, no one raised any objection. But the conflict of interest was there. Then came the sensational announcement -ICMR claimed that a vaccine will be out by

August 15. When hue and cry were raised as to how could the company complete Phase-I to Phase-IV trials even if these were clubbed, a sheepish ICMR said that it was not a deadline and the statement was misconstrued. There is no vaccine while we are approaching December. Then the announcement by DCGI that Covid-19 vaccine should be allowed even if it had the efficacy level of 50-60%. Normally, as per global standards, a vaccine should have an efficacy level of 75% plus. But the DCGI reduced it to 50-60%. The medical fraternity was not convinced. Now, the country is desperately waiting for a Covid-19 vaccine and the Prime Minister is personally holding a meeting almost every month.

Meira as AICC chief!

Utter confusion prevails in the Congress party as Gandhi family loyalists are not sure how Rahul Gandhi will conduct himself to return as party president in February-March. There are many among the loyalists who are pitching for his early return as

interim president. They think he should not delay the process. The revamped Central Election Authority (CEA) is working overtime to hold elections to the Congress Working Committee through 1,500-odd AICC delegates. Rahul Gandhi may be confirmed later as full-time president. On the other hand, the dissidents are equally determined to prevent Rahul's return as party chief. They are working on a couple of names who could be acceptable as party chief such as former Speaker Meira Kumar who is a Dalit leader from Bihar. She will have 3-4 vice-presidents to strengthen the party in various parts of the country. Since Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is disinclined not to don the mantle at this juncture, dissidents did not find any other suitable name so far.

Nadda on seventh heaven

Something unprecedented happened Swhen the PM visited BJP headquarters for a "thanks giving" function to voters after the victory in Bihar. The win was a turning point for the BJP and its outcome

was crucial for the BJP and the NDA. Reason? A defeat would have galvanised the Congress and leadership of Rahul Gandhi and consolidated the Opposition unity. It would have badly affected the BJP in the ensuing polls for the five state Assemblies in May next year - West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry. Therefore, the PM was extremely happy and wanted to send a signal. During the course of his address, the PM suddenly said, "Nadda ji aap aage chalo hum tumhare saath hain" (Nadda ji, you lead from the front and we are with you). Heads turned as such right-handed compliments were not given to any of Nadda's predecessors by Modi in the past however big the victory in state elections had been. When Modi repeated the compliment, Nadda got up from his seat to thank Modi.

STC begins winding up

When the Modi government came to power, it had big plans to sell or shut down ailing PSUs. But six years into power, the government realized that it's easier said than done. Hence, it came out with a bonanza to BSNL/MTNL employees to get rid of major work force and spent billions of rupees in giving VRS to them. But the revival of the BSNL is far from over as there is hardly any plan in the offing. The more than Rs one lakh crore VRS package may have gone for a toss. The revival, however, is miles away. But it may be achieving at least one feather in the cap- selling Air India and BPCL during this financial year itself. It watered down all the tough conditions for divestment and the government will be happy to sell AI for almost free and BPCL for a much lower valuation. It wanted to shut down STC six years ago and now the dream is finally coming true. It has been decided to delist the company on NSE and BSE and stop taking up any new business. The STC Board of Directors has issued notifications to close down all branches including Mumbai, Kolkata, and Ahmedabad by November 30 and others by December this year. Come 2021, STC may exist only on paper to resolve its ongoing legal and other issues.









Terrorists are making desperate attempts to infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir to disrupt the **District Development Council polls** MM NARAVANE CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF

KULHAD TO REPLACE PLASTIC TEA CUPS

Tea will be sold in environment-friendly 'kulhads' (earthen cups) in place of plastic cups at all railway stations in the country, Railway minister Piyush Goyal said Sunday



uote

The life and teachings of Guru Nanak Dev are inspiration for all human beings RAM NATH KOVIND

In BJP/RSS vision of India, Adivasis and Dalits should not have access to education. Stopping scholarships for SC ST students is their way of ends justifying their means RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

Why is the price of potato so high? The crisis has been created artificially by those patronised by the ruling party. It has been created by those who take cut money for everything DILIP GHOSH BJP LEADER

SHORT TAKES

📕 Illegal gun factory unearthed

Patna: A small illegal gun factory run by a historysheeter was unearthed in Chainpur area of Kaimur district in Bihar on Sunday after three persons were held during checking of vehicles, police said. In another case, CRPF men also seized arms and ammunition hidden in Naxal-affected Gaya district. "We are holding special vehicle-checking drive in the district, during which three youths riding a motorcycle were signalled to stop in Chainpur area. The accused tried to escape by taking a Uturn from the spot, but alert policemen chased and overpowered them after a brief chase," Kaimur Superintendent of Police Dilnawaj Ahmed said.

IEDs unearthed

Raipur: A day after a Naxal IED blast killed a CoBRA officer and injured nine commandos in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district. security forces uncovered two such devices planted by ultras in Dantewada Sunday, an



PM defends

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 29: Amid protests by a section of farmers against the recently enacted farm laws, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted Sunday that these reforms have opened doors of new opportunities for farmers and bestowed on them new rights.

In his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast, Modi said the farm laws have begun mitigating the troubles of farmers in a short period of time since their enactment in September as he cited the example of a Maharashtra farmer who used their provisions to get the money a trader had promised but not paid to him in time.

New dimensions related to agriculture and related fields have emerged as the recently enacted farm reforms have opened doors of new possibilities for farmers, he said. "The demands, which were made by farmers for years and regarding which every political party at some point of time had made promises, have been fulfilled ... These reforms have not only freed them of various shackles but also given them new rights and new opportunities. These rights have begun mitigating farmers' problems in a

very short span of time," he said. The prime minister's remarks come at a time when thousands of farmers, mostly from Punjab, have dug in their heels at Delhi's border points and hundreds have gathered at the city's Burari ground to protest against the new farm laws. The central government has

reached out to them, underscoring its willingness to hold talks with them. It has also asserted that concerns expressed by some farm

MAN KILLED **OVER**₹200

bodies about the new laws are misplaced, saying existing support measures like the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and state-run 'mandis' will remain in place.

In his address, Modi said "correct information, away from rumours and confusion of any kind" is a big strength for people in any field, as he spoke about a couple of farmers involved with innovative practices in the agricultural sector. With the broadcast coming on the

New dimensions related to agriculture and related fields have emerged as the recently enacted farm reforms have opened doors of new

possibilities for farmers, Modi said n his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast. Modi said the farm laws have begun mitigating the troubles of farmers in a short period of time since their enactment in September

eve of first Sikh guru Nanak Dev's birth anniversary and at a time of agitation from the farming community from Punjab, the prime minister also spoke extensively on his government's association with some significant events related to Sikhs and

lauded their spirit of serving others. "I feel that I have been specially blessed by Guru Sahib that he has associated me very closely with his work," Modi said. While Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary celebration falls on Monday, the Modi government was also associated with Guru Gobind Singh's 350th birth anniversary events a few years ago. Next year, the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Teg

Bahadur will be observed, he noted.

Modi said, "I feel very grateful that Guru Sahib has granted me the opportunity to serve regularly. Opening of the Kartarpur Sahib corridor in November last year was historic. I will cherish this lifelong in my heart. It is the good fortune of all of us that we got the opportunity to serve Shri Darbaar Sahib once more. It has now become easier for our Sikh brothers and sisters abroad to send contributions in the service of Darbaar Sahib.'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ployed to trace the missing pilot of a MiG-29K trainer aircraft which ditched mid-sea off Goa on November 26, the Indian Navy said Sunday.

The Navy statement said that some debris of the crashed fighter jet was recovered during the search process

The Navy statement also said that some debris of the crashed fighter jet was recovered during the search process. "The Indian Navy's search and rescue effort to locate the second pilot of the MiG-29K trainer aircraft which ditched off Goa on Nov 26, continues with extensive deployment of naval ships and aircraft," the statement said.



"Some debris of the aircraft including landing gear, turbo charger, fuel tank engine and wing engine cowling has been located," it added. "In addition to nine warships and 14 aircraft engaged in the search efforts. naval Fast Interceptor Craft are also deployed to search waters along the coast. Further, the marine

der."Participation in elections has

no bearing on the Kashmir issue. It

is there and it will be there as long

as it is not resolved through dialogue

with Pakistan and the people of

didates were not allowed to freely

campaign for the DDC polls."Our

people do not have security. They

have been confined to their homes and

not allowed to run poll campaign

while BJP candidates are freely roam-

ing around. This is not done? Will this

country run on the BJP's

agenda?"They tell us not to talk about

Article 370. BJP ministers visit

Kashmir and nine out of 10 times, they

talk about the revocation of Article

370. If all to understand that when they

are confident that Article 370 is gone

and will not be restored, why do they

get rattled so much when I speak

Mehbooba said there was no free-

dom to talk about issues. She said the

repression has increased in J-K since

"we decided to contest the polls".

about it," she said.

The PDP chief said the alliance can-

Kashmir," she said.

WE ARE FINE



Spotted owls rescued by forest department officials from an abandoned house, at Santipur in Nadia district, Sunday

MANHUNT LAUNCHED TO TRACE MISSING PILOT

Panaji, Nov 29: Nine warships, 14 aircraft as well as Indian Navy fast interceptor craft have been de

out and nearby fishing villages and coastal police are on the look-

AP MINISTER ESCAPES UNHURT

PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, Nov 29: Andhra Pradesh Information and Transport Minister Perni escaped unhurt after a mason allegedly tried to attack him in his hometown Machilipatnam Sunday.

Police apprehended the mason, identified as B Nageswara Rao, who was said to be in an inebriated condition. The minister told reporters that he was safe and failed to understand why the man tried to attack him.

"He sought to touch my feet and suddenly pulled out his trowel and tried to attack me. I luckily ducked and my personal security officers caught the attacker," the minister, who was momentarily shocked, said

Krishna district Superintendent of Police Ravindra Babu said they were investigating the case from different angles to establish the reason behind the attack."We are examining the CCTV footage and other evidence," he added.

State Civil Supplies Minister Kodali Srivenkateswara Rao (Nani) visited Perni Nani and enquired about the incident.

Hold talks with Pak: Mehbooba

She accused the BJP-led government at the Centre of "murdering the democracy" in the name of District Development Council (DDC) polls as alliance candidates were being confined to homes while others enjoyed full freedom to campaign

Chandigarh to get another landmark -- Museum of Trees

official said. The IEDs, each weighing 5 kilograms, were unearthed from beneath a road between Dhanikarka and Surnaar villages under Kuakonda police station limits, Dantewada Superintendent of Police Abhishek Pallava said.

3 found dead

Srinagar: Three women, including a mother and her daughter, were found dead under mysterious circumstances on Sunday in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district. Police said the three women were found dead in the Lari village of Uri tehsil in Baramulla district. Reports said the tragedy could have been caused by a cooking gas cylinder blast, but the police said the cause of the death was yet to be established adding that a police team has been rushed to the village.

Drugs seized

Panaji: Hashish worth ₹35 lakh approximately was seized in three simultaneous raids conducted by the Goa Police's Anti-Narcotics Cell in the beach village of Arambol in North Goa Sunday, police said. Three persons were also arrested during the raids.

.....

Body found

Barabanki (UP): The body of a 19-year-old girl gone missing two days ago was found stuffed in a jute bag dumped at a desolate place in the Ramnagar police station area of the district, police said Sunday. Barabanki Superintendent of Police Arvind Chaturvedi said the body was recovered on Saturday a day after she had gone missing from her home.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aligarh, Nov 29: A 30-year-old man was shot dead in a crowded market in Civil Lines area here after he allegedly refused to lend ₹200 to an acquaintance, police said Sunday.

Ansar Ahmad, a father of three, owned a tyre repair shop at Shamshad Market under Civl Lines Police Station and was killed on Saturday by Asif, police said. The accused is a drug addict and managed to flee the spot after committing the crime, Superintendent of Police (City) Abhishek Kumar told reporters.

According to police, Asif had on Saturday approached Ahmad wanting to lend his motorcycle, however, the request was turned down.

Later in the day, the accused again landed at Ahmad's shop and demanded ₹200 from him. As soon as the victim refused, Asif took out a countrymade pistol from his pocket and before any of the bystanders could react, shot Ahmad in the head. He then grabbed a two-wheeler parked nearby and escaped, they said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 29: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti Sunday said elections are no solution to the Kashmir problem and called for a dialogue between India and Pakistan to address the issue.

She also accused the BJP-led government at the Centre of "murdering the democracy" in the name of District Development Council (DDC) polls as alliance candidates were being confined to homes while others enjoyed full freedom to campaign. "Election is no solution to the

Kashmir problem. There should be a dialogue between the two countries. If we are talking to China, which has taken our land, why not with Pakistan? Is it about being a Muslim country because everything is communal now," Mehbooba said at her Gupkar residence

The former chief minister was not allowed to address a press conference on Friday after police prevented her from visiting PDP youth



chief Waheed Para's residence in Pulwama district following his arrest over alleged connections with Hizbul Mujahideen.

Asked about the significance of Saturday's poll percentage, Mehbooba said poll percentages have been huge before also, but that is not a solution to the Kashmir issue.

"India has around nine lakh security forces here. Which other state has so much of security forces in the civilian areas? If (abrogation of) Article 370 has resolved all issues, why is the army still stationed in Kashmir? They should have gone to the bor-

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

have been sensitised," the state-

board the ill-fated plane was res-

cued soon after the mishap, which

occurred mid-sea. The MiG-29K

aircraft was operating from on

board aircraft carrier INS

Vikramaditya, off Goa.

Another pilot who was also on-

ment said.

Chandigarh, Nov 29: Punjab Governor VP Singh Badnore will virtually inaugurate a unique environmental landmark in Chandigarh -- the Museum of Trees - to commemorate the 551st birth anniversary celebrations of first Sikh master, Guru Nanak Dev, on November 30.

Conceived and curated by former IAS officer and author DS Jaspal, the Museum of Trees nessled near the Chandigarh Railway Station comprises a sacred grove created out of genetic clones of 12 sacred trees associated with the Sikh religion.

The naming of sacred Sikh shrines after trees is unique to the religion. As many as 59 Sikh shrines are named after 19 such trees. The project, first-of-its kind in the world, has been funded by the Ministry of Culture and promoted by the Chandigarh Nature and Health Society, a registered NGO.

It is India's only outdoor walk-

The project has been funded by the Ministry of Culture and promoted by the **Chandigarh Nature and Health Society**

through museum where visitors can see replicas of different trees considered sacred by the Sikh community. Alongside each tree eight-foot high panels have been set up, carrying a picture of the tree, along with a description of its botanical features as well as the association between it and historical and religious shrine it is associated with.

To preserve and propagate the surviving sacred trees within various gurdwaras by reproducing true genotypes of the parent trees, the museum has successfully reproduced genetic replicas of 12 sacred trees.

WHY BURARI GROUND FAILS TO ATTRACT PROTESTERS INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE ing itself as a protest site over the years. Those fighting for a cause feel

New Delhi, Nov 29: As thousands of farmers continue to rally at three interstate border points of Delhi, they have steadfastly refused to accept the government offer to hold their proposed protest against the

three farm laws at Burari ground

lying either at the Ramlila Maidan

or the Jantar Mantar in central Delhi

to voice their demands. So, why are

the farmers reluctant to go to Burari

ground, also known as Nirankari

say. It is the location that has pre-

vented Burari ground from offer-

The reason is elementary, so to

Maidan, to hold their protest?

The farmers are adamant on ral-

in north-west Delhi.

that Jantar Mantar and Ramlila ground are better options if their voices are to be heard by the powers that be.

Jantar Mantar -- located in the city's heart and only around 2 km from Parliament -- is the much desired protest site though it can't handle very large crowds. On the other hand, the Ramlila ground can handle a much larger crowd in central Delhi. Compared with the two, Burari ground is situated at the far outer edge of Delhi and hence is down on protesters' pre-

ferred venues. Way back in 2011, Delhi Police had offered the Burari ground, sit-



uated on the Delhi outskirts as we move towards Mukarba Chowk, as a protest site to social activist Anna Hazare for his proposed hunger strike. But it did not happen. Anna later organised his sitin at the Ramlila ground that lasted 12 days and witnessed swarms of supporters who rallied around for his cause.

The Ramlila ground was also the venue for yoga guru Swami Ramdev's indefinite hunger strike in June 2011 over his demand to bring back black money stashed in tax havens abroad. Many prominent political rallies and swearing-in ceremonies have also been held at the Ramlila ground and it remains the preferred location for those who want to gather large crowds.

On the other hand, Jantar Mantar has been preferred by those who demanded justice for Nirbhaya, voiced demand for 'One Rank One Pension' scheme for defence veterans, and even fought for justice for Hathras case victim recently.

So, protesting farmers are reluctant to move to the Burari ground as they fear that they will not be under the spotlight. Many think that their demands would be better heard if they protest either at Jantar Mantar or Ramlila ground. That's why only a few hundred farmers moved to the Burari ground on Saturday while thousands others de-cided to stay put at the Delhi-Haryana and Delhi-UP borders.





OrissaPOST MONDAY | NOVEMBER 30 | 2020 | BHUBANESWAR international



I condemn the killing of our hardworking farmers by terrorists in Borno State. The entire country is hurt by these senseless killings MUHAMMADU BUHARI I NIGERIAN PRESIDENT

POPE WARNS CHURCH AGAINST MEDIOCRITY

Pope Francis, joined by the church's newest cardinals in Mass Sunday, warned against mediocrity as well as seeking out "godfathers" to promote one's own career





I have always advocated that military is not the option to resolve the Afghan conflict and now we are pursuing the same policy

IMRAN KHAN PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER

The higher the infection numbers, the harder it will be to introduce steps for reopening SEBASTIAN KURZ

CHANCELLOR OF AUSTRIA



circumstances to be so unjustifiably sanctioned by the US government CARRIE LAM HONG KONG LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Protests outside Netanyahu home

Jerusalem: About 1,000 protesters gathered outside İsraeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's official residence in Jerusalem Saturday night, pressing ahead with their months-long campaign demanding his resignation. A mix of grassroots groups have held the weekly protests, saying Netanyahu should step down while he is on trial for corruption and because of his handling of the coronavirus in Israel.

Missing Indian found in Dubai

Dubai: An Indian man who was reported missing since November 9 a day after he reached Dubai on a tourist visa, has been found in a hospital in the city, his relatives have confirmed Amrithalingam Samavamuthu 46, from Tamil Nadu, had come to Dubai to take up a iob. Gulf News had quoted his nephew Durai Maniraja as

34 KILLED IN TWO SEPARATE SUICIDE BOMBINGS IN AFGHAN



Kabul, Nov 29: At least 34 people were killed Sunday in two separate suicide bombings in Afghanistan that targeted a military base and a provincial chief, officials said.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the attacks, which took place as Afghan government representatives and the Taliban hold faceto-face talks in Qatar for the first time to end the country's decades-long war.

In eastern Ghazni province, 31 soldiers were killed and 24 others wounded when the attacker drove a military humvee full of explosives onto an army commando base before detonating the car bomb, according to an official in Afghanistan's National Security Council, who spoke anonymously because he was not permitted to speak directly to the media.

In southern Afghanistan, another suicide car bomber targeted



Afghan national army soldiers arrive at the site of a suicide bombing AP PHOTO

the convoy of a provincial council chief in Zabul, killing at least three people and wounding 21 others, including children, according to provincial spokesman Gul Islam Sial. The provincial council chief, Attajan Haqbayat,

SUSPECTED EXTREMISTS KILL 40 FARMERS

Maidguri: Suspected members of the Islamic militant group Boko Haram killed at least 40 rice farmers and fishermen while they were harvesting crops in Nigeria's northern Borno State, officials said. The attack was staged Saturday in a rice field in Garin Kwashebe, a Borno community known for rice farming, on the day residents of the state were casting votes for the first time in 13 years to elect local government councils, though many didn't go to cast their ballots. The farmers were reportedly rounded up and summarily killed by armed insurgents.

survived the attack on Sunday with minor injuries, though one of his bodyguards was among those killed, said provincial police spokesman Hikmatullah Kochai.

There has been a sharp rise in violence this year and a surge of attacks by the Taliban against Afghanistan's beleaguered security forces since the start of peace talks in September.

There have also been deadly attacks this month claimed by Islamic State militants in Afghanistan, including a horrific attack on Kabul University that killed 22 people, most of them students.

India vows to enhance bilateral ties with Seychelles

AGENCIES

Victoria, Nov 29: India has vowed to further enhance its strategic partnership with Sevchelles in the post-COVID era as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held high-level talks with the country's top leadership here during his two-day visit to the key Indian Ocean nation.

Jaishankar, who arrived here from the United Arab Emirates. also visited Bahrain as part of this three-nation tour which began on Tuesday. During his visit, he called on Sevchelles' newly-elected Indian-origin President Wavel Ramkalawan on Friday and congratulated him on his recent electoral victory

Jaishankar and Ramkalawan discussed the historical neighbourly relationship strengthened by shared belief in values of democracy and rule of law.

He "iterated India's resolve to further enhance the India-Seychelles strategic partnership in the post-COVID era," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement on Saturday

centrality of Seychelles to India's vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region) that characterised India's policy to wards the Indian Ocean Region. As a neighbour across waters, Seychelles was very much a part of the Neighbourhood First policy as well," it said.

'Hunt for Tigray leaders begins'

REUTERS

Addis Ababa/Nairobi, Nov 29: The Ethiopian government launched a manhunt Sunday for leaders of a rebellious faction in the northern region of Tigray after announcing federal troops had taken over the regional capital and military operations were complete.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed government has been trying to quell a rebellion by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), a powerful ethnically-based party that dominated the central government from 1991 until Abiy came to power in 2018.

He said on Saturday evening federal troops had taken control of the Tigrayan capital Mekelle within hours of launching an offensive there, laying to rest fears of protracted fighting in the city of 500,000 people. The prime minister, who refers to the three-week-old conflict as an internal law and order matter and has rebuffed international offers of mediation, said federal police will try to arrest TPLF "criminals" and bring them to court. However, TPLF leader Debretsion Gebremichael told Reuters in a text message on Saturday evening that TPLF forces would fight on, raising the prospect that the conflict could drag on. Thousands of people are be



fighting began November4. The conflict has been another test for Abiy, who took office two years ago and is trying to hold together a patchwork of ethnic groups that make up Ethiopia's 115 million people. The flow of refugees and attacks by the TPLF on neighbouring Eritrea have also threatened to destabilise the wider Horn of Africa region. Claims from all sides are difficult to verify since phone and internet links to Tigrav have been down and access tightly controlled since the fighting began. The police late Saturday issued arrest warrants for 17 more military officers charged with crimes in connection with the conflict that include treason and embezzlement of pub lic properties, state-affiliated Fana TV reported. They add to the 117 warrants issued for senior military officers it says are connected to TPLF since the conflict broke out

Over 150 held in anti-lockdown protests in London

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 29: Scotland Yard has said its officers policing antilockdown protests in central London have made 155 arrests as part of early interventions to prevent people from gathering amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The Metropolitan Police made arrests for offences including breaching coronavirus regulations, assaulting a police officer and possession of drugs.

Save Our Rights UK, a group holding demonstrations against the stay-at-home rules, said it held protests on Saturday against the government's COVID-19 lockdown. **British Prime Minister Boris** Johnson had October 31 announced a second lockdown in England as the country crossed the grim milestone of 1 million coronavirus cases. The lockdown took effect November 5 and will last until December 2. Large gatherings are banned under the coronavirus lockdown restrictions. The Metropolitan Police Saturday said its officers made a number of early interventions to prevent people from gathering and urge them to go home. As part of this, coaches transporting protesters into the UK capital were intercepted and those who did not turn back were either arrested or issued fines or fixed penalty notices under the coronavirus legislation, it said.



or in breast milk.

Doctors in China have reported the detection and decline over time of COVID-19 antibodies in babies born to women with the coronavirus disease, according to an article published in October in the journal Emerging Infectious

Woman gives birth to baby

respond to a request for comment. The World Health Organisation

savs it is not vet known whether a pregnant woman with COVID 19 can pass the virus to her foetus or baby during pregnancy or delivery. To date, the active virus has not been found in samples of fluid around the baby in the womb





saying in an earlier repor

Volcano erupts in Indonesia

Jakarta: The Ili Lewotolok volcano in Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara province erupted Sunday, spewing a column of ash 4.000 metres to the sky, authorities said. The ash column is thick and gray, moving to the east and the west. Xinhua news agency quoted the Agency Geologica Disaster Mitigation as saying in a statement.

SA experts fear 2nd nCoV wave

Johannesburg: South Africa could face a devastating second wave of coronavirus in January if strict prevention measures are not enforced during the coming holidays, according to the head of the COVID-19 Ministerial Advisory Committee. Professor Salim Abdool Karim's warning was endorsed in separate concerns expressed by Health Minister Zweli Mkhize; the chair of the South African Medical Association, Dr Angelique Coetzee; and Professor Mosa Moshabela, chief medical specialist of rural health and dean of the University of KwaZulu-Natal's School of Nursing and Public Health. nancy," Celine Ng-Chan told the paper. Ng-Chan had been mildly ill from the disease and was discharged from hospital after twoand-a-half weeks, the Straits Times said. Ng-Chan and the National University Hospital (NUH), where

again Sunday, this time to

protest the army as they push

forward with their campaign

for sweeping reforms, includ-

Singapore, Nov 29: A

Singaporean woman, who was

infected with the novel coron-

avirus in March when she was

pregnant, has given birth to a

baby with antibodies against the

virus, offering a new clue as to

whether the infection can be trans-

The baby was born this month

without COVID-19 but with the

virus antibodies, the Straits Times

newspaper reported Sunday, cit-

transferred my COVID-19 anti-

bodies to him during my preg-

"My doctor suspects I have

ing the mother.

ferred from mother to child.

Transmission of the new coronavirus from mothers to new borns is rare, doctors from New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center reported in October in JAMA Pediatrics.

Thai pro-democracy protesters rally outside army base

ASSOCIATED PRESS

pulled away two decrepit buses that had been used to block the entrance to the base and removed Bangkok, Nov 29: Thailand's indefatigable pro-democracy acstrands of razor wire. tivists took to Bangkok's streets

lice, several rows deep, stood their ground in front of the gate but there didn't appear to be an imminent chance of a clash

ing to the nation's monarchy. The protesters believe that the Around 800 protesters gathered army undermines democracy in in the afternoon and in early Thailand, and that King Maha evening marched to the base of the Vajiralongkorn wields too much 11th Infantry Regiment, which is power and influence in what is closely associated with the country's supposed to be a democratic constitutional monarchy.

Their number grew to well over The student-led protesters for 1,000 as they settled in for speeches months now have been demandby protest leaders. An advance ing reforms to make the monargroup of protesters had already chy more accountable

A large contingent of riot po-

Sharma Oli and held talks with Nepal Army chief Gen Purna Chandra Thapa on various issues of bilateral interest, aimed at bolstering bilateral military cooperation and taking the existing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Nov 29: China's

Defence Minister Gen Wei Fenghe

Sunday met Prime Minister K P

friendly ties to a new height. Gen Wei, who is also a State Councillor, held bilateral talks with Army chief Gen Thapa at the army headquarters here during his day-long "working visit" to Nepal, said a statement issued by the Nepal Army.

"Bilateral discussions were then held at the delegation-level mainly on issues pertaining to resumption of training and student exchange program and follow up on defence

assistance that have been impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic," the statement said.

Chinese Defence Min in Nepal

A protester, demanding the resignation of President Alejandro Giammattei, paints her footprints in front of the police

The Chinese defence minister is leading a 21-member delegation. It said the Chinese minister viewed both the proposals "positively and affirmed that the bilateral cooperation should resume as soon as possible, including exchange of high level visits.

He also pledged to provide additional assistance to the Nepali Army in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, the statement said. The Nepali Army expressed confidence that "the visit will help in further strengthening and expanding the cordial military-to-military relations between the two countries.

Gen Wei also took part in various programs organised at the Army Headquarters. "After the bilateral meeting, General Wei and his delegation were given a short presentation on the history and roles of the Nepali Army,' the army statement said. He was also presented with a Guard of Honour.

The Chinese defence minister paid courtesy calls on President Bidya Devi Bhandari and Prime Minister Oli, who also holds the defence portfolio. Earlier in the day, Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa welcomed Gen Wei at the Tribhuvan International Airport.

In the first week of November, Indian Army chief Gen. M M Naravane paid a three-day visit to Nepal aimed at resetting bilateral ties that came under severe strain following a bitter border row between the two countries.

"This was a challenging day for Met, City of London and British Transport Police officers," Chief Superintendent Stuart Bell, policing commander on the protests, said Saturday.

"On Friday, we made it very clear how we would police this event, warning those looking to attend that they risked facing enforcement action if they attended a gathering in London," he said.

Britain expects 'very significant' week for Brexit talks

line that stands guard at the National Palace in Guatemala City

AGENCIES

royal palace.

HK to close schools

Hong Kong: Hong Kong has reported 115 new coronavirus infections, the first time it has seen cases in the triple digits since August 2. The government Sunday also announced that classes at kindergarten, primary and secondary schools will be shut for the rest of the year in light of the worsening coronavirus situation in the city.

London, Nov 29: Britain and the European Union are heading into a "very significant" week, British foreign minister Dominic Raab said on Sunday, as talks over a trade deal enter their final days with serious differences yet to be resolved.

EU negotiator Michel Barnier told reporters in London that "works continue, even Sunday" on his way to a negotiating session, as both sides look for a deal to prevent disruption to almost \$1 trillion of trade at the end of December.

"This is a very significant week, the last real major week, subject to any further postponement... we're down to really two basic issues,' Raab told the BBC.

Despite missing several self-imposed deadlines, the negotiations have failed to bridge differences on competition policy and the distribution of fishing rights But Britain's transitional EU exit

agreement - during which the bloc's rules continue to apply - expires December 31, and Britain says it will not seek any extension. A deal would have to be ratified by both



sides, leaving little time for new delay "The bottom line is in the ordi-

nary course of things we need to get a deal done over the next week or maybe another couple of days be-

yond that," Raab told Times Radio in a separate interview.

Earlier, he had signalled some progress on the 'level playing field' provisions which look to ensure fair competition between Britain and the EU, and said fishing remained the most difficult issue to solve.

Despite accounting for 0.1% of the British economy, fishing rights have become a totemic issue for both sides. Britain has so far rejected EU proposals and remains adamant that as an independent nation it must have full control of its waters.

"The EU have just got to recog nise the point of principle here," Raab told Times Radio.

EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier, who met through the weekend with UK counterpart David Frost, has said there are still "significant divergences."

If there is no deal, New Year's Day will bring huge disruption, with the overnight imposition of tariffs and other barriers to UK-EU trade. That will hurt both sides, but the burden will fall most heavilv on Britain, which does almost half its trade with the EU.







RBI likely to maintain status

quo on inflation concerns

Evolving consumer demand and increase in the trust in purchases outside domestic e-commerce reflect a huge market potential that developing countries like India should tap into for e-commerce exports VIDMAY NAINI COUNTRY MANAGER, EBAY INDIA

'PORT VOLUMES YET TO FULLY RECOVER'

India's port volumes are yet to recover fully from the Covid-19 pandemic-induced trends such as shortage of containers amid a demand-supply imbalance, says Ind-Ra. In a report on India's logistics sector, the ratings agency said that in October, India's port volumes continued the recovery momentum with a M-o-M increase of 5%



Singapore with \$8.30 billion

oreign inflows continued to be

Foreign inflows into India grew by 15% to \$30 billion during the

first half of the current fiscal

ing FDI from the US reflects the fur-

ther strengthening of economic

ties between the two countries.

The US was also India's top trading

nomics at Jawaharlal Nehru

University, said that "the US tech-

nology companies are buying stakes

in Indian companies that is why FDI

numbers are showing increase".

Mauritius is coming down, it still

accounts for 29% of the total inflows

received by India during April 2000

and September 2020. In this period,

India has attracted \$500.12 billion

Foreign inflows into India grew

by 15% to \$30 billion during the

first half of the current fiscal. In

August, the country had attracted

\$17.5 billion worth of foreign in-

foreign direct investment.

Despite the fact that FDI from

Biswajit Dhar, a professor of eco-

partner in 2019-20.

e top source of FDI for India ir April-September 2020-21



Foreign investors can either invest on their own or enter into joint ventures with an Indian partner for financial and/or technical collaboration for setting up of renewable energy-based power generation projects

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN UNION MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

Both our

governments have allocated funding for multimillion calls under the partnership. As a consequence business links between India and

Sweden will continue to grow stronger and deeper, drawing us closer together and creating jobs and prosperity KLAS MOLIN AMBASSADOR OF

SWEDEN TO INDIA

As we can see some signs of a rebound in our economy, the least we would want now would be another spate of shutdowns or closing of our

workplaces due to infections NIKHIL SAWHNEY CHAIRMAN, CII (NORTHERN REGION)

SHORT TAKES

ASICS to expand offline presence

Kolkata: Japanese sportswear brand ASICS is thinking differently in this pandemic and has decided to increase its offline presence in a big way while many other brands are pruning existing physical presence hit by severe COVID-19 induced disruptions. The global sportswear company well known for its running shoes, said pandemic is freeing up some prime commercial spaces and the company was grabbing the opportunity banking on a long-term strategy.

CBIC asks for verification

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 29: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to keep the benchmark interest rates unchanged in its next monetary policy review in view of heightened retail inflation which has persistently remained above its comfort level, feel experts.

However, with the economic growth continuing to remain in the negative territory for the second consecutive quarter ending September, the central bank is likely to continue with the accommodative monetary stance keeping the hope alive for a rate cut as and cut policy rates by 115 basis points when needed.

in economic activity and a re-

turn of consumer demand, buoyed by the festive season," Kotak Mahindra Bank group president consumer banking Shanti Ekambaram said

The next few months are critical as it needs to be seen whether demand levels will sustain and the central bank will closely monitor the growth trajectory and high-frequency data prints, she added.

Retail inflation, calculated on the basis of Consumer Price Index (CPI), continued to rise for the ninth month in a row in October. reaching 7.61% on the back of high food prices. This is the highest level of retail inflation since May 2014 when the inflation was at 8.33%.

The government has mandated the RBI to keep retail inflation at 4% (+/-2 per cent).

On concerns of elevated level of inflation, CRISIL Chief Economist Dharmakirti Joshi said the RBI policy will be on hold.

Echoing similar views, CARE Ratings Chief Economist Madan Sabnavis said, "I think RBI has no choice but to go for a pause now because inflation is still very high. Also, the scope for rate cut is more or less exhausted for this financial year. The RBI will address the issue more through OMOs, operation twists to influence the g-sec yields rather than the repo rate cut."

According to M Govinda Rao, Chief Economic Advisor. Brickwork Ratings, considering that CPI inflation remains at an elevated level, the MPC is likely to continue with the pause in the rate.

'Vedanta ranks among top sustainable cos'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: Vedanta made significant improvements in environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance with its Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) ranking in the metals and mining sector having risen to Rank 12 this year, as against Rank 21 in 2019.

The percentile improvement is 86% this year compared to 70% in 2019 and 60% in 2018.



Vedanta is ranked 2 in the metals and mining category in the Asia Pacific region this year, as compared to Rank 7 last year. Hindustan Zinc topped the sustainability rankings in the Asia Pacific region, while its overall DJSI ranking this vear stood at Rank 8.

Vedanta's DJSI score this year has improved to Rank 66, compared to Rank 51 last year. The company's DJSI score on human rights has risen sharply from 20 to 73 since last year. while on the social impacts on communities, the company's score has improved from 47 to 89.

In biodiversity, Vedanta's score increased from 38 to 79, while in case of risk and crisis management, the company's score improved from 32 to 66. In climate strategy, the DJSI score rose to 73 this year as against 40 in 2019.

US second biggest FDI source for India in H1



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 29: The US has emerged as the second biggest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India, replacing Mauritius, during the first half of the current financial year, according to data of the commerce and in-

dustry ministry. During April-September 2020, India attracted FDI worth \$7.12 billion from the US and \$2 billion from Mauritius, which slipped to fourth position, the DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) data showed.

Mauritius was the second biggest FDI source during the same period previous year. The US was the fourth biggest investor during that period.

Singapore with \$8.30 billion foreign inflows continued to be the top source of FDI for India in April-September 2020-21. The country has received \$2.1 billion inflows from Cayman Isands. The islands was followed by Netherlands (\$1.5 billion), UK (\$1.35 billion), France (\$1.13 billion), Japan (\$653 million), Germany (\$202 million), and Cyprus (\$48 million).

According to experts, increas-

Startup develops software for displaying garment images in 3D

AGENCIES

vestments.

New Delhi, Nov 29: A startup incubated by IIT Madras and NASSCOM has developed a software to convert flat images of traditional Indian garments into photo-realistic 3D images on e commerce websites.

The software, its developers say is a game changer for small and medium enterprises as it does away with the need of expensive model photoshoots. The software, TRI3D, is aimed at helping SMEs survive the economic challenges brought about by COVID-19. According to the team, as many as 80,000 garments have been digitized and sold using TRI3D's Technology in India, Sri Lanka and Abu Dhabi in the last one vear alone. More than 100 new generation entrepreneurs from across 50 locations in India have already deployed this technology.

CAIT urges PM to roll out e-commerce policy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

December 4.

New Delhi, Nov 29: Malpractices of e-commerce firms are a major hindrance for traders to adopt online business, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has told Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The CAIT, in a communication sent to Prime Minister Modi, said that the traders across the country are more than willing to adopt ecommerce as another business avthat an e-commerce policy should be announced immediately with an explicit provision of an empowered regulatory authority to monitor the sector's business

in India Furthermore, CAIT said that anomalies and disparities of "Press Note No. 2 of FDI policy" should be removed and a fresh "Press Note' should be issued containing "explicit and speaking policy of the government". According to CAIT, the "Vocal

can be a game changer for the do-

mestic trade of the country which

has immense capabilities and ca-

GROSS REVENUE BSNL posts ₹70 crore, Jio adds ₹633 crore in Q2: TRAI



since February. The six-member Monetary Policy "With inflation continuing to Committee (MPC) headed by RBI trend well above RBI's medium-Governor is scheduled to meet for term target of 4 per cent, there is two days starting December 2. The limited room for a rate cut in the resolution of the sixth bi-monthly upcoming policy. We have seen MPC meeting would be announced encouraging signs of a pick-up



Governor is scheduled to meet for two days starting December 2

In its last MPC meeting in October, the RBI kept policy rates unchanged to help tame inflation that in the recent times has surged past 6 per cent mark. The RBI projected the country's GDP to contract 9.5% in the current financial year due to the pandemic. It has

.....

New Delhi: The CBIC has asked field offices to carry out physical verification of premises of businesses which have been granted deemed GST registration between August 21 and November 16 to ascertain that they have genuine business or intend to carry out so. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has also asked taxmen not to grant GST registration on deemed basis in cases where the applicant has not opted for Aadhaar authentication or the authentication has failed.

'Resume REC trade soon'

New Delhi: Further suspension on trading of renewable energy certificates (RECs) would impact state power distribution utilities' ability to meet renewable purchase obligation targets, electricity exchanges PXIL and IEX said, stressing that the trade should be resumed at the earliest

Cloud services spend tops \$5bn

Bangalore: Alibaba Cloud remained the leader in the China Cloud services market in Q3 with a 41% market share and continued strong growth. The China Cloud infrastructure spends grew 65% in O3 2020 to exceed \$5 billion for the first time, acceding to the data provided by the global market research firm Canalys, Total expenditure was over \$750 million higher than in the last guarter and nearly \$2 billion more than in O3 2019.

enue under the "Digital India" programme, however, repeated violation of FDI policy and other rules by e-commerce companies are proving to be a major roadblock in this direction.

pacities to produce high quality It urged the Prime Minister goods.



ending September for Local" and "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" call of the Prime Minister POST NEWS NETWORK

> Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: Stateowned telecom service provider BSNL posted lowest gross revenue performance in Odisha while Reliance Jio registered the highest revenue collection during second quarter of current fiscal, says Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) report.

Jio now has achieved

51.8% market share in

gross revenue, the highest

by any operator in any

state for the quarter

TRAI's report stated that BSNL posted ₹70 crore of gross revenue in the state during Q2, FY21 while Jio registered ₹633 crore of gross revenue during the same period. The gross revenue of Jio has increased by 6.6% in the state.

BSNL's AGR stood ₹47.98 and Jio's AGR was ₹556 crore. In the quarter spanning from July-September 2020, gross revenue of Airtel in the quarter was at ₹435 crore followed by Vodafone Idea at nearly ₹80 crore. In overall, gross revenue of the industry increased to ₹1,222 crore during this period. as per the report.

Reliance Jio now has achieved 51.8% market share in gross revenue, highest by any operator in any state for the quarter ending September 2020. Jio has become the first telecom operator in the state to have achieved more than 50% market share in gross revenue, as per TRAI's financial report for the industry for AprilJune 2020 quarter.

Jio also rolled out JioFiber highspeed broadband in key locations of 19 major cities in Odisha including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela and Puri and fast expanding its services to other parts of the state.

As per the recently released mobile subscriber data by TRAI, Jio added the maximum number of subscribers in Odisha in August. surpassing 40% subscriber market share with 1.34 crore mobile subscribers

"Our unique apparel visualisation technology converts flat images of garments such as sarees into beautiful photo-realistic 3D images on models, mannequins and creative representations. We have developed a software substitute for conventional model photoshoots, convenient for even the small boutique designers and weavers who cannot afford photoshoots," said IIT Madras alumni and startup cofounder Krishna Sumanth Alwala.

We miss those times. Now also we

do have the stock but no bazaars are

being held. One of the benefits of the

lack of access to physical markets

is that we learned about the possi-

bilities of online sales and payment

cial media for selling now. Since the onset of the lockdown, we have

sold fifty bags online," says Vidya,

one of the women entrepreneurs

Vidya, who has a registered

MSME and has availed the Mudra

loan talks about her struggles in

setting up an enterprise and the

changes that the business has

"We have started leveraging so-

transfers.

surveyed.

'Pandemic impact on women-led micro biz widens socio-economic gap'

THE SURVEY SUGGESTS THAT GOVERNMENTS, BANKS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS MUST IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW EFFECTIVE GENDER-SENSITIVE POLICY RESPONSES TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 29: The adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on women-led micro businesses in India has exacerbated the vast socioeconomic gap, finds a survey. The survey suggests that governments, banks and other financial institutions must immediately follow effective gender-sensitive policy responses to improve the situation.

The findings are based on a col-

laborative study by Global Alliance

for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME)

and LEAD at Krea University,

Andhra Pradesh which seeks to

capture the impact on micro en-

terprises in India during the COVID-

19 crisis through a survey. LEAD is

data collected between July to August, covering about 1,800 micro enterprises.

The regions and states covered in the survey include North India (Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh), South India (Tamil Nadu), and West India (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan).

The study monitors key trends on the impact of the crisis and government-mandated lockdowns on business livelihoods, employment, and the income of nano and micro businesses.

According to the 6th economic census, women entrepreneurs own over 8 million enterprises in India or about 13 per cent of the total units

According to the survey, womena non-profit research organisation. The survey started in May and led micro and small businesses are will be concluding in January. The particularly at risk because they gender specific results were for the include smaller companies working



in lower-margin markets and are more prone to face instability than micro businesses led by men. Women usually operate with

structural and systemic constraints in addition to cultural norms and restrictions. So, the ability to take risks, make mistakes and, more

importantly, to fail, is not a liberty licensed to women.

Notably, 43 per cent of womenowned enterprises in the survey fall in the category that reports less than ₹10,000 profit a month whereas only 16 per cent of those owned by men fall in this category.

Similarly, 40 per cent of womenowned enterprises are self-run with no workers: the corresponding number for men is 18 per cent, the study said

Despite the adversity, 19 per cent of the sample reported scaling up their businesses, showcasing immense resilience. In the study, which predominantly covered women enterprises in urban and semi urban areas, low sales and reduced customer footfall was reported by 79 per cent of the female entrepreneurs. "Last year in ten days, all of us

brought within herself. "Prior to my foray in entrepreneurship, I had no respect within my family. I have everyone's respectnow, and my family members approach me for advice," she said.





made ₹5,000 by selling at a bazaar.



OrissaPOST MONDAY NOVEMBER 30 2020 BHUBANESWAR

sports

AUSTRALIA WIN 2ND ODI TO TAKE UNASSAILABLE LEAD IN THREE-GAME SERIES

Super Smith smothers India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Nov 29: Australia buried India under an avalanche of runs for a 51-run drubbing in the second ODI here. The victory helped the hosts take an unassailable 2-0 series lead after Steve Smith (104, 64b 14x4, 2x6) produced another majestic batting display to notch up his second successive ton at the SCG here Sunday

Batting first, Australia rode on five 50-plus scores including Smith's ton, to post an imposing 389 for four against a sluggish Indian attack. This was the Australian run-machine's fifth century against India in the 50over format.

A target of 390 proved to be too much for India as they were stopped at 338 for nine. Captain Virat Kohli (89, 87b, 7x4, 2x6) and KL Rahul (76, 66b, 4x4, 5x6) fought hard, but they were always chasing the impossible. India started the big chase in

Remodelled action

Sydney: India all-rounder Hardik Pandya bowled in top-flight cricket for the first time after 434 days here Sunday. The last time Pandya had bowled was in the World Cup semifinals against New Zealand at England in 2019. Then he had to undergo a back surgery. Two days ago, after the first ODI, Pandya, who has remodelled his action to reduce the stress on his body, said he would bowl in the 'important' games and only when the time is right. As other Indian bowlers went for a pounding, skipper Virat Kohli had no option but, to turn to Pandya. He bowled four steady overs picking the wicket of Steve Smith. Earlier, his delivery stride was too side-on but Sunday, it looked open-chested as Pandya wants to reduce stress on his body.

earnest with the in-from some delightful Shikhar shots to keep Dhawan (30, the visitors in 23b, 5x4) and with a chance. Mayank Agarwal (28,

26b, 4x4) bringing

up the 50 of the in-

nings in just 6.1

overs.

However,

the problem

with chas-

ing 390 is

that one has

always got

to maintain

momentum.

Both

and

Dhawan

Agarwal

perished

while trying

to maintain the

Kohli played

asking rate.

As long as he was there, India were in with some hope. However, once pacer 4 Josh Hazlewood

Kohli, courtesy a brilliant diving catch by Moises Henriques

at mid-wicket. India's chances evaporated. He was involved in a 93-run partnership with Shrevas Iver (38, 36b, 5x4) for the third wicket and then added 72 runs for the fourth with Rahul before he fell.

Earlier when Australia batted, the batsmen converted their starts into half centuries to put them in a commanding position. Openers David Warner (83, 77b, 7x4, 3x6) and Aaron Finch (60, 69b, 6x4, 1x6) put on 142 runs at the top the of order. Then Smith, Marnus Labuschagne (70, 61b, 5x4) and Glenn Maxwell (63, 29b, 4x4, 4x6) slaughtered the Indian bowling to take the hosts near the 400run mark. Labuschagne and Maxwell added 80 runs in just over seven overs. Australia were never going to lose after that unless there was a miracle. And that never happened.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: David Warner r o 83, Aaron Finch c Kohli b Shami 60, Steve Smith c Shami b Hardik Pandya 104, Marnus Labuschagne c Agarwal b Bumrah 70, Glenn Maxwell n o 63, Moises Henriques n o 2, Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, wb-4) 7: Total: (for four wickets) 389.

FALL: 1-142-1, 2-156, 3-292, 4-372.

BOWLING: Shami 9-0-73-1, Bumrah 10-1-79-1, Saini 7-0-70-0, Y Chahal 9-0-71-0, Pandya 4-0-24-1, Jadeja 10-0-60-0, M Agarwal 1-0-10-0.

INDIA: Mayank Agarwal c Carey b Cummins 28, Shikhar Dhawan c Starc b Hazlewood 30, Virat Kohli c Henriques b Hazlewood 89, Shreyas Iyer c Smith b Henriques 38, KL Rahul c Hazlewood b Zampa 76, Hardik Pandya c Smith b Cummins 28 Ravindra Jadeja c Maxwell b Cummins 24, Navdeep Saini n o 10, Mohammed Shami c and b Maxwell 1, Jasprit Bumrah Ibw b Zampa 0, Yuzvendra Chahal n o 4, Extras: (nb-2, wb-8) 10, Total: (for nine wickets) 338.

FALL: 1-58, 2-60, 3-153, 4-225, 5-288, 6-321, 7-321, 8-326, 9-328.

BOWLING: Starc 9-0-82-0, Hazlewood 9-0-59-2, Cummins 10-0-67-3, Zampa 10-0-62-2, M Henriques 7-0-34-1. G Maxwell 5-0-34-1.



FUTILE EFFORT: Virat Kohli swings a delivery to the leg-side for a boundary during his fighting innings against Australia, Sunday PTI PHOTO

Impressive **feats**

Sydney: Virat Kohli became Sunday the ninth Indian cricketer to make 250 appearances in ODIs when he took the field against the Aussies here Sunday. However, there was another feat in the waiting During his innings of 89, Kohli became the fastest to 22,000 international runs. In 418 games for India (all formats included), Kohli's tally now stands at 22,011 runs. He is the eighth overall and third Indian to achieve the feat. Kohli took 462 innings to achieve the feat and in the process he left the likes of Sachin Tendulkar (493 innings), Ricky Ponting (511) and Brian Lara (514) behind. The 32-year-old made his ODI debut August 18, 2008 against Sri Lanka. He has also represented India in 86 Tests and 82 T20Is.

Kohli criticises bowlers for loss

COMPLETELY OUTPLAYED, ADMITS SKIPPER



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Nov 29: India skipper Virat Kohli had no qualms conceding they were outplayed by a confident and ruthless Australia in the series-deciding second ODI here Sunday. He attributed the loss to the ineffective and inconsistent bowling by his side. India lost the second game by 51 runs while in the first they got a drubbing by 66 runs.

"We were completely outplayed. I think with the ball, we were not that effective, we didn't hit the areas that we wanted to consistently and they have a strong batting line-up. They know the conditions and the angles well," Kohli .

Look at the scoreboard, we got to 340-odd and still fell short by 50 runs. The chase always felt steep. We knew one or two wickets would take the required rate to up to more than 16 runs per over and so we had to keep hitting. They took the chances that they created in the field, which was the difference. otherwise it would have been a much closer game," Kohli added. A pleased Australia captain Aaron Finch said his bowlers took some lessons from the way (Hardik)

during the second ODI here Sunday. Warner hobbled off the field after he struggled to get up following a dive in the fourth over of the Indian innings. Australian skipper Aaron Finch informed his opening partner could be ruled out for a lengthy period. "I have no idea about the extent of his injury, but I don't think he'll be available soon. Finch told reporters. really well defensively including his

Warner **doubtfu**

Sydney: Australia's swashbuckling

the remainder of the limited-overs

series against India was thrown into

doubt after he suffered a groin injury

opener David Warner's participation in

cutters, and as Virat said, we got a bit of a blueprint from Hardik, by taking the pace off," he said.

"Smithy (Steve Smith) was incredible as usual, and (David) Warner got it off the middle every time as well. I should have scored a little quicker," added the skipper. Smith won a second successive

'Player of the Match' award for his century. "I tried to whack the ball a bit too hard in the IPL. Now I have started to hit the ball with a bit more finesse which is probably working better for me," he said.

SHORT TAKES

Back in action



Los Angeles: Mike Tyson showed glimpses of his destructive prime during the 54-year-old boxing icon's return to the ring for a lively exhibition bout with 51-yearold Roy Jones (Jr), Bo fighters had impressive moments during a fight that was unofficially ruled a draw by the WBC judges at ringside. It was indeed an unusual event hosted at the Staples Centre here Saturday night. "This is better than fighting for championships," Tyson said of the heavyweight exhibition, which raised money for various charities. "We've got to do this again," he added.

BOOST FOR DU'I

SHOT IN THE ARM FOR ODIA SPRINTER BEFORE TOKYO GAMES

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 29: Odia sprinter Dutee Chand has been included in the core group of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), the Sports Ministry said Sunday, Along with Dutee, the Olympic-bound duo of race walker KT Irfan and javelin thrower Shivpal Singh's names featured in the list which was released. Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who has also qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, and top sprinter Hima Das were retained in the TOPS core group after a performance review. Seven track and field athletes were also included in the TOPS developmental group after a meeting of the 'Mission

4x400m relay), Alex Anthony (men's 400m and 4x400m relay) and MR Poovamma (women's 400m and 4x400m relay).

India earned an Olympic quota in the mixed 4x400m relay at the 2019 World Championships. The inclusion of Dutee in the

TOPS scheme will certainly be a boost for her as now all expenses of her preparations will be taken care

'Vaccination must'

New Delhi: Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said Sunday that Olympic-bound athletes and the support staff will be given priority when a vaccine is available for COVID-19. Rijiju also said that India are expected to send the largest ever contingent of athletes to the postponed Tokyo Olympics which is scheduled to be held from July 23 to August 8 next year. "Whether it is Tokyo Olympics or

any big event happening, the prefer-

to Olympic-bound athletes as well as

(support) staff because it is time-

given preference," he added.

ence for providing vaccine will be given

bound," Rijiju said. "Our athletes will be

SUPER SUB SALVAGES DRAW WITH INJURY-TIME GOAL Diego ensures 1st point for OFC

Pandva bowled. "Moises bowled

Vasco (Goa), Nov 29: Jamshedpur FC's (JFC) Hero Indian Super League match against Odisha FC (OFC) was a game of two halves and two strikers. At the Tilak Maidan here, JFC's Nerijus Valskis dominated the first scoring twice (12th, 27th) and putting his team in a commanding position. Odisha's Diego Mauricio though grabbed headlines in the second, pulling one back in the 77th minute before driving home a stunning injury-time equaliser to wrap up a thrilling 2-2 draw. It did not take long for Owen Coyle's JFC to break the deadlock. They earned a penalty early on when a shot by Valskis was blocked by Odisha's Gaurav Bora with his hand, Referee Pratik Mondal promptly pointed to the spot and Valskis powered in the resulting penalty. The game was then confined to the midfield before Valskis struck again due to a defensive lapse on the part of OFC. Defender Shubham Sarangi leapt to clear a cross, but only succeeded in diverting it into Valskis' path. The Lithuanian, even though he was in a difficult angle, managed to find the target. Odisha did fashion the occasional attack with Marcelinho, in particular,





Saina hopeful

Kolkata: Indian badminton star Saina Nehwal said Sunday she's definitely in the race for the Tokyo Olympics. However, she asserted that to do that she has to get back to her rhythm and win tourneys. The 2012 London Olympics bronze medallist has slipped to 22nd in Badminton World Federation's Tokyo Olympics qualification rankings. "I know Olympics is in everyone's head. It's something very big but before that you have to think about so many tournaments. I've to get back to my rhythm and win against the players who are in top-20," Nehwal said. I have to do well and then think about the Olympics. But yes, I'm in the race," the shuttler added.

Cavani steals show

Southampton: Edinson Cavani completed Manchester United's comeback in stoppage time at Southampton on Sunday, heading in his second goal for a 3-2 win in the Premier League. Jan Bednarek's header and a free-kick from James Ward-Prowse put hosts 2-0 up. However, Cavani's introduction in the second half changed all that. He set up Bruno Fernandes to score in the 59th minute and followed up by scoring twice. AGENCIES

Olympics Cell', November 26. The decision to include athletes in the TOPS core group was based on their performance progression and their qualification or high probability of qualification for the Tokyo Olympics scheduled next year," the ministry said in a press release.

Besides Shivpal, Irfan and Dutee, those included in the TOPS core group were Annu Rani (women's javelin throw). Arokia Rajiv (men's 400m and 4x400m relay), Noah Nirmal Tom (men's 400m and

of. Dutee is trying her best to qualify for the Tokyo Games and inclusion in the TOPS group will certainly be a boost for her confidence. It will provide her with the opportunity of having her own support staff during events.



SUPER SUB: Odisha FC's Diego Mauricio (right) celebrates with teammates after getting the equaliser against JFC, Sunday PHOTO: OFC TWITTER

remaining a threatening presence throughout the first half. But they struggled to create clear-cut chances. Odisha came alive in the second

half with striker Manuel Onwu going close on a couple of occasions. They kept on the pressure and were rewarded. But before that JFC's Rehenesh was sent off in the 74th minute for handling the ball outside the penalty area. Substitute Mauricio struck the resulting freekick against the post, but the ball found its way back to him and he was able to bundle it in.

With 10-men Jamshedpur defending doggedly, it appeared as if Odisha were running out of time. However, Mauricio had other ideas. In added on time, the Brazilian unleashed a powerful shot from just inside the box that no goalkeeper would have saved. It ensured OFC's first point in the ISL.

Messi leads Barca's goal rush against struggling Osasuna

AGENCIES

Madrid, Nov 29: Lionel Messi finally breathed a sigh of relief as Barcelona played fluently to hammer Osasuna 4-0 Sunday at the Camp Nou. The goals were scored by Martin Braithwaite (29th), Antoine Griezmann (42nd), Philippe Coutinho (57th) and Messi (73rd) himself. Immediately after he scored, Messi paid a lovely tribute to Diego Maradona. He pulled off his Barça top to reveal a number-10 Newell's 'Old Boys' shirt underneath. It is the same club where Messi began his youth career, and where -Maradona spent a period at the end of his playing days.

However Saturday turned out to be contrasting for Barcelona's arch Madrid rivals - Atletico and Valencia 1-0 while Real Madrid were stunned by Alaves 1-2.

BCCI plans domestic tourneys

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 29: Desperate to have some domestic cricket underway, the BCCI has sought its state associations' view on the structure of the curtailed season for which it plans to create six bio-secure hubs across India. If all goes according to plan BCCI plans to have

the domestic season from December this year to March next year.

In a letter to the associations, the BCCI has suggested four op-

tions on the conduct starting with having only the blue-riband Ranji Trophy. The second option is conducting just the Syed

Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament. The third scenario is a combination of Ranji Trophy and Syed

Mushtaq Ali while the fourth is a window for two white-ball tourneys (Syed Mushtaq Ali and Vijay Hazare Trophy). As per the letter the BCCI has also spoken about the potential windows for the events, proposing 67 days for Ranji Trophy (January 11-March 18).

The Mushtaq Ali Tournament will need 22 days (December 20 to January 10) while Vijay Hazare Trophy, if held, can be conducted between January 11 to Feb 7 - a

period of 28 days. 38 domestic teams will be "Establishing a divided into five Elite groups structure for a new and one Plate group competition during a pandemic has pro-BCCI letter to associations vided specific chaltalks about holding if possible. lenges for domestic

the Ranii Trophy and Sved cricket, most notably Mushtag Ali tournaments having the required medical personnel BCCI to create six bio bubble in place to handle hubs for conducting the stringent return-todomestic matches play protocols," the

letter stated. BCCI will create six bio secure hubs for the domestic tournaments with 38 teams. The 38 teams will be divided into

five Elite groups and one Plate group. The Elite groups will consist of six teams each while the Plate group will have eight teams," the letter said.

Pakistan captain Babar accused of sexual abuse

AGENCIES

Lahore, Nov 29: A woman has alleged that captain of the Pakistan cricket team, Babar Azam has sexually exploited her. This allegation has put Pakistan cricket authorities in turmoil. However, there has been no comment on the issue from Babar himself. He is currently in New Zealand undergoing quarantine with the team.

The woman alleged Sunday at a press conference that she and Babar had known each other since their school days. The woman has also alleged that she had provided the entire cost when Babar was coming up as a cricketer. She said she had become pregnant while staying with Babar in a rented flat and had been forced by the cricketer to abort the baby "He (Babar) promised to marry

EST A

me, he got me pregnant, he beat me up, he threatened me and he used me," the woman was heard saying in a video released by a Pakistani iournalist.

The woman has also said that she and Babar were school friends and had known each other since 2010. She informed the media that Babar had come to her house to propose to her. However, when the two families did not agree to the marriage, they eloped.

"Babar proposed to go through court marriage and we eloped in 2011. He kept in me in rented places and it was me who was paying the rent," the woman said. "He promised he would marry me, but all that changed when I became pregnant in 2016. He forced me to undergo abortion," the woman alleged. "Babar and I have known each

other when he hadn't become famous for cricket. We used to spend a lot of time together," she added.

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