

Modi govt authoritarian: Farmers

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 30: The agitating farmers Monday accused the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre of being communal, fascist and authoritarian, and rejected the government's demand to assemble at the Sant Nirankari ground in Burari to stage their protest.

Addressing a press conference here at the Delhi-Haryana border in Singhu, Darshan Pal, President of the Krantikari Kisan Union's Punjab chapter, said, "The Modi government speaks something else on face but has a dag ger on its side. The BJP is commu nal, fascist and authoritarian.

Pal said that the farmers will hold another meeting to strengthen the movement. "We reject the proposal. We have come here to tell our story and we won't step back," he said, rejecting



FACEOFF

The new farm laws have been brought in for benefit of farmers. We will see and experience benefits of these new laws in the coming days, says Modi

Farmers are opposing black laws. They've left their farms and kin behind. Do you want to stand with them or Modi's capitalist friends? asks Rahul

the offer of the government to move to the Burari ground for the protest. Activist Yogendra Yadav also addressed the press conference and described the farmers' protest as a "historic" moment. Yadav said, "This is happening after 31 years. Previously, Mahendra Singh Tikait had brought the farmers together.'

Yadav added that a lie is being spread that the farmers are unaware. "Today the reality is that each and every child of Punjab and Haryana is completely aware of the draconian laws," he said. Farmers from several parts of the country have gathered in Delhi over the three controversial farm laws passed by the Parliament recently.

They are demanding repealing of these new agrarian laws. Prime Minister Narendra Modi backed the three farm laws during his monthly radio broadcast programme Sunday.

Protests to intensify



NEW DELHI/SONIPAT: The shadow of the pandemic looms large and experts warn their agitation could well be a COVID-19 superspreader but farmers, some in masks and many without them, protesting in Delhi and at gateways into the city say the new farm laws pose a greater threat to their survival.

As thousands of farmers, mostly from Punjab and Harvana but also from UP and Rajasthan, protest at the national capital's border points and in north Delhi's Burari ground for the fifth day on Monday, COVID-19 continues its spread. There have been few signs of social distancing during the protests that started last week with the farmers, banded under various organisations, leaving their homes and moving towards Delhi. "A protest is a mass gathering and thus from a public health perspective, I would urge protective and preventive behaviour against the spread of coronavirus infection, failing which a superspreading event might set in," cautioned Dr Samiran Panda, head of the Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases division at the Indian Council of Medical Research.

Seeking strict compliance with norms, he said it is important to note that SARS-COV-2 is a transmission efficient virus and such gatherings are conducive to its spread. Many of the farmers, threatening to block all five entry points into the capital, said they are aware the infection is still raging but the Centre's new farm laws are a bigger threat. Gurmeet Singh from Faridkot in Punjab, for instance, has been at the Burari ground, one of the largest in the city, for three days and counting. And he has no intention of moving. For him, and hundreds of other farmers at Delhi where they were allowed to assemble, the three contentious farm laws are a bigger disease.

Breakthrough Moderna would seek approval from European Medicines Agency, which is reviewing its

moderna

said. "We expect to be playing a major part in turning around this pandemic."

Of the 196 people with Covid-19 out of over 30,000 volunteers, 185 had received a placebo and 11 got the vaccine. Moderna reported 30 severe cases, all in the placebo group, which means the vaccine was 100% effective against severe cases.

Biden fractures foot during play with dog

AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 30: US President-elect Joe Biden has hairline fractures in his mid-foot and will likely require a walking boot for several weeks, his doctor said. after the Democratic leader slipped while playing with his dog. Biden twisted his ankle Saturday when he slipped while playing with Major, his 2-year-old German shepherd. Biden, who celebrated his 78th birthday on November 20, is set to be the oldest president in US history when he is inaugurated January 20. "Initial X-rays did not show any obvious fracture, but his clinical exam warranted more detailed imaging," Biden's physician Dr Kevin O'Connor said in a statement on Sunday.

No repeal of farm laws: Modi

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday resisted calls for the repeal of farm reforms that have ignited the biggest protests by farmers in years around Delhi, saying they were being misled and that deregulation would benefit them.

Thousands of people from the big farming state of Punjab were camped out on the outskirts of Delhi for a fifth day demanding that they be allowed to stage protests in the city centre against the new laws that open up India's

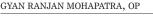
IRREGULAR by MANJUL



stituency of Varanasi in northern India, Modi dismissed the fears as ter of India's produce to wastage.

misplaced. "The new farm laws have been brought in for benefit of the farmers. We will see and experience benefits of these new laws in the coming days," he said. He blamed the opposition for spreading rumours about the future of farmers. The farm sector contributes 15% of India's \$2.9 trillion GDP and employs its 1.3 bn people. The government says the deregulation of the sector will attract investment and fix the supply chains that lose a quar-

ZERO CONVICTION OF ERRANT COPS IN STATE



ilv of a tribal youth from Ravgada

Rs1.5 lakh compensation to the fam- of this, departmental inquiry was instituted in 14 cases, magi

cused cops faced trial in 10 cases in

2014. The number of complaints

against police officials rose to 96

in 2015 out of which cases were reg-

istered against 95. Similarly, 55 cops

were arrested in 2015. Out of 47

cops who faced trial in 2015, two were

acquitted while trial is pending in

other cases. 35 policemen were ar-

rested in 64 cases registered in 2016.

As per the record, police submitted

charge-sheets against 25 in 2016. In

2017, the number of cases regis-

tered against cops stood at 44 out of

which 14 were either quashed or

stayed by courts. Charge-sheets

were submitted against 12 but none

In 2018, four police personnel

were arrested and 19 cases were

registered while in 2019, 52 cases were

registered and four were charge-

sheeted in 2019. None of the ac-

cused cops faced arrest in 2018 and

2019. Trial was completed in two

cases over last six years while offi-

cers involved in these cases were ac-

quitted. The complainants have

been awaiting justice in other cases.

was arrested in 2017

Medical colleges to reopen from today reopening of temples and other re

DEC COVID GUIDELINES BY STATE GOVT

SW Cement

Start Strong. Grow Stronger.

1800 266 266 1 (tollfree)

Moderna claims 100 pc

success rate for its shot

AGENCIES

Massachusetts, Nov 30:

Moderna Inc will apply for

US and European emer-

gency authorization for its

Covid-19 vaccine after full re-

sults from a late-stage study

showed it was 94.1% effec-

tive with no serious con-

cerns. Moderna also re-

ported that its vaccine's

efficacy rate was consistent

across age, race, ethnicity

and gender demographics

as well as having a 100%

success rate in preventing

severe cases of a disease

that has killed nearly 1.5

million people. The filing

sets Moderna's product up

to be the second vaccine

likely to receive US emer-

gency use authorization

this year following a shot

developed by Pfizer and

BioNTech which had a 95%

efficacy rate. "We believe

that we have a vaccine that

is very highly efficacious.

We now have the data to

prove it," Moderna Chief

data, and would continue to talk with other regulators

The vaccine's efficacy rate is consistent across age, race, ethnicity and gender demographics as well as having a

100% success rate Medical Officer Tal Zaks



Man sets own house afire after kin refuse to serve dog meat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Nov 30: In a shocking incident, a resident of Kirtanpur village under Kankadahada area in Dhenkanal district set his house on fire Monday after his wife and mother allegedly refused to cook dog meat for him. The accused has been identified as Shukadeb Pradhan.

The matter came to the fore after the wife and mother of the accused lodged an FIR against him at Kankadahada police station.

According to them, Pradhan had brought a dog to his home Monday morning. He then asked his wife and mother to kill the dog and cook the meat for him. However, the duo rejected Pradhan's proposal. Taking advantage of the spat that followed the refusal, the dog fled the spot.

An angry Pradhan then tried to manhandle his wife and mother. However, the two managed to escape. Then he set his house on fire.

Police, after registering a case, are on the lookout for Pradhan. The accused has also fled the village after setting his house on fire.

	WEATI			
		BHUB	СТК	
	₽ MAX	30.9°€	30.0° €	1
		16.0℃	14.8°C	Forecast
\succ	Humidity	88%	78%	
	Rainfall	Nil	Nil	Mainly clear sky

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Police officials often found misusing the unfettered power vested with them to maintain peace and public order hardly face the consequences. Several such incidents related to custodial torture and police highhandedness have come to the fore in Odisha. The death of two persons in police custody in Puri and Rourkela within 24 hours sparked

a state-wide public outcry. The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) held police personnel guilty of abusing power. A few days back, the rights body asked the state government to pay

who was killed by security forces in a fake encounter in 2016. However, the erring cops rarely got punishment for the wrongdoings.

A perusal of data from National Crime Records Bureau and Bureau of Police Research and Development revealed that most of such complaints against police officials went unheard. The victims, who moved various forums seeking action against cops, failed to get justice. The data also revealed that a large number of complaints are yet to go through trials. According to NCRB.

40 complaints had been received

against police officials in 2014. Out



A file photo of people protesting custodial deaths in Puri

inquiry in one case while judicial Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: All medical inquiry against 21 cases. The ac-

colleges in the state that had been shut for students as part of Covid compliance measures will reopen from Tuesday, said December guidelines of the state government that were issued Monday. The government allowed conduct of business to business events to make the way clear for 'Make in Odisha' conclave.

"Business to business events shall be allowed in exhibition halls with participants up to 50 per cent of the hall capacity with a ceiling of 100 persons subject to compliance of Covid safety protocols," said the order of the Chief Secretary.

However, business to customer exhibitions. mela and similar functions like Toshali Craft Mela, Sisira Saras, among others, will be barred. International air travel of passengers, except as permitted by the MHA will remain suspended till December 31. Similarly, large social, political, sports, entertainment, academic, cultural, religious functions will be barred. The government has authorised local administrations to take decisions on

ligious places of warship.

"DM/municipal commissioner may permit public worship at religious places with appropriate curbs based on local assessment of the situation with regard to spread of Covid-19," it said. Cinemas, swimming pools, entertainment complexes, theatres, auditoriums, and similar places will remain shut. However, swimming pools under the control of government will open for training of sports persons.

Marriage related gatherings have been allowed with a ceiling of 200 persons and funeral/last rites with a ceiling of 50 persons. All academic, technical and skill development institutions (except for medical colleges) will be shut till December 31 or such date as will be decided by the concerned departments. Earlier, the school and mass education department issued a notification for closure of schools till December end.

Anganwadi Centres will be closed. Educational bodies can conduct exams, evaluations and other activities. The government has permitted open air theatres subject to compliance of Covid protocols.



"Follow-up CT scan confirmed hairline fractures of Presidentelect Biden's lateral and intermediate cuneiform bones, which are in the midfoot. It is anticipated that he may need a walking boot for several weeks," said O'Connor, Director (Executive Medicine) at The George Washington Medical Faculty Associates, on Biden's imaging results. He was examined by an orthopedist "out of an abundance of caution"

To avoid disrupting regularly scheduled appointments on Monday, arrangements were made for Biden to receive an X-ray and then an additional CT scan on Sunday afternoon, with the expected delays involved when opening closed offices and giving personnel time to set up, a Biden spokesperson said. President Donald Trump, a Republican, who has not yet conceded the November 3 presidential election, tweeted, "Get well soon!" Biden's last healthrecord was released by Dr O'Connor in December 2019.

M-Webster's top word of 2020 not a shocker: Pandemic

AGENCIES

New York, Nov 30: If you were to choose a word that rose above most in 2020, which word would it be? Ding, ding, ding: Merriam-Webster Monday announced "pandemic" as its 2020 word of the year. "That probably isn't a big shock," Peter Sokolowski, editor at large for Merriam-Webster, told The

'Often the big news story has a

technical word that's associated

with it and in this case, the word pan-

demic is not just technical but has

become general. It's probably the

word by which we'll refer to this

period in the future," he said.

Associated Press.

avirus crisis was designated a pandemic, but it started to trend up on Merriam-Webster.Com as early January and again in February when the first US deaths and outbreaks on cruise ships occurred.

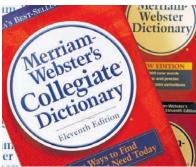
Health Organisation declared the novel coronavirus outbreak a global pandemic, lookups on the site for pandemic spiked hugely. Site interest for the word has remained significantly high through the year,

searches for pandemic on March 11 were 115,806 per cent higher than lookups experienced on the same date last year. Pandemic, with roots in Latin and Greek, is a combina-

On March 11, when the World

Sokolowski said. By huge, Sokolowski means

The word took on urgent specificity in March, when the corontion of "pan," for all, and "demos,"



for people or population.

The latter is the same root of "democracy," Sokolowski noted. The word pandemic dates to the mid-1600s, used broadly for "universal" and more specifically to disease in a medical text in the 1660s, he said. That was after the

TRENDING UP

The word took on urgent specificity in March, but it started to trend up on Merriam Webster.Com as early as January and again in February

Lookups on the site for pandemic spiked hugely when the WHO declared the novel coronavirus outbreak a global pandemic March 11 this year

plagues of the Middle Ages, Sokolowski said. He attributes the lookup traffic for pandemic not entirely to searchers who didn't know what it meant but also to those on the hunt for more detail, or for inspiration or comfort. "We see that the word love is looked up around

nucopia is looked up at Thanksgiving," Sokolowski said. "We see a word like surreal spiking when a moment of national tragedy or shock occurs. It's the idea of dictionaries being the beginning of putting your thoughts in order.' Merriam-Webster acted quickly in March to add and update entries on its site for words related to the pandemic. While "coronavirus" had been in the dictionary for decades. "COVID-19" was coined in February.

Valentine's Day and the word cor-

Thirty-four days later, Merriam-Webster had it up online, along with a couple dozen other entries that were revised to reflect the health emergency. "That's the shortest period of time we've ever seen a word go from coinage to entry," he said.











DISNEY'S SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO BOSEMAN

The late Hollywood star Chadwick Boseman has been honoured with a new opening montage in the original Black Panther, highlighting his appearance in the title role. The Walt Disney Company honoured Boseman on what would have been the late actor's 44th birthday November 29.

WHAT MADE KYLIE MINOGUE CRY

Singer Kylie Minogue says she cried when she heard her latest song, Say Something, for the first time. The 52year-old singer felt an instant connection to the track, her first single from new album *Disco*. In the music video, the singer is seen riding a horse. She revealed that it was a last minute change.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust 🚑 FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES Today you will land up in a tricky or hazardous situation. You will feel com

pelled to wade against the tide, which may not be such a productive thing, says Ganesha. Nothing seems to be going your way

TAURUS

Today you are going to focus on enhancing your looks and appearances, says Ganesha. Instead of trying to seek

satisfaction from within yourself you will be flaunting your fine clothes, your hairstyles. A visit to a beauty parlour cannot be ruled out

GEMINI

You will feel out of sorts today. This could result in distances between you and your loved ones. You may fall into the wrong sorts of debates on account of your ill-temper. You need to keep a curb on your emotions to perform better, says Ganesha

You are most likely to



Ganesha, Remain vou typical poised self. Try not to be harsh to others, if you wish to save your relationships and sustain a reputable image.

LEO

You will pay more attention to matters at home. You may take up home renovation projects. You may end up replacing the entire furniture at your place even. You will spend the day enjoying with your family mem bers and friends, says Ganesha

VIRGO

Confidently take on the challenges that in all likelihood will test vour business abilities. especially the ones that are related to your investments and monetary matters. You will most probably come up with novel ideas to solve long-pending issues, and Ganesha says that this will be very effective.



Shilpa's mantra to start day on energetic note

Mumbai: Actress Shilpa Shetty prefers to kick-start her day on an energetic note, and yoga helps her prepare her for the day ahead

The actress took to her Instagram Monday to share a video where she is seen performing Eka Pada Kapotasana.

"Beginning a new day and a new week on an energetic note may not always be the easiest thing to do. But, what we can do is stretch and flex our muscles well enough to



prepare ourselves for the day ahead," Shilpa wrote on Instagram along with a video

In the video, the actress is seen in pink and black top and black pants, as she does yoga out in her garden

Shilpa recently wrapped up shooting of Nikamma. She is all set to return to films after 13 years with two releases. Hungama 2 and Nikamma.

FESTIVAL,

OVER LAST

DECADES.

SHOWCASES

THE BEST OF

TRADITIONAL

AND CLASSICAL

PEANUTS

DANCE FORMS

THREE

INDIA'S

ORGANISED FOR

Mumbai: Actress Alaya F. has a witty yet effective tip for fans who wish to strike an uber-slim pose during photo-ops. In her new Instagram post, Alaya sits stretched backwards, cutting a slim frame. There's a trick to her svelte pose, if you go by her caption. Yes yes, I was sucking my stomach in and

Alaya's witty tips for fans

holding my breath," she wrote alongside the image, where she is seen wearing a burnt orange bralette paired black cycling shorts and a beige coat. The image has over one lakh likes on her Instagram page.

The actress recently celebrated her 23rd birthday and shared a couple of pictures from the celebrations. Alaya, daughter of actress Pooja Bedi, made her Hindi film debut with Jawaani Jaaneman earlier this year. She has a threefilm deal with producer Jay Shewakramani.



New Delhi: Filmmaker Hansal Mehta, who is currently riding high on the success of his new sports drama Chhalaang, has revealed why sports-based films do well.

According to Mehta, the story of an underdog resonates with the audiences.

"I think everybody loves a good underdog story. Everybody loves sports and an underdog story. I mean who doesn't like an underdog fighting. Who doesn't



love watching that? That is the reason my show Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story worked because it is an un-

derdog story," Mehta said. starring Chhalaang, Rajkummar Rao and Nushrratt Bharuccha, revolves around a PT teacher and sports education. He also went down memory lane to recall his experience of working with ailing actor Rahul Roy who suffered a brain stroke Sunday while shooting for LAC-Live the Battle in Kargil. IANS

Konark to witness twin tourist events from today

KONARK DANCE POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's prime coastal tourism hub of Konark will once again witness a global confluence of arts through the twin annual events of the Konark Festival of classical dance performances with the grand Sun Temple in the backdrop and the International Sand Art Festival.

The 31st edition of the Konark Dance Festival being organised by Odisha Tourism will be held at the Open Air Auditorium with the magnificent Konark Sun Temple from

1st - 5th December 2020, between

6:00 and 8:30 pm. The event show-

cases the best of India's traditional



and classical dance forms, besides of cultural heritage of the country A soli-

fering interesting insights into the rich tary splendour par excellence, folk-

YOU CAN'T PUT BACKSPIN ON

A BEAN BAG

lore and mythology have created layers of legends shrouding the genesis of this world heritage monument built in the 13th century A.D. Leading exponents and dance enthusiasts of almost all main classical dance forms of India including Odissi, Bharatanatyam, Manipuri, Kuchipudi and Kathak will take part in the fiveday classical dance carnival, adding to the appeal of the event that has few parallels elsewhere.

Acclaimed Odissi exponent Padma Shri Aruna Mohanty and her group Orissa Dance Academy will perform on the first day of the

Chennai.

On the other hand, the 9th edition of the International Sand Art Festival with Padma Shri awardee and globally renowned sand artist Sudarshan Pattnaik as its brand ambassador and chief curator, will be held coinciding with the Konark Festival, on the pristine Chandrabhaga Beach three km away from the Sun Temple. The event will span the entire day from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Keeping in view the COVID-19 global pandemic the event will be organised following protocols issued by Government of Odisha and Government of India. The event of 2020 will witness participation of 70 artists from across India.



ble to attain your goals in your work field today. Your level of enthusiasm will be at its peak. Today you may be able to meet with a person from the opposite sex who will be your future partner.

SCORPIO

You are a visionary and today you work towards building a successful future. But, expecting an instant result would be unfair. You need to have patience to bring in those dynamic changes in your life. Wait and watch, the patience would reap sweet fruits!

SAGITTARIUS

You need to increase your tolerance power as you may have to face criticism from close

ones. However, it is not feasible to please everyone around. You may just be happy doing basic favours for your loved or Ganesha asks you to be patient.

CAPRICORN

If you are planning to fly to foreign shores for further studies. start documentation and other preparations today, says Ganesha. Whether you are a student or not, on this favourable day, all you need to do is to make a priority list, follow it and finish off your work one by one.

AOUARIUS

Meeting people from the different walks of life, having a good conversa tion with them and widening the horizon of your knowledge - this will be the highlight of today for youl.



obstacles you are facing on the business front? Ganesha tackles the root

of your problem and advises you to be patient and have faith in your undertakings. Good things will come your way, in good time.

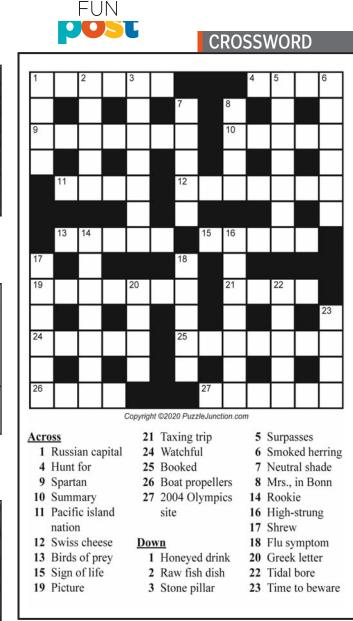


WELL, I FINALLY

CALVIN AND HOBBES







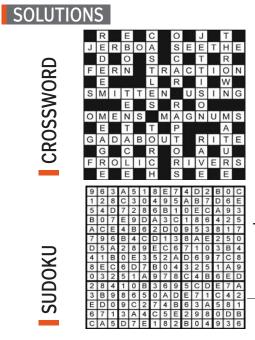
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

festival followed by a performance by Bharatnatyam dancer Sheela Unikrishnan of Sridevi Nrithyalaya,



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

	0	4			1	7					С			5
			4	D		6		2			А			3
		1			Е			3			D	6	9	7
С		D	3			4	А			0				
		7			С			9			3		8	
8			6	Е			9							D
				9				6				7	2	
							Ū		5		2		0	
	2	С	D		3			1		6	9	5		
Е		3		0				4			1	9	С	
	С								D		6	4		
	6				9	С		D		В	8		А	
		2		A		8			С	9	5			
		А		2	В	9					0		3	
		Е	0	8			3			Α	7		5	









COVID AXE ON TOURISM

Puri beach wears a deserted look Monday as people are avoiding crowded places

COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
rld	6,32,34,410	4,37,28,121	14,68,006
ia	94,33,143	88,47,533	1,37,185
sha	3,18,725	3,12,065	1,739

Odi

Indi

State ready for Covid shots: Chief Secy

Rajiv Gauba held a video

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The state government is ready to implement Covid-19 vaccination programme with a prioritised list and well-designed multi-sectoral response system at different levels. Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy told Union Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba during a meeting, Monday.

Gauba held a video conferencing meeting with various states to review the preparedness for the vaccination programme. Health and Family Welfare Additional Chief Secretary PK Mohapatra said the State-Level Steering Committee headed by Chief Secretary and the State Task Force Committee led by him have already met to finalise the strategies of immunisation.

The meetings of District Task Force Committees have also been conducted under the chairmanship



8

for vaccination

round 3.2 lakh health

and frontline workers

COUNTERING PANDEMIC

vaccination programme All arrangements have been put in place for setting up of the control rooms at state, district and block levels with necessary connectivity and logistic supports

he state government has enlisted 8,300 vaccinators while 30,000 have been placed in the list vaccination sites have been identified for administering the vaccine

of respective Collectors. Similarly, manship of the BDOs to carry out the block-level Task Force Committees vaccination programme once it will have been formed under the chairbe available for human use.

Special Relief Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena, who also attended the meeting, said all arrange ments have been put in place for setting up of the control rooms at state, district and block levels with necessary connectivity and logis tic supports.

The state administration is in coordination with NGOs, NCC wings and civil society organisations for ensuring multispectral response, Jena said. "An open communication system with people has been put in place to curb any miscommunication," he said

Community leaders and representatives from panchayati raj institutions (PRI) would be involved at grass-root level to roll out the Covid vaccination as a people's campaign, the state government told the Centre.

National Health Mission director Shalini Pandit said the database of the first priority group compris-

ing healthcare workers (from both the government and private health facilities) and frontline workers under integrated child development scheme (ICDS) have been prepared and uploaded in the national Co-Win web portal.

She said that nearly 3.2 lakh such health and frontline workers have been placed in the list for vaccination.

The state government has enlisted 8,300 vaccinators while 30,000 vaccination sites have been identified for administering the vaccine. The government has made assessment for cold chain requirement along with safe storage and transportation of vaccines.

Steps have also been initiated for procuring insulated vaccine vans to ensure seamless supply of vaccines to the districts. The system for follow-up of the unwanted medical occurrence after vaccination has also been worked out, the officials said.

Congress a divided house over Pari issue

POST NEWS NETWORK

turned out to be a divided house

over the issue related alleged

murder of five-year-old girl Pari

The Congress party, which

initially raised strong voice

against government over the

incident in Assembly, has now

remained silent after the state

government took steps for

Orissa High-Court monitored

SIT probe. The BJP has picked

Speaking to media persons

here, Congress MLA Suresh

Routray Monday said, "Congress party had first raised the issue

and the state unit president had

asked all district presidents in-

cluding me to take up the issue to the districts. However, later,

I got a letter that there is no

need to hold any demonstra-

tion over the issue as the state

government has accepted our de-

Stating that he is not happy

with the SIT probe, the Congress

leader said, "Both Patnaik and

Mishra are one. While Mishra withdrew the protest inside the

House, Patnaik told us not to

It seems things were 'man-

Joining Routray, another

aged' so that there was change

Congress MLA Santosh Singh

Saluja said, "I am not satisfied

with the SIT probe. However,

we must have to follow the de-

cision taken by our Legislature

"The BJP stuck to its stand

Party leader.'

stage gheraoes in districts.

in party's stand, he said.

mand and formed an SIT."

in Nayagarh district.

up the issue now.

ernment to adjourn the House Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The sine die," said Saluja. state unit of Congress has again

BJP DEMANDS SECURITY FOR VICTIM'S KIN

end which forced the state gov

BHUBANESWAR: A team of BJP led by Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Assembly, Pradipta Kumar Naik, Monday, visited Jadupur village in Navagarh district and met family members of the deceased five-year-old girl (Pari), who was allegedly killed after being kidnapped in July.

The team comprising many BJP legislators met Pari's parents-Ashok Sahu and his wife Soudamini and enquired about the incident. They also extended their solidarity with the victim's parents. The BJP leaders also visited the spot, where the minor girl's body was recovered.

Naik urged the government to provide security to the family members of Pari as there is threat to their lives. He reiterated the demand for a CBI probe into the incident and expulsion of Agriculture Minister Arun Sahoo from Cabinet.

"Important parts of Pari's body have been removed and replanted in someone's body. It was suspected that an organ transplant racket is running behind the incident." he alleged.

"The state government or SIT cannot probe the incident impartially. Therefore, we are demanding a CBI probe. If the state government does not take necessary steps, we will take up the issue with the Centre,' he warned.

NCPCR SEEKS ATR FROM TRIPATHY

The NCPCR has taken suo motu cognisance of the matter following media reports about the alleged kidnap and murder of Pari

Sambit moves panel for probe

NEW DELHI: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national spokesper-

NEW DELHI: The NCPCR has

Science parks to Srimandir deities sparkle in Raja Rajeswar Besha come up in 20 dists POST NEWS NETWORK



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: In a bid to encourage scientific temper and creativity among students, the state government will set up science centres and parks in 10 districts in first phase and another 10 districts in the second phase, Science and Technology Minister Ashok Panda informed Assembly during the winter session.

In the first phase, the science parks will be set up at Gopalpur in Ganjam district, Khandapada in Nayagarh, Baripada in Mayurbhanj, Ghatagaon in Keonjhar, Jeypore in Koraput. Chandbali in Bhadrak. Puri, Bolangir, Rourkela in Sundargarh and Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district, Panda said. The land required for the first phase projects has been identified and construction work has been awarded to agencies of state government and the Centre.

An amount of ₹6.5 crore would be allotted to each science centre which would be borne by the state govt

The minister said the government has planned to establish such centres in Boudh, Jharsuguda, Jajpur, Rayagada, Kendrapara, Khurda, Gajapati, Angul, Balasore and Cuttack districts in second phase

The proposed science centres will consist of a popular science gallery, exhibit development laboratory, a science park, conference room for teacher training, science quiz and science seminar along with few other required facilities. An estimated ₹6.5 crore would be allotted for each science centre which the state government would bear, the minister added.

Puri, Nov 30: Lord Jagannath and his siblings-Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra-were adorned with the Raja Rajeswar Besha, also called as Suna Besha (golden attire), at the Ratnasinghasan (bejewelled throne) of Srimandir here on the auspicious occasion of Kartika Purnima, Monday.

The deities were decorated with varieties of gold ornaments as part of the Suna Besha ritual

Devotees were not allowed to witness the golden attire of Srimandir deities owing to

Covid-19 pandemic

The deities were decorated with varieties of gold ornaments as part of

the Suna Besha ritual, sources said. However, devotees were not allowed to witness the golden attire of Srimandir deities as the 12th century shrine has remained out of the bounds for people in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic

Many devotees, however, had glimpses of 'Patitapaban' or the image of Lord Jagannath at the Lions' Gate, said a source. Meanwhile, the district administration had 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. Earlier, the

KARTIK PURNIMA

Despite restrictions, people congregate at Kuakhai riverbank to sail boats (Top) and near Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar



Plaint against Amazon for fleecing devotees

PURI: A few hours after a leading e-commerce firm was found selling Nirmalya (Dry mahaprasad) reportedly in violation of the norms, a servitor of Srimandir Monday lodged a complaint with the Singhadwar police here seeking action against the company.

In his complaint, servitor Sambhunath Khuntia said, "Amazon has been selling Nirmalva at exorbitant prices without permission from the Srimandir administration. The much soughtform has been selling it at around ₹499. Nirmalya is deeply associated with the belief, culture and tradition of Hindus. Hence, selling Nirmalya online is nothing less than demeaning its value," Khuntia said in his police compliant, demanding stringent action against the firm. Srimandir administrator (rituals) Jitendra Kumar Sahoo confirmed that the temple administration has not permitted the e-commerce firm for selling Nirmalya. "We're exploring legal

over the demand for expulsion of minister Arun Sahoo till the

son Sambit Patra Monday approached the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to initiate a separate probe into the alleged kidnapping and murder of Pari, a five-vear-old girl of Navagarh. The BJP leader submitted a memorandum to the NCPCR chairman Priyank Kanoongo in this regard here and also urged the commission to probe allegations pertaining to the involvement of an organ trafficking racket behind the brutal crime. "The commission may direct a spot enquiry by an independent squad of the panel. The commission may direct for setting up of a fact finding team of the NCPCR to enquiry into the heinous crime." Patra pleaded in the memorandum.

CRUT reopens more routes for Mo Bus

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: In the wake of issuance of unlock guide lines and increasing passenger demand after significant fall in Covid-19 cases, the Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT), Monday, stated that it would resume Mo Bus operations on all the routes except one.

Taking it to Twitter, the CRUT said that the much-needed city buses will start ferrying passengers on its designated routes in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Puri after Kartik Purnima. While services will be operational on all routes, Route No 29 (Kalinga Nagar to Sai Temple) will be resumed later.

"This is the first time we will be resuming operations on all our routes. This has been done as we have observed increased passenger movement in the city following resumption of most of commercial activities in the city. Route No 29 will see operations later as certain road work is going in the route," an official at CRUT said.

CRUT which had been operational in the city with 200 buses was registering ridership of about 1 lakh per day. However, post lockdown Mo Bus became operational only September 1 with 66 buses on seven routes. However, post lockdown the services will resume on 22 routes with 144 buses.

after item is available at Puri for ₹10. However, the e-commerce plat-

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 had

options into this issue," Sahoo said.

> 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.

Woman held for duping job aspirant of ₹6L

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Commissionerate Police has arrested a woman on charges of duping a job aspirant of around ₹6 lakh here. The accused has been identified as Javanti Parida, 30, a resident of Betoda in Bhadrak district.



Police sources claimed that Parida during her stay at Behera Sahi under Nayapalli police station in 2015 told the complainant Subhashreee Jena that a clerk post was lying vacant at the SBI's Kalpana Branch. Parida allegedly lied the complainant that she was working as a PO at the same SBI branch to win her trust.

Meanwhile, she took around ₹6 lakh from Jena to get her the clerical job. However, she started avoiding the victim after getting the money.

Finding no other way, Jena lodged a complaint with Nayapalli police in 2018. Police registered a case (182/18) and launched a manhunt to arrest the accused who had left the city by then.

The cops recently carried out a raid at her present residence in Balasore and arrested the accused. She was later sent to judicial custody by court Monday.

issued a notice to the Chief Secretary of Odisha in Pari murder case and demanded a detailed action-taken report (ATR) in 10 days.

The NCPCR has taken suo motu cognisance of the matter following media reports about the kidnapping and murder of the five-year old girl, Pari, in Nayagarh district. The commission has sought detailed and factual report along with authenticated copies of age of proof of the victim, FIR registered in the matter and the MLC post mortem report.

The NCPCR has asked the Chief Secretary to submit the report about action taken agains the accused and present status of the case. It also stated that it has already taken up the matter with Collector and SP of Navagarh. It is to be mentioned here that Pari was abducted when she was playing outside her residence in Jadupur village Nayagarh. The parents of the child alleged that their daughter was murdered by one Babuli Nayak and for organs.



	ment of Odisha curement Notice
	w_sonepur@yahoo.co.in 23 dated.24.11.2020
	ENDER ONLINE SNPR- 04 OF 20-21
1. Name of the work	: Road Works as per DTCN available in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
2. Total No. of Work	: 10(Ten) Nos.
Estimated Cost	: Varies from Rs.4.42 lakhs to Rs.35.36 lakhs
	: 01 (One) to 02(Two)Calendar months
 Period and time of availabi of bid document in the port for bidding 	lity : 02.12.20 at 11.00AM to 11.12.20 al upto 5.00 PM
Date and time of openin of Tender	g : 14.12.20 at 11.00AM
Name and address of th officer inviting bid	e : E.E., R.W. Divn., Sonepur
• •	seen from detailed notice inviting tenders, www.tendersodishagov.in
(2) Corrigendum if any sh <u>tenderodisha.gov.in</u>	nall only be published in the website: www.
Executive	Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sonepur
	OIPR-25054/11/0004/2021



to offer prayers on the occasion of Kartik Purnima, Monday

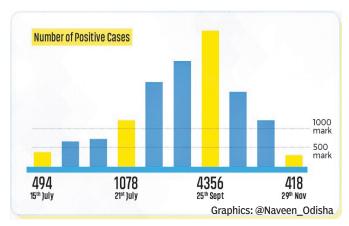




downtown

CRACKDOWN ON FAKE UNIT

State registers 418 fresh Covid cases, 5 deaths



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: State's Covid-19 caseload Monday surged to 3,18,725, after 418 more people tested positive for the disease, while five fresh fatalities pushed the toll to 1,739, a senior Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department official said

Of the 418 new cases, 241 were reported from various quarantine centres and 177 detected during contact tracing.

Sundargarh recorded the maximum number of new cases at 41, followed by Angul at 34 and Mayurbhanj at 32.

Two districts-Subarnapur and Boudh – haven't registered any fresh case, said the official.

Taking to Twitter, the health department said, "Regret to inform demise of five numbers of Covid positive patients while under treatment." Khurda district recorded three deaths and Nuapada two.

As many as 53 Covid-19 patients have died of comorbidities, the official said.

The positivity rate stands at 5.4 per cent.

Over 59 lakh samples have been examined in the state, including 41,371 Sunday.

THE DOWNWARD TREND

Sundargarh recorded the maximum number of new cases at 41, followed by Angul at 34 and Mayurbhanj at 32.

Subarnapur and Boudh have not registered any fresh case

Khurda recorded three deaths and Nuapada two

Odisha's positivity rate stands at 5.4 per cent

Over 59 lakh samples have been examined in the state including 41,371 Sunday

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Naveen took to the Twitter to express his happiness over the dip in Covid cases 'Glad to share Odisha has

recorded daily positive cases of less than 500 for first time since 16 Jul. Appreciate hard work & sacrifice of our #CovidWarriors for helping #Odisha fight back against the pandemic. Yet, lets not be complacent & remember #mask is the best



Officials of twin city Commissionerate Police carry out a raid on a fake ghee unit in Jagatpur area of Cuttack, Monday

PETROL PUMP BLAST CP to make arrests soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The Commissionerate police are likely to soon tighten the noose around the persons responsible for the explosion at the petrol pump near Raj Bhawan here October 7. Sources revealed that a team of

Commissionerate Police investigating the case have already received all the test reports from various experts. The cops, after going through the test reports, decided to arrest the people respon-

sible very soon, sources claimed. A team also visited Faridabad to question the officials of Surya Shakti Vessels private limited, the firm engaged in the maintenance

SCW DISPOSED 11,718 **COMPLAINTS IN 5 YEARS** As many as

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Hapless female victims from across the state come to State Commission for Women seeking justice. Recent data presented before the state Legislative assembly by the Women and Child Development Minister, Tukuni Sahoo revealed that the SCW has disposed 11,718 complaints in the last five vears

Meanwhile, as many as 10,893 complaints are pending at the SCW till October 2020.

As per the information, the SCW disposed 4,005 complaints in 2016. However, the disposal number almost halved in 2017 as against the previous year. The SCW disposed only 2,435 complaints in 2017.

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: The clear

standing length (CSL) extension

work of the NTPC exchange yard

in Talcher has been provided with

MSDAC (Multi-Section Digital Axle

Counter) replacing the obsolete

analogue Axle Counters for bet-

ter efficiency, sources said Monday

signalling system commissioned

in NTPC vard. East Coast Railway

(ECoR) stated that the yard is now

Informing about the modern

In 2018, the performance of SCW number of cases lodged by the comimproved slightly as it disposed plainants from Bhubaneswar. 3.262 cases during the year.

Meanwhile, the SCW disposed only 1552 complaints in 2019. As many as 464 complaints were disposed by the commission till October 30.2020.

The information presented by the minister also mentioned that the commission disposed maximum

Konark beautification worries local residents

POST NEWS NETWORK

Konark, Nov 30: Puri district administration accelerated its drive Sunday for the peripheral development of the world-famous tourism site Konark after a long stall owing to COVID-19 pandemic.

Eviction process was initiated in the afternoon for the beautifica-

in the town. On the other hand, local resentment brewed among residents after Puri revenue department carried out a survey of shops as well as residential houses to be evicted for the purpose of the mega project. Notably, several residents of 11

Sanjeev K Sahoo and Amaresh C. Panda have been listed among the top 2% global scientists. This global list has been recently released by Stanford University and listed the most-cited scientists across various disciplines involving 22 scientific fields and 176 sub-fields. The list includes nearly 1,500 scientists, doctors and engineers in India. The list is based on number of citations, H -Index, co-authorship and number of publications.

FIR filed against cesspool operating agency in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Acting tough on private operators discharging fecal sludge in public area or drains, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Monday, declared to initiate criminal proceeding against the offenders violating the norms set by the civic authority.

The BMC, Monday lodged an FIR against Sainath Fabric Care pvt. Ltd in Badagada Police Station. here, for releasing fecal sludge in public area instead at the designated plant at Basuaghai.

Furthermore, the owner of the vehicle had illegally used the brand of BMC, Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) as well as government of Odisha. The owner was also found to have been previously warned and imposed with a penalty for illegal and indiscriminate disposal of fecal sludge.

"Keeping citizen safety in view,

10,893 complaints

are pending at

the SCW till

October 2020

Most of the complaints disposed

by the SCW were lodged by vic-

tims of districts like Khurda, Puri

and Cuttack, Bhadrak. However,

the disposals of cases lodged by

victims from far off places like

Boudh, Deogarh and Nabarangpur

were very negligible as compared

to other districts.

ILS to hold online science fest

the agency has been booked on several charges. We have received

information recently and have

acted accordingly. The vehicle had

earlier been booked too for dis-

lodging waste in open drains but was not found of using any gov-

ernment hallmarking," stated

Suvendu Kumar Sahoo, Deputy

the order of the BMC

Commissioner, has been lodged in

the name of Amulva Kumar Mukhi.

Director, Sainath Fabric Care pyt.

Ltd under section 268 for public

nuisance, section 269 for causing

negligent act likely to spread in-

fection or disease, section 270 for

causing malignant act to spread

infection, section 277 for fouling

water of public spring or reser-

voir, section 290 for committing

public nuisance to any person, sec-

tion 406 for criminal breach of

trust, section 420 for cheating and

section 425 for wrongful loss or

damage to public or any person.

Meanwhile, the complaint under

Commissioner Sanitation.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar in partnership with Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) will organise a Virtual Open Day and Science Festival from December 4-5. The theme of the festival will be "Science for Self-Reliant India and Global Welfare.



The two-day event will connect more than 2000 students and other participants in the online mode. The program will focus on application of technology for human welfare. It will have a number of lectures and interactions by experts in the field of biology, physics, chemistry and healthcare. It will have online demonstration of laboratory experiments on COVID research, development biology, cell and molecular biology and

agriculture biotechnology. For details on participation, weblink and program, interested participants are advised to visit the ILS website (www.ils.res.in) or email toscienceoutreach@ils.res.in, said an ILS official.

Recently, two scientists of ILS

#vaccine still (sic)," the CM wrote. work at the petrol pump. Timings of special trains revised Modern signalling

POST NEWS NETWORRK

Bhubaneswar. Nov 30: Ministry of Railways has decided to run Special Trains with revised timings with effect from 1st December, 2020 on their scheduled days.

The trains are Puri-New Delhi-Puri Special Purusottam Express which will leave Puri at 2145hrs and will arrive at New Delhi at 0400hrs

rly, Bhubaneswar-Howrah Simila



Express via Tata from Bhubaneswar will leave from Bhubaneswar at reach at Anand Vihar at 1510hrs. 0930hrs and will reach at New Delhi at 1040hrs.

AGENCIES

Durg Puri Express will leave from Puri at 1910hrs and will reach at Durg at 1155hrs. Puri-Ahmedabad-Puri Express via Angul will leave from Puri at 1920hrs and will reach at Ahmedabad at 0625hrs.

Puri-Okha-Puri Express will

system at NTPC

Bhubaneswar at 0715hrs and will reach at New Delhi at 1040hrs.

leave from Puri at 0950hrs and will reach at Okha at 1020hrs. Puri-Anand Vihar-Puri Special via will leave from Puri at 1100hrs and will

Bhubaneswar Special Jan Shatabdi Express will leave from Bhubaneswar at 0600hrs and will arrive at Howrah at 1240hrs.

Bhubaneswar-Balangir-Bhubaneswar Special Inter City Express will leave from Bhubaneswar at 0635hrs and will arrive at Balangir at 1325hrs. Bhubaneswar-New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Special Rajdhani

Bhubaneswar-New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Special Rajdhani Express will leave from Bhubaneswar at 1135hrs and will reach at New Delhi at 1040hrs.

Bhubaneswar-New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Special Rajdhani Express will leave from

JOB CRY

Bhubaneswar-Bangalore-Bhubaneswar Special Prashanti Express will leave from

reach at Bangalore at 1140hrs. Bhubaneswar-Anand Vihar-Bhubaneswar Special will leave from Bhubaneswar at 1230hrs and

Bhubaneswar at 0540hrs and will

will reach at Anand Vihar at 1935hrs.

provisioned with 13 DP Multi Section Digital Axle Counter.

After successful completion of the non-interlocking work in two days, the clear standing length of NTPC Train exchange yard at Talcher connecting NTPC Block Cabin has been increased to accommodate standard rakes.

tion of Chandrabhaga beach which is to be taken up with an estimated cost of ₹50 lakh as part of the mega development project.

In a similar vein, the National Highway Authority of India has begun road laying works for fourlaning of stretches from Chandrabhaga to Konark and Labanya Lodge to Ashram School

area do not possess valid land deeds (pattas) owing to settlement issues. Now they fear losing their houses and livelihoods as well.

mouzas in and around Konark civic

On being contacted, Puri district Collector Balwant Singh gave assurance that, "The approved master plan for Konark development will be executed. However, livelihoods of locals will be kept in mind."



BJP leader Bishnu Charan Sethi holds a discussion with agitating women health workers at PMG Square in Bhubaneswar, Monday, over their regular appointment OP PHOTO

Your old clothes could save one's life

EX-LEGISLATOR AKASH DAS NAYAK. THROUGH HIS UDRA CHARITABLE TRUST. WILL CONDUCT A DRIVE TO PROVIDE WARM CLOTHES TO THE UNDERPRIVILEGED WITH THE HELP OF PEOPLE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 30: Winter is here. While it is time for most of us to don our fancy winter clothes that will keep us warm and cozy, unfortunately, there are many among us who do not have that luxury.

For them the like every years this year too actor and former MLA Akash Das Nayak through his Udra Charitable Trust conducted the drive "Thile Diya, Na Thile Niya" (Pack it Up and Pass it on) to ensure those who are not so fortunate, have warm clothes to shield them from the cold. Through this drive, we provide a medium to people across Odisha and beyond, to donate spare clothes for those who need it more. Akash Das Nayak said Interested

people may put their spare clothes in installed boxes at city based



Pyaris Bakery cake outlets in Bhubaneswar, Paradeep, Cuttack, Berhampur, Puri, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Mumbai, Kolkata, Pune, and Hyderabad. These clothes will be then dry-cleaned and then distributed among the underprivileged.

I request you again to participate

VULNERABLE IN WINTER

Cold wave has gripped the interior pockets of the state with mercury falling to 15 degrees Celsius at many places.

Sonepur was recorded as the coldest place in the State Monday recording minimum temperature of 9.0 degree Celsius. Bhubaneswar recorded 16.0 degree

Experts have said that Covid fatalities may increase in winter as those with respiratory distress and comorbidities would be even more vulnerable

in this campaign, give a new life to your old clothes, and be the reason behind someone's smile this winter.

Meanwhile, Cold wave situation griped interior pockets of the state with mercury falling down to 15 degrees Celsius at many places. Sonepur recorded the coldest place

in the state Monday recording minimum temperature of 9.0 degree Celsius. Bhubaneswar recorded 16.0 degreee Celsius. Earlier, experts had said that Covid fatalities may increase in winter as those with respiratory distress and comorbidities would be even more vulnerable in winter days.

ASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CL OUR BOOKING CONTACT

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.









OrissaPOST TUESDAY | DECEMBER 1 | 2020 | BHUBANESWAR

Ganjam recovering from AIDS IS THE STATE NO MORE A

Berhampur, Nov 30: Ganjam district which used to record the highest number of AIDS patients in the state is witnessing a steady decline in the number of AIDS patients.

The district is witnessing a fall in the number of AIDS patients as only 16,515 patients were identified in the district by the month of October, this year. A report by the District AIDS Cell said that only 318 patients were identified in the month of October. But the scenario is still alarming and the administration should not be complacent, experts warned.

In the district, Polsara block has 1,245 AIDS patients, the highest in the district while 929 pregnant women have been found HIV positive from 2000 till October, 2020. The death toll stands at 412 within this period.

The state government and Centre are taking a series of steps to check the spread of AIDS in the district and state. The National AIDS Control Society (NACO) under Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through the State AIDS Control Society is providing treatment facilities and free medicines to the patients and also conducting awareness programme to check the spread of the dreaded disease.

The AIDS patients are being provided treatment facilities through the ART centres at MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur, Bhanjanagar hospital and through the link ART centres at Aska, Polsara and Khallikote hospitals. The MKCG Medical College and



sample testing. However, severe WORLD AIDS staff crunch is impeding the battle against AIDS. Posts of 11 labo-

he world has made significant progress since the late 1990s, but HIV remains a major global public health issue. And like many other major health issues, it faces additional challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care services are all being disrupted particularly in countries



with fragile heath systems. The breakdown in essential HIV services due to COVID-19 is threatening lives. Any slowing down in provision of these services will leave many vulnerable populations at greater risk of HIV infection and AIDSrelated deaths. Nevertheless, all over the world, health workers and community representatives are doing their utmost to keep services going,

adopting innovative ways to overcome disruptions in services caused by COVID-19. December 1, WHO joins partners in paying tribute to all those working to provide HIV services, and in calling on global leaders and citizens to rally for global solidarity to maintain essential HIV services during COVID 19 and beyond.

These people after getting afflicted with AIDS return home and on 12, 37,337 persons from 2000 till October 2020. Among them, blood spread the disease to their spouse and children. However, the sincere samples of 16,515 persons were found HIV positive, Hemant Dash, and sustained efforts of NACO and State AIDS Control Society have DPM of district AIDS Cell said. paid off as the district is witness-As many as 412 patients have

died from 2000 to October 2020 while ing an improvement in the AIDS con-Polsara block has 1,245 AIDS padition. The decline in the cases this vear is attributed to spread of Covid tients, the highest in the district. While 929 pregnant women were Officials said over 13,96,199 peofound HIV positive from 2000 to October, 2020 only 30 pregnant ple have been counseled for the disease while HIV test was conducted women were found HIV positive



underwent HIV test by October, 2020. Among them, 318 persons were found HIV positive Similarly, 34,410 pregnant women were given counseling by the end

of October, 2020 while 33,636 pregnant women underwent the test. Among them, 30 women were found HIV positive

SAFE HAVEN FOR JUMBOS

POST NEWS NETWORK

state

Sambalpur, Nov 30: The jumbo population in the state faces an uncertain and dangerous future with the pachyderms facing serious threat from the humans in the region due to man-animal conflicts. a report said. Once the pride of the state, elephants now see the state as a graveyard. Animal lovers claimed that the pachyderms are no more safe even in their habitats.

Reportedly, a tusker died after it came in contact with live wires laid for poaching of wild boars at Jaduluisingh rural forest under Sadar forest range in this district late Sunday night, forest officials said Monday. Divisional Forest Officer Sanjit Kumar confirmed the cause.

This is the third death this year as earlier two tuskers have allegedly died under similar circumstances. Earlier, a tusker was recovered dead near Basiapada village with its tusks missing which were recovered afterwards from the hollow of a tree.

Later, a tusker was found dead in the jungle near the Icchapali village under the forest range because of septicemia after it was rendered critical due to bullets fired by poachers.

On being informed, forest officials recovered the tusker carcass in the forest, Monday. Sambalpur DFO Sanjit Kumar and assistant conservator of forest (ACF) Madanlal Sharma also reached the spot and took stock of the situation.

Preliminary inquiries ascer-

A tusker died after coming in contact with live wires laid for poaching of wild boars at *Jaduluisingh rural forest under Sadar forest range:* this is the third such incident this year



A tusker was recovered dead near Basiapada with its tusks missing which were recovered afterwards from the hollow of a tree

In the second incident, a tusker was found dead in the jungle near Icchapali under the forest range because of septicemia after it was rendered critical due to bullets fired by poachers

tained the reason behind the tusker's death. It may be noted that the body bore no injury marks. As mentioned, it was being suspected that the animal might have died after coming in contact with live wires laid for poaching of wild boars.

The animal, part of 18-member herd, was seen Sunday night eating

paddy crops at Basiapada and Bargetikra in the area. There the people drove the herd away into the forest but to everyone's surprise it was found lying dead this morning.

The carcass was buried at the spot following a post-mortem. Samples were collected from carcass for laboratory examination. Its tuskers were trimmed and brought to the forest office.

Forest officials said there are 60 herds of elephants living in the forests under Sadar forest range which frequently stray into local forest and result in loss of properties and lives. Forest officials have taken up patrolling in the area but that has failed to deter the animals from straving into human habitats

Man sacrifices minor daughter hoping to get rich, arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Nov 30: In a shocking incident, a man who had been claiming that his six-year-old daughter was missing from November 21 was allegedly found to have sacrificed her for sorcery in Koraput district.

Police arrested the man from Taupadar village under Patangi police limits in the district, Monday. The accused has been identified as Banguru Pangi. Police also arrested Pangi's accomplice Shyama Sundara Biswal for his involve-

ment in the alleged crime. Sources said Banguru lodged an FIR at Patangi police station alleging that his daughter was missing from his house from



ratory technicians are lying va-

cant in various blocks while the

posts of two data entry operators

are lying vacant in the Berhampur-

based office of the District AIDS

Reports said that every year

people from the district migrate

to cities like Surat, Mumbai,

Kolkata and Bangalore and

Chennai for livelihood. There they

work in various firms and end up

getting HIV affected due to un-

protected sex, officials in the health

Control Society.

department said.

pandemic in the country.



WHEN FIRST INQUIRED BY COPS, THE ACCUSED SAID HIS DAUGHTER WASN'T GOOD AT STUDIES FOR WHICH IN A FIT OF ANGER, HE SLAPPED HER NEAR HER EAR

AS A RESULT OF WHICH SHE



Officials of Sambalpur Municipal Corporation at Ramsagar water tank, which has been thrown open for recreational boating services at Mudipada in the city. Monday OP PHOTO

87-year-old man held for raping minor girl

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Nov 30: Police arrested an 87-year-old man Monday on charge of allegedly raping a five-year-old girl at Bandhasahi under Aul police limits in Kendrapara district.

According to a source, the minor girl's mother lodged an FIR at Aul police station November 28 against octogenarian Sunakar Patra for allegedly raping her daughter. The old man is a shopkeeper in the same village and he forcibly took the girl inside his shop November 23, the girl's mother alleged.

The accused detained her for a long time and allegedly raped her. The mother reached the spot searching for her daughter when

the girl did not return home for a long time. She found the girl lying unconscious in front of Patra's shop. Later, the woman noticed injury marks on her daughter's private parts.

The upset mother enquired the shopkeeper about it. Even as he remained silent, his son threatened her of dire consequences. Patra's son warned the woman not to disclose the matter before anyone.

Aul police has registered a case in this connection and launched a detailed probe. Swinging to action, police arrested the old man. Both the accused shopkeeper Patra and minor girl will be sent to hospital for medical examination, police officer Pradosh Patnaik said.

November 21. He had lodged the FIR November 24.

During investigation police had found Pangi's behavior suspicious. When police asked Pangi about this, he said that his daughter was not good at studies for which in a fit of anger, he slapped her near her ear. As a result of which she died on the spot. In fear, Pangi buried her body in a sack near the Bhiarva temple.

However, police came to know that Pangi was searching for a 'Hanuman Coin', for which he was taking Biswal's help.

When police questioned Pangi again he admitted that he killed his daughter as a sacrifice in sorcery and even his wife helped him DIED ON THE SPOT

HOWEVER, POLICE CAME TO KNOW THAT HE WAS SEARCHING FOR A 'HANUMAN COIN', FOR WHICH HE SACRIFICED THE MINOR

in this process.

Police also found materials used to conduct puja near the temple area and vermillion was reportedly spotted on the girl's head.

Niranjana Behera, Sub Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Sunabeda, said, "We have exhumed the little girl's body and sent it to a hospital for post mortem. Further investigation into the case is underway."

2 killed, 3 hurt in road mishap

Paralakhemundi: At least two persons were killed and three others sustained critical injuries after two motorcycles had a head on collision near Damadua village under Adaba police limits in Gajapati district Monday. The deceased have been identified as Regen Veer of Chheligada village and Sinu Nayak of Damadua village. Profusely bleeding, Regen died on the spot. The injured persons were rescued and rushed to the Mohana Hospital where Sinu succumbed to injuries. There the three injured persons were shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur after doctors administered them primary treatment. Police recovered the bodies for post-mortem and started an investigation after registration of a case.

Minor boy drowns while retrieving paper boat from nullah

Jajpur: In a tragic incident, a five-year-old boy drowned while trying to recover a paper boat from a nullah at Raghunathpur village under Erabanka panchayat and Sadar police limits in Jajpur district, Monday. The deceased was identified as Sudhanshu Sekhar Barik, son of Debabrata Barik in Raghunathpur village. The incident occurred when he had gone to watch the sailing of paper boats in the Dudhei nullah on the occasion of Kartik Purnima near his house. Family members launched a frantic search after they did not find him for a long time. One of the family members spotted a child floating in the nullah. Upon closer examination, it was established that Sudhanshu had drowned in the water body. Locals suspect that the child had stepped into the nullah to collect the paper boats when the mishap occurred. He was rushed to the district headquarters hospital in Jajpur where he was pronounced brought-dead.

Minor crushed to death under paddy harvester in Jharsuguda

Brajrajnagar: In a freak mishap, a minor boy was crushed to death while another got injured after a paddy harvesting machine overturned on them near here in Jharsuguda district Monday afternoon. The deceased was identified as nine-year-old Sujal Bhoi of Chichinda village under Brajrajnagar police limits in the district. The injured was identified as Piyush Patel, 11, in the village. The paddy harvesting machine owned by one Murari Bhoi was working on the farmland of Basudeb Patel in the village. The machine after completing harvesting work was being taken to another farmland of Patel when it overturned on the two minors due to poor road conditions. Sujal along with Piyush who were sitting atop the machine got trapped under it. Sujal died on the spot while Piyush sustained critical injuries in the mishap.



THE PALACE, **DESIGNED BY AN ITALIAN ARCHITECT,** WAS DEVELOPED ON A PATCH OF 17 ACRES OF LAND ON MAHENDRATANAYA **RIVER BANK BETWEEN 1890 AND** 1905

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Nov 30: Gajapati district has a number of tourist. historic places and royal monuments. But many of them have been on the verge of vanishing into oblivion for lack of maintenance. One of them is Brundaban palace or Basant Nivas, which is a testimony to the royal glory of Paralakhemundi.

This palace, once looking magnificent for its structural design on a sprawling area, has fallen into ruins over years of neglect.

Brundaban palace, on the bank of Mahendratanaya river at Paralakhemundi, is a monument

Brundaban palace of Gajapati losing its sheen sans upkeep chamber which used to illuminate sorry state and is gradually losing entry of public to the palace.



bearing royal signatures of the regime ruled by King Gourachandra Gajapati and later by his son Krushnachandra Gajapati.

The palace was developed on a patch of 17 acres of land on the river bank between 1890 and 1905, according to some researchers. An Italian architect had drawn up its de-

sign The royal families used to spend summer at this place, three km from the town. That's why it is known as Basant Nivas.

The Basant Nivas was designed

according to Indo-European architectural style. The place has been designed in such a way that each room of the palace remains cool inside.

The palace consists of 50 rooms, conference hall and a Rani Mahal. The king had used imported materials and fittings for the palace.

Timbers used in the palace were imported from abroad while high quality tiles were brought from Rangoon.

Interestingly, inside the underground of the palace was a gas

the entire palace. There is also an underground tunnel route from this place to the main palace of the king.

However, the palace could not sustain his lustre and grandeur. After the death of Ramchandra Dev, son of king Krushnachandra Gajapati, the royals deemed it to be ill-fated and abandoned it later. Since then, the maintenance and upkeep of the palace has been

neglected for

THE ROYAL FAMILIES USED TO SPEND SUMMER AT THIS PLACE; THAT'S WHY IT IS ALSO KNOWN AS BASANT NIVAS

THE PALACE CONSISTS OF 50 ROOMS, CONFERENCE HALL AND A RANI MAHAL

years The king had handed the palace to the state government. Despite the government's takeover, the palace has been in its identity.

After takeover, the government used the palace as a police battalion for some days and later, it was used for education purpose.

Now, the Tourism department has taken over its maintenance. Its maintenance work is underway with an aim to make accommodation for tourists. It is said that in the name of beautification, the department has re-

stricted

The palace walls are covered with a thick layer of moss and weeds while its doors and windows are in dilapidated condition, the report said. Beams and walls in rooms have cracked. The turret of the

palace is leaking. Open theatre

newly built, has got damaged.

However, the district information and public relations officer Prabhakar Tripathy said that the district administration has been making efforts to restore the palace to its old glory.



FOCUS ENVIRONMENT

Be only a burning fire for progress, take whatever comes to you as an aid to your progress and immediately make whatever progress is required. THE MOTHER



Tug of war in Nepal

't's no coincidence that both India and China have, by turn, been frantically wooing Nepal this month. Kathmandu has witnessed in the whole L of November a tug of war of sorts between its two giant neighbours over getting its attention. First, it was the Indian Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane who visited Nepal's capital and met the country's political and military leadership. This was followed by a two-day trip by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla beginning November 26. Soon after the announcement of Shringla's impending visit, there was media speculation that China's Defence Minister Wei Fenghe would follow suit even though both Nepal and China pleaded ignorance of such a plan. But, after Shringla had left Nepal, Wei, who is also China's State Councillor, landed in Kathmandu on November 29 for a day-long stopover and held a flurry of meetings with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, who is also the Defence Minister; President Bidya Devi Bhandari and Nepal Army Chief Purna Chandra Thapa before flying straight to Pakistan in the evening. According to reports, Wei's visit was preceded by the arrival of a three-member high-level Chinese team in Kathmandu on November 24 which is learnt to have had parleys with the leadership of Nepal's ruling and Opposition parties.

Interestingly, on October 4, Samant Goel, head of India's foreign intelligence, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), had been to Nepal to hold meetings with Oli, Opposition leader Sher Bahadur Deuba and former Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai.

The spurt in India's diplomatic overtures to Nepal at a time when a whistleblower MP of Nepal revealed to a UK daily that China has stepped up its military preparations through encroachment of Nepal's territory brings to the fore the country's changed foreign policy towards its neighbours primarily due to the BJP government's emphasis on trying to make Nepal a junior country. Nepal not only changed its Constitution to term itself 'Secular' instead of its previous position as a 'Hindoo nation' but the Indian reprisal in the form of supporting the Madhesi agitation and blockage of land routes to the mountain country upset the common citizen. The domestic agenda of Hindutva does not seem to have been well received as a foreign policy in the neighbourhood.

Apparently, China has been using to the hilt the border disputes between India and Nepal over the possession of Lipulekh, Kalapani, and Limpiyadhura. Indian Army chief General Naravane angered the Nepalese establishment in May with his suggestion at a think tank-event that Nepal's protests against India inaugurating a new road that would connect Uttarakhand to the China-India-Nepal trijunction in the Lipulekh pass, were at the behest of China. Nepal claims the new road passes through its territory. In retaliation Nepal approved in June a new political map that showed Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura as part of Nepal. India has traditionally considered these areas to be its own. In November last year Kathmandu had protested against a new political map of India following the reorganization of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Centrally-controlled territories showing Kalapani as part of India. At that time, Nepal's Foreign Ministry asserted: "Kalapani is a part of Nepal. The remaining issues related to the border should be resolved in bilateral consensus and any unilateral actions will be unacceptable to the Nepal government."

During the meeting with Wei, Oli has iterated Nepal's commitment to 'One-China' policy and assured him that Nepalese soil would never be allowed to be used against China, Oli's foreign relations adviser, Rajan Bhattarai told the media. "The Prime Minister said that Nepal is committed to implementing the agreements reached during the visits of President Bhandari and his to China as well as President Xi Jinping's to Nepal," Bhattarai said. Wei, in response, appreciated Nepal's commitment to 'One-China' policy and said Nepal and China share trouble-free relations and are ready to contribute to each other's development and prosperity.

Curiously, China has already expressed its concern over the sluggish implementation of projects under its Belt and Road Initiative to which Nepal signed up in 2016. China has succeeded in getting Pakistan's support in this regard when the latter declared early November that Gilgit-Baltistan would be accorded provisional provincial status. This is supposed to facilitate the construction of the strategic road connecting Pakistan and China.

The Chinese team visiting Nepal before Wei is learnt to have talked to the ruling party leadership to underscore China's keenness to see stability in the country and an end to internal bickering. It wants continuation of the present regime in Kathmandu. It also expressed its displeasure over the Opposition MP's 'disclosure' about Chinese encroachment into Nepalese territory.

When China is trying to make the right noises in Kathmandu backed by its steady military-trade-diplomatic initiatives, India should immediately recalibrate its foreign policy vis-à-vis its neighbours lest China would drive permanent wedges. Recent events point to a very lethargic response from the mandarins at New Delhi. Busy with internal politics and trying to divert attention of the people from miseries of the contracting economy and gross failures of most domestic policies, Indian leaders are observed visiting multiple vaccine producing facilities in a single day while foreign policy adventurism has back fired. The damages inflicted thus will have long-term effects on the way India forges relationship with her neighbours.

GLOBAL 'WASTE' PANDEMIC

ong Kong discards between 4-6 million disposable face masks every day! The bulk of the discarded face masks are sent to the landfill along with the general waste. Based on the estimation that each face mask weighs two to three grams, the face masks disposed of at landfills every day would weigh some 10 to 15 tons. But a significant number end up polluting the environment including the drains, streams, beaches, and end up in the sea. According to the Secretary of the Environment of the Hong Kong government, these face masks are not suitable for recycling. She said, "Since disposable face masks, including N95 masks and surgical masks, are made of composite materials of different kinds and metals which are difficult to be separated, they are not suitable for recycling or discarding in recycling bins to avoid contaminating other recyclables." The global figures are approximately 1,000 times more at 15,000 tons a day. The bulk of the discarded face masks are either incinerated or sent to the landfill along with municipality solid waste.

Sustainable management of increasing quantities of wastes such as municipal solid waste (MSW), industrial wastes, agricultural wastes, construction demolition waste (CDW) etc. is a global challenge. Municipal solid waste generation will increase to 3.40 billion metric tons by 2050 from around 2.01 billion tons currently as per a World Bank report. In 2016, the world produced 242 million tons of plastic waste as part of MSW, which was about 12 per cent. It is estimated that only 13.5% of today's waste is recycled and 5.5% is composted. Plastic waste is choking our oceans, yet our consumption of plastics is only increasing. The Covid-19 pandemic has added significantly to this crisis by a sudden increase in the consumption of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). An estimated 1.6 billion tons of carbon dioxide – equivalent (CO2-equivalent) greenhouse gas emissions were generated from solid waste in 2016, which is about 5 per cent of global emissions. Without improvements,



The global distribution of population compared to percentage of waste generation shows China and India to be major contributors (36% of world's population with 28% share in municipal solid waste) closely followed by the USA (4% world's population contributing 12% of the waste!)

solid waste-related emissions are anticipated to increase to 2.6 billion tons of CO2-equivalent by 2050. Much of this comes from the food waste comprising 44% of MSW (contributing 50% of the GHG emissions from rotting) and the fact that 33% of all MSW are disposed of in open dumps and/or burnt.

The global distribution of population compared to percentage of waste generation shows China and India to be major contributors (36% of world's population with 28% share in MSW) closely followed by the USA (4% world's population contributing 12% of the waste!). Such disparities are likely to exacerbate further by the current pandemic. For example, South Asia is one of the hardesthit regions with the Covid-19 outbreak and, India alone with an average of nearly 90,000 new Covid-19 confirmed cases per day in the recent past, might surpass the USA as the country most affected by Covid-19, in the coming months. The pandemic outbreak in the South Asia region is not only harming public health through community transmission or clusters of cases but becoming a huge liability for the potential environmental impact. The health care waste management system of the South Asia region is the least developed among the World Health Organization regions.

Delhi, the capital of India, generated about 371 tons of biomedical waste per day in June 2020. This quantity was increased by 1,400% as compared to 25 tons per day in May 2020. Uttar Pradesh, the highest populated state in India, generated about 247 tons of infectious medical waste per day in July 2020, despite having less than 10 tons per day of installed capacity of treatment. Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, is generating nearly 7,000% more biomedical waste from 3 tons per day before the Covid-19 outbreak to 206 tons per day as of July 2020. Similar trends of infectious medical waste generation due to the Covid-19 are observed in other countries of the

South Asia region.

While the prospects of a zero waste future may look utopian in light of the above scenario, it is not as difficult as we are made to believe. Hong Kong has performed abysmally against its own target as per the government issued "Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022", in 2013, which set out a comprehensive strategy to reduce waste and increase recovery and recycling. A recycling fund of one billion Hong Kong dollars has not made any significant dent yet with the proposed 'Waste Charging Fee' proposal stuck in the legislative process. However, the experience of neighbouring Taiwan and South

Korea is highly encouraging. South Korea adopted a waste charging policy way back in 1995 and observed that the overall waste disposal rate substantially dropped by 40% within a few years. The recycling rate increased to 60%, whereas the economic benefits of the recycling industry increased from HK\$1.7 billion in 2001 to HK\$7 bil lion in 2009. The "per Bag Trash Collection Fee' system has worked well in Seoul after it was adopted from Taipei. This illustrates the fact that modern societies driven by rampant consumerism need to pay for their environmental foot print - be it in the form of a car bon tax or waste charging system. The detrimental effect of our lifestyles driving run-away climate crisis can only be tamed by such a 'user pay' model and implementation of circular economy principles by producers and

manufacturers. For a 'zero waste' future to be realised the first step has to be for policy makers in power such as the Secretary of Environment of Hong Kong to change their mindset. While recycling the ubiquitous disposable face mask is not easy, it is not impossible along with the bulk of the waste plastics that currently goes to the landfill. India's 'Recycle Man' – 27-year-old Vinish Desai claims to recycle PPE, including disposable face masks, into bricks that can be used for construction. It has also been demonstrated that much of the waste plastics can be converted back to fuel oil through catalytic thermal pyrolysis by scientists from VSSUT, lightweight plastic aggregates for use in concrete by a company in New Zealand or melted and simply reshaped into plastic products like bricks, blocks and plates that can be found online etc. Only by such innovative ideas supported by progressive policy support from the governments, can the world hope to avoid the inevitable waste plastic pandemic in future.

The author is an academician currently visiting Hong Kong University of Science and Technology as a Research Scholar. He can be reached by email at dhanadam@gmail.com

SPECTRUM JUDICIARY

Dhanada K Mishra

THE PANDEMIC

THE SOUTH ASIA

REGION IS NOT

ONLY HARMING

PUBLIC HEALTH

TRANSMISSION

BUT BECOMING

LIABILITY FOR

THE POTENTIAL

ENVIRONMENTAL

THROUGH

A HUGE

IMPACT

COMMUNITY

OUTBREAK IN



WISDOM CORNER

- It's no use going back to yesterday, because I was a different person then. LEWIS CARROLL
- **11** The same boiling water that softens the potato hardens the egg. It's what you're made of. Not the circumstances.
- If we have the attitude that it's going to be a great day it usually is. CATHERINE PULSIFIER

WORDS**WORTH**

Best bib and tucker

A tucker was a bit of lace worn around the neck and top of the bodice by 17th-18th century women, presumably something that was tucked in; the bib was closely related to our modern term – a shirt-front or covering for the breast. The expression is first recorded from the middle of the eighteenth century, initially only for women and girls, as you might expect, but later on also to men, when the words had become a fixed phrase and disengaged from their real meanings. Before then, the common expression seems to have been best bib and band (band meaning collar), also commonly used for men as well as women, which continued after the new term had come into use, though it seems to have died out at the end of the eighteenth century. The word derives from the same source as the tucker of food, but is unconnected in meaning.

LOL

PAINTING THE PORCH

A blonde, wanting to earn some money, decided to hire herself out as a handyman-type and started canvassing a wealthy neighborhood. She went to the front door of the first house and asked the owner if he had any jobs for her to do. "Well, you can paint my porch. How much will you charge?" The blonde said, "How about 50 dollars?" The man agreed and told her that the paint and ladders that she might need were in the garage. The man's wife, inside the



said to her husband, "Does she realize that the porch goes all the way around the house?" The man replied, "She should. She was standing on the porch." A short time later, the blonde came to the door to collect her money. "You're finished already?" he asked. "Yes," the blonde answered, "and I had paint left over, so I gave it two coats." Impressed, the man reached in his pocket for the \$50. "And by the way," the blonde added, "that's not a Porch, it's a Ferrari." Rahul Pradhan THE SUPREME COURT SHOULD LOOK BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES AND TRY TO REACH APPROBATION WITH THE LITIGATORS

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

Orissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

101

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

he Supreme Court should look beyond the boundaries and try to reach approbation with the litigators. The usual camaraderie seems to be lost since lawyers have to travel miles to reach Delhi for the court matters. Article 130 of the Constitution provides "The Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint". The pandemic couldn't be any bigger and provides the best opportunity to cajole people in providing an ultimate alternative. Here we will try to understand the need for enhancing the reach of a common man to the Supreme Court. The workload of cases has reached an all-time high. The wide jurisdiction ranging from Original, Appellate to Advisory has brought an insurmountable task for a sole institution. Several civil law countries from Europe have specialised Constitutional Court and Supreme Courts to deal with specific matters exclusively, unlike India. The current demand pushes for a division of Supreme Court jurisdictions into Original Division

(Constitutional), Appellate division (arising from Articles132, 134 etc.) and Advisory (Article 143). The current standards of justice delivery system need reforms as we move towards a new world order. The Supreme Court should also consider adopting a new method of a fixed judge-litigant ratio. This will allow a check on the rising pendency of cases and also set a precedent for High Courts, District and Sessions court, etc.

The right to approach the SC for appeal under Articles 132 and 134 is too far fletched when the aggrieved can't afford to travel to Delhi and bear the costs. Article 39A allows the state to take measures for providing free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society and ensures justice for all. The harmonious interpretation of both Article 130 and Article 39A, allows the state to take such measures. As per article 74 of the Constitution. the President has to act in aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. Interpreting these three Articles allow the Supreme Court to establish branches of Supreme Court outside Delhi.

The heterogeneous applicability of laws has avoided many pe-

i- titions. Should the petitions be
sponsored to make SC easily accessible or should the SC establish
different branches to deal with
matters? The latter looks necessary owing to the plight and penury
of individuals.

Several High Courts have had circuit courts functioning meeting the demands for easier justice. Replicating the same for the Supreme Court is mere extension of the idea of easier access to justice. Four Law Commission reports and a Parliamentary committee report have suggested opening of SC branches in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. The 10th, 11th and 18th Law Commissions had suggested for a Constitutional and an Appellate bench. The Constitutional division at the Delhi was suggested to deal with Constitutional and allied matters, and the Appellate division to deal with appellate matters. A Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha as well to establish a permanent bench of SC in Kolkata, which demanded jurisdiction over states from East and North-East. Despite the efforts, the Supreme Court had struck down a petition seeking for an establishment of a circuit court. There arises a need for the review of the judgment when the needs and demands have made a paradigm shift in terms of pecuniary norms. The Cocid-19 pandemic has made things worse for litigators who would avoid otherwise taking the litigation to the Supreme Court. The court sessions have moved online, but are all lawyers' tech savvy to adapt to the new world order of online dispute resolution? Once the pandemic is over, the world will return to a new normalcy. The time is ripe for the appropriate authorities to mend things and look forward for a new beginning.

The BJP-led government at the Centre was in state of disarray when asked to take a stand, unlike the Congress which considered it as an election agenda. The quaint fashioned attitude is often aggrandised by unsuitable pronouncement of criticism. Only time can tell if the pandemic has brought a change in the attitude.

The writer is an Odisha-based lawyer and independent researcher. He can be reached at rahulpradhan349@gmail.com

People are supreme

Sir, The whole world witnessed the barbaric and inhuman behaviour of the police against the farmers who tried to enter Delhi for a particular purpose which was lawful. In fact, it is well within the knowledge of the people that police are a part and parcel of this system and they always suppressed people's movement to protect the ruling class. For the first time such type of massive arrangement had been made by both the Central and state governments - as if the country is preparing to protect itself from foreign invaders trying to enter India. The ruling class must remember that people are supreme in a democracy and in the end they will prevail. They put an end to serfdom, feudalism and monarchy in various regions, giving birth to a new social order i.e. democracy. Now it is time to review the demands of the trade unions and whether they are legal or illegal. 1. Cash transfer of ₹7,500 per month for all non-income tax paying families. 2. 10kg free ration per person per month to all needy. 3. Expansion of MNREGA to provide 200 days' work in a year in rural areas at enhanced wages; extension of employment guarantee to urban areas. 4. Withdraw all anti-farmer laws and anti-labour codes. Stop privatisation of the public sector including the financial sector and stop corporatisation of state-run manufacturing and service entities. 5. Withdraw the draconian circular on forced premature retirement of government and PSU employees. 6. Provide pension to all, scrap NPS and restore earlier pension and improve EPS-95. Are these all illegitimate demand? Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Avoid farm crisis

Sir, Issues like food crisis and unemployment have been highlighted by the mainstream English television channels like BBC and CNN, especially in the wake of the current Covid-19 pandemic. CNN had highlighted the issue of food insecurities in America caused by the current pandemic. whereas BBC has been highlighting the larger unemployment crisis in European countries. In fact, countries in the West like the USA and the UK should take these issues seriously and must tackle them all head-on given their characteristics, geological structure and socio-economic status. The recent farmer protests in India had caught the attention of everyone out there. Any crisis in the farming sector should not be allowed to escalate into a bigger issue. On the contrary, the government should accelerate and strengthen agricultural activities, -(food production and consequent trade.

P. Senthil Sarvana Durai, MUMBAI





The TMC, which rose to power after a

long fight against the CPI(M)-led Left

Front, had initially adopted the slo-

gan of 'Maa Mati Manush' (Mother,

Land and People), carefully blending

socialism and secularism -- a power-

communists and their doctrines well

The party tasted success in 2011 and

continued its winning streak in 2016

The rise of the BJP in Bengal's politi-

realise that its socialist slogan was

not all enough to offset 'Hindutva',

especially at a time when it has been

branded as a party "that favours only

cal map, however, has made the TMC

assembly polls

ful concoction that countered the

TMC's 'Bengali Pride' to take on BJP's Hindutva

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

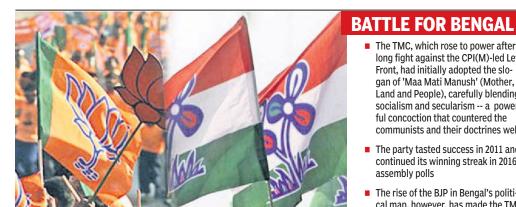
Kolkata, Nov 30: Buoyed by the 'positive' response to its 'insider versus outsider' campaign, the TMC leadership has decided to embrace 'Bengali pride' as its main poll plank for the 2021 assembly polls to counter the BJP's aggressive Hindutva campaign in West Bengal.

The Mamata Banerjee-led party, which has often been mocked by opponents for not having a welldefined ideological plank, seems to have finally found one in Bengali sub-nationalism, as a section of top party leaders feels only an "inclusive message of regionalism, which the Bengalis can identify with, will counter the aggressive nationalism and Hindutva practised by the saffron camp.'

"During the next assembly polls, apart from development, Bengali pride will be our main poll plank. Bengali pride is not just about Bengalis, it appeals to all sons of the soil. This philosophy will help counter BJP's attempts to import leaders from outside to control the people of the state," senior TMC leader and MP Sougata Roy told PTI.

According to TMC sources, much like the regional parties of Tamil Nadu, which are proponents of Tamil pride, and Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, which harps on Marathi 'Ashmita' (pride), the TMC plans to emerge as the protector of Bengali culture and identity.

"The JD(U) in Bihar had talked about 'Bihari versus Bahari'. Even the BJP, which boasts of nationalism, had campaigned on the poll plank of Gujarati 'Ashmita' during the 2007 Gujarat elections. So if



NARRATIVES THEMED AROUND 'BENGALI PRIDE' AND 'NATIVES VERSUS OUTSIDERS' ARE SLOWLY GAINING MOMENTUM, WITH VARIOUS OUTFITS RAISING THE PITCH FOR RESERVATION FOR DOMICILE BENGALIS IN JOBS AND EDUCATION IN THE STATE, WHERE, UNTIL A FEW YEARS AGO, CULTURAL SUB-NATIONALISM WAS AN ALIEN CONCEPT.

we do the same, we think no one should complain about it," another TMC leader said.

A senior party leader, who was a part of a select group of the members that formulated this ideological plank, said, "divisive politics and religious polarisation could never be countered with development politics. Only sub-nationalism and regionalism can do that."

According to TMC sources, after the electoral reverses in the Lok Sabha polls last year, and with the emergence of the BJP as a prime contender for power, the TMC initially tried to shed the 'anti-Hindu' tag and embrace 'soft Hindutva'. but it soon realised that it could never beat the BJP in its own game. The party then took a cue from the results of the final phase of the Lok Sabha polls in Bengal, where

its spectacular performance in the previous phases, drew a blank in all nine seats that went to polls to-

wards the end. The TMC zoomed past the saffron party in the final phase with its fiery campaign over "insult to Bengali icons," following the desecration of social reformer Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's bust during a BJP rally.

Although the BJP had denied the allegations, the damage was done. Then on, TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee has often invoked Bengali sub-nationalism, and called the BJP a party of 'outsiders'.

Citing Bengal's demographic map, where 70 per cent is Hindu population and 30 per cent Muslims, the TMC leader said, "The state consists of 86 per cent Bengalis, that's the antidote of BJP's polithe saffron party, which, despite tics. Bengalis are an independent-

minded community since the days

minorities" by the saffron camp

of British Raj. "Post-independence, too, be it

the Congress or the Communists, none of them ever accepted the supremacy of Delhi. Hindu-Muslim politics won't work here," he said.

Over the last two weeks, the TMC had been holding aggressive 'insider versus outsider' campaigns to corner the BJP in various areas, and statements such as "Bengal will be turned into Gujarat" with the import of leaders from other states, has provided the much-needed ammo to even out the party's internal conflicts, which is now out in the open.

Lack of a face to counter Baneriee and the BJP's "over-dependence" on central leadership has added to the benefits of the TMC.

"People have to decide whether they want to be dominated by outsiders or handover the reins to a son

of this soil. It is a decision which will impact our next generations," TMC minister Bratya Basu said.

Political analyst Suman Bhattacharya feels that "Bengali pride" is a formidable weapon which will benefit any political party that nurtures the cause carefully.

"Most of the political parties of the country have their origins in Bengal. But the issue of Bengali pride has never been taken up. Any political party which can properly nourish the cause will gain out of it." he said.

The saffron party, on its part, said the TMC was making a "desperate attempt" to divide the majority community along ethnic lines and stave off an "imminent" defeat in the assembly elections.

"The founding father of our party is Syama Prasad Mookherjee, a stalwart of Bengal. So how come we are a party of outsiders? Is Bengal out of India? These issues are nothing but a sign of TMC's desperation after sensing its defeat." BJP state president Dilip Ghosh said.

The saffron party's national general secretary and Bengal minder Kailash Vijayvargiya feels that the TMC is more interested in welcoming infiltrators than people from other parts of the country.

"Nowhere in the country, have we faced such a situation where people of this country are branded as outsiders. Here, infiltrators are welcomed with open arms and people of this nation are outsiders," he said

West Bengal Congress president Adhir Chowdhury slammed the TMC for fanning sub-nationalism and said the party was "dishing out one poison to kill another".

U'khand Cong likely to have a Dalit chief



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 30: Ahead of the Uttarakhand polls, the Congress is likely to replace the current state president with a Dalit.

High level sources said the proposal has been sent to the party president after much deliberation. However, the source did not reveal the name of the person who could lead the party into the elections.

The Uttarakhand leaders have impressed upon the party high command that Dalits are decisive in at least 18 Assembly seats, and have 5,000 to 10,000 votes in remaining ones. The move is aimed to stop the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) from eating into the Dalit votes in plains. The party is also feeling that there is no Dalit leader at fore to tap on this vote after Yashpal Arya left the party and joined the BJP. The Congress has Harish Rawat as its top most leader after the demise of ND Tiwari and former

RELIGIOUS FERVOUR

Chief Minister Vijay Bahuguna left the party to join the BJP. Rawat has been made the General Secretary in-charge Punjab, but he had said. "Home is where the heart is" giving a message to the people that he is still in the state politics.

While the state politics is mainly centered around the Raiput vs. Brahmin, the Congress wants to get a Dalit as state president to give space to all communities. While Harish Rawat is a Rajput, the CLP leader Indira Hridayesh is a Brahmin.

The party has Rajya Sabha MP Pradeep Tamta as its Dalit face in the state. It is likely that he may be the front runner for the post. He is backed by several leaders of the party, while Mamta Rakesh and Raikumar both are from the SC category and sitting MLAs but Tamta being senior can get the benefit. The current Congress state in-charge Devendra Yadav did not respond to calls and messages on the issue.

-Mamata govt gears up for mass outreach

THE DRIVE WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY THE TMC GOVERNMENT TO PROPAGATE ITS SCHEMES AHEAD OF THE HIGH-VOLTAGE ELECTORAL BATTLE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Nov 30: The Mamata Banerjee-led West Bengal government is gearing up for its mass outreach programme ahead of the crucial assembly polls scheduled in 2021.

The programme, titled door-todoor government, will kickstart from December 1 where the state administration would highlight 10 different state government schemes running across Bengal.

The initiative was taken after the CM made an announcement last week in Bankura during a administrative meeting. These schemes are - Konnyashree, Kad dyosathi (food scheme), Sasthosathi (health scheme), 100-days work, Shikkhya shree (education scheme) etc. According to sources in the



schemes

District magistrates will head the 'door-to-door government' campaign in their respective districts. These camps would be set up in various schools, college premises, community halls and panchayat offices, so that maximum number of people can avail the benefits of such government schemes across the state, an official said.

According to political observers, the drive would be carried out by the state government to propagate its schemes in order to garner support for the incumbent Trinamool Congress government in Bengal ahead of the high-voltage elecdistricts. Various state governtoral hattle Elections to the 294-member ment departments will be holding camps to listen to grievances West Bengal Assembly are likely and implementation status of those to be held in April-May next year.



state government, the campaign will continue from December 1 to January 30 in four phases in all municipal and panchayat areas across

Devotees gather to take bath at the Har Ki Pauri on the holy occasion of Kartik Purnima, in Haridwar, Uttarakhand, Monday

Uttarakhand has a bridge for reptiles and animals

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Nainital, Nov 30: A bridge for reptiles may sound uncanny but the Uttarakhand Forest Department has built a first-of-its-kind elevated eco-bridge across a busy highway in Ramnagar forest division so that reptiles trying to cross over are not crushed under traffic.

The 90-foot-long structure of bamboo, jute, and grass was built across the two-lane Kaladhungi-Nainital highway by local contractors over a period of 10 days. The cost of the bridge is Rs 2 lakh.

The highway is the main route to Nainital, and is used by a large number of vehicles, especially in the tourist season.

The adjoining jungle is home to

lizards, snakes, including pythons, rodents, squirrels and monkeys, and the reptiles frequently get crushed under the passing vehicles. The 5-foot-wide, 40-foot-high bridge can take the weight of three adult humans, and forest officials said they hope it would be used by even leopards.

Ramnagar Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Chandra Shekhar Joshi said that the bridge, which will be monitored by four camera traps, will be studied as a model by the Forest Department.

Joshi said that the bridge has been made at a point where the road arcs in a wide 'U', and vehicles going downhill often travel at high speed. It is expected that by reducing the need for sudden braking

in front of a crossing animal, the road will be safer for human beings too. "This is a dense forest, and elephants, leopards, deer, and blue bulls move in this area. Drivers can see them from some distance and slow down or stop, but they rarely do so for snakes, lizards, monitors, or squirrels," said a for-

est official He said that in order to attract reptiles and other small animals to the bridge, creepers will be grown on it and it will be layered with grass and leaves. The DFO said that boards were

being put up to create awareness of the need to protect reptiles. Forest staff would patrol the area to ensure tourists do not try to use the bridge for selfies, he added.

As Covid surges, social gatherings limited to 100

AGENCIES

Dehradun, Nov 30: Amid surge in coronavirus cases, the Uttarakhand government said the number of people allowed at social gatherings have been reduced to 100 from 200

The state's COVID-19 tally rose to 74,795 Monday with 455 more persons testing positive for the disease, while nine more infected patients died in the state, a state health department bulletin said.

In a notification Sunday, the Uttarakhand government said only 100 people will now be allowed for social gatherings and the there will be mandatory registration for all inbound persons.

Earlier, the Uttarakhand government clarified that there will be no weekend lockdown in the state capital but only closure of market places, barring shops selling essentials, Sundays for sanitisation purposes in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Dehradun district administration has issued an order for strict closure of market places on Sundays in the state capital for sanitisation purposes, an official at the Chief Minister's Office said making it clear that the word "closure" should not be confused with "lockdown" which is technically different. However, shops selling essentials like fruits and vegetables and medicines, petrol pumps and LPG agencies will remain out of the ambit of the Sunday closure so that people are not inconvenienced, the official said, news agency PTI reported.

Bengal to start free ambulance service for road mishap victims

quickly as possible, the West Bengal

government will soon start a free-

ambulance service, a senior official

of the state health department said

Starting with at least 150 am-

bulances, the state government is

at the moment setting up a detailed

map of the accident prone zones and

This service will primarily work

on the GPS system and for the

same, the state government will

have to bear a cost of around Rs 30

saving the lives of road accident vic-

tims. We are targeting to take the

victims to nearby hospitals or med-

ical colleges or trauma care centre

within 15 to 20 minutes after getting

"This will definitely help us in

crore, the official said.

the nearby hospitals, he said.

Monday.

STARTING WITH AT LEAST 150 AMBULANCES. THE STATE GOVERNMENT IS AT THE MOMENT SETTING UP A DETAILED MAP OF ACCIDENT PRONE ZONES AND NEARBY HOSPITALS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 30: To help save lives of road accident victims by taking them to nearby hospitals as



The health department is also mulling the option of hiring ambulances from private operators. (PICTURE USED FOR REPRESENTATION)

is in a planning stage and we are dying to start it as soon as possible,' he told PTI.

There will be two types of ambulances -- basic life support ambulances and the advance life support ambulances, he said, adding that a toll free number will be given.

The Health department is in talks with the Public Works Department (PWD), police and the transport department, he said.

"The police and the transport department have been asked to provide details of the accident prone areas in the state depending on which the PWD department will be preparing a map on the accident prone zones here for this kind of ambulance services," he said. The map 'Trauma care ambulance mappings' will be having markings of the accident prone zones and nearby hospitals.

The health department is also mulling the option of hiring ambulances from private operators, he said.

"This will help us in cutting down in the budget," the official said. Asked whether private hospitals will also be enrolled for the services, the bureaucrat said that at the moment the department has concentrated on including those run by the state government.

"That's also in our mind. It's not that we have not spoken to them. But you will see that most of the best private hospitals are in and around the city. Anyway, we will see thatoption once this initiative is rolled out," he added.







We will soon be completing eleven months in our fight against COVID-19. Since then, the most important principle to protect ourselves and others is to follow basic principles of hygiene and physical distancing. In the fight against COVID-19, our biggest weapon is a mask and sanitizer HARSH VARDHAN UNION HEALTH MINISTER

CRACKING THE WHIP

Cracking the whip on tourists who refuse to wear face masks and argue against civic authorities, Panaji Mayor Uday Madkaikar said Monday that police will henceforth accompany officials enforcing the norm and that errant tourists will be photographed and fined



of the uote

government has persecuted the farmer - first it brought black laws and then used lathis

The Modi

against them, but it forgot that when the farmer raises his voice, it resonates throughout the country **RAHUL GANDHI** CONGRESS LEADER

All temporary COVID Care Centres in Assam have been closed down with patients being treated at hospitals, following a considerable decline in the number of COVID-19 cases in the state

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA

Iron ore mining could be resumed in the state by auctioning the mining leases

PRAMOD SAWANT GOA CM

SHORT TAKES

Cop found dead

Raipur: A police official has allegedly committed suicide at his home in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, an official said Monday. Assistant Sub-Inspector Sannu Madvi, who was in his late 40s and posted at Kutru police station in the district, was found hanging from the ceiling at his house in Tumla village on Sunday evening, the police official said. Sunday morning, Madvi left his duty place, located in a Naxal-hit area, saying he was going to his village, about 15 to 20 km away from there, to oversee crop harvesting work at his farm, he said.

CRPF SI dies

Srinagar: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Sub-Inspector died on Monday while on duty in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, police said. SI Shabad Kumar of the 93rd CRPF Battalion fell unconscious during duty hours at DK Marg Higher

Terrorism biggest challenge: India at SCO VICE PRESIDENT VENKAIAH NAIDU SAID THE MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGE FACED BY THE REGION GOVT COVID

VICE PRESIDENT VENKAIAH NAIDU SAID THE MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGE FACED BY THE REGION IS TERRORISM, PARTICULARLY CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM, AND THAT INDIA REMAINED CONCERNED ABOUT THREATS EMERGING FROM UNGOVERNED SPACES AS WELL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: Asserting that terrorism is the biggest challenge the region is facing, India Monday criticised Pakistan for using it as an "instrument of state policy", and called upon the SCO to combat the menace collectively and enforce internationally recognised legal statutes to comprehensively eradicate safe havens, infrastructure and financial networks supporting terrorism.

In an address at the Council of Heads of Government meeting of the eight-member Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Vice President Venkaiah Naidu said the most important challenge faced by the region is terrorism, particularly cross-border terrorism, and that India remained concerned about threats emerging from ungoverned spaces as well.

Terrorism is truly the enemy of humanity. It is a scourge we need to collectively combat. We remain concerned about threats emerging from ungoverned spaces and are particularly concerned about states that leverage terrorism as an instrument of state policy. Such an approach is entirely against the spirit and ideals and the charter of the



 SCO," he said at the virtual meet hosted by India.
 He said elimination of this threat

will help the countries realise shared
 potential and create conditions for
 stable and secure economic growth
 and sustainable development. He
 also called upon SCO member states
 to enforce internationally recognised legal statutes to comprehensively eradicate safe havens, infrastructure and financial networks
 supporting terrorism, a statement
 issued by Naidu's office said.

an apspirit Pakistan, the Vice President criticised attempts to bring bilateral issues into the SCO by blatantly violating its well-established principles and norms of charter safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the member states.

"Such acts are counterproductive to the spirit of consensus and cooperation that define the SCO as an organisation," he said. In mid-September, India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval walked out of a virtual meeting of top security officials of the SCO member states after the Pakistani representative projected a map that inaccurately depicted Kashmir.

India hosted the meet for the first time after it got full membership of the influential grouping in 2017. The council of heads of government is the second highest forum of the SCO after the annual summit of the top leaders of the grouping. India's representation at the SCO

council of heads of government has often been at the level of a cabinet minister. Last year, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attended it in Uzbekistan. Talking about the importance of collective efforts to overcome the coronavirus crisis and its adverse impact, the vice president said, "our hope is pinned on trade and investment as an engine of reviving growth and driver of economic recovery."

"For trade to play its part in the recovery process, all the partners must be trustworthy and transparent", he said adding that nations must demonstrate their compliance with multilateral rules of trade. At the same time, he said economic growth and trade can only operate in an environment of peace and security. "Peace is the essential prerequisite for progress."

He said India was emerging as an economic force at the global level and the country's GDP was expected to reach USD 5 trillion by 2025.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: The Union government has called an all-party meeting to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic situation on December 4, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi expected to interact with floor leaders of various parties from both houses of Parliament, official sources said Monday.

The Parliamentary Affairs Ministry is coordinating the meeting and has extended invitation to all parties, they said. Floor leaders of all parties from Lok Sabha as well as Rajya Sabha have been invited for the meeting, which will be held virtually on Friday from 10.30 am onwards, sources said, adding that Modi will chair it.

This will be the second all-party meeting called by the government to discuss the COVID-19 situation since the outbreak of the pandemic. The first meeting was held on April 20 amid a nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of the virus.

The top brass of the government including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah besides Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and Parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi will also attend the meeting, they said.

The government is likely to brief manu

How this student lost IIT Bombay seat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 30: An 18-year-old student has lost his seat for a fouryear electrical engineering course in the prestigious IIT Bombay after he "inadvertently" clicked on a "wrong" link which was meant to withdraw from the process.

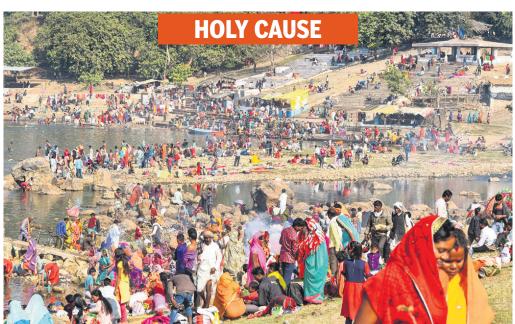
The student, Siddhant Batra who hails from Agra, has now approached the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the institution to admit him after the IIT said it cannot intervene at this stage as all the seats for the course were full and admission rules had to be followed.

It said Batra could apply again next year for JEE (Advanced). The Bombay High Court had initially

tion to the IIT to consider his case on humanitarian grounds, and requested creation of an additional seat to undo his loss. Batra, who lives with his grandparents following the death of his parents, in the plea a said he had worked hard against all odds to crack IIT JEE exams.

The petition, filed through advocate Pralhad Paranjpe, said Batra had lost his father when he was a child and was brought up by his mother who died in 2018. As per his plea, Batra, while filling out the admission process online, came upon a page with 'freeze' option, which he thought meant confirming the seat and the completion of his admission process.

"On October 31, 2020 when Batra



Devotees gather to take holy dip in the Narmada on the occasion of Kartik Purnima in Jabalpur, Monday



the parliamentarians about various steps it has taken to deal with the pandemic and may also touch upon the advances being made in vaccine development and distribution.

The floor leaders of different parties include Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Ghulam Nabi Azad of the Congress, Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Derek O'Brien of the Trinamool Congress, Midhun Reddy and Vijayasai Reddy of the YSR Congress among others.

Modi has held multiple meetings with chief ministers, laying special emphasis on states with high COVID-19 caseload, to review the situation there and offer suggestions.

The Prime Minister Monday held a virtual meeting with three teams working on developing and manufacturing COVID-19 vaccine.

Leopard strays into hostel, triggers panic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Nov 30: A leopard strayed into a girls' hostel in Guwahati Monday, triggering panic among the people, officials said.

Mousumi Bora who owns the hostel, located in Hengerabari, said she had mistaken the leopard that was trapped under a sofa to be a piece of cloth and was about to pick it up when she realised it was a wild animal. Bora and the 15 inmates of the hostel locked themselves up in a room, and informed forest officials, she said.

Officials of the Assam State_ Zoo, Wildlife Division and Territorial Division along with police soon arrived with a tranquiliser gun. It took them more than four hours to tranquilise the leopard, officials said.

When the animal was hit with

Scoolidary Solioon

Pakistan violates ceasefire

Jammu: Pakistan troops fired with small firearms and also indulged in shelling with mortars on Monday to violate ceasefire on the line of control (LoC) in J&K's Poonch district. Defence Ministr spokesman Colonel Devender Anand said that the ceasefire vilation was reported around 3.10 pm along the LoC in Shahpur Sector, to which "Indian Army retaliates befittingly".

Tihar inmate murdered

New Delhi: A 23-year-old undertrial in Tihar prison was murdered early morning on Monday. The inmate was identified as Dil Sher Singh, accused in a 2019 murder case at Jahangirpuri in Delhi. "Dilsher was lodged in Jail no.3 Tihar was attacked, with an improvised sharp object, by three other undertrial prisoners. He succumbed to his injuries and was declared dead by the duty doctor," said an officer.

TN extends COVID lockdown

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K. Palaniswami Monday extended the Covid-19 lockdown in the state till December 31 subject to certain relaxations. In a statement issued here, Palaniswami said based on the discussions with medical, public health experts and District Collectors to prevent coronavirus spread, the Covid-19 lockdown is extended till December 31 from November 30.

directed the IIT to consider Batra's petition, after he approached it earlier this month, as representation and pass appropriate orders. Batra, who had secured All India Rank (AIR) of 270 in JEE Advanced exams and secured admission, claimed in his plea that he had clicked the wrong link which was meant to withdraw his seat. Batra intended to freeze the seat, the plea said. On November 23, a division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G S Kulkarni dismissed Batra's petition noting that IIT had considered his repre-

sentation and passed its order. In his petition to the Supreme Court, Batra has sought a direc-

was surfing the IIT portal to check for further updates, he came upon a link which carried a declaration that read 'I would like to withdraw from the seat allocation process of JoSAA (Joint Seat Allocation Authority'," the petition said. As per the plea, Batra inadvertently clicked on this link and stated 'IIT Bombay. Electrical Engineering' as reasons for withdrawal. It added that Batra never intended to withdraw his admission. In November 2020, when the final list of students was uploaded on the IIT portal, Batra's name was not included. The IIT, in its order, however, said the withdrawal option was a "conscious"



Another cyclone to affect TN, Kerala

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 30: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Monday announced that a cyclone brewing in the Bay of Bengal is likely to affect Tamil Nadu and Kerala, less than a week after cyclone Nivar wreaked havoc in the southern states.

The cyclone will cross the Sri Lanka coast December 2 and bring heavy rain over Tamil Nadu and Kerala, it said in the bulletin. Fishermen out at sea are advised to return to the coast by Monday.

The depression in southeast Bay of Bengal is very likely to intensify into a deep depression during next 12 hours and into a cyclonic storm during subsequent 24 hours.

"It is very likely to move westnorthwestwards and cross the Sri Lanka coast during evening or night of 2nd December," the IMD said.

PROF RESCUES TURTLE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Nov 30: A turtle belonging to a vulnerable species has been saved from being sold in a fish market in Assam Monday, thanks to the initiative of an academician, an official said.

Head of the Life Science and Bioinformatics department of Assam University Sarbani Giri had gone to the fish market when she

noticed a man putting up an Indian peacock soft-shell turtle (Nilssonia hurum), which was alive, for sale. He wanted to cut the turtle

into pieces and sell it but Giri immediately stopped him from doing so and offered to buy it

alive for Rs 4,000, a forest official said. Her gesture moved the man and he gave her the turtle. After bringing it home, Giri called up the Cachar Forest

Division in Silchar to release it in its natural habitat, the official said. Personnel of the forest

department took the turtle from the professor and thanked her for saving the life of the turtle. The forest de-



to create awareness among fishermen about turtles. The Indian peacock soft-shell turtle is found in South Asia and is listed on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red list as a vulnerable species. the tranquiliser shot, the leopard entered a nearby house, causing panic in the area, they said. Forest officials then rescued the tranquilised animal, put it in a cage and took it to the Assam State Zoo, said Tejas Mariswamy, the divisional forest officer of the zoo.

The leopard will be in the zoo till it wakes up and then examined if it has sustained any injuries, he said. A microchip will be inserted into the animal before it is released in the forest, he added.

Bora said that in the CCTV footage of her hostel premises, the animal was seen entering the premises in the wee hours. Assam Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya tweeted, "Another successful operation today as we safely rescued an Indian leopard which took shelter in a hostel in Hengrabari, Guwahati. The success can be attributed to the timely intervention of our Assam State Zoo, Wildlife Division and Territorial Division staff and police team."

2 DELHI PATIENTS FOUND REINFECTED WITH COVID

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 30: The Sir Ganga Ram Hospital has reported two peculiar cases about two patients which it says have re-contracted the Covid-19 infection within a short span of recovery from the viral disease.

The patients include a man with co-morbidity and a healthcare staff of the hospital itself. As per the hospital, the man was found to be reinfected in mere 25 days of testing negative from the first attack of the Covid-19. However, the staff was found to

be reinfected within two months of the recovery from the previous episode. The disease severity was found to be in the mild category in both the episodes. Surprisingly, the antibodies developed after the first infection was also found at negligible level in the patients.

Dr. Atul Kakar, Senior consultant and Vice chairman of Department of Medicine said that the antibody levels were either negligible or totally absent in the body of the two patients since they tested negative for the antibodies.

The first patient, who is in his middle age with an underlying condition of diabetes mellitus, was found reinfected within a month of testing negative for the disease. The patient had a liver involvement due

to alcohol and renal involvement due to diabetes. "He had nasal discharge and was subsequently found to have fungal infection of sinuses (mucormycosis) in addition to Covid-19 infection (RT PCR). He was treated with antifungal and other supportive medications and about 10 days later he was tested negative for Covid and

discharged home. He was readmitted due to abdominal distension 25 days later and required hospitalization during which he was retested and found COVID 19 positive," informed Dr Kakar.

The second case is of the healthcare staff of the hospital. She was tested positive for COVID-19 in August and retested positive for the disease in October. "She was initially admitted to the Covid facility for 3 days but later shifted to home isolation for 17 days in view of mild nature of her illness. On August 23, she rejoined work at the hospital after testing negative. In October, she developed a fresh episode of cough, generalised weakness and malaise. On October 28, the patient was investigated and was found to be Covid-19 positive once again. She was readmitted in the Covid facility and tested negative in few days after being diagnosed," Dr Kakar said. "During the course the patient was tested for Covid-19 antibodies but her antibody levels were negative," he added. However, when asked whether the CT value were recorded during the investigation in both the cases during the first episode and the claimed reinfection, Dr Kakar said that the hospital considered it inconsequential during the re-infection.

"Both these cases follow the defined criteria of re-infection. However, in ideal circumstances, gene sequencing should have been done in both the cases," he added. Dr Kakar also said that the re-infection with COVID was considered as a rare possibility so far. However, it may start happening with the patients who re-covered with the mild form of the viral disease.











The ordinance on love jihad brought by the UP government in a hurry is full of doubts and apprehensions MAYAWATI BSP PRESIDENT

COLDEST NOV IN DELHI

The month of November was the coldest in the national capital in 71 years, with the mean minimum temperature dropping to 10.2 degrees Celsius, according to the India Meteorological Department





They (functionaries) told me that they are with me whatever my decision may be. I will make known by decision (on political foray) as soon as possible RAJINIKANTH ACTOR



AMIT SHAH UNION HOME MINISTER

When talks between farmers and the central government take place, we are sure that the confusion

will be sorted out. The farmers will get above MSP for their produce NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

K'taka gears up for panchayat polls

Bangalore: The Karnataka State Election Commission (KSEC) Monday announced the dates for gram panchayat elections for 5,762 panchayats in two phases. Now after the Assembly, Lok Sabha and the recent bypolls, the political parties in Karnataka are gearing up for the gram panchayat elections the largest in terms of the number of seats and candidates contesting. Gram Panchayat elections are being held for 92,121 seats in 35,884 constituencies spread across 5,762 gram panchayats in Karnataka.

Assam to reopen elementary schools

Guwahati: Considering the improved Covid-19 situation, the Assam government has decided to reopen elementary schools -- Nursery to Class 6 -- from January 1, Education and Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Monday.

China's growing presence in IOR worries India

seas in the Indian Ocean Region.

Around 300 Chinese fishing ves-

sels sail every year but last year

almost 450 vessels sailed. "The fish-

ing activity has a seasonal behav-

iour wherein the fishing vessels

withdraw from Arabian Sea prior

to the onset of monsoon and re-

turn in September and October," the

fishing activities has been observed

in the Central Arabian Sea and

Chinese Navy ships including their

submarines frequent the waters

on the pretext of anti-piracy oper-

ations The Indian Navy is aware of

China's growing maritime prowess

in the Indian Ocean Region as it is

expanding its naval operations.

Further, China has also been shift-

ing a lot of resources from other

arms to the Navy, keeping in line

with their aim of becoming a global

power. Last year in September, a

Chinese vessel close to the Indian

South West Indian Ocean.

The concentration of Chinese

It was further pointed that the

source said.

Expanding outreach

n a sign of its growing global outreach, the Indian Navy is associating with 21 countries and 22 multi-national agencies for quick sharing of information related to maritime activities in the Indian Ocean Region. At any given time, the Indian Navy monitors close to 12,000 ships and 300 fishing vessels in the Indian Ocean Region. Apart from that, there are close to 3 lakh Indian fishing vessels operating in the seas and their activities too are observed by the force. The Indian Ocean Region accounts for 75 per cent of the world's maritime trade and 50 percent of global consumption passes through it prompting security measures involving multiple countries.

waters was whisked away after it was suspected to be on a spying mission.

These research vessels come in the Indian Ocean Region also to either survey areas for deep sea mining or to study the characteristics of the water for ensuring the safety of submarines from antisubmarine warfare, the source said. However, these vessels are tracked

by the Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponders fitted in them

The AIS information, comprising an AIS code that is specific to a country, is clearly detectable and the Indian Navy is keeping an eye on each and every Chinese vessel entering the region.

JOY OF TOGETHERNESS



Pelicans enioving in water at Assam state zoo in Guwahati

Spread of HIV/AIDS in Northeast India alarming

Agartala/Aizawl, Nov 30: The status of HIV/AIDS epidemic in north-eastern states of India is indeed alarming, said a report by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO)

The AIDS-related mortality per 1,00,000 population in India was estimated to be the highest in Manipur (36.86), followed by Mizoram (28.34), Nagaland (26.20), Andhra Pradesh (21.76), Puducherry (15.33), Meghalaya (11.08) and Telangana (10.79), the NACO report added.

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's Joint Secretary, Alok Saxena, in his observation, incorporated in the recent NACO report, said evidence has emerged globally that HIV-infected people are more at Covid-19 death risk as compared to HIV-negative patients. In another disturbing develop-

ment, the trend of Intravenous Drug Users (IDU) is rising at a



rocket speed among the youth between 15 and 20 years in several north-eastern states, especially in Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland. According to the Excise and Narcotics Department officials from Mizoram, nearly 1,645 people have died of drug abuse in the state since 1984 when the first case was reported. Besides. Mizoram with 2.04 per cent, in two other north-eastern states Manipur and Nagaland, the HIV prevalence rates are 1.43 per cent and 1.15 per cent per one million people, respectively.

Mizoram recorded more than 20,000 HIV positive cases and nearly 2,000 deaths since the first case in 1990. Smuggling of drugs, arms and other contraband worth thousands of crores takes place frequently in the north-eastern region from across the borders, especially from Myanmar.

Officials said the drugs were smuggled from Myanmar which shares 1.643 km of unfenced border with four north-eastern states -Mizoram (510 km), Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Manipur (398 km) and Nagaland (215 km).

However, after half a decade the first death due to overdose of heroin injection was witnessed when a 24year-old youth died due to heroin overdose in 1984. Since then there was a noticeable rise in the growth of substance abuse population and heroin, Proxyvon, cough syrup. sedatives, Nitrozepam and volatile are the preferred drugs of choice.

Delhi govt reduces RT-PCR test price to ₹800 PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: The Arvind Kejriwal government Monday ordered all private laboratories to reduce the price of RT-PCR

FARMERS' PROTEST IMPACT Supply of vegetables, fruits from other states hit PRESS TRUST OF INDIA "During normal days, around 2,500

New Delhi, Nov 30: The supply of vegetables and fruits to the city

trucks of vegetables and fruits used to arrive at Azadpur Mandi from other states. The number

DISCARDED FISHING NETS THREATEN GANGA WILDLIFE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

government has also decided on limited reopening of the hostels of colleges and universities for final year students and for residential students of Class 10 and 12 from December 15.

Hosp fire: Guj govt forms probe panel

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat government Monday constituted an inquiry commission under Guiarat High Court judge DA Mehta (retd) to probe the Rajkot hospital fire in which five COVID-19 patients died November 27, an official release said.

Man beaten to death

Gurugram: A 26-year-old man identified as Hoshiyaar and hailing from Bulandshahr district in Uttar Pradesh, was allegedly beaten to death by a hotel owner identified as Sanjay Kumar and his friend Anil, in a fight over drinking liquor in Gurugram, the police said. The incident took place on the intervening Thursday/Friday night after

which Hoshiyaar was treated at the Safdarjung hospital in Delhi but died Sunday from severe head injures.

Elephant found dead

Jhargram (WB): A full-grown elephant was Found dead in West Bengal's Jhargram district Monday, triggering tension in the area, officials said. Locals said the elephant was electrocuted after coming in contact with a high-tension wire in the Nischinta forest where it came to drink water from the Lepashi dam.

from other states has been impacted and it has been halved at Azadpur Mandi, one of Delhi's largest wholesale market, owing to the protest by farmers at the Singhu and Tikri border points of the national capital for the last five days.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

tries in the ocean.

government.

New Delhi, Nov 30: India has ob-

served that there is an increasing

trend of Chinese research vessels

and fishing vessels operating in

the Indian Ocean Region (IOR),

raising security concerns for coun-

indicate the country's growing foot-

print in the Indian Ocean Region,

the research vessels have raised

security concerns as they could be

surveying the characteristics of

the sea water for improving sub-

the deployment of Chinese research

vessels in Indian Ocean Region.

The general area of deployment

has been observed in ninety-de-

gree East Ridge and South-West

Indian Ridge," said a source in the

The source also stated that there

is also an increasing trend of

Chinese Fishing Vessels in high

"There has been a steady rise in

marine warfare capabilities.

While the Chinese fishing vessels

Vendors in other parts of Delhi said due to curtailed supply, the wholesale rates of seasonal vegetables has gone up by ₹50- ₹100. They said the roadblock at Singhu and Tikri border has impacted supply of vegetables and fruits from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

The arrival of vegetables and fruits to Delhi's largest wholesale market at Azadpur has been reduced by half due to the closed borders, said Adil Khan, chairman Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee at Azadpur.

has come down to around 1,000 trucks now and if the borders remained closed for a few more days, the situation will worsen," Khan said

He, however, said the rates have not registered any significant rise so far because local produce and stocks are being sold. Some other vendors said the wholesale rates of seasonal vegetables has already gone up by ₹50- ₹100 due to the short supply. They said due to obstructions at the border, the trucks are finding it difficult to reach Delhi and those somehow managing to do so are getting delayed by several hours. The trucks from Punjab carrying fruits and vegetables that would normally take around 9-10 hours for a trip to Delhi, now takes 12-14 hours due to closure of Singhu border, said another wholesaler.

New Delhi, Nov 30: Plastic pollution from discarded fishing gear in the Ganges River poses a threat to wildlife such as the critically endangered three-striped roofed turtle and the endangered Ganges river dolphin, according to an international team including researchers from the Wildlife Institute of India.

In the study, published in the journal Science of The Total Environment, surveys along the length of the river. from the mouth in Bangladesh to the Himalayas in India, show levels of waste fishing gear are highest near to the sea. The researchers noted that fishing nets - all made of plastic were the most common type of gear found.

Interviews with local fishers showed high rates of fishing equip-



ment being discarded in the river - driven by short gear lifespans and lack of appropriate disposal systems, they said.

The Ganges River supports some of the world's largest inland fisheries, but no research has been done to assess plastic pollution from this industry, and its impacts on wildlife." said Sarah Nelms from the University of Exeter in the UK. The researchers

"conservation concern" identified by the Wildlife Institute of India in Uttarakhand.

used a list of 21 river species of

They combined existing information on entanglements of similar species worldwide with the new data on levels of waste fishing gear in the Ganges to estimate which species are most at risk.

"There is no system for fishers to recycle their nets. Most fishers told us they mend and repurpose nets if they can, but if they can't do that the nets are often discarded in the river," said Nelms.

The findings offer hope for solutions based on "circular economy" where waste is dramatically reduced by reusing materials, according to Professor Heather Koldewey, from the Zoological Society of London(ZSL)

tests in the national capital to ₹800 from ₹2.400. According to an order issued

by the health department, private laboratories have been asked to charge ₹800 for testing "samples collected by government teams and collected from collection sites by private sector labs as requisitioned by districts and hospitals".

However, the testing of samples collected through home visit will cost ₹1,200. All labs and hospitals have also been asked to display the revised rates at a prominent place within 24 hours. The private laboratories have also been asked to process samples, share the reports with the client (government or individual) and update all reports on the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) portal within 24 hours of collection of samples.

'ENSURE FIRE SAFETY MEASURES IN HOSPS'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 30: The Centre Monday directed all states and Union Territories (UTs) to ensure fire safety measures in all hospitals and nursing homes in the wake of recent various fire incidents at such institutions.

Noting "non-adherence" of fire safety measures by various hospitals and nursing homes in the past leading to the occurrence of fire incidents, Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla issued the directions in a letter to the Chief Secretaries off all the states and UTs. "I would urge you to ensure compliance of DG Fire Service safety advisory issued November 28. 2020, and direct to immediately re-inspect or re-check all hospitals and nursing homes from the point of view of fire protection and means of escape to prevent recurrence of such fireincidences in future," he directed.

WORRYING SITUATION 1 in 5 families likely to attend weddings this season

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 30: At a time when the coronavirus infection is fast spreading, one in five families say that they will be attending engagements and weddings this season, sparking fears of the situation worsening in the country, a survey revealed Monday.

The pandemic may have spoiled the big fat wedding plans of many, but it has not dampened their spirit to tie the knot as planned, though with a reduced guest list. Many states have capped the limit of attendees allowed in weddings and similar mass gatherings between 50-150.

'LocalCircles' observed an increase in citizen posts in regard to how they will be attending weddings and their plans to stay safe. Instances were also highlighted in Delhi of hotels taking bookings in three names to work



around to the government's 50 guests per wedding rule, to permit 150 guests in an event. On basis of this feedback, to

gauge the percentage of families expected to attend weddings in this season, a survey was conducted which received more than 17,000 responses from citizens across 239 districts

of India. The respondents were divided between 62 per cent men and 38 per cent women, while 51 per cent respondents were from tier-1 cities, 23 per cent from tier-2, and 26 per cent from tier-3, 4 and rural districts. The first question, "What is your plan to attend engagements and weddings in person for November-December this year?" received 8,957 responses. Out of these, 44 per cent voted, "don't have any invitations" for these months, while 35 per cent said "was invited to attend but are taking a pass this year due to Covid-19".

On the other hand, approximately, 20 per cent of citizens said they expect to attend engagements and weddings in the November-December wedding season this year. Given that weddings, both local and outstation, are generally family affairs, it is likely that in many family members would be likely to attend and as a result, the actual number would be higher than 20 per cent. This received 8,456 responses,

with 38 per cent of citizens who plan to attend engagements and weddings in November and December believe the risk of Covid spread is average, low or non-existent. However, 57 per cent said "there is a high risk and they will be taking all precautions".

The fact that nearly 2 in 5 respondents believe that the spread of risk at weddings is average, low or non-existent is of great concern as all that is required is one Covid positive individual to spread the virus. Given that many cases in India have been asymptomatic, the risk of spread is nothing short of high. With cities like Delhi already reporting 5,000-8,000 daily cases in the last few weeks, weddings along with the winter weather and severe air quality is likely to worsen the Covid-19 situation further putting high levels of stress on the Covid health infrastructure.











OrissaPOST TUESDAY | DECEMBER 1 | 2020 | BHUBANESWAR international



Canberra is seeking an apology from Beijing about a tweet containing a false image of an Australian soldier holding the knife to the throat of an Afghan child SCOTT MORRISON | AUSTRALIA'S PRIME MINISTER

VOLCANO ERUPTS IN INDONESIA SPEWS SMOKE 4 KM HIGH

A volcano in Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara province erupted Sunday, spewing ash and smoke as high as four kms into the sky and forcing more than 2,700 residents to seek refuge, the country's disaster mitigation agency said



uote

There almost certainly is going to be an uptick because of what has happened with the (Thanksgiving)

travel. We may see a surge upon a surge in two or three weeks ANTHONY FAUCIZ TOP US SCIENTIST

We're still waiting to see the full facts of what's happened in Iran, but I would say that we stick to the rule of

international humanitarian law which is very clear against targeting civilians

DOMINIC RAAB UK FOREIGN SECRETARY

This election was rigged. This election was a total fraud. It's not like vou're gonna change my mind. My mind will not change in six months

DONALD TRUMP US PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Cops charged for beating Black man

Paris: Four French police officers have been charged in connection with the beating of a black man in Paris, with two held in custody, a judicial source said Monday. The examining magistrate charged three with "willful violence by a person holding public authority" and "forgery". Two were kept behind bars, while the other two were put on conditional release. Video carried by the Loopsider website shows how music producer Michel Zecler was repeatedly beaten by three officers for several minutes.

Explosions in 3 Malian cities

.....

Bamako (Mali): The cities of Kidal, Gao and Menaka in northern Mali were hit by simultaneous attacks Monday against military camps housing international forces, according to residents and a United Nations official. Kidal resident Souleymane Ag Mohamed Ali said he heard more than 10 explosions coming from the direction of the camp for UN peacekeepers and soldiers for the French Operation Barkhane. No group has claimed responsibility for the simultaneous attacks, but they bear the mark of iihadist groups linked to al-Qaida.

China to build major dam on Brahmaputra: Report

The 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) and National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 were adopted by Plenum last month

Details of the plan were expected to be released after

the formal ratification by

National People's Congress (NPC) early next year

Committee of the Communist Youth

League of China Sunday. "There is

no parallel in history ... it will be a

historic opportunity for the Chinese

hydropower industry," Yan told

The 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-

Details of the plan were expected

Proposals for dams on the Brahmaputra have evoked concerns in India and Bangladesh, the riparian states



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Nov 30: China will build a major hydropower project on Brahmaputra river in Tibet and a proposal for this has been clearly put forward in the 14th Five-Year Plan to be implemented from next year, the official media quoted the head of a Chinese company tasked to build the dam as saying.

Yan Zhiyong, chairman of the Power Construction Corp of China, said China will "implement hydropower exploitation in the downstream of the Yarlung Zangbo River" (the Tibetan name for Brahmaputra) and the project could serve to maintain water resources

and domestic security. the conference organised to cele-Speaking at a conference brate the 40th anniversary of the Thursday, Yan said the project was founding of the China Society for clearly put forward in the propos-Hydropower Engineering. als for formulating the country's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) and its 2025) and National Economic and long-term goals through 2035 made Social Development and the Longby the Central Committee of the rul-Range Objectives Through the Year ing Communist Party of China 2035 were adopted by Plenum - a key policy body of the CPC - last month. (CPC), it quoted an article on the WeChat account of the Central

to be released after the formal ratification by National People's Congress (NPC) early next year. Proposals for dams on the Brahmaputra have evoked concerns in India and Bangladesh, the riparian states, and China has downplayed such anxieties saying it would

keep their interests in mind. As a lower riparian State with considerable established user rights to the waters of the trans-border rivers, the Indian government has consistently conveyed its views and concerns to the Chinese authorities and has urged them to ensure that the interests of downstream States are not harmed by any activities in upstream areas. China has already operationalised

the \$1.5 billion Zam Hydropower Station, the largest in Tibet in 2015.

About the new dam, the Global Times report said that speculation about China planning to build a 'super hydropower station" in Medog county where the Yarlung Zangbo Grand Canyon is located, have circulated for years.

Medog is the last county in Tibet which borders Arunachal Pradesh. In his address Yan said that the hydropower exploitation of the Yarlung Zangbo River downstream is more than a hydropower project. It is also meaningful for the environment, national security, living standards, energy and inter-

national cooperation. The mainstream of the Yarlung Zangbo River has the richest water resources in Tibet Autonomous Region, about 80 million kilowatt hours (kWh), while the 50-kilometer section of the Yarlung Zangbo Grand Canyon has 70 million kWh that could be developed with a 2,000meter drop, which equals more than three Three Gorges power stations in Hubei province.

MUSIC FOR MONKEYS



British musician Paul Barton plays the piano for monkeys in Lopburi, Thailand. Barton has played at four venues in Lopburi, a province famous for its marauding monkeys and he hopes his music can calm the hungry wild monkeys REUTERS PHOTO

BIDEN NAMES ALL WOMEN WHITE HOUSE COMMS TEAM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, Nov 30: US Presidentelect Joe Biden has named a seven member all-women team to lead the White House communications war room, headed by his campaign communications director Kate Bedingfield. This is the first time in American political history that the senior White House communications team will be entirely female.

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris described the announcement as "barrier-shattering".

The new hires: Elizabeth E. Alexander, Communications Director for the First Lady, Kate Bedingfield, White House Communications Director, Ashley Etienne, Communications Director

PHONE TAPPING

Maryam Nawaz dares 'puppet'

tisan within her Democratic Party. The Indian-American veteran of Democratic election campaigns, if confirmed, will oversee the budget process for the entire government on behalf of the President and have a wide range of responsibilities for manage ment of various federal agencies and personnel and for legislative coordination She is currently the president of the Centre for American Progress think-tank

Indian-American Neera Tanden to head budget office

New York: Joe Biden, who is to become US

President in January, has picked Indian-American

Neera Tanden, a controversial close confidante of

the Clintons, to head the powerful White House

Office of Management and Budget, according to

several media reports. But opposition to Tanden

was welling up Sunday night soon after the news

of her selection leaked because she is an outspo-

ken critic of Republicans and is considered a par-

for the Vice President, Karine Jean Pierre, Principal Deputy Press Secretary, Jen Psaki, White House Press Secretary, Symone Sanders,

Senior Advisor and Chief Spokesperson for the Vice President and Pili Tobar, Deputy White House Communications Director.

8 killed, 37 hurt in Sri Lanka prison riot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Nov 30: At least eight_ inmates were killed and 37 others injured when a riot broke out at a prison on the outskirts of Colombo in Sri Lanka.

The riots broke out on Sunday at he Mahara prison located about 15 kilometers north of Colombo when

some inmates tried to escape.

The prisoners at the Mahara

prison tried to force open a door

and escape. This prompted the

authorities to use force, police

Beware of Covid-19 vaccine scams: FDA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Nov 30: With the coronavirus vaccine inching toward approval in the US, weary Americans longing for a path back to normal life. But criminals are waiting, too, ready to use that desperation to their advantage, federal investigators say. But criminals are waiting, too, ready to use that desperation to their advantage, federal investigators say.

sistant director for global trade investigations with Homeland

Security Investigations. "But I also caution against these criminal organisations and individuals that will try to

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imran Khan to question ISI

Lahore, Nov 30: Pakistan Muslim

Lahore world's most polluted city

Lahore: Lahore has again topped the list of the most polluted city in the world, according to air pollution data released by the US Air Quality Index Monday. According to the index, Lahore reported a particulate matter (PM) rating of 423, reports Geo TV. Lahore is not the only Pakistani city to feature in the top 10 list for the worst air quality. Pakistan's largest city of Karachi ranked at 7 on the AQI.

Global Covid-19 cases top 62.6mn

Washington: The overal number of global coronavirus cases has topped 62.6 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 1.45 million, according to the Johns Hopkins University. In its latest update on Monday, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload and death toll stood at 62.670.153 and 1.458.360. respectively. The US is the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 13.374.162 and 266.838 respectively, according to the CSSE.

Homeland Security investigators are working with Pfizer, Moderna and dozens of other drug companies racing to complete and distribute the vaccine and treatments for the virus.

The goal: to prepare for the scams that are coming, especially after the mess of criminal activity this year with phony personal protective equipment, false cures and extortion schemes. 'We're all very excited about the potential vaccine and treatments," said Steve Francis, as-

exploit the American public." No vaccine has vet been ap proved by the US Food and Drug Administration The FDA has approved the first treatment for

Covid-19, the antiviral drug remdesivir. With vaccines and treatments

both, it has warned about the potential for fraud. "The FDA is particularly concerned that these deceptive and misleading products might cause Americans to delay or stop appropriate medical treatment, leading to serious and life-threatening harm," the agency said in a recent statement. The drug companies are to have safeguards and brand-pro-

tection features in place to help avoid fraud, but that may not be available until the second generation of vaccine.

League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice-president Marvam Nawaz said Monday that "puppet" Prime Minister Imran Khan should have "some courage" to question the country's top spy agency - Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) - as why it is tapping his telephone calls.

Her remarks came in response to Prime Minister Khan's recent disclosure that he was aware that the agencies tap his phone calls.

'This puppet and selected premier Imran even does not have the courage to ask the ISI as why it is taping his calls. He should tell the ISI that it is not the work of the institution that comes under the Prime Minister," said Maryam, the daughter of deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

"The ISI taps phone of the prime minister and others. This is not new news for me. If any guts left in this puppet (Imran Khan) he should take on the ISI on this matter." she said. She is leading Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz in absence of her



father Nawaz Sharif who has been living in London since November 2019. Sharif's younger brother and PML-N president Shehbaz Sharif is in custody of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), leaving it to Maryam to lead the party.

Khan in a recent interview to a local TV channel had said: "The ISI and the IB (Intelligence Bureau) know whatever I do and with whom I talk to on telephone.

When asked if he had no issue with the agencies tapping his phone, remarks came in response to **Prime Minister** Khan's recent disclosure that he was aware that the agencies tap his phone calls

Maryam's

Khan said: "It happens all over the world. Even the \overline{CIA} does the same in the US.'

The Prime Minister was of the view that the agencies do such things as they are responsible for providing security to the heads.

'The ISI knows as to whom I will be calling and why I am calling. The ISI also knows as to who has taken money out of the country," he said.

Khan said the Pakistan Army knows everything about him.

The inmates created "unrest" as they tried to escape and this forced the prison officials to take steps to control the situation. "The incident was started by a set of remand prisoners when they tried to force open a door

said Monday.

and escape following which the authorities had to use force," police spokesman Ajith Rohana said. Prisons authorities said the ri-

oters had set fire to the kitchen and a record room of the prison. Rohana said that at least 37 more inmates, including two jailors,

were injured and all of them were transferred to the nearby Ragama hospital. The rioting inmates tried to take jailors "hostage" but the authorities at the prison thwarted such attempt, officials said.

Uproar in France over proposed limits on filming police

FRENCH ACTIVISTS FEAR THAT A PROPOSED NEW SECURITY LAW WILL DEPRIVE THEM OF A POTENT WEAPON AGAINST ABUSE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Nov 30: French activists fear that a proposed new security law will deprive them of a potent weapon against abuse - cellphone videos of police activity - threatening their efforts to document possible cases of police brutality, especially in impoverished immigrant neighbourhoods

French President Emmanuel

Macron's government is pushing a

new security Bmeasures. Critics fear

the new law could hurt press freedoms

and make it more difficult for all cit-

izens to report on police brutality.

Zecler, a Black music producer who

was beaten up recently by several

'I was lucky enough to have

French police officers. Videos first published Thursday by French website Loopsider have been seen by over 14 million viewers, resulting in widespread outrage over police actions. Two of the officers are in jail

while they are investigated while two others, also under investigation, are out on bail.

The draft Bill, still being debated in parliament, has prompted protests across the country called by press freedom advocates and civil rights campaigners. Tens of thousands of people marched Saturday in Paris to reject the measure, including families and friends of peo-

videos that protect me," said Michel ple killed by police. "For decades, descendants of postcolonial immigration and residents



Cars burn during a demonstration against the "Global Security Bill" that rights groups say would make it a crime to circulate an image of a police officer's face and would infringe journalists' freedom in France, Paris

in populous neighbourhoods have deaudience that there is a "systemic nounced police brutality," Sihame problem with French police forces, who are abusing, punching, beat-Assbague, an anti-racism activist. told this news agency. Videos by the ing, mutilating, killing," she said. public have helped to show a wider

even greater impact on people other than journalists, especially those of immigrant origin living in neighbourhoods where relationships with the police have long been tense. Images posted online have been key to denouncing cases of officers' misconduct and racism in recent years, they argue.

Assbague expressed fears that, under the proposed law, those who post videos of police abuses online may be put on trial, where they would face up to a year in jail and 45,000-euro (\$53,000) fine.

"I tend to believe that a young Arab man from a poor suburb who posts a video of police brutality in his neighbourhood will be more at risk of being found guilty than a journalist who did a video during a protest," she said.

Amal Bentousi's brother Amine was shot in the back and killed by a police officer in 2012. The officer was sentenced to a five-year suspended prison sentence. Along with other families of victims, in March she launched a mobile phone app called Emergency-Police Violence to record abuses and bring cases to court.

The app has been downloaded more than 50,000 times. The proposed law is partly a response to demands from police unions, who say it will provide greater protection for officers.

Abdoulaye Kante, a Black police officer with 20 years of experience in Paris and its suburbs, is both a supporter of the proposed law and strongly condemns police brutality and violence against officers.

Activists say the Bill may have an









The case for the immediate rollout of 5G networks in India is a compelling one. It is no longer a choice, but a pre-requisite for the country's growth and development RAJEN VAGADIA VP AND PRESIDENT, QUALCOMM INDIA AND SAARC

PINHEIRO TO HEAD OLA'S BIZ

Ride-hailing major Ola has appointed former General Motors executive Jose Pinheiro as Head of Global Manufacturing and Operations for its electric business. He will spearhead Ola's ambitions to build world-class manufacturing facilities



PV, TWO-WHEELER

WHOLESALES TO

DECLINE: IND-RA

uote

We are very committed to the eastern part of India as we believe that it has tremendous potential. We are

further strengthening our footprint in the region and building on IHCL's legacy in some of the most commercially and culturally important cities of the East PUNEET CHHATWAL MD AND CEO, IHCL

Our biggest success is in creating an environment through our **Business Reform** Action Plan, where

new investors feel assured. UP government has moved up in the EoDB ranking over the past few years and is ranked 2nd in the country today. Our government and administration will extend all support, during and after the construction of the data centre park YOGI ADITYANATH CM. UTTAR PRADESH

The fundamentals of the Indian economy are very strong and the recovery curve is rising steadily as shown in various economic indicators and trackers NAVEEN SONI

SENIOR VP (SALES AND SERVICE), TKM

SHORT TAKES

SIDBI launches Web portal

Mumbai: Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) Monday said it has launched a web portal to help MSMEs take benefit of the RBI's one-time debt restructuring. In August, RBI had announced one-time restructuring for personal and corporate borrowers affected by COVID-19-related stress. With the help of this DIY asset restructuring web module, MSMEs will be able to prepare restructuring proposals, SIDBI said.

Al pilot unions seek intervention

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 30: S&P Global Ratings Monday retained its forecast of 9% contraction in the Indian economy for the current fiscal, saying even though there are now upside risks to growth but it will wait for more signs that COVID infections have stabilised or fallen

S&P, in its report on Asia Pacific, projected the Indian economy to grow at 10% in the next fiscal. "We retain our growth forecast of

negative 9% in fiscal 2020-2021 and 10% in fiscal 2021-2022. While there are now upside risks to growth due to a faster recovery in population mobility and household spending, the pandemic is not fully under control. "We will wait for more



signs that infections have stabilised or fallen, together with high-frequency activity data for the fiscal year third quarter, before changing our forecasts," S&P said. According to the official data re-

leased last week, Indian economy recovered faster than expected in the September quarter as a pick-up in manufacturing helped GDP clock a

economy recovered faster than expected in the September quarter he RBI in October

S&P retains growth forecast at -9% for FY21

projected India's economy to contract by 9.5% this fiscal

According to the official data, Indian

lower contraction of 7.5%. Indian economy had contracted 23.9% in April-June. The RBI in October projected India's economy to contract by 9.5% this fiscal. It said the industrial sector is leading and the output is now above levels from a year ago, helped by rising demand for consumer goods.

Investment recovered faster than

S&P GLOBAL TO BUY IHS MARKIT

New York: Data giant S&P Global Inc has agreed to buy IHS Markit Ltd in an all-stock deal worth \$44 billion that will be the biggest corporate acquisition of 2020 and create a heavyweight in the increasingly competitive market in financial information. The mega deal, which IHS Markit CEO Lance Uggla told employees in a memo had been in the works for the last few months, highlights the growing importance of big data in financial markets governed by information-hungry trading algorithms.

consumption in the second quarter, partly due to resumption of stalled projects. The private sector drove the recovery as spending resumed and households and firms moved more toward normalised activity. S&P said inflation should ease

from recent highs, albeit gradually. 'We project that headline consumer price inflation just above

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

years, with India seeing larger cap-

ital decline without further infusion.

certain trajectory of asset qual-

ity is one of the biggest threats

for emerging market banks, as op-

erating conditions remain chal-

lenging amid the current COVID

The 2021 outlook for banks in

emerging markets is negative, while

the outlook for insurers is stable,

banks' rising nonperforming loans

and insurers' volatile investment

"In the Asia Pacific region,

pandemic.

it said.

In a report, Moody's said the un-

of India's (RBI) forecast a range of 2 to 6% through 2021. One-off factors should ease, including food-

the mid-point of the Reserve Bank

supply disruptions and supply constraints related to earlier lockdowns. But the pass-through to core inflation, currently near 6%, suggests that inflation persistence remains a challenge," it said.



New Delhi, Nov 30: Moody's banks in India and Sri Lanka will Investors Service Monday said the post larger capital declines withbank capital will moderately fall in out public or private injections," emerging Asia over the next two

Moody's said. It said non-performing loans (NPLs) will rise most for banks in India and Thailand because of the greater shock to their economies and historically poor performance of certain loan types.

In India, stress among non-bank financial institutions will also curtail their capacity to lend, Moody's noted.

"Profit growth will be modest because of low-interest rate and subdued lending, but lower loan volumes should aid capital," Moody's Managing Director Celina Vansetti-Hutchins said in the 'Emerging Markets Financial Institutions

'Consumer spending to 'Banks to see capital claw back growth in 2021'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: After a COVID-19 pandemic-led contraction in consumer spending in 2020, household spending will return to growth in 2021, expanding by as much as 6.6%, Fitch Solutions said Monday. Consumer spending is forecast to have contracted by 12.6% in 2020. 'While growth will return to positive in 2021, we do note the recov-

ery will be slower than most countries, as a result of the significant contraction over 2020," it said. "Unemployment will remain heightened, while the effectiveness of government support measures is

questionable. Fitch Solutions forecast a return to pre-COVID-19 levels only over the second half of 2021 and 2022. "We forecast household spending in India to return to growth in

2021 after the COVID-19 pandemic led to a contraction in consumer spending in 2020," it said. In nominal terms, total household

spending will only be 1.2 per cent higher than what it was in 2019 (Rs 123 lakh crore in 2021, compared to



Fitch Solutions forecast a return to pre-COVID-19

consumer spending.

Fitch Solutions said all of the main consumer spending categories will return to positive growth in 2021.

However economic impact of 2020 has created a significant base effect across a number of categories. Food and non-alcoholic drink spending were prioritised in household budgets in 2020 and so growth in spending of these items, while remaining positive, will be slightly lower than in 2020.

'We forecast food and non-alcoholic drinks spending to grow by 7.9% year-on-year in 2021, from the 10.1% growth we forecast for 2020," it said. Spending with other consumer categories is estimated to record significant contractions over 2020 as households cut spending on non-essential items.

As such, these categories will grow from a relatively lower base over 2021 and thus will report stronger growth over the year.

India recorded its first COVID-19 case January 30, 2020, with the government announcing a countrywide lockdown March 24, which lasted until late May. Localised lockdowns are also being used in containment zones and were extended to November 30.

Containment measures and restrictions include travel restrictions, closing educational establishments, gyms, museums, and theatres; bans on mass gatherings and encouraging firms to promote remote work.

Asia over the next two years, and

with production volumes for PVs and two-wheelers up 32% and 40%

have led to a considerable inventory build-up at the dealership level, particularly for two-wheelers, with the retail sales lagging behind wholesales during this pe-

AGENCIES New Delhi, Nov 30: Domestic passenger vehicle (PV) and twowheeler wholesales will come down in the next few months as inventory levels remain high at dealer level, according to rat-

ing firm India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra). The overall auto industry would however continue to grow in the next few months, it noted.

"With the festive season now over in India, the rating agency expects wholesale billings to moderate in the next couple of months, given that the inventory at dealer level for PVs and two-wheelers is already at higher than the 21 days recommended by Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA),' Ind-Ra said in a statement.

However, it expects the overall automotive industry to continue to revive in the next two to three months, in line with improving eco-

nomic indicators, it noted. Over the past two-three months. original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) had been focusing on stocking-up at dealership level ahead of the peak demand ex-

pected during the festive season in October-November, Ind-Ra said. Consequently, production levels had surged since August 2020,

(year-on-year), respectively, in October this year, it added. "However, the continued higher wholesale billings than retail registrations during August-October

portfolios are in focus. Capital riod," Ind-Ra noted. will moderately fall in emerging Outlook' report. 'Extended ECLGS can infuse



levels only over the second half of 2021 and 2022

₹121.6 lakh crore in 2019), indicating the extent of the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on

IPG and ICPA Monday sought the civil aviation ministry's intervention on the wage cut issue and also requested for an "urgent" meeting with him on several other issues. "In our meetings in September, you had given us an assurance to look into our grievances positively. While other airlines are rolling back the austerity pay cuts for their pilots, the wage cut for Air India pilots further increased from October," the pilot unions stated in the joint letter addressed to the Civil Aviation Minister.

CSB Bank cuts MCLRs by 10 bps

New Delhi: CSB Bank Monday announced a cut in shortterm rates based on marginal cost of fund based lending rates (MCLRs) by 0.10 percentage point for various tenures up to 6 months. The benchmark one-vear MCLR. upon which most of the consumer loans are set. however, has been kept unchanged at 9.50%. The bank in a regulatory filing said it has revised the MCLR by 0.10 percentage point each for tenures ranging from overnight to six-months with effect from December 1.

Eightfold Al raises \$125mn

Mumbai: Talent intelligence platform Eightfold AI Monday said it has raised \$125 million in its latest funding round, valuing the Noida-based company at \$1 billion. The series D round was led by General Catalyst, and existing investors such as Capital One Ventures, Foundation Capital, IVP and Lightspeed Venture Partners, the company said.

New Delhi, Nov 30: 5G connections across the globe are estimated to be 3.5 billion and India will account for 350 million subscriptions by 2026, according to a report by telecom company Ericsson. India may get its first 5G connection in 2021 if spectrum auctions are held early next year, said Ericsson Head of Network Solutions (Southeast Asia, Oceania and India) Nitin Bansal.

Globally, more than 1 billion people, 15% of the world's population, are expected to live in an area that has 5G coverage rolled out, according to the 'Ericsson Mobility Report 2020' released Monday.

MAHANADI TO BEGIN: PPT

PORT DAY 2020

CARGO TRANSPORT ON



POST NEWS NETWORK

2020 at a low-key affair at PPT, due

to COVID-19 pandemic. PPT

Chairman Rinkesh Roy unfurled the

Paradip Port Flag at Wet Basin in

the morning hours. He also in-

spected the Port Marine crafts lined

up in the harbour and took salute.

markably and occupied the cov-

eted No. 1 position among all major

ports in the country in Q1 of the cur-

rent fiscal. Within the next few

'The Port has progressed re-

days after a gap of 6 decades, cargo movement on the Mahanadi is Bhubaneswar. Nov 30: Paradip going to start," Roy said. Port Trust celebrated the Port Day

He summed up by stating that the PPT is currently the best trade friendly and highly productive port in India.

Dy of Conservator, Paradip Port AK Mohapatra welcomed the guests in the meeting and explained the importance of Port Day celebrations. Extending his greetings to the employees on the auspicious occasion of Kartika Purnima, he outlined the tremendous rise of the port over last few decades.

debate output policy

Oil prices fall as

OPEC+ members

AGENCIES

London, Nov 30: Oil prices fell Monday on uncertainty about whether OPEC+ would agree to extend their large output cuts at talks this week, but vaccine hopes still kept benchmark crudes on track to rise by more than a fifth in November.

Brent crude for January delivery, a contract that expires on Monday, had dropped 50 cents or 1% to \$47.68 a barrel by 1435 GMT. The more actively traded February Brent contract was down 41 cents at \$47.84. US West Texas Intermediate crude for January fell 27 cents, or 0.6%, to \$45.26 a barrel. Oil prices, which are on track to rise more than 20% in November, have been climbing as vaccine developments raised hopes for an economic recovery and a boost to fuel demand.



over ₹40,000cr liquidity'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 30: The extended emergency credit line guarantee scheme (ECLGS 2.0) has the potential to infuse over ₹40.000 crore liquidity into the targeted 26 stressed sectors, including the healthcare industry, says a report.

The new ECLGS scheme and the resultant identification of the affected sector was done after the RBI-appointed KV Kamath committee recommended to extend liquidity to the worst-hit sectors after being pummeled by the pandemic driven lockdown.

The possible over ₹ 40,000-crore liquidity through the ELCGS 2.0 will be sufficient to help companies, including those hit by a sharp decline in cash flows because of the pandemic, to overcome liquidity pressures," says a Crisil report.

Under the scheme, companies with outstanding loans of ₹50 crore to ₹500 crore are eligible for additional credit of up to 20% of their outstanding debt as of February 29, 2020



Of Crisil-rated portfolio, as much as 1,414 companies from 27 sectors, including healthcare, are eligible for the scheme. These companies collectively have an outstanding debt of ₹2 lakh crore as of February 29. These companies are facing an average cash flow contraction of 17% or by ₹11,000 crore, compared to the pre-pandemic assessment.

Borrowing under the new extended scheme can provide additional liquidity equal to 3.5 times the cash-flow contraction for the sample set. This will help them overcome temporary liq-

uidity challenges. Also, the one-year moratorium available under the scheme will provide further room for companies to stabilise their cash flows, says the report.

The scheme will particularly benefit companies in low-resilience sectors like hotels, gems & jewellery, travel and real estate as their accruals are expected to fall sharper at 23% this fiscal.

"In the India region, LTE sub

scriptions are forecast to increase

from 710 million in 2020 to 820 mil-

lion in 2026, increasing at a com-

pound annual growth rate (CAGR)

technologies accounted for 67% of

mobile subscriptions in 2020, and this

figure is predicted to reach 91% by

2026. "The total number of mobile

broadband subscriptions is set to

reach close to 1.2 billion by 2026."

the number of smartphone sub-

According to an annual report,

It added that mobile broadband

of 2%." the report said.

Companies in high-resilience sectors like dairy, IT, FMCG, chemicals and pharma are seen less impacted, with only around 10% decline in their cash flow.

5G connection to reach 350mn in India by 2026: Report

AGENCIES

"In 2026, 60% of the world's population will have access to 5G coverage, with 5G subscriptions forecast to reach 3.5 billion. In India, 5G subscriptions will surpass 350 million, accounting for 27% of all mobile subscriptions in 2026," the report said. Bansal said that based on the reported timeline for spectrum auction for 5G services, he expects India to have its first 5G connection in 2021.

According to the report, India has the highest average traffic per smartphone user per month at 15.7 gb per month. "Low prices for mobile broadband services, affordable smartphones, and increased time spent by people online contribute to



monthly usage growth in India. Accordingly, total traffic is projected to quadruple in India, reaching 35EB (exabyte) per month in 2026,

Ericsson Mobility Report Editor and Head of Strategic Marketing Insights States Patrik Cerwall said. The report said LTE (4G) remains the dominant technology in India in 2020, account-

ing for 63 Low per prices for mobile broadband services, affordable smartphones, and increased time spent by people online contribute to monthly sage growth in India. Accordingly total traffic is projected to quadruple in India, reaching 35EB per month in 2026

PATRIK CERWALL I HEAD OF STRATEGIC MARKETING INSIGHTS, ERICSSON

cent of mobile subscriptions and 3G is expected to be phased out by 2026.

scriptions has increased to 760 million in 2020 in the country andis expected to grow at a CAGR of 7% to reach close to 1.2 billion by 2026.

OrissaPOST TUESDAY | DECEMBER 1 | 2020 | BHUBANESWAR

sports **GAMBHIR SLAMS KOHLI**

Former cricketer takes a dig at Indian skipper for giving Bumrah a two-over opening spell in the second ODI, calling it a 'tactical blunder'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 30: Former opener Gautam Gambhir feels India skipper Virat Kohli committed a tactical blunder that no other captain would. by giving his premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah just a two-over opening spell in the series-conceding second ODI loss to Australia in Sydney.

Gambhir, who has been pretty critical of Kohli's tactical acumen as captain, felt that the difference between the two sides so far was how Australian captain Aaron Finch handled his most successful pacer Josh Hazlewood in the first two ODIs that the hosts won easily.

"I find it difficult to comprehend that if you have a bowler of Jasprit Bumrah's calibre and you give him only two overs upfront. It's not a tactical mistake but a tactical blun-Gambhir said in ESPNCricinfo's 'Match Day Hindi'.

A five-over spell would have allowed Bumrah and Mohammed Shami to at least try and pick up two wickets upfront.

"I was expecting Bumrah and Shami to bowl five-over spells each upfront and tried getting a couple of wickets each. So, I don't think there is any captain in world cricket who would give Jasprit Bumrah, two overs with the new ball," Gambhir said as it is.

With all top three Australian batsmen-Aaron Finch, David Warner and Steve Smith - striking form at the same time, Gambhir feels that if any bowler had a chance of getting the trio out, it had to be Bumrah.

"Now Finch, Warner and Smith, the top three are in prime form and who has the best chance of taking their wicket? It's Jasprit Bumrah. And you give him two overs and bring him after 10 overs, when the ball is a tad old and it gets warmer and you expect him to get wickets in these conditions. He is human too.' He then cited the example of how Finch used Hazlewood in the first two games. "First game, Finch gave him six-over spell and second game a five-over first spell and six overs when Starc had a bad day. Hazlewood



has been the standout bowler." second) controlled the proceedings. Gambhir was impressed with how Australia's sixth bowling option as well. First match, Marcus Stoinis (the combination of Marcus Stoinis gave some 25 runs in 6 overs that he and Glenn Maxwell in first and bowled and that was done by Moises Henriques and Maxwell in Henriques in the second game. So



that's the difference you had.

'So, if your sixth bowler can give six to seven overs, then you don't need to bowl with a frontliner who is having an off day like Mitchell Starc. Imagine had Hardik not bowled those overs, what kind of pressure it would have been on Shami and Navdeep Saini," he said.

While Virat Kohli, with close to 11,500 runs and 43 hundreds, has a staggering record, Gambhir feels that Smith for all practical reasons isn't too far behind even if the numbers suggest otherwise.

"I don't think there is a lot of difference between Kohli and Smith. If you go by numbers, Kohli always gave better numbers than Smith but if you look at his (Smith) record, in the previous five or seven ODIs, he has had three hundreds, so difference is not much.

"He has scored 62 ball hundreds back to back. Obviously you will call Kohli, the greatest ODI player as per numbers but not much difference between him (Smith) and Kohli.

HAD A BAD DOSE OF VERTIGO, WASN'T SURE IF I WOULD PLAY, SAYS THE AUSTRALIAN Smith opens up on his doubts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Nov 30: Top Australian batsman Steve Smith has revealed that he suffered a 'bad dose of vertigo' ahead of the second ODI against India and was not sure of playing the game in which he struck a series-clinching hundred.

Smith's quick-fire 62-ball-100 propelled Australia to a mammoth 389 for four in the second ODI, which they defended easily to secure a decisive 2-0 lead in the ODI series Sunday.

However, the former skipper said he 'didn't look great there for a while'. "I didn't know I was playing today. I had a really bad dose of vertigo this morning and I was struggling until... I came down early to have a hit and a bit of a run around," Smith told 'cricket.com.au' after receiving his second successive Man of the match award.

Smith said it was team doctor Leigh Golding, who relieved him of the symptoms by performing Epley maneuver which involves a series

of head movements used to treat benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV), a condition caused by

WARNER RULED OUT WHITE-BALL SERIES

Sydney: In-form Australian opener David Warner has been ruled out of the remainder of the limited-overs series against India due to a groin injury that he suffered during the second ODI here, while top pacer Pat Cummins has been rested as part of his workload management. Warner, who scored 69 and 83 in the first two ODIs, hurt himself Sunday while fielding at the SCG in the second ODI which Australia won by 51 runs to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series. The dashing opener has returned home to begin his rehabilitation and will be looking to get fit ahead of the opening Test at Adelaide starting December 17. Left-handed batsman D'Arcy Short has been named Warner's replacement in Australia's white-ball squad. India and Australia will play one more ODI Wednesday before competing in three T20Is, starting Friday, followed by the much-anticipated four-match Test series.

a problem in the inner ear.

The doctor, I think he performed six Epley manoeuvres on me this morning and got the crystals out of my ears and I was struggling for a bit," he said. "Just pleased to be able to get out here and play another good innings and help the team.

Smith, who had scored 105 off 66 balls in the first ODI, shared a 138run partnership with Marnus Labuschagne before Glenn Maxwell smashed an unbeaten 63 off 29 balls to take Australia to a formidable total. Smith also took a superb catch to dismiss Shreyas Iyer during

'First-class cricket gives Oz advantage' in Tests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sydney, Nov 30: Australia's rising star Marnus Labuschagne believes that the home team will enjoy a slight advantage going into the Test series against India as most of its top order players will be coming in after having played a fair amount of first-class cricket.

Labuschagne has scored two hundreds in three Sheffield Shield matches. "It definitely helps to have

a few games under your belt just to get the pace and the timing of the game from T20Is to ODIs to multiday cricket," he replied to a query from this agency during a virtual media interaction facilitated by series' official broadcaster Sony.

The Indian players, who had played IPL and now ODIs, last played red-ball cricket in New Zealand and will only have two three-day games to get into the groove.

"But a lot of these (Indian) play-

ers we're talking about, they've been doing it for a long time, they're not new to the changes of format. I'd be surprised if they didn't shift back into gear very quickly.

"I will say that it's a slight advantage, four out of our top six have been playing Shield cricket and got that rhythm as a batting group.' With David Warner ruled out of

the last ODI as well as the upcoming T20 Internationals, Labuschagne won't mind a chance to open the innings if he is asked about it.

"Certainly, if I got asked to open the batting absolutely. It's an opportunity that I would enjoy taking. We'll wait and see how our team shapes up for the next game and see the balance of the side, but yeah, I would love doing it,' Labuschagne said. "My role at No.4 is just to read the situation of the game and play my role accordingly,"

Gunners fall short of bullets against Wolves.

he said.

4 Olympic-bound pugilists in TOPS

NEWS IN BRIEF

New Delhi: Four Olympic-bound Indian boxers - two men and as many women - have been included in the sports ministry's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), the SAI said Monday. Simranjeet Kaur (60kg), Pooja Rani (75kg) joined MC Mary Kom in the elite group. Ashish Kumar (75kg) and Satish Kumar (+91kg) have been included in a group which already featured Amit Panghal (52kg), Manish Kaushik (63kg), and Vikas Krishan (69kg) among the Tokvo-bound, Lovlina Borgohain and Kavinder Singh Bisht are also part of the core group.

Malan sets up T20I series win for ENG

Paarl (SA): England beat South Africa by four wickets in the second T20I Sunday to clinch the series as Dawid Malan hit 55 and captain Eoin Morgan took his team home in a low-

NEUFC unbeaten run continues



the resulting spot-kick. However, NEUFC's joy was shortlived. In the 43rd minute, Angulo's clever movement inside the box allowed him to guide Brandon Fernandes' low cross into the net. Brandon did well to beat Provat Lakra on the left flank with clever footwork before whip ping in the cross. Gerard Nus decided to consolidate his backline at the very beginning of the second half as Ashutosh Mehta was brought in the right-back position in place of Provat Lakra who had a shaky first half. The Spaniard completely shut shop as NEUFC defended in numbers in the entire second half. The Gaurs went all guns blazing on the Highlanders but failed to break their defensive organisation. The only major chance Goa got in the second half was in the 84th minute when Alberto Noguera shot hit the upright. Noguera received a pass from Jorge Ortiz from the right flank, took a touch and unleashed a shot with his left-foot which unfortunately did not go in. NorthEast moved up to the second position on the league table with two draws and a win in their first three matches, while Goa remained in the bottom half with no wins vet.







scoring game on a difficult pitch at Boland Park here. Morgan was 26 not out and his partnership of 51 with Malan for the fifth wicket was key in seeing England to victory and a 2-0 lead in the three-game series. England were chasing 147 to win and got there with a ball to spare. Earlier, Adil Rashid took 2/23 to restrict South Africa to 146/6. Quinton de Kock (30) was the top scorer for SA.

Investigators probing Maradona death

Buenos Aires: Argentine police searched the home and office of Diego Maradona's personal doctor as part of investigations into the death of the 60-year-old soccer star, which caused a wave of grief across the country. Reporters saw several police officers stationed at the door of the offices of neurologist Dr Leopoldo Lugue in Buenos Aires' Belgrano neighborhood. Court investigators have been taking declarations from Maradona's relatives, according to a statement from the San Isidro prosecutor's office. which is overseeing a probe into the medical attention Maradona received prior to his death Wednesday. It said investigators were trying to secure Maradona's medical records. Maradona died of a heart attack in a house outside Buenos Aires where he had been recovering from a brain operation November 3. He had suffered from a long series of medical issues, some related to overindulgence in drugs and alcohol.

Igor Angulo (No.17) celebrates FC Goa's equaliser with his teammates

AGENCIES

Goa, Nov 30: NorthEast United FC's (NEUFC) unbeaten run continued as they managed to hold FC Goa to a 1-1 draw in an ISL clash at the Fatorda Stadium, Monday.

"It happened in the first match

Idrissa Sylla had handed the Highlanders the lead in the 40th minute from the penalty spot but Igor Angulo's strike in the 43rd minute secured FC Goa a point.

The first half turned out to be an evenly poised contest with end-toend action. While FC Goa enjoyed more possession, NorthEast United depended on quick counter-attacks down the flanks.

The Highlanders came close to breaking the deadlock in the 34th minute when Sylla found himself a very convenient position to score from Britto PM's cross which got deflected off a Goa defender. However. the forward's header sailed over the crossbar.

Sylla made amends for his mistake in five minutes. He was brought down inside the box by Seriton Fernandes and allowed to convert

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 30: Wolverhampton beat Arsenal in an away match for the first time in more than four decades, winning 2-1 in the Premier League in a game overshadowed by a serious head injury to Wolves forward Raul Jimenez.

The 29-year-old Jimenez was taken away on a stretcher in the fifth minute and then to a hospital, after a collision with Arsenal defender David Luiz while both challenged for a corner from Willian.

Jimenez, a Mexico international, is conscious and talking, Wolves manager Nuno Espirito Santo said. He will undergo a scan.

"He speaks, he's aware. He's doing a scan," the manager said, adding that the team was still worried about Jimenez's situation. "Now we (will) have a proper assessment. But he's in good hands." Gunners manager Mikel Arteta

said Luiz never lost consciousness and went through all the necessary medical tests when a head in-

jury occurs

While Wolves players were visibly upset by the incident, they went on to take control of the match. Wolves opened the scoring in the 27th when Pedro Neto slotted in a rebound after Leander Dendoncker's header crashed off the crossbar and fell to Neto in the six-vard box.

Gabriel equalised for Arsenal three minutes later with a towering header as four defenders, including one pulling his shirt couldn't stop the Brazilian from scoring. Wolves made it 2-1 in the 42nd

when Daniel Podence took advantage of the rebound after goalkeeper Bernd Leno couldn't collect Neto's shot, which bounced off his legs for Podence to volley home.

It was the first away win for ২ Wolves against Arsenal since 1979, bringing the team up to sixth in the Premier League.

Arsenal, meanwhile, haven't won a Premier League game since November 1, when the Gunners beat Manchester United, and languish in 14th place.

Champions League: Real, Man Utd look to advance

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Nov 30: Talking points ahead of the penultimate round of group-stage games in the Champions League: **SPAIN**

A victory for Zinedine Zidane's Real Madrid at Shakhtar Donetsk will prevent qualification for the knockout stage going down to the final game.

Zidane is under increasing pressure to get his team playing like the one that won the Spanish league last season, when they dominated after competition resumed following a long stoppage because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The record 13-time European champion have only one win in their last four matches across all competitions — a 2-0 victory at Inter

Milan in the Champions League last week. Madrid lost 2-1 to Alaves in the Spanish league Saturday.

Eden Hazard has been left off the squad after he was substituted in the first half against Alaves for an apparent leg injury.

Shakhtar had an upset 3-2 win over Madrid in Spain in their first Group B encounter. Also Tuesday, Atletico Madrid host defending champion Bayern Munich, with the German lineup already in the last

16 as winners of Group A. Bayern routed Atletico 4-0 in Germany, Diego Simeone's team will advance if they beat Bayern and Lokomotiv does not beat Salzburg.

ENGLAND

Chelsea and Manchester City are already through to the knockout phase with two games to spare.



LEAGUE Now it's the turn of Manchester

United and Liverpool off the back of a challenging weekend in the Premier League.

Liverpool Tuesday host Ajax, with a two-point advantage on the Dutch club in Group D, with a packed program, fixture scheduling and James Milner adding to the injury headaches.

The 2019 European champions were stunned at home last week with a home loss to Atalanta. The visit of Ajax comes a day too soon for the return of up to 2,000 fans being allowed at Anfield.

Old Trafford will still be shut to supporters despite United hosting PSG Wednesday when the national lockdown end, with Manchester remaining in the highest classification of coronavirus restrictions.

United came from two goals down to beat Southampton on Sunday. It has a three-point lead in Group Hover PSG, last season's finalist which Ole Gunnar Solskiaer's side beat in Paris. ITALY

Juventus will be hoping for a good performance to shake off recent criticism. Coach Andrea Pirlo rested Cristiano Ronaldo Saturdav

but, even without their star player, Juventus should have beaten newly promoted Benevento in the Italian league. The defending Serie A champions were held to a 1-1 draw. Juventus have already quali-

fied for the knockout stage along with Barcelona from Group G and host Dynamo Kyiv Wednesday.

Lazio and Atalanta are also looking to the Champions League for joy after disappointing defeats in Serie A. Lazio can book their place in the round of 16 with a win at Borussia Dortmund Wednesday.

Atalanta follow up their Anfield success by hosting Midtjylland, which is last in Group D. Inter Milan won at the weekend though anything but a win at Borussia Monchengladbach in Group B on Tuesday will consign it to an early Champions League exit.

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159







