



BUSTING MYTHS

Actor Lara Dutta says she wants women at 40 to know that life is just beginning

LEISURE P2



'COLD WAR' SITUATION

Chinese President Xi Jinping warns that tensions in the Asia-Pacific region could cause a 'Cold War' mentality among nations

INTERNATIONAL P10



TRANS-TASMANIAN FINAL

Matthew Wade's blitzkrieg help Australia beat Pakistan by 5 wickets and set up a final date with New Zealand

SPORTS P12

TAUT AND SINEWY SHOW



Young participants perform a difficult routine during the National Yogasana Championships which kicked off at the Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Thursday (REPORT P3) PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

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Odisha IPS officer made full-time NCB chief

NEW DELHI/BHUBANESWAR: Satya Narayan Pradhan, a senior IPS officer from Odisha has been appointed as the full-time chief of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). The outgoing DG of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was appointed as the Director General of NCB on deputation basis till the date of his superannuation August 31, 2024 or till further orders. However, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) in a late Wednesday order appointed Pradhan as DG of NCB on a full-time basis. He will be relieved of his responsibilities as NDRF chief with immediate effect.

3 FROM ODISHA IN INDIAN TEAM



Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: Three players from Odisha have been selected to the Indian squad for the Junior Hockey World Cup beginning November 24 here. They are Abhishek Lakra, Sunil Jojo and Sudeep Chirmako.

THE SQUAD

Vivek Sagar Prasad (C), Sanjay (VC) Sharanand Tiwari, Prashant Chauhan (GK), Sudeep Chirmako, Rahul Kumar Rajbhar, Maninder Singh, Pawan (GK), Vishnukant Singh, Ankit Pal, Uttam Singh, Sunil Jojo, Manjeet, Rabichandra Singh Moirangthem, Abhishek Lakra, Yashdeep Siwach, Gurmukh Singh and Aranjit Singh Hundal.

They are part of the 18-member Indian squad who will defend their crown when the tournament gets underway November 24 at the Kalinga Stadium. The team announced by Hockey India Thursday will be led by Vivek Sagar Prasad. The junior colts will take on France on the opening day of the tournament.

No bandh: Orissa HC

Since the murder of school teacher Mamita Meher, the opposition parties in Odisha have been clamouring for the removal of MoS Mishra. The Congress also decided to get into the act with a bandh, but found the high court in the way

POST NEWS NETWORK



Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The plans of the Congress to have a six-hour bandh Friday was dashed by the Orissa High Court which said Thursday that the party can organise protests but should not inconvenience or disrupt public life. Earlier the Congress had called for a state-wide bandh over the increase in crime against women and the murder of school teacher Mamita Meher. The Congress said it will follow the court order and instead observe a 'hartal'. The Congress had given a call for Odisha bandh from 6.00am to 12.00 noon. However, Naresh Kumar Mishra, a Cuttack-based businessman, filed a petition before the high court Thursday morning challenging the bandh. Hearing the petition on an urgent basis, the Orissa HC directed the Congress not to implement the bandh forcefully. "In particular there shall be no attempt to forcibly close or prevent any lawful activity or any shop or establishment or prevent the plying of buses, trains and all forms of public or private transport," the court said in its order. The Congress said that it will observe a peaceful strike as per the court's directive. "Congress will observe a six-hour peaceful hartal Friday as per the high court order. Party members will not resort to any kind of violent activities or disruption to public life," spokesperson Satya Prakash Nayak said Thursday. President of the Odisha unit of Congress, Niranjan Patnaik meanwhile appealed to the public to support the 'hartal' in the interest of the people of Odisha. To counter the Congress move, the Odisha government has asked all employees in the state capital to reach office by 9.30am Friday. Special Secretary (Home), Santosh

Bala has advised secretaries of all departments to ask staff to reach their respective offices by 9.30am to facilitate their smooth entry.

Meanwhile the BJP held an intellectuals' meeting and youth members hit the streets in Bargarh and attempted to gherao the SP's office. Many BJP leaders, including the president of Odisha BJP Yuva Morcha, Irasish Acharya, were detained by the police after a scuffle during protest march. "Diby Shankar Mishra is directly involved in the murder of Mamita Meher. We therefore, demand his resignation as soon as possible. The police cannot suppress us through arrest," Acharya asserted. Meanwhile the BJD said that Congress has become the B-team for the BJP and is dancing to the tunes of the saffron party. "The Odisha Congress has become the B-team of the BJP. Due to its weak financial position, it appears that the Congress is dependent on sponsorship from the BJP for its activities," said BJD spokesperson Sasmit Patra.

Curtains down on ATMA scheme soon

Less than a week back, the Centre had informed the state that it would discontinue DRDA scheme from April 1, 2022

POST NEWS NETWORK



Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: After deciding to discontinue the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) programme, the Centre has planned to stop grants for Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) scheme being implemented in each district of Odisha, sources said Thursday. The Ministry of Agriculture has written to the Odisha government and advised the latter to not engage field-level employees under the ATMA scheme for the 2021-22 fiscal. The Ministry of Finance has decided to stop grants for Sub-Mission on Agricultural Extension (SMAE) from 2021-22 fiscal till 2025. Thus, it would not be possible on the part of the Ministry of Agriculture to grant funds for ATMA, said the letter. The Agriculture Ministry has also asked the state government to reduce the size of employees engaged under the scheme. With an objective to bring sustainable development in agriculture, the ATMA scheme was launched as a pilot project in Odisha and six other states in the 2005-06 fiscal. In the initial years, the Centre provided 90 per cent of funds for ATMA while the states contributed 10 per cent. However, the BJP government had revised the cost sharing formula to 60:40 in 2014. Now, with the Centre is planning to stop the grants altogether for ATMA, it will be impossible for the state government to run the scheme.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We can't let that comedian perform here! But you are free to host Kangana ji!

Lazarus will be 1st Indian layman to get sainthood

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 11: Devasahayam Pillai, a Hindu converted to Christianity in the 18th century, will become the first Indian layman - a non-ordained member of the Church - to be conferred sainthood. Pope Francis will canonize 'Blessed' Devasahayam Pillai, together with six other 'Blessed' persons, during a Canonization Mass in St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican May 15, 2022, church officials informed here Thursday. The announcement was made Tuesday by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints at the Vatican. With the completion of the process, Pillai, who took the name 'Lazarus' after embracing Christianity in 1745, will become the first lay person from India to become a saint, the church said. 'Lazarus' or 'Devasahayam' in the local language, means 'God is my help'. "While preaching, he (Lazarus) particularly insisted on the equality of all people, despite caste differences. This aroused the hatred of the higher classes, and he was arrested in 1749. After enduring increasing hardships, he received the crown of martyrdom when he was shot 14 January 1752," the Vatican said in a release. He was declared 'Blessed' December 2, 2012, in Kottar, more than 300 years after his birth. Lazarus was born April 23, 1712, into a Hindu Nair family at Nattalam in Kanyakumari district, which was part of erstwhile Travancore kingdom.

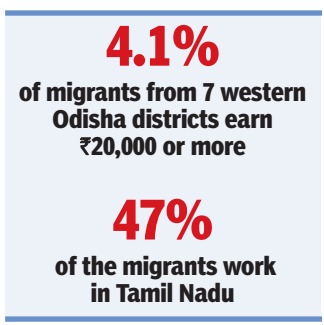
Western Odisha migrants fail to contribute

In many parts of India, it has been noticed that migrants contribute to the overall development of a particular city or district with their remittances. This is however, not the case in some districts of Odisha

PNN & AGENCIES

Sambalpur, Nov 11: The living condition of migrants' family members in western Odisha has not improved at all even as remittances sent by them is considered a pillar of economy for many households, according to a study. A major part of the remittances are used for household consumption only, the 'Centre of Excellence

Regional Development' and 'Tribal Studies of Sambalpur University' has revealed in its recent survey. It has been observed that there are households that invested the remittances on education, children, purchase or lease of land and also healthcare, said professor Arun Kumar Acharya, the nodal officer of the centre. During the study, interviews were conducted in 394 households in the seven districts of Bargarh, Sambalpur, Bolangir, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Subarnapur and Deogarh. The study showed that remittances sent by the migrants of western Odisha have not contributed much for the improvement of the household living conditions and human development,



Acharya informed. The report revealed 19.8 per cent of the migrants earn around ₹10,000 per month and 58.6 per cent earn around ₹10,000-15000 per month. Very few migrants - 4.1% earn more than ₹20,000. So they cannot contribute much for their families.

Plea for exams in hybrid mode

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 11: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking directions to the CBSE and the CISCE to issue a revised circular for conducting the ensuing Class X and XII board examinations in hybrid mode instead of offline mode only amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The plea, filed by six students who would be appearing in the board examinations, alleged that the entire exercise of the boards in conducting the term one or semester one examinations in offline mode only is 'patently unreasonable'. As per the date sheet announced by the CBSE, the term one board exams would commence November 16. Semester one of the board ex-

amination of the CISCE would commence November 22. The plea, filed by advocate Sumanth Nookala, said the ensuing exams be conducted in hybrid mode with an option to choose between offline and online examinations. "Consent assumes significance as exams directly relate to the mental health of the petitioners requiring a conducive and voluntary atmosphere to ensure a fair assessment. It is common knowledge that the third wave of Covid-19 is predicted," the plea said. The plea claimed that the proposed current system of offline examination is 'fraught with bad planning and lack of application of mind' which will further adversely prejudice the students.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	59919.69	↓ 433.13
NIFTY	17873.60	↓ 143.60
DOLLAR	74.30	↓ ₹0.09
EURO	85.23	↓ ₹0.15
GOLD	₹49,230	↑ ₹376
SILVER	₹66,782	↑ ₹904

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	27.7°C	28.0°C
TEMP MIN	21.0°C	20.0°C
Humidity	70%	75%
Rainfall	3mm	Nil

Forecast: Dry weather very likely



Kangana's 'freedom' remark irks many

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 11: She has done it again and she has again kicked off a firestorm. Actor Kangana Ranaut's statement that India attained 'real freedom' in 2014, when the Modi-led government came to power and the country's Independence in 1947 as 'bheek' or alms irked many with politicians across the spectrum, including BJP MP Varun Gandhi reacting with outrage. BJP's Philbit MP shared a video of Kangana's comments made at an event Wednesday. In the 24-second video, Kangana says India's Independence in 1947 was not freedom but 'bheek' (alms). "And we got real

freedom in 2014," she added with many in the audience clapping. "It is an anti-national act and must be called out as such. To not do so would be a betrayal of all those who shed blood so that today we may stand tall and free as a nation," Gandhi said in his tweet in Hindi. "People can never forget the infinite sacrifices of our freedom movement and the millions of lives lost and families destroyed. Belittling it all in this 'shameless manner' cannot be

condoned simply as a careless or callous statement. "Sometimes an insult to the sacrifice and penance of Mahatma Gandhi, sometimes showing respect to his killer and now this disdain for the sacrifice of millions of freedom fighters... Should I call this kind of thinking madness or treason?" the Lok Sabha MP asked. Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Preeti Sharma Menon said she had submitted an application to the Mumbai police requesting action against

Ranaut for her 'seditious and inflammatory statements under Sections 504, 505 and 124A'. "Hope to see some action. @CPMumbai @DGPMaharashtra," she tweeted. Kangana's Twitter account has been suspended for quite some time now. But Thursday she became trending favourite topic on the social media platform. Eminent historian S Irfan Habib wrote, "Shamelessness is abysmal." Actor Swara Bhasker wondered about those who were heard clapping at Kangana's comments. "Who are the idiots who are clapping is what I want to know," wrote Bhasker, who has worked with Kangana in the film 'Tanu Weds Manu'.

This is not the first time that Kangana has rubbed people the wrong way with her remarks. She had earlier compared Mumbai to PoK prompting a Shiv Sena backlash

leisure



RUST TRAGEDY: NEGLIGENCE SUIT AGAINST ALEC BALDWIN

Serge Svetnoy, the gaffer working on the set of *Rust*, has filed a negligence suit in court against actor Alec Baldwin and others. Film's cinematographer Halyna Hutchins had died of a gunshot wound when a firearm being used by Baldwin during a shoot accidentally discharged what turned out to be a live bullet.

SQUID GAME ECLIPSES GAME OF THRONES

Netflix's South Korean sensation *Squid Game* has eclipsed HBO's juggernaut *Game of Thrones* on YouTube, attracting a staggering 17 billion views across a spectrum of long- and short-form videos, according to the content analytics firm *Vobile*.



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ARIES
You probably have a big circle of friends, and though most of them may be casual friends, they may sometimes prove to be favourable. They may help you overcome some dejections. It will also help you figure out the importance of the role friends can play.

TAURUS
You have an easy carefree day ahead. There will be no woes or worries, says Ganesh. But to will be inclined to take up too many things at one time, more than you can handle. This may, in turn, get you stressed and uptight. You are advised to be practical and not to overdo things. If you do get into a fix, a moment's reflection will show you that you alone are to be blamed. Try to be realistic and reasonable.

GEMINI
You will tend to be religiously inclined today, feels Ganesh. For this purpose, you may spend some time visiting a temple, mosque or church. You are also likely to go shopping, and chances are that this too is for a religious purpose. May God bless you, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Ganesh predicts an excellent and exceptional day for you at work. You are likely to need all your business acumen while negotiating deals. Your leadership skills are likely to come to the fore during the final stage of a deadline. Be it about completing an order or launching new products and marketing them, says Ganesh.

LEO
Today may not be the best time to mess with you, considering the aura of invincibility that you possess. Be it a game, a competition, or an argument, you will have the edge over others in every sphere, says Ganesh. Also, you may come across people with whom you will have personal differences, and those who will try to change your fortunes. The best way to deal with them, according to Ganesh, is to be patient and play the waiting game.

VIRGO
Ganesh feels that today may be an important turning point in your life. You will look to secure the money much required for your bright future. Relationship matters will top your priorities during the afternoon today. You may also feel the need for spirituality, so try your hand at meditation and yoga.

LIBRA
Today is an important day for you, and you will learn a lot from your life partner. Even on the work front, business partners will extend their best possible cooperation to you. Your chances of winning in cut-throat competitions are very bright today, predicts Ganesh.

SCORPIO
There is nothing more enchanting and alluring to you than some passionate time with your love interest. The only problem that Ganesh sees here is that there may be too many love interests. Your chosen partner, though, may get to see a different side of you in the evening. The Scorpio in you can make anyone fall on their knees, begging for your love. Today, this side of you shall be dominant. Professionally, you will be able to resolve nagging issues.

SAGITTARIUS
According to Ganesh, money is likely to slip-off your hand easily today. Try to wave off unnecessary expenditure. The entire day is spent managing funds, while the evening brings a lot of positive energy with it. You prefer to sit back and relax.

CAPRICORN
Your grand orchestration may not come to fruition, and even your best-laid plans may go awry, says Ganesh. Squabbles with people over petty issues will add to your growing vexation; keep calm and you'll handle all of it just fine.

AQUARIUS
Finally, you've decided to clean up the mess! And you will do a fine job, whether it's your workspace, your bills, your finances, or even your closet. And now that you're inspired, you might as well sort out your mental clutter too, chuckles Ganesh.

PISCES
Financially, you have bright prospects awaiting you today. You will be able to deal with the mind-numbing financial jugglery required to take stock of your monetary matters with precision. You might be dealing with people who secretly have an axe to grind against you, cautions Ganesh.

Lara says life begins at 40

MUMBAI: Actress Lara Dutta, who delivered an impressive performance in *Bell Bottom* earlier this year, wants women at 40 to know that life is just beginning.

Stories with women at the centre have been on the rise in Indian entertainment. While that is cause enough for celebration, it is noteworthy that the parts written today are braver and far from conventional. Lara is set to ride this wave with *Hiccups & Hookups*, Lionsgate Play's first Indian original.

The slice-of-life series is an adaptation of the popular American show, *Casual*, and revolves around a pair of siblings who navigate the world of dating, love and separation. With the November 26 release, director Kunal Kohli takes another step forward in shattering the in-

dusty's ageist ways. "I play a woman at the crossroads of life who is separating from her husband at 40, trying to raise an opinionated teenage daughter while foraging into online dating and finding love again. It was exciting to explore this role. Today, the roles being written for women are layered and showcase various aspects of life," states Dutta, who shares screen space with Prateik Babbar.

AGENCIES



CINEMAS TRAVERSING ON PATH TO RECOVERY

SOORYAVANSHI ENTERS ₹100CR CLUB IN 5 DAYS

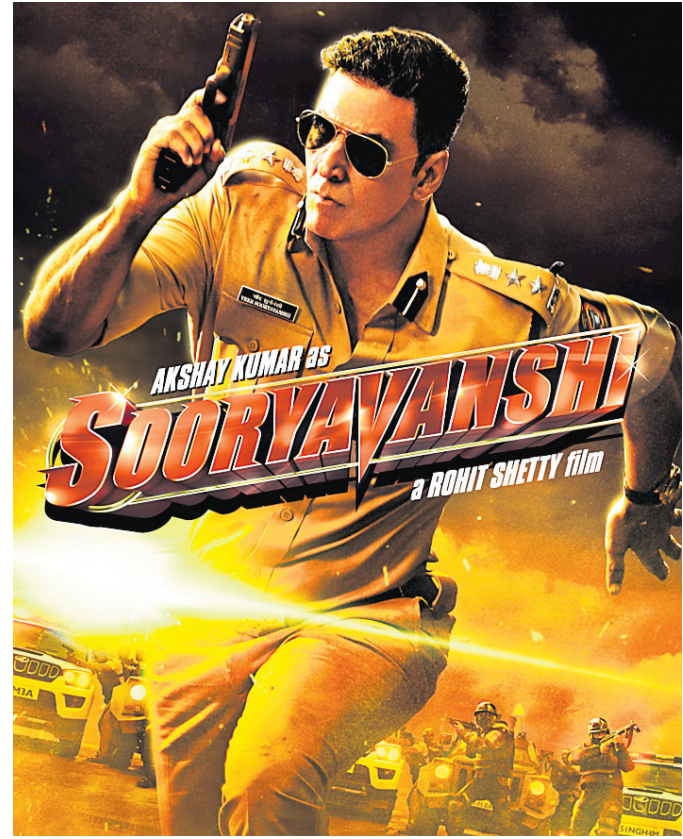
MUMBAI: Stakes were at an all-time high for the film industry with director Rohit Shetty's *Sooryavanshi* releasing in theatres during Diwali.

The film has paid off and how! The Akshay Kumar and Katrina Kaif-starrer crossed the ₹100 crore mark in just 5 days as a part of its India business.

Sooryavanshi is Shetty's ambitious addition to his cop universe. The film had suffered multiple setbacks in the past 18 months owing to the theatre shutdown and civil restrictions. But, it has managed to rake in impressive numbers, restoring people's belief in the medium of cinemas.

Ranveer Singh, who has an extended cameo in the film along with Ajay Devgn, took to his Instagram to share a special video dedicated to the director. He captioned the video, "THE BOSS! @tsrohishetty #sooryavanshi"

The film is Rohit Shetty's 9th century at the box-office, grabbing the third spot after *Simmba* and *Singham Returns*, to become the fastest ₹100 crore grosser. IANS



Malvika wants Kareena to watch her Squad

MUMBAI: Actress Malvika Raaj became famous for playing the younger version of Kareena Kapoor Khan's character 'Poo' in the film *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*.

A grown-up Malvika is now making her debut as a heroine in *Squad*. She says she wishes Kareena watches her movie.

Malvika said: "Since it is my first film as a leading lady, it would be such a joy for me if she watches the film and post about it on social media. I love her, and am a big fan. People still recall me as a young 'Poo' of *K3G*. So I am wishing and keeping my fingers crossed if I see a post from Kareena on my film!"

Squad, shot in Belarus, revolves around saving a child and the tussle between two forces.

Produced, directed and written by Nilesh Sahay, the movie also features Rinzing Denzongpa, Pooja Batra, Mohan Kapur, Amit Gaur, Tanisha Dhillon, and Dishita Jain and releases Friday on ZEE5. IANS

Art expo in City to help out artisans



BHUBANESWAR: Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi, in collaboration with Odia Language, Literature and Culture department, organised an art exhibition here at Buddha Art Gallery in Niladri Bihar, Thursday.

Akademi's former secretary Jagdish Kanungo inaugurated the event in the presence of present secretary Panchanan Samal and other senior artists including Sushant Kumar Singh Samant, Subrat Mohanty and Prashanti Samal. As many as 145 paintings



Art aficionados take a look at the paintings

OP PHOTOS

Plans are afoot to organise more such exhibitions across the state, revealed Lalit Kala Akademi Secy Panchanan Samal

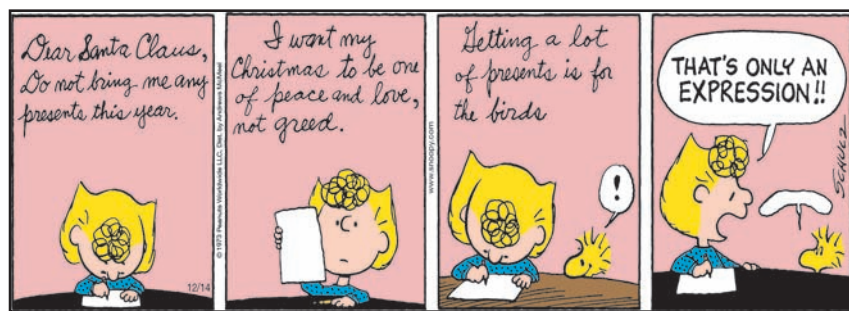
were displayed on the occasion. The exhibition is open to the public till November 16.

The Akademi has decided to sell the paintings both online and offline.

The proceeds will be used for the welfare of the needy artisans.

"Plans are afoot to organise more such exhibitions across the state so that art lovers can purchase works of their favourite painters without difficulties and needy artisans can be benefited", says Samal. PNN

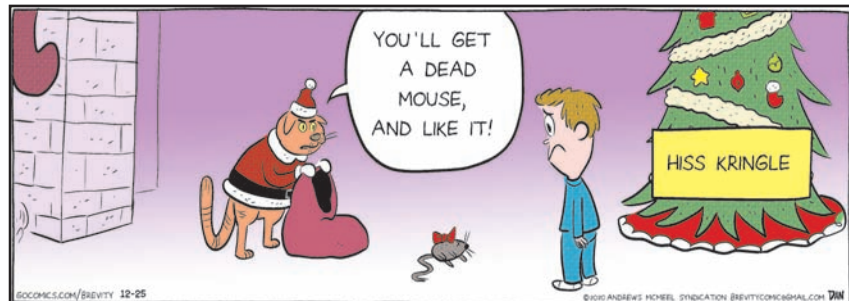
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

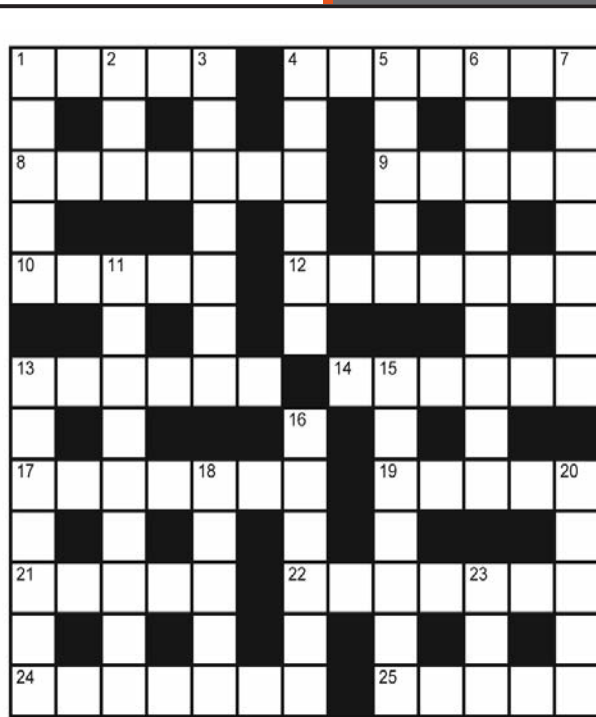


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Ancient Mexican
 - 4 Heebie-jeebies
 - 8 Former German coin
 - 9 African river
 - 10 Poetic Muse
 - 12 Really old
 - 13 Spanish rogue
 - 14 Devil rays
 - 17 Oath
 - 19 Unpunctual
 - 21 Listing
 - 22 To the point
 - 24 Sparrow hawk
 - 25 Appealed
 - 6 Kitchen gizmo (3-6)
 - 7 Pixies
 - 11 Pizza additions
 - 13 Exhortation, of sorts (3,4)
 - 15 Lobster part
 - 16 Eraser holder
 - 18 Bury
 - 20 Traffic sign
 - 23 Squid's squirt
- Down**
- 1 Sufficient
 - 2 Make fast
 - 3 Honesty
 - 4 Puzzle type
 - 5 Pick-me-up

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

6		4			7			
7	1	9			3			
2			6			8	4	
2								
4		7			8	3	5	
5				9		6	1	
9	3							
					4		9	8

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

R	I	P	O	F	F	S	E	C	H	O
O	Y	L	P	N	A	M				
U	N	A	B	A	S	H	E	D	R	O
G			G	I		M	D			
E	Y	E	S	A	N	G	F	R	O	I
	N	T	X	O	N	L				
S	A	L	L	O	A	R	R	I	V	E
L	I	N	P	A	R	C				
A	G	G	R	E	G	A	T	E	A	R
L	H					R	R			U
O	P	T				T	A	R	N	I
M	E		A			O	E			O
	O	N	Y	X		T	U	S	K	E

SUDOKU

4	2	5	3	9	7	6	8	1
3	1	9	8	6	2	7	4	5
8	6	7	5	1	4	3	2	9
5	9	1	7	8	6	4	3	2
7	4	3	1	2	5	9	6	8
2	8	6	9	4	3	1	5	7
9	3	4	2	5	1	8	7	6
6	5	8	4	7	9	2	1	3
1	7	2	6	3	8	5	9	4

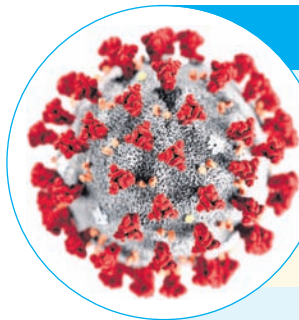
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



NOBLE DEED

A blood donation camp organised by the Bhubaneswar Bar Association and the Commissionerate Police underway in the Capital, Thursday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	25,23,75,636	22,83,74,908	50,92,455
India	3,44,01,670	3,38,00,925	4,62,189
Odisha	10,44,699	10,33,652	8,370

Crorepati OPHWC babu suspended

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: Odisha State Police Housing & Welfare Corporation (OPHWC) Ltd CMD Sanjeeb Panda Thursday suspended the deputy manager Pratap Kumar Samal, who was arrested by the Vigilance Wednesday for possessing properties disproportionate to his known sources of income. The OPHWC sources also revealed a list of previous illegal activities and misdeeds involving Samal. He was earlier suspended January 16, 2001 for execution of sub-standard work and negligence in duty in respect of construction work of rest room-cum-toilet at Simulia & Soro along with other works in Balasore and Bhadrak.

The OPHWC had also initiated a departmental proceeding against Samal June 8, 2016, for 'unauthorised construction of second floor of the ladies hostel at Prison Academy Jamujhari' here. The Vigilance was also requested by OPHWC to probe into the matter 12 July, 2017, through its letter (310/CON/OPHWC/Dt.12.07.2017). The OPHWC bore a loss worth ₹193.76 lakh due to the unauthorised construction. "The recovery order was issued for ₹24,860/- against Sri Pratap Kumar Samal during his incumbency as Dy Mg at Bolangir under Bhawanipatna Division for unadjusted Material Transfer Notes in respect of Police Station Building at Khandapara, Nayagarh vide letter Dt.21.06.2017," revealed OPHWC. Samal had faced another departmental proceeding for misbehaving with a Chief Engineer December 8, 2006. Samal and his wife reportedly possessed 27 immovable properties. The Vigilance sources claimed that its technical team valued the assets at ₹14.88 crore which is more than 1,000 per cent of his known legal sources of income. Samal had invested money in local film industry, it was learnt. Sources revealed that Samal and his wife Sasmita had produced two Odia flicks - *Bazi* (2001) and *Nari Akhira Nia* (2003). Samal was one of the executive producers of *Bazi* while Sasmita was the producer for both the movies.

Konark Fest to kick off Dec 1

POST NEWS NETWORK

Konark, Nov 11: The Tourism department is all set to hold the Konark Festival and International Sand Art Festival from December 1 to 5 here with adherence to Covid protocols. Tourism department Principal Secretary Surendra Kumar made the revelation during a preparatory meet at Yatri Niwas here Thursday morning.

The Konark Festival, which will be held at the open air auditorium in the backdrop of the majestic 13th century Konark Sun Temple here, will offer visual treat to the audience through classical dance performances. "Leading dance exponents and enthusiasts of almost all classical dance forms of India, including Odissi, Bharatanatyam, Manipuri, Kuchipudi and Kathak, will take part in the five-day mega dance carnival that will be held from 6:30pm to 8:30pm," Kumar said. Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi, in association with Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre, has selected the artistes for the classical dance.

The International Sand Art Festival that will be held at Chandrabhaga beach here will see participation of acclaimed artists from across the globe. "Under the guidance of acclaimed sand artist and Padma awardee Sudarsan Pattnaik, the participating artists will showcase sand sculptures at 30 dedicated stalls on the beach from 10am to 9pm. It will be a crowd puller," Kumar added. The concluding day of the mega event will witness a literary meet and art expo near the open air auditorium from 9am to 4pm December 5. The Tourism department in association with Konark Sahitya Sansad will host the programmes.

SC to hear Vamsadhara dispute virtually Dec 8

HIGHLIGHTS

A three-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant and Vikram Nath will hear the petitions on virtual mode December 8

Senior advocate Jayant Bhushan, appearing for Odisha, Thursday told the court that number of technical experts are assisting both states in this case and, thus, they need a lot of links for virtual hearing

The SC holds daily proceedings via virtual mode Monday and Friday and regular physical mode Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday



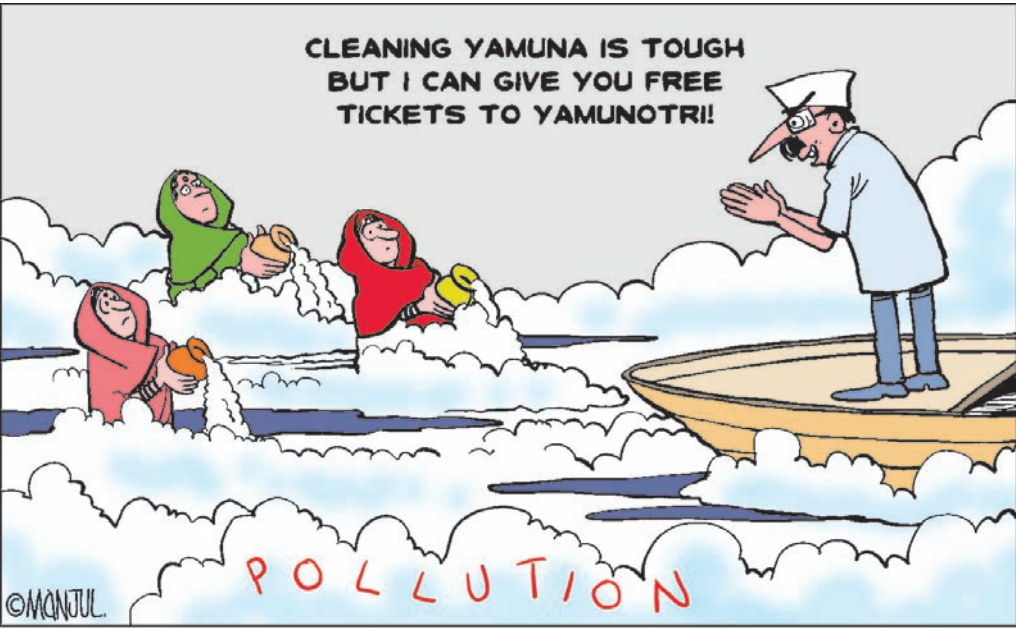
POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Supreme Court will conduct virtual hearing of a batch of petitions filed by Odisha against the order of Vamsadhara Water Dispute Tribunal allowing Andhra Pradesh to construct Neradi barrage. A three-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant and Vikram Nath will hear the petitions on virtual mode December 8. During Thursday's hearing, senior advocate Jayant Bhushan, appearing for Odisha, told the court that technical experts are assisting both states in this case and, thus, they need a lot of links for virtual hearing. Bhushan pleaded before the

court to hear the case on a virtual hearing day. "Technology is a great enabler. We will provide the links. We have no difficulty at all. If you're comfortable, we are also comfortable," the bench observed. Significantly, the Supreme Court holds daily proceedings via virtual mode Monday and Friday and regular physical mode Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Earlier, Andhra Pradesh had filed an affidavit in response to the Odisha's petition against the order of the tribunal. It contended that Odisha's petitions are conceived and no case is made out for the interference of the apex court. The southern state also pleaded that the tribunal has considered all objections raised by Odisha and has

gone by reports of the experts and the oral evidence and documents in support of its conclusion and there is no infirmity in the same. The court had observed September 24 that such inter-state disputes should be disposed of at the earliest and posted the matter for final disposal after Diwali vacations. Significantly, Odisha had earlier filed two petitions in the SC challenging the order of Vamsadhara Water Dispute Tribunal and also opposed the joint survey of the Neradi barrage as directed by the tribunal. In June this year, the tribunal had permitted Andhra Pradesh to construct Neradi barrage across Vamsadhara river with ancillary structures. The tribunal had said that the barrage can have a Right Head Sluice (RHS) of 8,000 cusecs of design capacity for meeting the requirements of Andhra Pradesh and a Left Head Sluice (LHS) to cater to the requirements of Odisha below the Neradi barrage. The cost of LHS is to be borne by Odisha. The tribunal had ruled that when there is shortage of water in a particular year, the sharing of water should be proportionately reduced. When there is an increase in water availability, it is to be increased proportionately. The distress sharing formula for the river basin is to be applicable for total utilisation by each state, it said. Aggrieved by this, Odisha had filed another special leave petition in the apex court.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



MeT predicts light rain for four days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: Some parts of the state are likely to receive light to moderate rainfall during next four days under the influence of a fresh low pressure area (Lopar) to form around November 13, said the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Thursday. The Lopar is likely to form over south Andaman sea and neighbourhood and then, the system is likely to move west northwestwards and become more marked during subsequent 48 hours. As per IMD, light to moderate rain would occur in some parts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kandhamal, Nuapada, Bolangir, Sonepur, Boudh, Nayagarh, Kalahandi, Cuttack, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri and Khurda districts, Friday. Similar weather condition will continue to prevail in the state till November 15.

Cong dancing to the tunes of BJP: BJD

BJD spokesperson Sasmit Patra says Mamita's family is satisfied with the probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: Slamming the Congress for its plan to hold a state-wide protest Friday, the ruling BJD Thursday alleged that Congress is dancing to the tunes of Odisha BJP. Speaking to reporters here, BJD spokesperson Sasmit Patra said, "It is clear that the Odisha Congress has now become the B-team of the Odisha BJP. Due to its weak financial position, the Odisha Congress' activities seem to have got sponsorship from Odisha BJP." As sponsorships are not without conditions, it is obvious that the state Congress is dancing to the tunes of the BJP, he alleged. The BJD leader said Covid-19 pandemic for over the past two years has devastated the lives and livelihoods of scores of people. On Mamita Meher case, he said, "The family has lost a bright and budding talent and we are all saddened by this incident. The family has requested everyone not to politicise this case and they are satisfied with this investigation. Still Congress seems to be joining hands with the Odisha BJP to do dirty politics over this case."

Cong for SIT probe into Mamita murder

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Congress party Thursday held demonstrations in the national capital demanding constitution of a special investigation team (SIT) under the supervision of Chief Justice of Orissa High Court for an impartial probe into Mamita Meher murder case. The members of Odisha Youth Congress held demonstration at Jantar Mantar here and demanded removal and arrest of Minister of State, Home, Dibya Shankar Mishra. National in-charge of Indian Youth Congress Krishna Allavaru and Cuttack Barabati MLA

Mohammad Moquim also took part in the demonstration. The Cuttack Barabati MLA warned that the protests would be intensified into a mass public movement, if Mamita doesn't get justice. He also said that people of the state want removal of Mishra from the Cabinet to ensure fair investigation into the murder case of the Kalahandi school teacher but the BJD is not willing to do so. State Youth Congress president Smruti Ranjan Lanka said the party would submit a memorandum to President Ram Nath Kovind on the issue Friday.

He alleged that the Congress party's intention is not justice for the victim but cheap politics in staying relevant within their party and in the good books of Odisha BJP, so that it would continue to sponsor the state Congress. Patra dared the Congress leaders to move the court, if they have any evidence in this matter. The Rajya Sabha MP further said the party does not want to raise issues of people's interest anymore such as

price rise, unemployment, farmers' agitation and others. "Instead, it wants to do whatever Odisha BJP asks it to do," Patra maintained. The BJD urged the Congress to withdraw its bandh call scheduled for Friday. "People of Odisha do not want a bandh. They want to go to work and earn their livelihood. Odisha Congress should not deprive the people of their right to earn a living," he added.

Gangapur in country's top 3 police stations

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 11: Gangapur police station in Ganjam district has found a place in the best three police stations in the country for the year 2021. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has conducted a survey in this regard. Union Home Minister Amit

Shah will felicitate Gangapur IIC during a meeting of DGPs and IGPs at Lucknow Nov 19



Shah will felicitate the Inspector In-Charge of Gangapur police station during a meeting of DGPs and IGPs at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh November 19, sources said.

FIRST-EVER NATIONAL YOGASANA SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP KICKS OFF IN CAPITAL CITY Bid to make Yogasana heritage sport brand

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: India's first physical National Yogasana Sports Championship kicked off here Thursday. Organised by the National Yogasana Sports Federation (NYSF) in association with the Odisha government, the championship will continue till November 13. It began with a vibrant and enthralling opening ceremony in the presence of 560 young athletes aiming high for 50 medals in a uniquely designed competition. NYSF chief Udith Sheth said, "We want to make Yogasana India's heritage sport brand. The structure of the championship for Yogasana as a sport has been uniquely curated." "We are gratified with the huge participation from all over the country. It is truly an experience to be in the presence of such talented athletes, coaches and experts. We hope to take Yogasana sport on to the global stage," he added. Secretary General of NYSF, Jaideep Arya, said health and fitness should



The inaugural ceremony of 2nd National Yogasana Sports Championship 2021 in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

be of utmost priority and there is no better discipline than yoga. "Reinventing Yogasana as a sport is a path-breaking idea for creating more fruitful relevance for the youth across the globe. At NYSF, we have com-

mited our efforts towards promoting Yogasana and maintaining high standards in the competitive sport," he said. Sports and Youth Services department Secretary R Vineel Krishna said,

"We value sports and make an honest effort towards promoting fitness. Yogasana is one of the finest mediums of fitness, wellness and I am delighted that a world-class platform has been collated to promote it among the youth of India and the globe." R VINEEL KRISHNA | SPORTS AND YOUTH SERVICES SECRETARY

"The event has been conceptualised with the aim to create a global brand of Yogasana as a competitive sport and support India's vision to make Yogasana a sport with an Olympic roadmap.

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Odia entrepreneur bags Global Indian award



Arun Kar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: London-based Odia entrepreneur Arun Kar has bagged the 'Global Indian of the Year Award 2020-21' held by international magazine - ASIA ONE and United Research Services (URS) in recognition of his London-based multi-national digital innovation company 'Xpertnest'.

His company also won many prestigious awards including Guinness World Record, Most Impactful Company of the Year 2021 in DotCom magazine, Company of the Year for Smart City Solutions in the prestigious CIO Review (2019), the finalist at the UK's National SME Awards 2020 - Business Innovation Category. In 2019, Arun was honoured with the Young Entrepreneur Award for his valuable contributions to the Odia society in London. Arun is also an official member of Forbes Business Council, and featured on International Media like Mobile World Congress, Telegraph, BBC and Smart City Expo.

Arun said, "The qualities of courage, determination and leadership were imbibed while serving in the Indian Army have given me the confidence to embark on large-scale projects. The confidence I have drawn from the armed forces has also helped me deal with the hurdles of running a business."

The turnover has increased by over 25 times and the Nest group of companies now employs over 100 people in Britain, Europe, the Middle East and India.

Akash Pathak faces ED grilling in jail

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Thursday grilled Akash Pathak, son of dismissed IFS officer Abhay Kant Pathak, who was accused of duping several job aspirants of lakhs of rupees by impersonating Senior Managing Director of Tata Motors (Passengers Division).

A team of three ED officials questioned Akash in special jail at Jharpada here. He was earlier brought from Jharsuguda Jail to Bhubaneswar following ED request.

Akash, along with his father, was arrested by the Vigilance sleuths in a disproportionate assets case November 27 last year.

Another case has also been registered against him by the state

crime branch on the basis of a complaint filed by the authorities of Tata Motors who accused Akash of cheating as many as 124 individuals by pretending to be the MD of the company.

The District & Sessions Court here had earlier allowed the ED officials to question Akash over the illegal money transaction between him and his father, Abhay. The ED officials had recently grilled his father too. The vigilance sleuths found during investigation that several crores had been deposited into Akash's bank account by Abhay.

Meanwhile, former MLA Pardeep Panigrahi and his daughter, who were also summoned by ED, have sought more time from the Central agency for personal appearance.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION



Adhyapak Biswaranjan addressing the 3rd Maa Rama Devi Memorial Lecture at RD Women's University in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

CB to investigate ₹7L cyber fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The state Crime Branch Thursday took over the investigation into hacking of Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) CEO Manoj Kumar Pattnaik's phone number and fraudulent withdrawal of ₹7 lakh from his friends' accounts.

Pattnaik, also the additional secretary of State Electronics and Information Technology (E&IT) department, had lodged a complaint with Saheed Nagar police who registered a case (454/21) Wednesday. The case was taken over by the Crime Branch under the rule PMR-410(A) Thursday.

Additional DG of Crime Branch Sanjeeb Panda also deputised the DSP of BC, RC Dora, to investigate into the matter.

Dora along with other officials reached OCAC Thursday and started the investigations.

Encroachments razed for Smart Janpath Project

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: Paving way for smooth implementation of Smart Janpath Project, a joint eviction drive was carried out near the City railway station here Thursday by Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL), Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) and Commissionerate Police.

Apart from ensuring smooth traffic movement on a crucial road connecting Master Canteen Square with Bhubaneswar Railway Station, the drive would make way for 'Public Realm' (space) for the Smart Janpath Project by providing cycle track, pedestrian lighting, buffer zone for ornamental plantation and sitting arrangements for the denizens.

During the eviction drive, 23 polythene and bamboo shed shops, 28 fast food push carts and 32 mobile fruit vending stalls and other



sheds were demolished despite stiff resistance from the vendors. Two enforcement squads each from BDA and BMC, one from BSCL and police force led by Kharavel Nagar police station inspector in-charge were deployed.

The eviction drive, carried out under the direction of the Managing Director and CEO of BSC -cum-BMC Commissioner and BDA Vice-Chairman Sanjay Kumar Singh, was also monitored by General Manager of BSCL Kamaljit Das, Manager (Engineering) BSCL Pradeep Singh, Assistant Commissioner

(Enforcement) BMC Lilan Sahoo and enforcement officer BDA Pramod Patra, among others.

It can be mentioned here that the eviction process was stalled for various reasons on four occasions in the past. However, with the MD and CEO of BSCL emphasising on a more focused and decisive approach to Smart Janpath Project, things have started moving faster, said sources.

Recently, the encroached portions in front of Hotel Jajati and near Tarini temple were razed.

The development of Smart Janpath, of late, has drawn the at-

FOR A SWANKY LOOK

During the eviction drive, 23 polythene and bamboo shed shops, 28 fast food push carts and 32 mobile fruit vending stalls and other sheds were demolished despite stiff resistance from the vendors

Two enforcement squads from of BDA, two squads from BMC, one from BSCL and police force led by Kharavel Nagar police station inspector in-charge were deployed

tion of the public with the Smart Kiosks giving a distinct look to major thoroughfares of the City.

Also, with addition of public plazas and extension of the walking and cycling tracks, and pedestrian lighting arrangements, the project components have added to the beauty of the landscape, which is having its natural green cover as well.

2-day police remand for KBN gang members

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The SDJM court Thursday allowed the Commissionerate Police to take four accused of the Town Tiger or KBN gang on two-day remand. The police had sought the permission of the court for seven days' remand.

The accused Suman Kumar Parida, Rajesh Kumar Behera alias Chenga, Sanatana Behera alias Sania and Rahul Jena, are currently lodged in Jharpada Jail here.

The police had arrested seven members of the gang while two others surrendered before the court Tuesday. The gang members were seen roaming around the city brandishing sharp weapons and firearms late in the night.

Meanwhile, the Malgodown police in Cuttack grilled six youths and a woman for shooting a video brandishing swords and guns. The weapons in the viral video were found to be fake, police said.

NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY

'NEP-2020 a departure from traditional policy'



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 is a departure from the traditional education policy or thinking of Indian education system, said Prof of Education, School of Education, IGNOU, New Delhi, CB Sharma while addressing a webinar on 'Indian Education System and NEP-2020' organised by Central University, Koraput Thursday.

The Central University of Odisha, Koraput organised the webinar as part of the observance of National Education Day-2021, marking the birth anniversary of freedom fighter and independent India's first Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Inaugurating the webinar, the Vice-Chancellor in-charge of the Central University, Sharat Kumar Palita, highlighted the contribution of Maulana Azad towards laying a strong edifice for Indian education system during his decade long stint as first Education Minister. Maulana's focus on technical education and creating institutions like IITs, IISc, Indian Council of Cultural Relations and emphasis on women education were some major contributions which later reflected in the National Education Policy 2020.

Mohammad Miyan, former VC of Maulana Azad National Urdu

University (MANU), highlighted the contributions of Azad towards universal education. Quoting his words, Miyan said, "We must not forget that it is the birth right of every individual to receive at least basic education. Without it she/he cannot fully discharge her/his duty as the citizen of the country."

He highlighted the key features of NEP and reiterated that education system was not uniform earlier. However, the New Education Policy 2020 can provide quality education to the people of the country.

Prof of Education, School of Education, IGNOU, New Delhi, CB Sharma highlighted the objectives of different commissions on education constituted time to time. He said, "NEP 2020 is a departure from the traditional education policy or thinking of Indian education system. The thoughts of Maulana including professional education, women education and universal education have been reflected in the New Education Policy 2020."

He hoped that by adopting NEP-2020, the nation will be highly developed. He remarked that quality education is the education that best fits the present and future of the learners and that higher education requires special emphasis which has major role to play in determining the quality of life and the pace of development of a nation and the world as a whole.

ACTION AGAINST ENCROACHERS



Vending stalls being removed from Puri beach during an eviction drive by the civic authorities, Thursday

Up to ₹52 lakh one-time grant for stray animals' welfare

SPEAKING IN THE WORKSHOP, AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' EMPOWERMENT MINISTER ARUN KUMAR SAHOO EMPHASISED THAT THESE SCHEMES WILL PAVE WAY FOR PROVIDING WELFARE OF THE STRAY ANIMALS IN THE STATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The state Fisheries & Animal Resources Development department held a workshop Thursday at Krushi Bhawan Auditorium here, and revealed the launch of new schemes providing adequate safeguards for stray animals.

The schemes will be implemented in close coordination with the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), District Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), voluntary non-government organisations involved in animal welfare activities, and state Animal Welfare Board.

The schemes are intended to provide financial assistance to an-

imal welfare organisations towards capital infrastructure support for setting up of Goshalas (cattle shelter houses) preferably in the urban areas for supporting the stray cattle issue in the ULBs.

The state government will provide one-time capital grant ranging from ₹16 lakh to ₹52 lakh based on the capacity of the Goshala. The proposals under the scheme are to be submitted to the Chief District Veterinary Officers (CDVOs) in each district.

The scheme will be implemented by State Animal Welfare Board through the District Society for veterinary hospitals, clinics, healthcare infrastructure, operation theatre, equipment, vehi-



cles for transportation of animals, and construction of kennels and shelter houses for sick and abandoned animals.

Eligible voluntary organisations can avail financial assistance for multiple components subject to an overall ceiling of ₹50 lakh.

The state government will provide one-time capital grant ranging from ₹16 lakh to ₹52 lakh based on the capacity of the Goshala

The proposals under the scheme are to be submitted to the Chief District Veterinary Officers (CDVOs) in each district

Eligible voluntary organisations can avail financial assistance for multiple components subject to an overall ceiling of ₹50 lakh

The government will also support voluntary organizations involved in animal welfare to strengthen

their infrastructural facilities so as to provide veterinary health services and shelter homes for stray, abandoned and destitute animals.

Under these schemes, the Animal Birth Control Programme and the Animal Helpline will be strengthened and implemented in major urban locations including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri, Sambalpur, Angul, Jagatsinghpur, Baripada, Berhampur, Balasore, Bhanjanipatana, Rourkela and Jajpur.

Speaking in the workshop, Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo emphasised that these schemes will pave way for providing welfare of the stray and destitute animals in the state.

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SHORT TAKES

Leopard hide seized, two held

Deogarh: A team of forest officials Wednesday afternoon seized a leopard hide following a raid at a location near Brahmanipali (Nuasahi) village under Reamal forest range in Deogarh district. According to a senior official, two persons have been arrested in this connection. The traders of animal body parts were identified as Prahallad Parida from Kusakhalia village under Kundheigola police limits and Pandav Pradhan from Similipata village in the district. The special team headed by Deogarh divisional forest officer (DFO) Khyama Sarangi got information from reliable sources that the two were negotiating with different parties to sell the leopard hide. Swinging into action, the team conducted a raid and caught the two persons red-handed leading to the seizure of the hide and arrest of the duo. During a thorough search, several incriminating instruments were also seized from the possession of the accused.

Ganja seized from ambulance



Bhadrak: Ambulances meant for providing conveyance to patients needing emergency healthcare services are being used by ganja smugglers as a safest means of transport. Such novel way of carrying out contraband trade came to the fore in Bhadrak when police seized 50 kg of ganja from an ambulance in Bhadrak Thursday. Police have detained two people including the ambulance driver. Police said, they got a tip-off that contraband is being transported in an ambulance from Cuttack to Bhadrak. Police were on guard at Bant Chhak. They intercepted the ambulance and on examination, ganja was found. Further investigation into the matter is on, police said.

CREATIVE PURSUIT



Girl students performing a skit themed on patriotism at the block level children's festival 'Surabhi-2021' in Gunupur area of Rayagada district.

WRONG SURVEY ON CROP LOSS AND UNSETTLED CLAIMS IN SAMBALPUR

HC asks Collector to settle issue by Jan

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 11: The Orissa High Court has directed the Sambalpur district administration to resolve the issues related to crop insurance claims of farmers in Kuchinda. The farmers in the area had suffered crop loss due to erratic rainfall and pest attacks in 2018. A joint survey had allegedly failed to properly assess the loss in some areas. Farmers had moved the HC in this connection. A two-member HC bench comprising Chief Justice SK Muralidharan and Justice SK Panigrahy heard the case. They have directed Collector Subham Saxena to resolve the issues of the crop insurance by January 2, 2022. The HC order stated that the district administration, the affected farmers and the insurance company (Reliance) should hold a tripartite meeting to settle the issues. The HC has also asked the district administration to report to it about the decision to be taken in the meeting.



It may be noted here that paddy crop was damaged in most parts of the district in khariff season in 2018 owing to insufficient rainfall, unseasonal rains and pest attacks. After repeated demands from the farmers of the affected areas, agriculture, the revenue and the statistics departments had conducted a joint survey on the crop damage. In the report, it was stated that crop damage was less in irrigated area than that in the non-irrigated area. After assessment of the crop damage, the insurance company announced to pay ₹168 crore. Later, a committee surveyed the loss again and showed lesser damage of crops. Thereafter, the company refused to pay the claims as announced earlier.

Sore over the decision of the company, farmers had staged protests, road blockades and observed Kunchinda bandh. They carried on agitation for 100 days while various social and political outfits supported the agitation of the aggrieved farmers. Later, the pandemic put an end to their agitation. The administration and the insurance company did not take steps to clear the insurance claims of the affected farmers. Sushant Kumar Patel, a local resident on behalf of a farmers' outfit, moved the High Court in this matter.

Farmers have welcomed the HC order while Collector Subham Saxena said the issues will be settled by January, 2022. It is said that over 40,000 farmers in Kuchinda sub-division have been affected by the crop loss. The affected farmers will receive nearly ₹100 crore towards insurance claims.

Naveen unveils 142 transformed schools

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday dedicated 142 transformed high schools in five districts to the people of Odisha. The high schools have been equipped with modern infrastructure and facilities under the 5T initiative and School Transformation Programme. In the first phase, 1075 schools in 30 districts have been transformed of which 50 in Hinjili constituency have been inaugurated. Remaining 1025 will be unveiled before November 24. On the first day of the seven-day inaugural events, Naveen unveiled 67 transformed schools in Sundargarh, 30 in Cuttack, 23 in Balasore, 10 in Kandhamal and 12 in Nabarangpur. The Chief Minister attended the programme virtually and interacted with students and parents of the transformed schools. "Schools lay the foundation and build the country's future and the

society's future. There is a saying that children constitute one-third of our population, but all of our future," the CM observed while interacting with the children. Stating that school time is one of the most important times in a child's life, he said, "I want the children of my state to take the lead in all fields including sports and music and bring glory for the state." Today, schools in rural areas have an environment like the city's best private schools. Another important thing is that the state government has reserved 15 per cent of seats so that students in government schools can realize their dream of becoming a doctor and engineer, the CM said. "After the motherland and the family, school is our biggest identity. I am confident that you all will be able to convert this identity as the glory of the state," he added. Students from five districts interacted with the Chief Minister on this occasion. Secretary (GT) VK Pandian moderated the event.



Job fraud in Kalahandi: Police detain three

Bhawanipatna: Police detained three persons on charges of swindling money from unemployed youths on the promise of jobs in Bhawanipatna, Thursday. Reports said, these youths ran a placement agency in a rented house in the town here. The agency allegedly lured youths on promise of providing them data entry operator and office executive jobs. The youths used to secure a deposit of ₹5,000 from each job aspirant. It was alleged that instead of giving the applicants jobs, the agency provided them with training on multi-level marketing (MLM) and network marketing. Following complaints, police raided the agency office and detained the three people.

Youth gets 20-yr RI for raping minor

Jeyapore: The POCSO court in Koraput district found a 23-year-old youth guilty of raping a minor girl and handed out 20 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) to him. The court has also imposed a fine of ₹10,000 on the convict, identified as Bipin Suna. The court said that Suna, if fails to pay the fine, will undergo additional six months of imprisonment. According to proceedings of the case, Bipin Suna of Badaliguda under Koraput Town police station limits had raped a 15-year-old minor girl at Sukia Dangar hill February 10, 2019, while she was on way to Koraput to buy a dress. The survivor revealed her ordeal to her parents. The latter lodged a complaint at Koraput Town police station. Koraput Town police arrested Suna. The court has ordered for payment of the fine to the victim after collecting it from the convict. The court also ordered the District Legal Service Authority to provide financial assistance of ₹1 lakh to the victim.

UNRESOLVED R&R ISSUES OF KANPUR MEGA IRRIGATION PROJECT

Oustees warn of panchayat poll boycott

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, Nov 11: Acquisition of land for Kanpur mega irrigation project in Joda area of Keonjhar district started in 2004. Yet the process is far from over. Scores of displaced people have allegedly been suffering without rehabilitation and resettlement. Many of them live in miserable condition under polythene covered shanties. Upset over the government apathy towards their plight, they have decided to boycott the panchayat elections. According to reports, for the last three decades, construction of the mega Kanpur irrigation project across the Baitarani river has been continuing. The project is said to be the second largest dam in the state. Displacement has been a major issue for the people in the area. For development of the state, hundreds of people have sacrificed



their interests by leaving behind their homeland and farmland. But many issues related to their rehabilitation and resettlement have not been settled till date. Hence, it has become a cause of resentment among people. As many as 16 villages in the area have been identified as submergence zone of the irrigation project while three villagers have been partially affected by it. Residents who have been shifted from submergence-prone zone, de-

cried the government's apathy over years in the matter of R&R and compensation issues. "We have been neglected by the government. We have left everything for the project," said oustees like Jagannath Tiria, Arjun Behera, Tama Behera, and Dillip Nayak. All of them are from Chamakpur, Ravensahpur (A) and (B), which have been among the complete submergence zone. Others like Santosh Das and Kuni Das have expressed same dissatisfaction over their unresolved issues. They added that the state government has not yet cleared the dues which were raised in 2012 as part of the compensation to the displaced people. "Moreover, we have not been provided homestead land and farmland as per the provision laid in the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act-2006," they pointed out. In 2013, the youths aged above 18 years have not been enlisted as oustees. The administration without conducting a proper survey of the affected area, has forcibly removed people in 10 villages. After eviction, villagers are living under polythene sheets, braving rains and cold. "We are in a miserable condition. As long as we do not have villages to live in, we will not vote. The upcoming panchayat polls will be boycotted," they fumed. Chamakpur sarpanch Narahari Nayak has confirmed about this decision of the oustees.

Collector reviews dvpt in Bonda Ghati

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Nov 11: On backdrop of the state government's focus on development of Malkangiri district, Collector Vishal Singh made a surprise visit to Bonda Ghati Thursday and reviewed the progress of various developmental works. Singh inspected a high school for Scheduled Tribes at Mudulipada panchayat. He took stock of the staff strength, existing infrastructure and role of teachers. Later, he left for the office of the Bonda Development Agency where he assessed the strength of staff, functioning of the office and utilization of funds. He interacted with locals to understand their problems. He directed officials of various departments to ensure that Bonda tribals do not face problems in all sectors - education, road connectivity, livelihood, drinking water and electricity. But various issues of Bonda tribals have not been resolved in the area, it was alleged.

Major facelift for Ramachandi shrine

APART FROM THE SHRINE, THE TOURISM DEPT WILL DEVELOP DADARAGHATI DAM INTO A TOURIST SPOT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Nov 11: Famous 'Shakti peetha' Maa Ramachandi shrine and Dadaraghati dam in Dhenkanal district will get all facilities essential for a tourist spot. For the infrastructure development at these two sites, the district tourism department has submitted a proposal entailing a spend of ₹2.17 crore to the state government, it was learnt. Maa Ramachandi shrine located on the bank of the Brahmani river near Nadhara village under Odapada block, 45 kilometres from the district headquarters, is one of the famous tourist spots in the district. On the occasion of Makar Shankranti, the spot witnesses a huge gathering of devotees coming from far and near. This apart, tourists in good numbers



through the spot throughout the year. The natural beauty and the tranquil atmosphere are a fascination for tourists. Once they reach here, they just allow themselves to soak in the tranquillity. What makes them disappointed is that the spot is devoid of ancillary infrastructures and facilities. Because of this, the tourists are facing a lot of difficulties at the shrine. Keeping this in view, for the construction of an approach road, special community toilets, rest room, a parking facility and platforms (pindi) for picnic, the dis-

tribut tourism department has submitted a proposal to the state government, seeking approval for an amount of ₹1.15 crore. Nestled in the lap of nature, Dadaraghati dam comes alive during the tourist season. The main attraction of the spot is the presence of winged guests. The entire area gets reverberated with the chirping of these birds from October. Once here, tourists cannot deny themselves getting immersed in the picture postcard scenes and capture the short-lived moments in their mobile phones. If the tourists are lucky, they can enjoy watching elephants playing their hearts out in water on the other side of the dam. Like the Maa Ramachandi shrine, here too platforms (pindi) for picnic, rest house, watch towers, toilets, parking centre, an approach road, a bore well and an overhead water tank are to be constructed. For this, a proposal of ₹1.2 crore has been sought from the state government. In this regard, district tourist officer Jagadish Ray said for infrastructure development at Maa Ramachandi shrine and Dadaraghati dam, proposals for ₹2.17 crore have been submitted to the government. Once sanctioned, construction work will be started, he added.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
Office of the Executive Engineer
Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjanagar
(Phone / Fax: (06821) 241133 / E-mail: eembngnr@yahoo.in)
Ltr. No. 9426/Dtd.08.11.2021
No.B-592:- INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
E-Procurement Bid Identification No. E.E.-BNJ-R&B-18/2021-22

1 Name of work	: 10 Nos. of works
2 No. of works	: Ten No. Building works
3 No. of covers	: Single Cover
4 Estimated cost	: Rs. 8.92 to 31.57 lakhs
5 Period of completion	: Four to six calendar months
6 Date of time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 12.00 Noon of dated 20.11.2021 to 5.00 P.M. of dated 29.11.2021
7 Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal	: Upto 5.00 P.M. of dated 29.11.2021
8 Date of opening of bid documents	: At 11.00 A.M. of 30.11.2021
9 Class of contractor	: 'D' to 'B' Class Contractor
10 Name and address of officer inviting bid	: Executive Engineer, Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjanagar

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://tendersodisha.gov.in). The addendum/ corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only.
Sd./- Executive Engineer, Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division
OIPR-34015/11/0011/2122

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KHARIAR
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.05/EE MIDKHR/2021-22
e-mail ID: eemidivision_khariar@rediffmail.com
No.A-601:- No.1731 Dt.08.11.2021

1 Name of the work	: Construction of Civil Work under M.I. Division, Khariar
2 No. of works	: 03 (Three) Nos.
3 Estimated cost	: Varies from Rs. 7.00 lakhs to Rs. 12.00 lakhs (Approximately)
4 Cost of tender paper	: Varies from Rs.4000/- to Rs.6000/- (Non-refundable)
5 Class of contractor	: 'C' & 'D'
6 Period of completion	: 02 calendar months
7 Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal	: From 15.11.2021 (10.00 A.M.) to 24.11.2021 (5.00 P.M.)
8 Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 24.11.2021 (5.00 P.M.)
9 Date of opening of bid documents	: On dt.25.11.2021 at 10.00 A.M. in the Office of the Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Khariar
10 Date of lottery (if required)	: 29.11.2021 at 11.00 A.M.
11 The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the e-procurement portal	: http://tendersodisha.gov.in
12 Digital Signature Certificate of bidder	: The bidders must possess Compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)
13 Name & address of the Officer Inviting Tender	: Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Khariar, A/P.O.: Khariar, Dist.- Nuapada, PIN- 766107, Ph.No.- 06671-224284, Email ID: eemidivision_khariar@rediffmail.com

"Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place. <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>"
Sd./-Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Khariar
OIPR-32090/11/0005/2122

You take up the spiritual path only when you feel you cannot do otherwise.

THE MOTHER



US-China conflict

US President Joe Biden's economic and foreign policies may represent a sharp departure from those of his predecessor, Donald Trump. But when it comes to relations with China, Biden has largely maintained Trump's tough line – refusing, for example, to reverse Trump's tariff hikes on Chinese exports and warning of further punitive trade measures.

This reflects the widespread hardening of US attitudes towards China. When Foreign Affairs magazine recently asked leading US experts whether American "foreign policy has become too hostile to China," nearly half of the respondents (32 out of 68) disagreed or disagreed strongly – suggesting a preference for an even tougher US stance toward China.

For economists, who tend to view the world in positive-sum terms, this is a puzzle. Countries can make themselves and others better off by cooperating and by shunning conflict.

The clearest application of this principle is the gains from trade that countries achieve – the bread and butter of professional economists. It is generally in each country's benefit to open its domestic markets to others. But the same idea extends also to policy domains where there could be tensions between domestic and global interests. Yes, countries could pursue beggar-thy-neighbor policies, such as restricting access to home markets to improve their terms of trade, or free ride on global public goods such as decarbonisation policies. But wouldn't it be better if they refrained from such actions so they could collectively all do better?

Geopolitical strategists, by contrast, tend to see the world instead in zero-sum terms. Nations compete for power – the ability to bend others to their will and pursue their interests unhindered – which is necessarily relative. If one country has more power, its rival must have less. Such a world is necessarily conflictual, as great powers (the United States) or rising powers (China) jockey for regional and global dominance.

In a recent article, John Mearsheimer of the University of Chicago provides a forceful articulation of this view. Mearsheimer was among those in the Foreign Affairs survey who disagreed strongly with the proposition that US policy may have become too hostile toward China. "All great powers, be they democracies or not," he writes, "have little choice but to compete for power in what is at root a zero-sum game."

"Realist" theorists of international relations such as Mearsheimer and my Harvard University colleague Stephen Walt are clearly correct when they argue against the "liberal" presumption that open markets in the US and rules-based multilateralism would produce a China that looked "more like us." The American policy of engagement with China, pursued until the Trump administration took over, may have helped China grow richer, but it made the country neither more democratic nor less likely to compete for power and influence.

But does a China with a decidedly different economic and political system and strategic interests of its own imply inevitable conflict with the West? Perhaps not. The realists' argument about the primacy of power hinges on assumptions that need to be qualified.

First, while states may prioritise national security and survival above all else, there is a big gap between meeting these narrower objectives and maximizing power. The US would be secure from annihilation or invasion even without a military presence on every continent. The historian Stephen Wertheim has argued that the expansionist vision of US foreign policy has always competed with a more restrained approach, misleadingly and dismissively labeled as "isolationism." China's territorial integrity will remain uncontested even without saber rattling vis-à-vis neighbours. Beyond a baseline of security, the pursuit of power competes with other national goals, such as domestic economic prosperity, that require less bullying on the world stage.

Finally, it is also true that uncertainty and the risk of misperceiving other states' intentions complicate prospects for international cooperation among great powers. Purely defensive measures – whether economic or military – are likely to be perceived as threats, cumulating through a vicious cycle of escalation. But this problem, too, can be mitigated to some extent. As Walt and I have argued, what might help is a framework that facilitates communication and encourages mutual justification of actions that may be misinterpreted by the other side.

Mearsheimer is skeptical that creative institutional design can make much of a difference. "The driving force behind (US-China) great-power rivalry is structural," he writes, "which means that the problem cannot be eliminated with clever policymaking." But structure does not fully determine equilibrium in a complicated system where the definition of national interests, the strategies pursued, and the information available to actors are all dependent on our choices to some extent.

The structure of great-power rivalry may exclude a world of love and harmony, but it does not necessitate a world of immutable conflict. It does not preclude any of the myriad alternatives that lie between these extremes. Structure is not destiny: We retain the agency to craft a better (or worse) world order.

The writer, Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, is president of the International Economic Association.

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WISDOM CORNER

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong.

ELLA FITZGERALD

Two roads diverged in a wood and I - I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.

ROBERT FROST

WORDSWORTH

Captology

This word captology is still relatively unusual outside a group of researchers in the Persuasive Technology Lab at Stanford University. The group studies the theory and design of the ways computing technology can be used to influence people. If you think that sounds a bit Big Brotherish, you are not altogether in error. The emphasis is on influencing people for good, for example to encourage healthy living or improve road safety, but the group is aware such methods could just as well be used for baser ends, such as persuading you to buy things, or to hand over personal data that could then be misused. To that end the group, led by Professor BJ Fogg, is also studying the implications of the unreasoning trust that many of us put into computers because they are wrongly thought of as being unaffected by human agency. The word was coined by Professor Fogg in 1996 as a partial acronym – from the initial letters of Computers As Persuasive Technology – together with the ending -ology for a field of study.

FOCUS INDIA'S AFGHAN SCRIPT

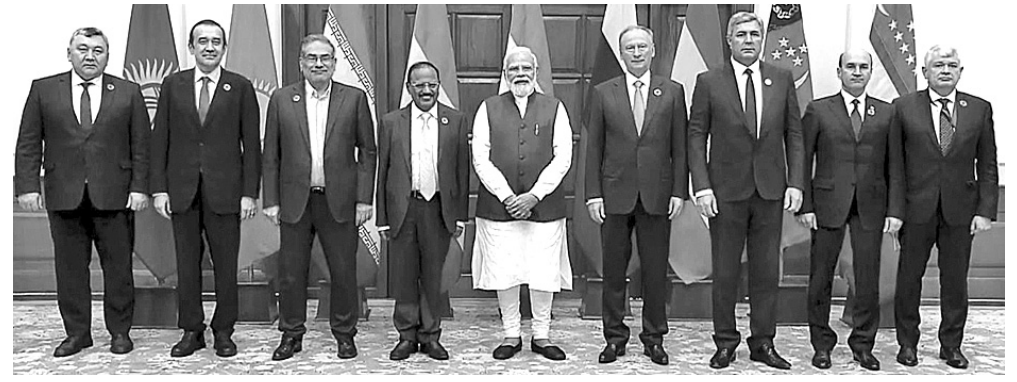
PUSHING FOR A ROLE

On 10 November, New Delhi sought to write a new script for the ongoing drama in Afghanistan. The attempt underscored New Delhi's desire to secure a role in the ongoing power-play in the war-torn country. It is a moot point if the Directors of the play will allow a role to New Delhi. It will perhaps partly depend on how well the script was drafted. In all the plays enacted so far, New Delhi has had marginal roles. At any rate, the New Delhi's exercise in the name of Third Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan chaired by Indian NSA provided the backdrop for New Delhi's future role in Afghanistan.

As expected, there are various perspectives on the consultation held in New Delhi on Afghanistan. Sampling a couple, Bharat Karnad, security and political commentator, said to Al Jazeera, "The meeting in Delhi was a way of alerting everybody to India's stake and India's interests in Afghanistan". He underlined the point that, this was a way of New Delhi saying, "We too have a stake and a role in Afghanistan and making that aspect clear to the world."

The seven-country country consultation was attended by the National Security Advisers/Secretaries of the National Security Councils of the Republic of India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan. Unsurprisingly, the other two major stakeholders, India's arch rivals, Pakistan and China did not participate although they were invited.

There was no participation by any representative of Taliban government in Kabul. They were not invited. Inviting them would have amounted to recognising the Taliban government, which New Delhi has not done so far. In fact, the relations between India and Afghanistan are in a suspended animation, since New Delhi evacuated its diplomatic staff from Kabul just before the US withdrew its forces. New Delhi did, how-



On the significance of the meeting, there are few points of speciality. This is the first-of-its-kind dialogue that focused on security-related issues and is distinct from Foreign Ministry-led talks. Furthermore, this is also the highest number of countries taking part in this format

ever, held its first official meeting with a Taliban representative in Qatar August 31.

About the meeting in New Delhi, the Taliban government spokesman said in a rather satirical tone, "The Islamic Emirate is not worried about such meetings but hopes to facilitate good cooperation." He assured that "the security and economic development of Afghanistan is in favour of its neighbouring countries". We in India hope that is the case although it is hard to believe, given Taliban's actions in the country and outside with countries like Pakistan which has been the mother of terrorism at our borders.

On the significance of the meeting, there are few points of speciality. This is the third meeting of the process; the first two editions were hosted by Iran in 2018 and 2019. But this is the first meeting of the security heads of the participating countries that India has hosted since the Taliban took over in August after dislodging the government of President Ashraf Ghani. This is also the first-of-its-kind dialogue that focused on security-related issues and is distinct from Foreign Ministry-led talks. Furthermore, this is also the highest number of countries taking part in this format.

On the deliberations in the meeting in terms of who said what; weighty, strategic statements were

made by the participants. Indian NSA, Ajit Doval, said, "These (de-liberations) have important implications not only for the people of Afghanistan but also for its neighbours and the region. This is a time for close consultation amongst us and greater cooperation, interaction and coordination among the regional countries".

Sounding somewhat a discordant note, the Russian representative Nikolai P. Patrushev said multiple dialogue mechanisms "should not complicate" the unfolding situation in the Taliban controlled Afghanistan. While praising the role of various regional dialogue mechanisms that have been framed so far, in order to deal with the political situation in Afghanistan, he appeared to favour, the Moscow consultation, which had 'broad participation' by all sides. He was obviously alluding to participation by China, Pakistan and Taliban government.

At the end of the meeting, a joint statement called the 'Delhi Declaration' was issued. Thanks to the management of the meeting, the declaration was based on a consensus. The Declaration contained 12 clauses pointing to various wishes and objectives like "collective co-operation" against terrorism and drug trafficking in the region, "concern over the deteriorating socio-economic and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan", the "need to pro-

vide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan" and so on.

Given the divisions existing in the country on ethnic lines, exacerbated by the advent of Taliban into power, the Declaration emphasised that the assistance should be provided in an "unimpeded, direct and assured manner" and that the help should be distributed across the country "non-discriminatorily across all sections of the Afghan society".

Significantly, 4 out of 12 clauses referred to terrorism, radicalisation, extremism, separatism and drug trafficking. It urged an inclusive government, underlined the critical role of the United Nations, protection of fundamental rights of women, children and minorities, the urgent need for humanitarian assistance and the inclusive manner of its distribution, assistance to fight COVID-19, and reiteration of the spirit of dialogue on Afghanistan and related issues.

By most parameters, the meeting was a success. New Delhi got in the groove on Afghanistan, but surely, it is a bit late in the day. However, since we have great stakes in Afghanistan, let us compliment the GOI with the dictum, "better late than never".

-INFA

The writer is Professor of International Politics, JIMMC.

SPECTRUM HUNGER

Food security during pandemic

Availability, accessibility, stability, and utilisation of food for a country like India with over a billion people is far bigger a challenge than it seems. To successive governments, ensuring food security of its citizens has been of paramount importance. However, the long-cherished food security of India is threatened by COVID-19 pandemic. For food security to be viable, four criteria such as availability, accessibility, stability, and utilisation of food should be met. India's food security programme was laid bare by the pandemic in several ways. The poor and most vulnerable sections of the society were the most affected. The suffering was further exacerbated by the brittle living conditions of over 10 crore migrant workers whose income was uncertain and were eating out of their savings. Although there was sufficient buffer stock of food grains (58.4 million tonnes) and pulses (3 million tonnes) as of March 1, 2020, the stock of other commodities that comprises 78% of the total food consumption such as vegetables and fruits, meat, eggs, sugar, and milk were in short supply. Besides, the existing socio-economic inequality was even more highlighted by COVID-induced fall in incomes and loss of livelihood

of migrant labourers, poor and tribal households. As per the World Bank report on "Food Security and COVID-19", the Agricultural Commodity Price Index (ACPI) as of July 16, 2021, was approximately 30% higher than in January 2020. Retail prices of wheat, maize, and rice shot up almost 12%, 43%, and 10% respectively above their January 2020 levels. All in all, reduced income and livelihood uncertainties, combined with retail inflation, supply chain disruption (caused loss of income for traders and farmers) and increasing health expenditures suggest that the nutritional status of households, especially the poor and migrants is adversely affected. In India, the impact is more skewed towards low-income states like Odisha. Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) almost 80 crore Indians are getting free and subsidised ration as of 2021. However, ground reality can be a stark contrast.

Death or ailments of an earning member of a family induced by the pandemic can contribute to the food insecurity and reduced nutritional status of millions. For instance, Lahoti et al. (2020) through a telephone interview of 5,000 households conducted across 12 Indian states observed that 77%

households had less amount of food to consume than before and 66% conveyed loss of employment. Similarly, the Centre for Equity Studies (2020) through a survey observed that only 38.9% out of 547 respondents stated that during the lockdown they were not completely out of food stock but reported that their food intake was reduced.

Global hunger index (GHI) reports that India is abode of the most number of undernourished people. Almost 189.2 million Indians are undernourished, which is about 14% of the entire population. Among the undernourished, 20% children below the age of 5 years are underweight (stunted) and 51.4% women are anaemic in their reproductive age (15-49 years). Each year the GHI scores are computed providing an assessment of progress and stumbling blocks in fighting hunger.

Of late, to mitigate the magnitude of threat to food security, the Government of India has initiated pro-poor strategies by energising social security programmes like direct cash transfers under PM-Kisan, more liberal financing under MGNREGA, advance disbursement of Social Security Pensions, direct cash grants to

construction workers, and release of free and subsidised food grains under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna to about 80 crore people. Rapid up-gradation of health infrastructure and manpower; and swift readjustment of policies and programmes with active association and participation of all stakeholders were the other daunting tasks performed very well by the government.

However, the implication of the newly enacted three ordinances by Central government to deregulate agricultural marketing, allow unconstrained wholesale storage of essential commodities by private warehouses, and encourage contract and corporate farming for small and marginal farmers is debatable. Though major chunks of the farming community have shown their apprehensions towards these ordinances, the policy stance of the government has remained unmoved. It is touted by many economists that deregulation can potentially disturb the control over buffer stocks of food grains during a crisis like COVID-19.

The writer is an Assistant Professor (Economics) at KIIT DU, Bhubaneswar.



Dr Biplab Kumar Guru

INDIA'S FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMME WAS LAID BARE BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN SEVERAL WAYS, AFFECTING THE POOR AND MOST VULNERABLE SECTIONS OF THE SOCIETY

GHG emissions

Sir, Most greenhouse gases are emitted by sources in energy production and transportation sector that are concentrated in developed countries. But the governments of these rich countries have so far shown no concern about their own emissions. Instead, they point at increasing emissions in the relatively less developed or developing countries. The developing and less developed countries have argued that the financial burden of change should be borne by the developed countries, which are mainly responsible for current climate change. The US has for long had doggedly refused to acknowledge growing scientific evidence about the dangers of global warming and climate change. In fact, they had been slashing environmental standards and protections at the behest of the powerful oil barons like Exxon Mobil and some think-tanks such as the Competitive Enterprise Institute and the Cato Institute. Despite US President Biden's big promises, it now remains to be seen whether the US and its cohorts have changed their stand in favour of adopting appropriate measures to stop GHG emission. China is the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases. Though the present Chinese government speaks of adherence to global commitment on reducing global warming, they are, in fact, keeping an eye on US' response. The experience of previous conferences on climate change reminds us that the steps taken have not been implemented.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Food for thought

Sir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican City in Rome October 30, 2021 and even invited him to India after the pandemic ends. Modi's meeting with the Pope is only an election gimmick to lure Christians so that they may vote for the BJP in the next election. On one hand, Modi meets the Pope and even invites him to India, while on the other hand, a large number of Christians are being attacked in the country and their places of worship desecrated. During the meeting, Pope Francis gave a hidden message to the Prime Minister from the book of Isaiah Chapter 32, verses 1 to 8 as a brass gift to make him understand his job as the ruler of the country. It said, "See a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice." I am sure the PM must have not understood even a little bit of what the Pope said, or else why would he harass Christians who are peace-loving and kind.

Jubel D'Cruz, MUMBAI

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

Orissa POST
B-15, Russagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

national

of the day quote

Goa has not had a single Chief Minister who has completed a full five year term. You are aware that the majority of people are from the bahun samaj and among the OBCs, the Bhandaris are a majority

AICC and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot are in constant discussions and hence appointments shall be made soon in organisation and state government

All the people of Haryana should be inoculated against COVID-19 on a war footing to prevent a possible third wave of the pandemic

SHORT TAKES

ED arrests Sukhpal Singh Khaira

New Delhi/Chandigarh: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Thursday arrested former Punjab MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged drug racket being probed against him and others, officials said. They said Khaira, 56, was taken into custody by the central probe agency in Punjab under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). He was produced before a special PMLA court in Mohali where the ED will seek his remand. The agency had raided the premises of Khaira in Chandigarh, his son-in-law Inderveer Singh Johal in Delhi and that of some linked persons in March this year.

Partial lunar eclipse Nov 19

New Delhi: A partial eclipse of the moon will occur November 19 and a small span of the partial phase of the eclipse towards the end would be visible from parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. "The partial phase of the eclipse will begin at 12.48 p.m. and will end at 4.17 p.m.," the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Thursday. Apart from these two states in India, the eclipse will be visible from western Africa, western Europe, North America, South America, Asia, Australia, the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. According to IMD sources, the next lunar eclipse will be visible from India on November 8, 2022. It will be a total lunar eclipse.

Priyanka meets ASHA workers

Lucknow: Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Thursday met ASHA workers here and discussed their problems. The ASHA workers were recently beaten up by the police when they attempted to meet Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during his visit to Shahjahanpur. They wanted to meet the Chief Minister regarding their demands but the meeting could not take place.

Woman gangraped during Chhath Puja

Patna: A 23-year-old woman was gang-raped by four persons in Bihar's Nalanda district, an official said Thursday. The victim, along with a male friend, had gone to eat "Prasad of Kharna" of Chhath Puja Tuesday. An FIR was registered in Tharthari village police station after her medical examination Thursday morning.

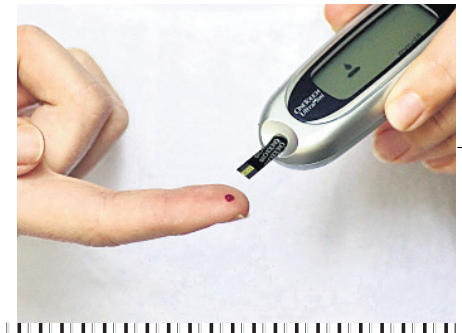


The income of farmers has not doubled as promised by the BJP. On the contrary, it has decreased. Import of grains has increased and the three farm laws will turn farmers into labourers

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT

SHOCKING REPORT

People with Type-2 diabetes who also suffered Covid-19 are more likely to experience severe fatigue than those who did not have the infectious disease, according to a new report



'India has not accepted China's illegal occupation'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 11: China undertook construction activities in the past several years along the border areas, including in areas it illegally occupied over the decades, the Ministry of External Affairs said Thursday.

Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said that India has taken note of the US Department of Defense report to the US Congress, which inter-alia also makes a reference to the construction activities carried out by the Chinese side along the India-China borders, particularly in the eastern sector.

"India has neither accepted such illegal occupation of our territory nor has it accepted the unjustified Chinese claims," the spokesperson said. Bagchi also stressed on the fact that the government has always conveyed its strong protest to such activities through diplomatic channels and will continue to do so in the future. "Further, as conveyed earlier, the government has also stepped up border infrastructure, including the construction of roads, bridges etc., which has provided much-needed connectivity to the local population along the borders," he said. "The government remains committed to the objective of creating infrastructure along

the border areas for the improvement of livelihood of its citizens, including in Arunachal Pradesh, he said. "The government keeps a constant watch on all the developments having a bearing on India's security, and takes all the necessary measures to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity," Bagchi said. Last week, the US Department of Defense in its annual report submitted to the US Congress on military and security developments had flagged that China has built a large 100-home civilian village inside the disputed territory between the Tibet Autonomous Region and Arunachal Pradesh. The report had also stated that these and other infrastructure development efforts along the India-China border have been a source of consternation in the Indian government and the media.

Talking about the claims made in the US report, a senior security official stated that the said village being referred to has been under Chinese control since 1959.

The village has been built by China in an area that was occupied by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) after overrunning an Assam Rifles post in 1959 in an operation known as 'Longju' along the frontiers in Arunachal Pradesh.



Prez exhorts Guvs to act as 'friend, philosopher, guide'

AGENCIES

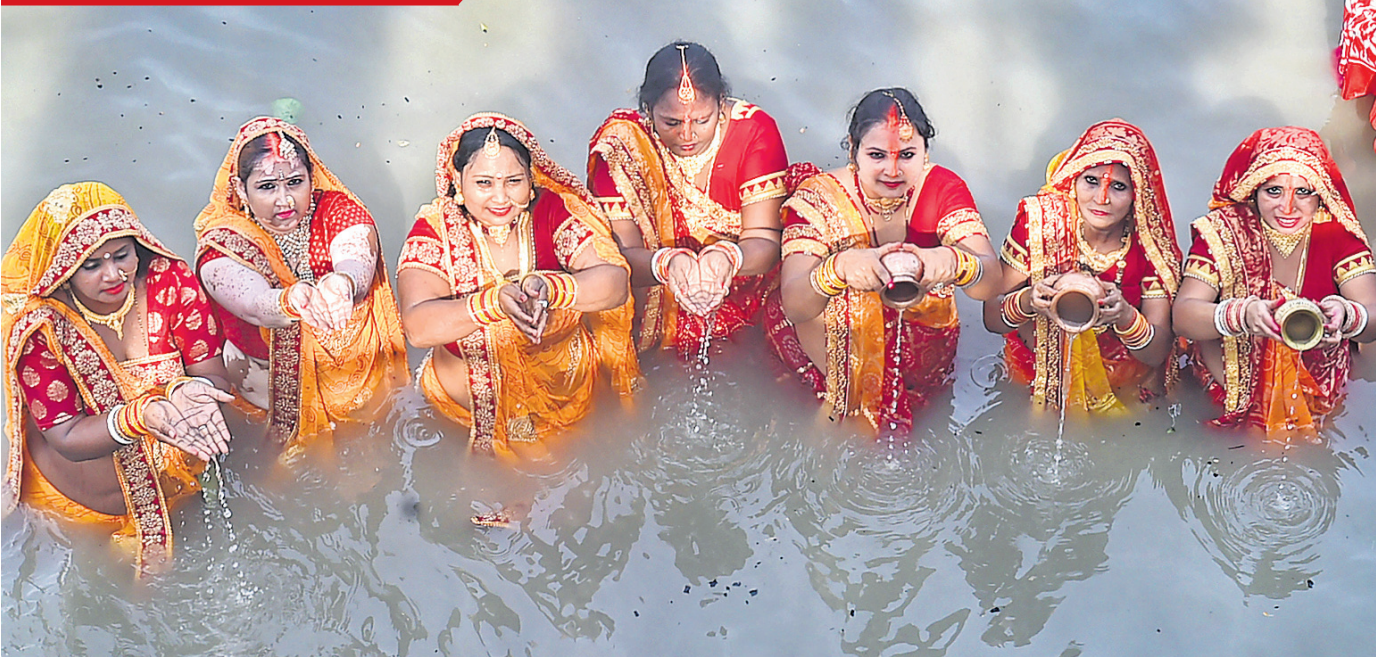
New Delhi, Nov 11: President Ram Nath Kovind Thursday exhorted governors to act as friend, philosopher and guide in states, while Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised the critical role played by them in protecting constitutional values and integrity of the country.

Addressing a conference, Kovind pointed out that governors had a very important role in creating awareness among the people about the national goals and ensuring public participation. He said they must spend as much time as possible in their respective states and maintain connect with the people to fulfil this commitment.

Kovind exhorted the governors to play the role of the "friend, philosopher and guide" in states of their posting while inaugurating the 51st conference of governors, lieutenant governors and administrators at Rashtrapati Bhavan here, an official statement said. The day-long conference, moderated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, was attended by the vice president and the prime minister.

"The president's views were echoed by the vice president and the prime minister who in their speeches emphasised the critical role played by the institution of the governor in protecting the constitutional values and integrity of the country," the statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan said. Vice President Naidu urged the

PURE DEVOTION



Devotees perform Usha Arghya on the last day of Chhath Puja along the banks of Ganga in Kolkata

Complaint filed against Khurshid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Bhopal, Nov 11: Senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid sparked controversy by comparing a "robust version" of Hindutva to the jihadist Islam of terror groups such as the ISIS and Boko Haram with the BJP and also his party colleague Ghulam Nabi Azad attacking the former Union Minister.

While the BJP alleged that the Congress has not only hurt Hindus but also the soul of India and Azad dismissed the comparison made in Khurshid's new book as "factually wrong and an exaggeration", a Delhi-based lawyer Vivek Garg filed a complaint with the Delhi Police seeking registration of an FIR against Khurshid.

Khurshid on his part sought to defend his remarks that came ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh and four other states, saying he has not called the proponents of Hindutva terrorists. "Hindutva, as portrayed by its proponents, is distorting religion," he told PTI when asked to comment on the controversy ig-

COMMENT ON HINDUTVA



The complaint alleges that in his new book Salman Khurshid has compared Hindutva to radical terrorist groups like ISIS and Boko Haram

nited by his remarks. "I have not called these guys terrorists, I have just said they are similar in distorting religion. What Hindutva has done, it has pushed aside sanatan dharma and Hinduism

and it has taken over a robust, aggressive position similar to Boko Haram and those other guys.

"I could not find anybody else that they could be similar to. I said they are similar to them, that's all, nothing to do with Hinduism," he said in a statement.

According to lawyer Garg, Khurshid, in his book 'Sunrise Over Ayodhya: Nationhood in Our Times', wrote: "Sanatan Dharma and classical Hinduism known to sages and saints were being pushed aside by a robust version of Hindutva, by all standards a political version similar to the jihadist Islam of groups like ISIS and Boko Haram of recent years." The book was released Wednesday.

Azad, a former leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and a member of the Group of 23 leaders that wrote to Congress chief Sonia Gandhi seeking organisational overhaul, tweeted, "In Mr. Salman Khurshid's new book, we may not agree with Hindutva as a political ideology distinct from composite culture of Hinduism, but comparing Hindutva with ISIS

and Jihadist Islam is factually wrong and an exaggeration." Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Prahlad Joshi said Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi should take action against Khurshid for "hurting the sentiments of Hindus".

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said Khurshid's book on Ayodhya hurts religious sentiments of people. Condemning Khurshid's remarks, Bhatia alleged that the Congress party's "ideology and principle is to spread hatred against the Hindu community and to ill-treat the Hindus."

Alleging that this is happening at the behest of Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, Bhatia questioned her silence on the issue and said: "If you remain silent, then it will be clear that your ideology is also against Hindus." Demanding Khurshid's removal from the Congress, the BJP spokesperson said, "Earlier, the term 'Hindu terrorism' was invented when the Congress was in power."

2 militants gunned down in separate encounters in J&K



Representational image

Srinagar, Nov 11: Two militants were killed on Thursday in separate encounters with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir, police said in a statement.

While one militant was killed in Kulgam district in south Kashmir earlier in the day, another was killed in Srinagar city in the evening. A police official said acting on specific inputs about the presence of militants in Chawalgam area of Kulgam, security forces launched a cordon and search operation there. As the forces were conducting the searches in the area, the militants fired upon them, he said.

The forces retaliated leading to an encounter in which a militant was killed, the official said. He said the identity and group affiliation of the slain ultra was being ascertained. Later, another militant was killed in a separate encounter between ultras and security forces in Bemina area of the city here in the evening, the official said. He said an AK rifle was recovered from the site of the encounter.

Regional parties collected ₹445.77cr from unknown sources in 2019-20: ADR report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: Regional parties collected ₹445.77 crore from unknown sources in 2019-20 which is 55.50 per cent of their total income, poll rights group Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said in a new report.



The ADR report said 95.61 per cent or ₹426.233 crore of this came from electoral bonds, and regional parties collected ₹4.976 crore from voluntary contributions.

"An analysis of their Income Tax Returns and donations statements filed with the Election Commission of India (ECI) shows that the sources remain largely unknown. At present, political parties are not required to reveal the name of individuals or organisations giving less than ₹20,000. As a result, a substantial amount of funds cannot be traced and are from 'unknown' sources," it said.

The contribution reports of the AAP, IUML and the LJP are available on the website, but the parties' donations data shows discrepancies as declared in their annual audit report and contribution report (donations above ₹20,000) for FY 2019-20, the ADR said.

The amount of total contributions declared by the AAP, IUML and the LJP in their audit reports is less than the amount of total donations (above ₹20,000 only) declared in their contribution reports by ₹6.105 crore, ₹31.20 lakhs and ₹4.16 lakhs, respectively, the report said.

India trying hard to put out crop waste fires

AGENCIES

Gagsina, (Haryana), Nov 11: India's efforts to reduce crop-waste burning, a major source of air pollution during the winter, by spending billions of rupees over the past four years have done little to avert a sharp deterioration in air quality.

Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana states, part of the farm belt that borders the capital, New Delhi, accounts for 30% to 40% of air pollution in October and November, according to air-quality monitoring agency SAFAR.

In 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration set out to tackle the problem by establishing a fund to help farmers get rid of rice paddy straw, left out in the field by mechanised harvesters, by using machines. It has taken 22.49 billion rupees (₹302 million) and four years but the plan aimed at stopping farmers



torching their crop waste has failed to have any measurable impact on air quality, with New Delhi's again in the "very poor" category this month, as in previous years, SAFAR data showed.

In the Karnal district of Haryana, 117 km (73 miles) north of New Delhi, dozens of farmers from 12 villages told Reuters that the au-

thorities' failure to iron out glitches in the plan and the prohibitive prices of the equipment had made it difficult for them to either buy or hire it.

"The subsidy plan looks good on paper but the officials have failed to address our practical problems," said Kishan Lal, a grain grower.

Under the plan, individual farm-

Smog covers Delhi-NCR; air quality severe

New Delhi: A thick layer of smog partially blotted out the sun on Chhath Puja and smogged landmarks from view as the air quality in Delhi-NCR slipped back into the severe zone with unfavourable meteorological conditions aiding accumulation of pollutants. Green think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) said the ongoing smog episode is a public health emergency. "This requires urgent emergency action on key combustion sources (vehicles, industry, waste burning) and dust sources (construction and roads) to prevent further trapping of pollution when there is no wind to blow this away," said Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, research and advocacy, CSE. Delhi recorded the 24-hourly air quality index (AQI) at 411. Most of the 39 air quality monitoring stations in the national capital recorded air pollution levels in the severe category.

"Despite the subsidy, the machines are beyond our reach."

A government spokesman did not respond to a request for comment. Two government officials, who both declined to be identified, acknowledged that the plan has not put an end to stubble burning and said it would take time.

ers can get a 50% subsidy and farm cooperatives an 80% subsidy to buy the machines for cutting, collecting and hauling away compressed paddy straw.

Other than the subsidy offered by the federal government, since 2018 Punjab state has spent 10.45 billion rupees on crop waste management.

14 dead, damage assessment panel set up

AN IMD UPDATE SAID THE DEPRESSION WAS INCHING CLOSE TO CHENNAI AND IT IS VERY LIKELY TO CROSS NORTH TAMIL NADU AND ADJOINING SOUTH ANDHRA PRADESH COASTS SOON



TAMIL NADU RAINS

AGENCIES

Chennai, Nov 11: Amid dark clouds and squally winds, the flooding, triggered by intense showers and release of surplus from dams transformed several areas here and in the suburbs into a virtual, large water body as streets swirled with deluge and trash, while 14 people were killed in rain-related incidents in Tamil Nadu.

The depression, which moved towards the metropolis Thursday, is all set to cross the coast here soon while the authorities used heavy duty motors, robotic excavators and deployed its full manpower to pump out water, de-clog drains, remove trash and uprooted trees.

The heavy rainfall, since last night covered almost the entire city under sheets of water including the downtown Mylapore and heavily inundated several parts of neighbourhoods includ-

ing Velachery and rain water entered state-run hospitals in KK Nagar and Chromepet prompting authorities to shift patients to other facilities.

Fearing damage, several residents of deluge-hit Ram Nagar in Madipakkam parked their cars on the nearby Velachery flyover's margin or underneath similar facilities nearby.

The bylanes of Pudupet, near the swollen Cooum River, Choolai, Semmancherry, odambambakkam, KK Nagar-MGR Nagar and Arumbakkam were among the innumerable neighbourhoods hit by the deluge.

The streets around Hasthinapuram, close to suburban Chrompet resembled an angry speeding river, with water level raising over three-feet. Inundation in several places like the Five Furlong Road in Guindy-Velachery point was about three feet or a little over it.

A woman who was riding a

3,500 HECTARES OF CROP DESTROYED

CHENNAI: Heavy showers for the past few days in Tamil Nadu have inundated around 55,000 hectares of land, of which, crops in 3,500 hectares have been destroyed. Revenue and Disaster Management Minister KKSSR Ramachandran said: "Around 3500 hectares of crop has been damaged and this will affect us. However, we have to study in detail to arrive at the total loss and how it will impact the farmers. Compensation and other factors would be decided in the coming days once the rain and winds settle down." With the huge volume of crops destroyed by heavy rains, the vegetable supply to neighbouring states like Kerala has also been jeopardised. Sources from Tamil Nadu farmers association said: "There is a dip in supply of vegetables to Kerala and according to a rough estimate the supply

has been affected by more than 60 per cent. How these losses can be recovered is a million-dollar question."

The Tamil Nadu farmers, who were looking to recoup losses after the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, are now staring at an uncertain future. Secretary of vegetable farmers association in Chengalpattu, Selva Ganapathy, said: "The farmers of Tamil Nadu were slowly looking up after the pandemic but now the sudden rains have thrashed all our expectations. We are now staring at huge debts and don't know when we will get some meager compensation. The Revenue Minister has already stated that the government would assess the damage to the crops after the rains settle down and we are expecting that the government would compensate us in a better manner."

scooter on the road abutting Raj Bhavan was injured when a tree fell. The woman was rushed to a hospital by authorities and the fallen tree was removed.

Besides Chennai and its suburbs which fall under the districts of Chengelpet, Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram, other regions of the state including the northern belt too received heavy rainfall.

The state government said 14 people were killed so far in rain-related incidents in Tamil Nadu.

Chief Minister MK Stalin held discussions with ministers and chaired a meeting of top state officials led by Chief Secretary V Irai Anbu to review the rain situation. The CM directed officials specially deputed to manage rain-related issues in various districts to ex-

pedite the relief activities and ensure quality food and medical facilities in relief camps.

The Chief Minister also ordered constituting a six-member ministerial panel, headed by Cooperatives Minister I Periyasamy, to assess crop damage, especially in the Cauvery delta region, and submit a report to the government to expedite relief work, an official release said.

An IMD update said the depression was inching close to Chennai and it is very likely to cross north Tamil Nadu and adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coasts around Chennai soon.

Till date, 157 head of cattle have died, 1,146 huts and 237 houses have been affected in rain related incidents.

Manipur Govt to decide on 12 MLAs' disqualification soon

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Solicitor General Thursday assured the Supreme Court that the Manipur Governor will take a decision soon on the Election Commission of India opinion on disqualification of 12 BJP MLAs in the office-of-profit matter.

A Bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that he should use his good offices in the matter.

Citing the opinion given by the Election Commission of India, in January, the Bench, also comprising Justices BR Gavai and BV Nagarathna said: "According to Article 192 (of Constitution), the Governor has to go with the decisions. In 11 months, nothing has happened. We don't want to pass an order, but please your good offices so that an opinion is given so that it can be challenged".

Mehta replied, "I assure we'll do something and no direction will be required to be passed".



On November 9, the Supreme Court had observed that the Manipur Governor cannot delay a decision on the recommendation made by the Election Commission of India on disqualification of 12 BJP MLAs on the issue of the office of profit.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing the petitioner, had submitted that a constitutional authority cannot keep the decision pending, and emphasised that just one month remains in the expiry of the term and post that everything will be over.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, representing the Election Commission, submitted before the bench that its opinion was binding on the Governor. The Election Commission had furnished the opinion in January this year.

The Bench agreed with the submissions of counsel that the Governor cannot delay the decision in the matter. The Bench, citing the case of Rajiv Gandhi convicts, observed there have been instances where the Governor has been nudged to take decisions in a time-bound manner.

My ministers don't follow Hindi: Mizo CM to Shah

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Aizawl, Nov 11: Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga has requested Union Home Minister Amit Shah to replace incumbent Chief Secretary Renu Sharma, as she is not familiar with the Mizo language and Mizo people generally do not understand Hindi, officials said here recently.

A Mizoram government official said that the Chief Minister before joining of the new Chief Secretary on November 1 had written to Shah stating that after the re-



tirement of Chief Secretary Lalnunmawia Chuauo, a Gujarat cadre IAS officer, incumbent Additional Chief Secretary J.C Ramthanga (a Manipur cadre IAS officer) should be the next Chief Secretary.

However, the Home Ministry posted Sharma, an AGMUT cadre

1988 batch IAS officer, as the new Chief Secretary of Mizoram. Sharma assumed charge November 1.

Sharma was earlier posted as the Additional Chief Secretary (Transport) in the Government of NCT of Delhi. She is also looking after the Home, Political and Cabinet Vigilance departments in the Mizoram government.

The Mizoram Chief Minister in his letter to Shah said that Mizo people by and large do not understand Hindi, and none of his Cabinet ministers understands Hindi, while some even have problems with the English language.

10 CHHATH PUJA DEVOTEES KILLED IN ASSAM ROAD MISHAP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Silchar, Nov 11: At least ten Chhath Puja devotees, mostly children and women, were killed when an autorickshaw, carrying them, collided with a truck in southern Assam's Karimganj district Thursday, police said.

Police officials said that nine devotees, including five women and two children, died on the spot, while another who had managed to survive the mishap succumbed to his injuries at the hospital.

The tragedy took place at Boithakhal on the National Highway-8 in the Karimganj district along northern Tripura.

According to police, the victims, belonging to the tea garden workers' families, were returning by an autorickshaw after performing Chhath Puja.



The oncoming cement laden truck collided head-on with the autorickshaw.

Local people said that the truck driver was driving the vehicle at a high speed and lost control when the autorickshaw came from the opposite direction leading to the mishap. "The driver of the truck fled soon after the accident," a police officer said.

In separate tweets, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Forest and Environment Minister Parimal Suklabaidya, who hail from southern Assam, condoned the deaths and assured that the truck driver would be arrested.

The Chief Minister announced ₹1 lakh compensation for the families of the victims.



An aeroplane stands parked in the waterlogged Chennai Aiport, as heavy rain continues to lash Tamil Nadu, in Chennai, Thursday PTI PHOTO

Heavy rains send vegetable prices soaring in Chennai

ALMOST ALL THE VEGETABLES THAT WERE SELLING AT LESS THAN ₹25 PER KG ARE SELLING FOR MORE THAN ₹50 PER KG NOW

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 11: Heavy rains and waterlogging across Chennai have sent vegetable prices soaring in the wholesale Koyambedu market, while prices in the retail vegetable markets too have catapulted.

Tomatoes were priced at ₹100 per kg, lady's finger touched the ₹150 per kg mark, while beans were being sold for ₹100 per kg in Chennai's retail markets after heavy rains led to soaring prices of vegetables in the wholesale Koyambedu market.

Almost all the vegetables that were selling at less than ₹25 per kg are selling for more than ₹50 per kg now. Carrot is selling at ₹130 per kg, while capsicum is priced at ₹120 per kg.

MK Abdullah, a wholesale merchant at the Koyambedu market,

said, "The heavy rains that lashed Chennai city have led to a spiraling process. Even locally-grown vegetables have become costlier as there is shortage of labour and most of the crops are under water. Most of the local supply comes from within 100 km radius of Chennai city and vegetables that reach from Karnataka are not expected as trucks are not moving in due to waterlogging in many parts of the city."

GD Rajashekharan, president, Federation of All Associations of Koyambedu Vegetable Market, told IANS, "Heavy downpour has led to shortage of vegetables in the Koyambedu market. We are short by 30 to 40 per cent of our normal supply of locally-grown vegetables. Vegetables from other states are not reaching as trucks are stuck midway due to heavy rains and inundated roads. The spiraling cost



will continue for a few more days, it seems."

Local people are worried over the increase in prices of vegetables in Chennai, which normally has cheap and fresh vegetable supply in good numbers in all

the localities. Manisamy, a wholesale trader at Ayyappa Nagar near Koyambedu market, said, "We procure goods from the Koyambedu market and sell them at wholesale rates at our shop. However, this time nothing can be

done as there is total shortage of vegetables at the Koyambedu market and we are not even getting regular supply. It is tough for people like us to survive and even the price rise would not have affected if there was regular supply."

With increased prices of vegetables in many areas of Chennai, people have demanded the government to put a price tag on the goods that could be charged from the consumers.

Selvanayagaraj, a retired employee of a public sector undertaking who stays at Pammal, said, "Vegetable prices have touched an all-time high and I don't know how people like us who lives on pension will be able to survive. All the favourite vegetables in our predominantly vegetarian family are out of reach of the common man. Unless the government takes action, we are not safe."

With soaring prices of vegetables, people are expecting a hike in prices of essential commodities as well since rains have disrupted truck services, and most essential commodities are being transported in trains.

national

of the day quote

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is responsible for India's partition and not Jinnah. The state of dispute was created by the Sangh itself

OM PRAKASH RAJBHAR | SUHELDEV BHARATIYA SAMAJ PARTY (SBSP) CHIEF

We have launched a campaign to prevent open burning of waste and biomass to cut down on pollution generated within Delhi. Ten departments - DPCC, municipal corporations, revenue department, Delhi Development Authority, Development Department, DSIDC, I & FC Department and Cantonment Board - are involved in the campaign

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

The BSF like the Punjab Police is our own force and not any external or foreign force coming to occupy our land

AMARINDER SINGH | FORMER PUNJAB CM

SHORT TAKES

Pondicherry gets respite from rain

Pondicherry: The Union Territory of Puducherry, battered by heavy rains during the last 10 days, got a respite Thursday as the sky remained overcast and the showers stopped. Normal life was affected during the last 10 days and the government ordered closure of educational institutions since November 8. Classes for students of standards one to eight were to resume November 8 but with incessant rains, the government extended the holidays until further orders.

7 cattle smugglers injured in encounter

Ghaziabad (UP): Seven people allegedly involved in cow slaughtering were arrested after an exchange of fire in which they were injured, police said. Acting on a tip-off, a raid was conducted at a godown in Behla Hazipur in Loni and the accused were arrested following the encounter with the police, they said. Senior Superintendent of Police Pawan Kumar said the gang opened fire at the police team during the raid which was retaliated by the security personnel. All the seven accused sustained bullet injuries on their legs, he said.

Man sentenced to 20 years RI for rape

Ujjain: A special court has sentenced a 21-year-old man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a minor in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain district. The Special POCSCO court Monday awarded the sentence to Rahul Fularia on the basis of DNA tests after the 15-year-old victim did not cooperate with the prosecution. Additional Sessions Judge Dr Aarti Shukla Pandey said "The courts should not only notice the rights of the accused, but the interest of the victim and the society at large."

Drugs worth ₹313cr seized

Khambhalia (Guj): Police have seized heroin and methamphetamine drugs worth Rs 313.25 crore from three persons in Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district over the last two days, officials said Thursday. A preliminary investigation revealed that the seized drugs originated from Pakistan and were smuggled into Gujarat via the sea route. A forensic analysis has established that 47 packets seized from two persons during a raid Wednesday contained 45 kg of heroin worth Rs 225 crore, officials said.

India to get affordable weapon against Covid

AGENCIES

Hyderabad, Nov 11: With six Indian pharma companies working to manufacture antiviral pill Molnupiravir, healthcare experts say the game-changing drug will give India an effective and affordable weapon against the Covid-19 pandemic.

The oral drug, which is likely to get Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) in India in the coming weeks, is expected to help the country fight future waves, if any. Earlier this month, the drug regulator in the UK gave approval to the pill, which will be given twice a day to vulnerable patients recently diagnosed with Covid-19.

It was in June that five major pharma companies announced collaboration for the clinical trials of Molnupiravir for the treatment of mild Covid-19 in an outpatient setting in India. It was the first such collaboration in the Indian pharma industry.

Hetero Pharma also has a non-exclusive licensing agreement with Merck to manufacture and supply Molnupiravir in India and over 100 low and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Hetero announced in July the interim clinical results from Phase 3 clinical trials of Molnupiravir in mild Covid-19 patients conducted across multiple Covid-dedicated hospital sites across India.

According to the company, the trials demonstrated statistically significant fewer hospital admissions, faster time to clinical improvement, and early negative SARS CoV-2 RT-PCR results with Molnupiravir treatment in mild Covid-19 patients compared to Standard of Care alone.

Fight against Covid at final stage: Mandaviya

Stating that the fight against Covid-19 is at the final stage, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Thursday cautioned against letting the guard down before it is completely over and requested states to enhance the vaccination coverage and motivate the over 12 crore beneficiaries who are due for their second dose to take it. He also urged states and union territories to ensure the entire adult population is administered the first dose during the ongoing 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign.

No Covid testing for kids below 5 on int'l arrivals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: Children below five years are exempted from both pre- and post-arrival testing for Covid-19 in India, according to the revised guidelines for international arrivals released Thursday.

However, if found symptomatic for coronavirus infections on arrival or during home quarantine period, they shall undergo testing and be treated according to laid down protocol, the guidelines said.

Highlighting that the global trajectory of Covid-19 pandemic continues to decline with certain regional variations, the document stated the need to monitor the continuously changing nature of virus and evolution of SARS-CoV2 variants of concern must still remain in focus.

The existing guidelines (issued February 17 with subsequent addendums) for international arrivals in India have been formulated tak-



ing a risk-based approach. In view of increasing vaccination coverage across the globe and the changing nature of the pandemic, the existing guidelines for international arrivals in India have been reviewed, the health ministry said. "Children under 5 years of age are exempted from both pre- and post-arrival testing. However, if found symptomatic for COVID-19 on arrival or during home quarantine period, they shall undergo testing and treated as per laid down protocol," it said.



My tributes to great freedom fighter, nationalist and educationist, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad on his birth anniversary
M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

GOOD INITIATIVE

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Thursday launched an online platform through which aviation regulator DGCA will provide its 298 services including pilot licensing and medical examination



LET'S GO TO SCHOOL



Schoolchildren walk along a road, amidst smog in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

Advocate losing case on merits not deficiency of service: SC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Supreme Court held that losing the case on merits after the advocate argued the matter could not be termed as deficiency in service under the Consumer Protection Act.

A bench of Justices MR Shah and BV Nagarathna said: "Only in a case where it is found that there was any deficiency in service by the advocate, there may be some case. In each and every case where a litigant has lost on merits and there is no negligence on the part of the advocate/s, it cannot be said that there was any deficiency in service by the advocate/s."

The bench noted that if the submission advanced on behalf of the petitioner is accepted, in that case, in each and every case where a litigant has lost on merits and his case is dismissed, the person will approach the consumer fora and pray for compensation alleging deficiency in service.

"Losing the case on merits after the advocate argued the matter cannot be said to be deficiency in



service on the part of the advocate. In every litigation, either of the party is bound to lose and in such a situation either of the party who will lose in the litigation may approach the consumer fora for compensation alleging deficiency in service, which is not permissible at all," it said.

The bench declined to entertain an appeal filed by Nandlal Lohariya against refusal of his complaint filed against his three advocates by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and the Rajasthan state and Pratapgarh district consumer fora. The petitioner's counsel had argued before the top court that three advocates have not performed their duties properly, due to which his client's case was dismissed.

KANGANA'S 'FREEDOM' REMARK

Cong demands Padma Shri be taken back

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: Hitting out at actor Kangana Ranaut for describing India's Independence in 1947 as 'bheek' or alms, the Congress Thursday said her remarks amounted to "treason" and demanded that the government take back the Padma Shri bestowed on her recently for "insulting" the country's independence movement.

In a 24-second clip shared widely, Ranaut says India's Independence in 1947 was not freedom but "bheek" (alms). "And we got real freedom in 2014," she said at an event organised by a news channel with some people in the audience heard clapping.



Reacting to Ranaut's remarks, Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said her statement has shown what happens when people who are not deserving of Padma awards are given these honours.

"I demand that Kangana Ranaut should make a public apology to all Indians because of her statement," Vallabh said. Asserting that because of her statement, sentiments of families of freedom fighters were hurt, the Congress leader said the government should apologise on behalf of Ranaut as she was a recipient of a Padma award. Another Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinatne slammed Ranaut and said her remarks were "berating and an insult" to the sacrifice made by lakhs of citizens, including freedom fighters such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.



Representational image

MOLNUPIRAVIR, DEVELOPED BY GLOBAL PHARMA MAJOR MERCK, INHIBITS REPLICATION OF MULTIPLE RNA VIRUSES INCLUDING SARS-COV-2, THE CAUSATIVE AGENT OF COVID-19

IT IS REPORTED TO HAVE POTENTIAL TO COMPLETELY ELIMINATE SARS COV-2 FROM THE BODY WITHIN 5 DAYS

WHILE THE INDIA COMPANIES REMAINED TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE TRIALS, EXPERTS EXPECT THE ROLLOUT EARLY NEXT YEAR

While the India companies remained tight-lipped about the current status of the trials, experts expect the rollout early next year.

Patients in the clinical trial were randomised to receive either Hetero's Molnupiravir capsules 800 mg (4 x 200 mg) every 12 hours (twice daily) for 5 days along with standard of care as per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) guidelines or, in the control arm, to receive standard of care alone. The company said the interim results from 741 mild Covid-19 patients revealed encouraging outcomes.

Under the licensing deal with Merck, Hetero will be allowed to expand access of Molnupiravir in India and in other low- and middle-income countries, following the approvals for emergency use authorisation by local regulatory agencies. Molnupiravir will be manufactured in Hetero's world-

'Delta remains main variant of concern'

The Delta variant of coronavirus continues to be the main variant of concern (VOC), while other variants of interest (VOI) or concern are now negligible in sequencing data from India, the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) said. While an INSACOG bulletin said there is no change in the global scenario, it also noted that, in India, Delta (B.1.617.2 and AY.x) continues to be the main variant of concern.

class formulation facility in Hyderabad, which has been approved by stringent global regulatory authorities such as USFDA and EU, among others. Between March and April this year, these five pharma companies individually entered into a non-exclusive voluntary licensing agreement with Merck to manufacture and supply Molnupiravir to India and over 100 low and middle-income countries. Under the collaboration agreement, the five pharma companies will jointly sponsor, supervise and monitor the clinical trials in India.

Nepal in a fix to hold census in disputed areas

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi/Kathmandu, Nov 11: Nepal Thursday began the once in a decade census with the collection of personal data and information. But officials in Kathmandu were in a fix whether over conducting the survey in the disputed territories with India like

Parliament through a constitutional amendment. Officials have been wondering for quite a while about how to conduct a census in the region, not because it is remote but because it is controlled by India.

Now there were calls from several quarters to conduct the census in Kalapani, Lipulekh, and Limpiyadhura area but officials are still in a fix. "We are looking forward to using the

Kalapani, Lipulekh, and Limpiyadhura.

Nepal's move was prompted by India's announcement that it was building a road link to Kailash Manasarovar in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China via Lipulekh.

The new map was adopted by

satellite technology to collect necessary information of the people residing in Kalapani, Lipulekh, and Limpiyadhura for the 12th National Population and Household Census," Director General of Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS),



Hate speech content decreasing on FB, Insta: Meta

The social network removed 13.6 million pieces of content on Facebook for violating its violence and incitement policy

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 11: Newly-branded company Meta has claimed that the prevalence of hate speech on Facebook continued to decrease for the fourth quarter in a row this year. The company also revealed, for the first time, that hate speech prevalence on Instagram was 0.02 per cent for the third quarter (Q3).

In the September quarter (Q3), it was 0.03 per cent or 3 views of hate speech per 10,000 views of content on Facebook, down from 0.05 per cent or 5 views of hate speech per 10,000 views of content in Q2.

"We continue to see a reduction in hate speech due to our improvements in our technology and

ranking changes that reduce problematic content in News Feed, including through improved personalization," Meta said in a statement.

"On Instagram, we removed 3.3 million pieces of this content with a proactive detection rate of 96.4 per cent," Meta said.

In Q3, the prevalence of bullying and harassment content was 0.14-0.15 per cent or between 14 and 15 views of bullying and harassment content per 10,000 views of content on Facebook.

On Instagram, it was 0.05-0.06 per cent or between 5 and 6 views per 10,000 views of content on Instagram. "We removed 9.2 million pieces of bullying and ha-



Representational image

arrassment content on Facebook, with a proactive rate of 59.4 per cent. We removed 7.8 million pieces of bullying and harassment content on Instagram with a proactive rate of 83.2 per cent," the company noted.

Meta's ad abilities are used by wide-ranging advertisers, including political campaigns and social issue groups as well as businesses. Advertisers on Meta's platforms will still be able to target audi-

ences by location, use their own customer lists, reach custom audiences who have engaged with their content, and send ads to people with similar characteristics to those users.

The development is not likely to affect the company financially. CEO Mark Zuckerberg in 2019 had estimated that politicians' ads would make up less than 0.5 percent of Meta's 2020 revenue, according to Reuters. Facebook now allows users to opt to see fewer ads related to topics like politics and alcohol said it would early next year give people more control over the ads they see, including ones about gambling and weight loss.

international



Afghanistan is on the brink of catastrophe...It cannot even pay salaries. So, it is vital that the international community should provide assistance on an emergency basis
SHAH MAHMOOD QURESHI
PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTER

F. W. DE KLERK DIES

F.W. De Klerk, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Nelson Mandela and as South Africa's last apartheid President oversaw the end of the country's white minority rule, has died at the age of 85



of the day quote

As long as goods and materials are reaching where they need to reach in time, there's usually no need to worry about the supply chains. The COVID-19 pandemic has stretched global supply chains like never before. Suddenly, when you go to order a pair of sneakers or a bicycle or Christmas presents for the family, you're met with higher prices and long delays

JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT

We need to make sure that technology standards are shaped by the free world. And we want to work together with Indonesia in areas like cyber and also the next generation of technologies, whether that's 5G, 6G or indeed areas like artificial intelligence and quantum

LIZ TRUSS | BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY

We're concerned by reports of unusual Russian military activity near Ukraine

ANTONY BLINKEN | UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE

SHORT TAKES

600 militants held

Kabul: The Taliban-led government in Afghanistan has downplayed the security threat posed by the Islamic State (IS), saying security forces have arrested 600 militants affiliated with the terror group over the past three months. "The security forces of the Islamic Emirate have destroyed 21 bases of the IS group in different provinces including Kabul, Nangarhar and Herat and also captured about 600 militants over the past three months," Xinhua news agency quoted Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid as saying to reporters at a press briefing here.

Rizvi removed from terror list

New Delhi: The Pakistan Punjab government has removed Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) chief Hafiz Saad Hussain Rizvi's name from the Fourth Schedule - a list of proscribed individuals who are suspected of terrorism or sectarianism under the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), 1997, Dawn reported. A notification issued by the Punjab Home Department dated November 10 stated that the "name of Hafiz Mohammad Saad, being Ameer of Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan, a proscribed organisation, was listed in the 4th Schedule of Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, under Section 11-E on the recommendations of District Intelligence Committee, Lahore".

Four killed as Bangladesh votes

Dhaka: At least four people were killed as Bangladesh held village council elections Thursday that are certain to further consolidate the governing party's power but have raised concerns about the state of democracy in the South Asian nation. The largest opposition party is boycotting the vote, saying a skewed political atmosphere is preventing fair participation.

Quake jolts Indonesia

Jakarta: A 6.1-magnitude earthquake jolted Indonesia's province of West Papua on Thursday, but no preliminary report on damages or casualties was issued, the meteorology agency said. The tremors did not potentially trigger a tsunami, according to the country's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency.

Xi warns against 'Cold War' in Asia-Pacific

AGENCIES

Wellington, Nov 11: Chinese President Xi Jinping warned Thursday against letting tensions in the Asia-Pacific region cause a relapse into a Cold War mentality.

His remarks on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum came weeks after the U.S., Britain and Australia announced a new security alliance in the region which would see Australia build nuclear submarines. China has harshly criticized the deal.

And in a separate illustration of strains within APEC, one Southeast Asian delegate told The Associated Press that the group had so far failed to reach agreement on a U.S. bid to host the 2023 summit due to unmet demands from Russia.

Xi spoke in a pre-recorded video to a CEO Summit at APEC, which is being hosted by New Zealand in a virtual format. Xi is scheduled to participate in an online meeting with other Pacific Rim leaders including US President Joe Biden Saturday.

In his speech, Xi said attempts to draw boundaries in the region



along ideological or geopolitical lines would fail. His reference to the Cold War echoes Beijing's oft-stated position that the U.S. should abandon that way of thinking in dealing with China.

"The Asia-Pacific region cannot and should not relapse into the confrontation and division of the Cold War era," Xi said. Xi also said the region should make sure to keep supply lines functioning and to continue liberalizing trade and investment.

"China will remain firm in ad-

Xi cements status with historic resolution

Beijing: A high-profile conclave of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) has adopted a "landmark resolution" of the party's major achievements in the last 100 years besides paving the way for a record third term for President Xi Jinping next year. The "landmark resolution" - the only third of its kind in the party's 100-year history - was reviewed and adopted at the sixth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, held in Beijing from November 8 to 11, an official communique released at the end of the meeting on Thursday said. The party is due to hold a press conference on Friday to announce further details.

vancing reform and opening up so as to add impetus to economic development," he said. The most pressing task in the region is to make an all-out effort to fight the pandemic and to emerge from its shadow as soon as possible, he said.

Meanwhile, the Southeast Asian delegate, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to publicly discuss the issue, said Russia had refused to support the U.S. bid unless some of its diplomats were removed from a U.S. blacklist or allowed to enter the U.S. to participate in the APEC meetings.

The delegate said the U.S. is unlikely to agree to Russia's demands because issues involving America's security are considered "non-negotiable." The delegate added that

China had stayed silent on the U.S. Offer. If the 21 APEC leaders fail to reach a consensus on the U.S. bid by Friday, the delegate said, a paragraph in a draft of the summit communique welcoming the U.S. Offer would have to be deleted. New Zealand's Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta said earlier this week that APEC was founded on consensus and that there was not yet a confirmed host for 2023.

Human rights lawyer Amal Clooney also spoke at the CEO summit, saying she believed that liberal democracies could improve global human rights by pressuring autocratic nations. She said businesses also needed to play a role. "If you can't battle evil, you can at least try to tackle apathy," Clooney said.

Meghan apologises for misleading UK court

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 11: The Duchess of Sussex has apologised for misleading a British court about the extent of her cooperation with the authors of a sympathetic book about her and Prince Harry.

The former Meghan Markle is embroiled in legal action in London over a newspaper's publication of portions of a letter she wrote to her estranged father after her 2018 marriage to Harry, a grandson of Queen Elizabeth II. She sued the publisher of the Mail on Sunday and the MailOnline website for breach of privacy and copyright.

A High Court judge ruled in her favour in February, saying publication of the letter Meghan wrote to her father, Thomas Markle, was "manifestly excessive and hence unlawful."

Publisher Associated Newspapers is trying to overturn that decision at the Court of Appeal.

NOBLE GESTURE



A citizen feeds black-headed gulls at Cuihu Park in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan Province

UNI PHOTO

Indian-origin partner at McKinsey arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Nov 11: Puneet Dikshit, a 40-year-old Indian-origin partner at management consulting giant, McKinsey & Company, has been arrested and charged with insider-trading and making illegal profits totalling over USD 450,000 in the US.

Dikshit, a partner at a global management consulting firm, has been charged with "illegally trading in advance of a corporate acquisition by one of the firm's clients in September," the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said in a statement Wednesday.

Dikshit, who was arrested on Wednesday and charged with two counts of securities fraud - vio-

lating Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 10b-5 thereunder - faces up to 20 years in prison on each count, the Department of Justice said in a press release.

US Attorney for the Southern District of New York Damian Williams and Assistant Director-in-Charge of the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Michael Driscoll announced the unsealing of the criminal complaint against Dikshit.

The SEC's complaint alleges that in the course of providing consulting services, Dikshit learned highly confidential information concerning The Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s impending acquisition of GreenSky Inc (GSKY).

EU laws under threat amid standoff at border

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, Nov 11: Fears that the authoritarian leader of Belarus is using migrants as a "hybrid warfare" tactic to undermine the security of the European Union are putting new strains on some of the values and laws in the 27-nation bloc.

The crisis at the eastern frontiers of Poland, Lithuania and Latvia is fuelling calls for the EU to finance the construction of something it never wanted to build: fences and walls at the border. And this idea was voiced this week at a ceremony commemorating the fall of one of Europe's most notorious and historic barriers, the Berlin Wall.

The border crisis with Belarus has been simmering for months. Top EU officials say that President Alexander Lukashenko, angered by



AP/PTI PHOTO

EU sanctions imposed on his regime after a crackdown on internal dissent following a disputed election in 2020, is luring thousands of migrants to Minsk with the promise of help to get to Western Europe. Belarus denies it is using them as pawns.

UN CLIMATE TALKS

China, US pledge to increase cooperation

In back-to-back news conferences at UN climate talks in Glasgow, Chinese climate envoy Xie Zhenhua and US counterpart John Kerry said the two countries would work together to accelerate the emissions reductions required to meet the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Glasgow, Nov 11: The world's top carbon polluters, China and the United States, agreed Wednesday to increase their cooperation and speed up action to rein in climate-damaging emissions, signalling a mutual effort on global warming at a time of tension over their other disputes.

In back-to-back news conferences at UN climate talks in Glasgow, Chinese climate envoy Xie Zhenhua and US counterpart John Kerry said the two countries would work together to accelerate the emissions reductions required to meet the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change.

"It's beneficial not only to our two countries but the world as a whole that two major powers in the world, China and the U.S., shoulder special international responsibilities and obligations," Xie said.

"We need to think big and be responsible." "The steps we're taking... Can answer questions people have about the pace at which China is going, and help China and us to be able to accelerate our efforts," Kerry said.

China also agreed for the first time to crack down on methane leaks, following the lead of the Biden administration's efforts to curb the potent greenhouse gas. Beijing and Washington agreed to

share technology to reduce emissions. Governments agreed in Paris to jointly cut greenhouse gas emissions enough to keep the global temperature rise "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times, with a more stringent target of trying to keep warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) preferred.

Both sides recognize that there is a gap between efforts taken globally to reduce climate pollution and the goals of the Paris deal, Xie said. "So we will jointly strengthen climate action and cooperation with respect to our respective national situations," he said.

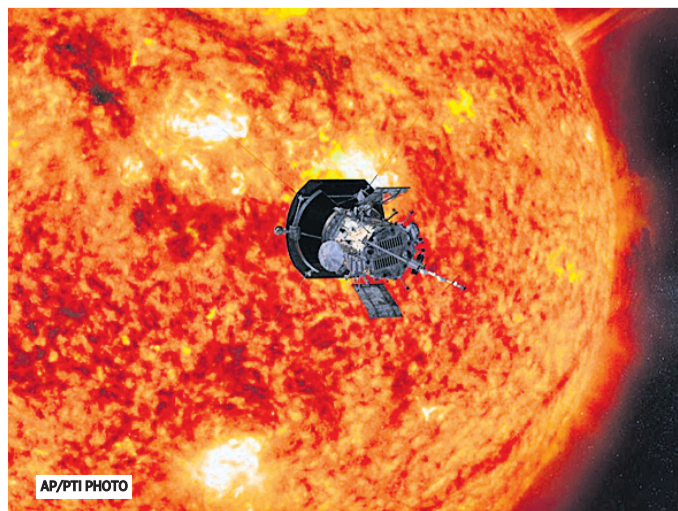
A U.S.-China bilateral agreement in 2014 gave a huge push to the creation of the historic Paris accord the following year, but that cooperation stopped with the Trump administration, which pulled the U.S. Out of the pact.

The Biden administration brought the U.S. Back in to that deal, but has clashed with China on other issues such as cybersecurity, human rights and Chinese territorial claims.

"While this is not a gamechanger in the way the 2014 US-China climate deal was, in many ways it's just as much of a step forward given the geopolitical state of the relationship," said Thom Woodroffe, an expert in U.S.-China climate talks.

NASA's solar probe faces space dust, debris on way to Sun

Traversing near-sun space at up to 180 kilometres per second, Parker Solar Probe ploughs through the densest region of the zodiacal cloud



AP/PTI PHOTO

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, Nov 11: NASA's ambitious Parker Solar Probe spacecraft, studying the Sun at close proximity, is being bombarded with space dust and debris on its way to the Sun, according to a study.

Scientists at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) at the University of Colorado, Boulder and the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) have examined collisions between the Parker Solar Probe spacecraft and dust.

Traversing near-sun space at up to 180 kilometres per second, Parker Solar Probe ploughs through the densest region of the zodiacal

cloud. The zodiacal cloud is a thick, pancake-shaped dust cloud that extends throughout the solar system and is made up of tiny dust grains shed from asteroids and comets.

As Parker Solar Probe barrels through this region, the study found that thousands of tiny (about 2 to 20 microns in diameter, or less than a quarter of the width of a human hair) dust grains strike the spacecraft at hypervelocity (faster than 6,700 miles per hour).

Upon impact, the material that makes up the dust grains and the spacecraft surface is heated so much that it first vapourises, then ionizes. Ionization is a process where atoms in the vaporised material

are separated into their constituent ions and electrons, producing a state of matter called plasma.

The rapid vapourisation and ionization creates a plasma explosion lasting less than one thousandth of a second. The largest of these impacts also generate clouds of debris that slowly expand away from the spacecraft.

The findings could lead to new insights into space weather around the sun as well as have major implications for the safety of future spacecraft. The team observed how metallic flakes and paint chips knocked loose during collisions with dust drifted and tumbled near the spacecraft. Those pieces of debris created streaks in the images

taken by navigational and scientific cameras on Parker Solar Probe.

The study also reported that some debris scattered sunlight into the Parker Solar Probe navigation cameras, temporarily preventing the spacecraft from determining how it was oriented in space. That can be a dangerous prospect for a spacecraft that relies on precise pointing of its heat shield to survive.

Parker Solar Probe was launched in 2018 and has completed nine full orbits of the sun. Before its prime mission ends in 2025, it will complete another 15 orbits. The results were presented at the 63rd Annual Meeting of the APS Division of Plasma Physics in Pennsylvania.

business



The auction for the 5G spectrum is likely to take place around April-May next year. The government will bring out a series of further reforms and telecom regulatory structure should change in coming 2-3 years

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER

DOLLAR SOARS TO 16-MONTH HIGH

The dollar hit a 16-month high Thursday and bond and stock markets drooped after the strongest US inflation reading in over three decades fuelled expectations of Fed interest rate hikes next year. The dollar index continued to make steady progress in early European trading after rising Wednesday in its biggest jump since March



of the day quote

We expect India's real GDP growth in FY22 to exceed 10 per cent supported by a record Kharif crop and bright Rabi prospects. This will boost rural demand and spur the revival in the manufacturing sector with improving capacity utilization

RAJIV KUMAR | VICE-CHAIRMAN, NITI AAYOG

I would like to call upon the industry that even if they take raw material from outside, make the final product after doing value addition, use it in the country and also export it

FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE | MINISTER OF STATE (MOS) FOR STEEL

India is going to be a huge retail market. Indians will aspire for more, their spending power will grow and they'll increasingly spend on lifestyle brands and services. Nykaa is in a good place

FALGUNI NAYAR | FOUNDER, NYKAA

Musk sells \$1.1bn in Tesla shares to pay taxes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Detroit, Nov 11: After making a promise on Twitter, Tesla CEO Elon Musk has sold about 900,000 shares of the electric car maker's stock, netting over \$1.1 billion that will go toward paying tax obligations for stock options. The sales, disclosed in two regulatory filings late Wednesday, will cover tax obligations for stock options granted to Musk in September. He exercised options to buy just over 2.1 million shares for \$6.24 each. The company's stock closed Wednesday at \$1,067.95 per share.



The transactions were "automatically effected" as part of a trading plan adopted Sept 14 to sell options that expire next year, according to forms filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. That was nearly two months before he floated the idea

Musk said he proposed selling the stock as some Democrats have been pushing for billionaires to pay taxes when the price of the stocks they hold goes up, even if they don't sell any shares

of the sale on Twitter. After the transactions, Musk still owns about 170 million Tesla shares. Musk was Tesla's largest shareholder as of June, owning about 17 per cent of the company, according to data provider FactSet. He's the wealthiest person in the world, according to Forbes, with a net worth of around \$282 billion, most of it in Tesla stock. Last weekend, Musk said he would sell 10 per cent of his holdings in the company, worth more than \$20 billion, based on the results of a poll he conducted on Twitter. The sale tweets caused a sell-off of the stock Monday and Tuesday, but it recovered some Wednesday. The shares were up 2.6 per cent to \$1,096 in extended trading Wednesday, and they have risen more than 50 per cent this year. Wedbush Analyst Daniel Ives said it appears Musk will start selling shares as the year ends. "The question will be for investors if he sells his full 10 per cent ownership stake over the coming months or is it done piece-by-piece during 2022," Ives wrote in a note to investors. Ives calculated that Musk has about \$10 billion in taxes coming due on stock options that vest next summer.

'Online education market to touch \$2 billion by 2021'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: Shubhra Ranjan IAS (SRIAS), one of the most renowned coaching institutes for Civil Services Examinations conducted by UPSC, stated that online education is likely to reach \$2 billion by 2021.

BiPlab Kumar, head of Bhubaneswar SRIAS regional centre said, "The response has been here very encouraging. Currently, we have 53 students enrolled at our centre and we get multiple enquiries every day. Students in Odisha aspire for government jobs, and we have seen that the Covid pandemic has made government jobs even more lucrative."

He also said that online education market is estimated to touch \$2 billion by 2021.

SRIAS is planning to double its footprint from 20 regional centres to 40 centres in tier 2 and tier 3 cities to provide a fair learning opportunity to every civil services aspirant in India.

With its eyes set on \$25 million revenue by FY'24, SRIAS is also targeting an increase in enrolment from 9,000 students to 16,000 UPSC & 10,000 SPSC aspirants.

"There is a genuine demand for quality UPSC coaching in tier 2 and tier 3 cities in India. Technology has enabled us to bridge that gap to a certain extent, but we want to go the extra mile and democratise access to leading-edge content, pedagogy and mentoring for students all across India," said Co-Founder Shubhra Deshmukh.

Adani to invest \$70bn in renewable energy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 11: Billionaire Gautam Adani Thursday said his logistics-to-energy conglomerate will invest \$70 billion over the next decade to become the world's largest renewable energy company and produce the cheapest hydrogen on the Earth.

Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), the world's largest solar power developer, is targeting 45 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and will invest \$20 billion to develop a 2 GW per year solar manufacturing capacity by 2022-23.

Adani Transmission Ltd (ATL), India's largest private sector power transmission and retail distribution company, is looking to increase the share of renewable power procurement from the current 3 per cent to 30 per cent by FY 2023 and to 70 per cent by FY 2030.

Speaking at the Bloomberg India Economic Forum, Adani Group's founder-chairman said the group is working to make renewable a viable, affordable alternative to fossil fuels.

"By 2030, we expect to be the world's largest renewable energy company without any caveat - and we have committed \$70 billion over the next decade to make this happen. There is no other company that has yet made so large a bet on developing its sustainability infrastructure," he said.

At COP 26 in Glasgow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced 2070 as India's target year to reach net-zero carbon emissions.

CAD biggest threat to Indian economy

The report noted that the widening deficit trend may continue for some time as a combination of demand recovery and rising commodity prices will continue to widen the trade deficit sharply

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 11: India's widening current account deficit (CAD), driven by the massive spike in commodity prices led by crude oil, is set to put pressure on the fragile recovery, warns a brokerage report that has revised upwards its CAD forecast to \$45 billion or 1.4 per cent of GDP by March.

According to a report by British brokerage Barclays, the worries arise from the fact that the trade deficit has been jumping continuously since July.

"We raise our FY22 current account deficit forecast to \$45 billion or 1.4 per cent of GDP, up from \$35 billion earlier, but a large balance of payments (BoP) surplus remains on track," it said.

Estimating that every \$10 per barrel rise in global crude prices will



From an average monthly trade deficit of \$12 billion till June, it has jumped to \$16.8 billion in July-October, with September showing the highest-ever trade deficit on record at \$22.6 billion

Except higher oil prices, another force driving down the foreign exchange is gold imports which have been on a faster clip for months

The brokerage, however, ruled out an alarming situation and said that with record high foreign reserves, they see no major risks to macro stability

widen the trade deficit by \$12 billion or 35 bps of GDP, as close to 85 per cent of the oil demand is met through imports, and given the current elevated crude prices, the brokerage has raised its current account deficit forecast to \$45 billion for FY22, from \$35 billion earlier.

An initial look at the data suggests that larger trade deficits have predominantly been fuelled by higher oil prices. The monthly oil trade deficit has risen from an average of \$5.2 billion in H1 to \$8.5 billion during the past three months, driven by both rising volumes and higher price, the report noted.

Recovering domestic demand and the ongoing festive season are boosting imports of the yellow metal and the World Gold Council expects gold demand this year to surpass the 2020 levels and it expects the demand for gold to remain high given the rising wealth effects and incomes.

SHORT TAKES

Gold ETFs attract ₹303cr in October

New Delhi: Gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) continue to attract investor attention as they garnered net assets worth ₹303 crore in October due to festive season demand. This was, however, lower than the net inflow of ₹446 crore seen in September. Before this, the segment saw a net inflow of ₹24 crore in the previous month, data with Association of Mutual Funds in India showed. "As expected, the festivities kept the asset class in demand. Gold sale level this Dhanteras at 50 tonne was almost 20 tonne more than the 2019 Dhanteras," said Priti Rathi Gupta, founder, LXME.

SMC expects auto sales to fall 6%

New Delhi: Japan's Suzuki Motor Corporation Thursday said it expects its automobile sales in India to decline 6 per cent year-on-year and has cut its overall global sales forecast for the ongoing fiscal by 2.25 lakh units on account of semiconductor shortage. In a financial presentation, the company whose subsidiary Maruti Suzuki India is the largest carmaker in India, pegged its total global sales forecast for the ongoing fiscal at 24.86 lakh units, down by 2.25 lakh units from the previous forecast. In the last financial year, Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC) had a total sales of 25.71 lakh units.

French company to invest 50mn euros

New Delhi: Global infrastructure company Egis Group plans to invest 50 million euros to expand business in India, a company official said. The company has been present in the domestic market for about 25 years and has already invested 75 million euros (about ₹650 crore) in India over the last two decades, said Sandeep Gulati, Regional CEO and MD of Egis India.

New lens by Sony

Bhubaneswar: Sony India announced the newest lens in their G Master lineup - the FE 70-200mm F2.8 GM OSS II, which is designed to deliver an extraordinary combination of resolution and bokeh as well as unequalled AF performance known to Sony's G Master design. Designed to perfectly pair with Sony's E-mount camera bodies, the new lens is also the lightest F2.8 70-200 mm zoom in the world to allow for unprecedented shooting flexibility and freedom.

BIZ BUZZ

APB expands banking services to 4,900 villages

Bhubaneswar:

Airtel Payments Bank (APB) is rapidly expanding its rural footprint in Odisha to take banking services to remote villages with no or distant access to banking and contribute to financial inclusion in the state. Over 4,900 remote villages are now able to access financial services through the neighbourhood banking points of Airtel Payments Bank. More than 60,000 customers in these villages have a savings account with the bank. Through these banking points, customers can easily access a range of financial services like Aadhaar enabled payments, insurance, and government pension schemes. APB is building a robust doorstep banking infrastructure to serve the underbanked population in Odisha. The bank offers convenient digital banking services through a network of over 10,500 neighborhood banking points spread across Odisha.



PM to launch two RBI schemes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch two innovative customer centric initiatives of the Reserve Bank of India Friday via video conferencing. These initiatives include the RBI Retail Direct Scheme and the Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme.

The RBI Retail Direct Scheme is aimed at enhancing access to the government securities market for retail investors. It offers them a new avenue for directly investing in securities issued by the Government of India and the state governments. Investors will be able to easily open and maintain their government securities account online with the RBI, free of cost.



The schemes are aimed at deepening the debt market and improve customer grievance redressal mechanism

The Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme aims to further improve the grievance redress mechanism for resolving customer complaints against entities regulated by RBI. The central theme of the scheme is based on 'One Nation-One Ombudsman' with one portal, one email and one address for the customers to lodge their complaints.

There will be a single point of reference for customers to file their complaints, submit the documents, track status and provide feedback.

A multi-lingual toll-free number will provide all relevant information on grievance redress and assistance for filing complaints. The Union Finance Minister and RBI Governor will also attend the event.

With increased awareness, digital penetration and financial inclusion there were steep rise in the number of complaints against various regulated entities. The number of complaints shot up from 1.64 lakh in 2017-18 to 3.30 lakh complaints in 2019-20, as per RBI data.

AMID SUPPLY CHAIN WOES

A YEAR OF SUPPLY CHAIN AND PRODUCTION DISRUPTIONS HAVE LEFT AUTO DEALERSHIPS WITH ROUGHLY ONE-THIRD OF THE NORMAL INVENTORY LEVELS, GIVING SELLERS LITTLE REASON TO SELL OUT FOR SPLASHY HOLIDAY ADS

AGENCIES

Detroit, Nov 11: For years, luxury vehicle brands have promoted holiday season sales with slogans like Lexus's "A December to remember."

But automakers and dealers are on track to spend less on advertising this holiday season, industry executives and analysts said, leaving behind the generous lease deals and discounts of seasons past. A year of supply chain and production disruptions have left auto dealerships with roughly one-third of the normal inventory levels, giving sellers little reason to shell out for splashy holiday ads.

"We will not be promoting the holiday season as we have been," said Rory Harvey, vice president of General Motors Co's Cadillac brand. With the supply of vehicles at a third of normal levels, he said, "why would you?"



In 2019, General Motors spent an estimated \$106 million on TV commercials for Cadillac and \$16.4 million on digital ads for the brand, according to estimates from ad measurement and analytic firms EDO and Pathmatics. Automakers are not alone. Global supply chain disruptions are

prompting inventory issues across multiple categories including electronics, toys and apparel. Online shoppers saw more than 2 billion out-of-stock messages last month, more than three times the amount in October 2019, according to the Adobe Digital

Economy Index.

Carmakers - usually big spenders during the fourth quarter - spent about \$23 million or 10% less on digital advertising between late July to the end of October when compared to the same period in 2019, according to Pathmatics.

The industry also spent \$57 million or 5% less on broadcast television commercials during that time frame compared with 2019, according to estimates from EDO.

Ford Motor Co has begun a holiday campaign called "Get Holiday Ready", to promote its F-series pickup and certain SUVs. Lexus is also going ahead with its annual "December to Remember" advertising campaign, which popularized the idea of a luxury vehicle as a holiday gift.

"For us to change it dramatically it's too important to the brand. It's part of our DNA," said the brand's US vice president for marketing Vinay Shahani. Lexus' spending will be "in the ballpark" of past years, he said.

However, Shahani said, "certainly you could expect the offers may not be as compelling" as two years ago. "At the largest US auto retail chain, AutoNation Inc, the plan is to spend less on advertising than in the pre-pandemic year of 2019," said Executive Vice President Marc Cannon. Discount offers from automakers "will be light all around," he said.

Winter sales events are such an institutionalized event, that it's hard not to do them. But if they do their jobs really well, they could make people unhappy if the cars aren't there. It is a December to forget for the automakers

KEVIN KRIM | CHIEF EXECUTIVE, EDO

AUSSIES WADE INTO PAK

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP SET TO WITNESS A NEW CHAMPION AS AUSTRALIA SET UP TITLE CLASH WITH TRANS-TASMANIAN RIVAL NEW ZEALAND



MOMENT TO CHERISH: Matthew Wade and Marcus Stoinis react after the former hit the winning runs against Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Nov 11: Matthew Wade (41 n o, 17b, 2x4, 4x6) came up with a barrage of sixes out of nowhere to script Australia's sensational come from behind five-wicket victory over Pakistan here Thursday and send his team into their second T20 World Cup final. Wade was ably supported by Marcus Stoinis (40 n o, 31b, 2x4, 2x6) at the other end. Mohammad Rizwan (67, 52b, 3x4, 4x6) struck his third half century of the tournament before Fakhar Zaman roared back to form with a 32-ball unbeaten 55 (3x4, 4x6) to propel Pakistan to 176/4 after being sent into bat.

Pakistan were on course to maintain their unbeaten run in the tournament with Australia needing 62 off the last 30 balls but Wade and Stoinis shared a match-winning 81-run stand for the sixth wicket to pull off a memorable win in the second semifinal. In the end, Australia, who are yet to win a T20 World Cup title, got home with an over to spare. They will meet New Zealand in the final Sunday. Thus, the mega event will see a new team lift the trophy. Leg-spinner Shadab Khan (4/26) produced an admirable performance but the brilliance of Wade and Stoinis turned the game around on its head.

Australia were kept in the chase by David Warner (49, 30b, 3x4, 3x6), who shared a 51-run stand Mitchell Marsh (28), after skipper Aaron Finch was trapped lbw in another sensational first over bowled by Shaheen Shah Afridi (1/35). With Pakistan on top, Warner chose to counter attack taking Australia to 52/1 in the powerplay. With Australia reaching 89/3 in 10 overs. However, he fell after drinks break. With Stoinis and Wade in the middle, Australia needed something special. Both were able to reduce the equation to 22 off 12 balls. With the match hanging in balance, Babar Azam brought Afridi back into the attack and the left-

arm pacer nearly responded to his skipper's call with the wicket of Wade, who was dropped by Hasan Ali at deep midwicket in the third ball of the over. The Australian wicketkeeper cashed in on the chance and smashed Afridi for three consecutive sixes to seal the game for his side. Earlier, Rizwan and Babar (39, 34b, 5x4) shared a 71-run stand before Zaman ended the innings on a high. The last five overs yielded 59 runs for Pakistan. Rizwan, who was down with flu ahead of the game, did not look at his best early on and Babar took the lead in attacking the Australian pace attack. Leg-spinner Adam Zampa (1/22) finally got the breakthrough Australia needed by dismissing Babar with Pakistan reaching 71/1 in 10 overs.

Rizwan, who was dropped twice in the innings, got into the act after Babar's dismissal. Australia did well from overs 7-11, conceding only 28 before Rizwan changed gears. With Zampa completing his tidy effort, Pakistan were looking for a big over and that happened to be the 17th when Josh Hazlewood was hammered for 21 runs, including a six off a free hit. After Rizwan's dismissal, Zaman displayed his power hitting skills against Mitchell Starc (2/38), clubbing him for a six and four in a 15-run over. Zaman finished the innings on an exhilarating note, depositing Starc for two massive sixes to take the team past 170. **BRIEF SCORES:** Pakistan 176/4 (Mohammad Rizwan 67, Fakhar Zaman 55 n o, Babar Azam 39; Mitchell Starc 2/38, Adam Zampa 1/22) lost to Australia 177/5 (David Warner 49, Matthew Wade 41 n o, Marcus Stoinis 40 n o; Shadab Khan 4/26) by 5 wickets.

Daryll Mitchell was 'clueless'



JOB DONE: Daryll Mitchell in jolly mood after hitting the winning run in the semifinal, while heartbroken England players walk out of the ground, Wednesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Nov 10: New Zealand opener Daryll Mitchell said he "couldn't remember" what was happening in the field of play as he went about scripting his team's sensational win over England in the first semifinal of the T20 World Cup here Wednesday. Player of the Match Mitchell blazed his way to an unbeaten 47-ball 72 to play a pivotal role in the five-wicket victory that seemed unlikely before a flurry of sixes from James Neesham and the opener himself brought the equation down to 20 in the last two overs. Mitchell, though, finished the job with an over to spare with two sixes and a four in the penultimate over. "It was a bit of a whirl at the end there. I couldn't remember what was going on, but I'm happy I got the job done," Mitchell said at the presentation ceremony. "It was a challenging surface, with the new ball, and it was two-paced. The way (Devon) Conway set the platform and Neesh hit a few out of the ground was amazing.

We knew one or two good overs would do it, and we got the momentum back thanks to Neesham's hitting. "With what's going on around the world right now, it's amazing that my old man (his father) travelled half way around the world to watch me play, so this is a proud moment." Winning captain Kane Williamson said keeping wickets in hand was the key to his team's stunning win. Like Mitchell, Williamson too credited Neesham for changing the momentum of the game with his three sixes. "We've played each other on a number of occasions, knew it would be a great game of cricket, and really chuffed with the heart that was shown throughout that performance," Williamson said. "Outstanding from Mitchell at the top, but cashing in on the match-ups (was crucial). His character stood out today; an incredible knock, not done it a lot at the top of the order. "T20 cricket is a game of small margins, depending on the surface, short side... Can all be match-

defining. We had wickets in hand which was really important. Neesham came out and hit the ball hard, and changed the momentum of the game. Ultimately the deciding factor," the skipper added. England skipper Eoin Morgan had no qualms in admitting that his team was outplayed by the Kiwis. "Full credit to Kane and his team, they outplayed us today, I can't fault anything that we've done tonight, we've fought hard and represented ourselves well, but come up short tonight," Morgan said. "Incredibly proud of the guys. Hard to identify the key moments, they built up until they had to push the button, then came good. He held them at bay up to that point. It was a sluggish pitch and we struggled to hit sixes, a good indication it was two-paced. "We posted a par score and felt in the game at the halfway side. To have the ability to hit sixes from ball one like (Neesham), full credit to him. I hope to be back, I am still offering enough, and I love playing in this changing room. Incredibly proud to be their leader," Morgan said.

No restriction on crowd numbers for Jaipur T20I

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: The opening T20I between India and New Zealand in Jaipur November 17 could be played in front of a sizeable crowd with the host association putting no restrictions on entry of spectators with even single shot of COVID-19 vaccine. Those who are not jabbed will have to carry a valid COVID negative test report which is not older than 48 hours from the start of the match. The Sawai Mansingh Stadium which has a capacity of 25000 is hosting an international game after eight years. "As per the current state guidelines, we can have a full crowd. You need to be vaccinated with one dose or you carry a negative test report which will be checked at the entrance," Rajasthan Cricket Association secretary Mahendra

Sharma told this agency Thursday. Sharma said there will be no entry into the stadium without masks. It will be the first international match in India with no restrictions in the COVID era. Crowds were allowed during India's home series against England but the number was capped at 50 percent before a spike in cases during the white-ball leg forced the organisers to stage the games without fans. Sharma said the tickets for the opening T20 will go on sale from Thursday night and will be available on paytm.com. "The prices start from Rs 1000 and the most expensive ticket will cost Rs 15000," he said. While New Zealand have reached the T20 World Cup final, to be played November 14, nine players from their Test squad arrived in Jaipur Wednesday, added Sharma.

Pliskova open WTA Finals campaign in style

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Guadalajara (Mexico), Nov 11: Karolina Pliskova overcame a slow start before beating Garbine Muguruza 4-6, 6-2, 7-6(8-6) in her opening match at the WTA Finals. In a contest between two former No.1-ranked players, the third-seeded Pliskova struggled early adjusting to the nearly 5,000-foot altitude of Guadalajara, Mexico's second largest city Wednesday. Pliskova is playing the WTA Finals for the fifth time, having reached the semifinals in 2018 and '19. The 2020 tournament was canceled. She didn't win any titles in 2021 but kept a high ranking by reaching the finals at Wimbledon and Montreal, and the semifinals at Cincinnati. Pliskova now has a 9-2 record against former Wimbledon and French Open champion Muguruza, who won the Chicago and Dubai ti-

ties this year and is making her fourth appearance at the season-ending event. Muguruza dropped serve before winning four straight games to take a 4-2 lead and eventually clinched the first set in 38 minutes. Pliskova settled down in the second and got service breaks in the second and eighth games to level the match. The third set lasted more than an hour, with Muguruza saving three match points to force a tiebreaker, and another in the tiebreaker before Pliskova sealed the win. Earlier, Anett Kontaveit extended her hot streak to 11 consecutive victories with a 6-3, 6-4 win over second-seeded Barbora Krejickova. Kontaveit has won 27 of her last 29 matches, which include her title run at Ostrava where she beat Paula Badosa and Maria Sakkari, both of whom are competing here.



Tursunov a former world No. 20, started working with Kontaveit at the Cincinnati Masters, where the 25-year-old Estonian lost in the first round. Since then, Kontaveit has soared from No. 30 into the top 10. After top-ranked Ash Barty of Australia opted not to defend the title because of travel restrictions in her country, Kontaveit edged out Ons Jabeur for the last spot in the season-ending championship by beating Simona Halep in the final of the Transylvania Open. Krejickova, the French Open champion, started the year ranked 65th but captured three titles to qualify for the WTA Finals. The tournament, which was canceled last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, is played in a round-robin format. The WTA Finals are being played in Guadalajara for this year only, with the event scheduled to return to Shenzhen, China in 2022.

Bhagat vie for 'Player of Year'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: India's Tokyo Paralympics gold winner Pramod Bhagat was Thursday named among six shuttlers for the Male Para Badminton Player of the Year by the sport's world body but none of his compatriots featured in the able-bodied awards' categories. Reigning World Champion Bhagat, who had won a historic gold medal in the men's singles SL3 class in the Tokyo Olympics in September, was also named along with Manoj Sarkar for the newly introduced Para Badminton Pair of the Year, with five other nominees. Sarkar had bagged a bronze in the men's singles SL3 class in the Tokyo Olympics. The 33-year-old Odisha superstar, who had contracted polio when he was four years old, picked up the sport after watching his neighbours play. Initially, he competed against able-bodied players before getting into competitive para badminton in 2006. Bhagat is also current World No.1 and Asian Champion in SL3. In SL3 classification, athletes with lower limb impairment compete. There was no Indian in the list of nominees in the able-bodied categories. Danish players Viktor Axelsen and Anders Antonsen, China's Wnag Yi Lyu and Japan's Yuta Watanabe were nominated for the (able-bodied) Male Player of the



Year. Axelsen was the gold medalist at the Tokyo Olympics. China's Tokyo Games gold winner in women's singles, Chen Yu Fei, Spain's Carolina Marin, Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying and Japan's Akane Yamaguchi were the nominees for Female Player of the Year. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the eligibility period was extended to cover the 2020 and 2021 seasons (November 1, 2019 to October 31, 2021). The winners will be announced during the Bali Leg of the HSBC

BWF World Tour in Indonesia in November-December. The Badminton World Federation (BWF) said two new award categories were introduced - Pair of the Year and Para Badminton Pair of the Year. "The BWF Awards Commission also wished to make special mention of the extraordinary journey of Guatemala's Kevin Cordón across four Olympic Games and his stunning performances at Tokyo 2020 which took him to the semifinals," the BWF said.

Odisha FC join hands with Staffordshire University

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: Indian Super League (ISL) club Odisha FC Thursday announced Staffordshire University as their new education and community partner. The university, which for over 100 years has been making a difference to careers and industry in the United Kingdom, will look to work in collaboration with Odisha's colleges and universities to provide educational content virtually on a variety of subjects throughout the year. "Besides helping Odia students, this partnership is sure to have a positive impact on the lives of people throughout the state, as well as India, providing a variety of learning opportunities," said club president Raj Athwal. Welcoming the new partnership, Staffordshire University vice-chancellor and chief executive designate, professor Martin Jones said, "India has always been an important market for us and we have had some excellent students come and study with us over the years. "We have hosted elite students through the GREAT scholarship scheme in partnership with the British Council, and the relationship with Odisha FC is another example of how we want to work closely in India with key partners to provide opportunities for students and staff in both organisations."

Rohit to skip NZ Test series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: India's newly-appointed T20I captain Rohit Sharma is set to be rested from the two-match Test series against New Zealand while Virat Kohli will miss the opening match as a "mentally and physically exhausted" Team India gets down to workload management during the home assignment. Vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane will lead the side in the opening Test in Kanpur as Kohli extends his break after opting out of the three-match T20 series starting November 17 in Jaipur. It is learnt from a reliable BCCI source that the squad has been finalised after a meeting of the selection committee Thursday but a formal announcement is still awaited. Other bigwigs who will sit out both the Tests, to be played in Kanpur and Mumbai, are wicket-keeper-batsman Rishabh Pant, and the pace duo of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami. Rohit will take this break after leading the team in the T20 series. The Tests are scheduled to start November 25 in Kanpur. Kohli will be back for the second game in Mumbai from December 3. The Indian Test and ODI captain has spoken extensively about the bubble fatigue and how it has been taking a toll on the players mentally.



In Pant's absence, Wriddhiman Saha will take over the wicket-keeping duties with KS Bharath acting as the second keeper for the series. The 28-year-old Bharath, who hails from Andhra Pradesh, has only played in the IPL, signed up by Royal Challengers Bangalore, this year. He was among the five standby players for the home Test series against England this year. The rest of the squad comprises the usual suspects with Test regulars like Hanuma Vihari, Cheteshwar Pujara and Mayank Agarwal expectedly finding their way in.

NEW SUPPORT STAFF As was expected, Paras Mhambrey will join the team as the new bowling coach replacing Bharat Arun, whose tenure ended with India's campaign in the T20 World Cup. Arun and head coach Ravi Shastri's stint came to a halt with the team's last group stage match against Namibia. Mhambrey is close to new head coach Rahul Dravid and was part of the support staff during a second-string India's tour of Sri Lanka in July this year where Dravid served as head coach. Vikram Rathour has been retained as the batting coach after he reapplied for the position, while T Dilip is the new fielding coach. Dravid, it is learnt, wanted Abhay Sharma to be the fielding coach but the Cricket Advisory Committee has gone with Dilip, who had travelled with the Indian team during the July tour of Sri Lanka. The 39-year-old was the fielding coach of the Hyderabad team and has also worked with the India A side in the past. **LIKELY SQUAD** Ajinkya Rahane (C), KL Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Hanuma Vihari, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Axar Patel, R Ashwin, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Siraj, Prasadhi Krishna, KS Bharath (wk) & Ravindra Jadeja.