

FARMERS HUMBLE GOVT

A YEAR OF PROTESTS

- JUNE 5, 2020:** Govt promulgates three ordinances.
- SEPT 14, 2020:** Three farm Bills brought to Parliament.
- SEPT 17, 2020:** Bills passed in LS.
- SEPT 20, 2020:** Bills passed in RS.
- SEPT 25, 2020:** Farmers across India come out in protest in response to a call by the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee.
- SEPT 26, 2020:** Shiromani Akali Dal quits NDA over the farm Bills.
- NOV 26, 2020:** Farmers marching towards Delhi face water cannons, tear gas in Haryana's Ambala district.
- DEC 8, 2020:** Farmers give a call for Bharat Bandh. Farmers from other states also give their support.
- DEC 9, 2020:** Farmer leaders reject Centre's proposal to amend the three contentious laws.
- JAN 12, 2021:** SC stays implementation of farm laws; sets up a four-member committee to make recommendations on the legislations.
- JAN 26, 2021:** On Republic Day, thousands of protestors clash with police during the tractor parade called by farmer unions.
- Jan 29, 2021:** Govt proposes to suspend farm laws for one-and-a-half years.
- FEB 5, 2021:** Delhi Police's cyber crime cell registers an FIR against creators of a 'toolkit' on farmer protests.
- FEB 6, 2021:** Protesting farmers hold nationwide 'Chakka Jam'.
- OCT 29, 2021:** Delhi Police start removing barricades from Ghazipur border.



POWER OF PROTESTS: Farmers dance as they celebrate at Tikri Border in New Delhi after PM Narendra Modi announced the repealing of the three farm laws, Friday. PTI PHOTO

■ **PM Modi announces repeal of three controversial farm laws, a move that Opposition parties claim was made in view of the upcoming Assembly elections in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh**

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 19: The Centre will repeal the three farm laws, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Friday, marking a climbdown by his

government to meet the unrelenting demand of farmers protesting in several states against the reform measures for over a year.

Making the announcement during a televised address to the nation on the occasion of Guru Nanak's birth anniversary, Modi appealed to the protesting farmers to call off their agitation against these reform measures and return home as he called for a new beginning.

The constitutional formalities to revoke the laws will be done in Parliament's winter session begin-



I would request all my protesting farmer friends, today is the auspicious day of Guru Purab, return home, to your fields and family and make a new beginning, let us move forward afresh

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER



The protest will not be withdrawn immediately, we will wait for the day when the farm laws are repealed in Parliament. Along with MSP, the

government should talk to farmers on other issues too

RAKESH TIKAIT | BKU LEADER

ning from November 29, the Prime Minister said Friday, nearly a week before the first anniversary of the start of the stir at several Delhi border points including Singhu.

The ruling BJP hopes that the government's decision will placate Sikhs, who are in a majority in the border state of Punjab, and Jats, a major demographic constituency in the western region of Uttar Pradesh, and will cancel out political headwinds it has encountered in the two poll-bound states besides Haryana.

The Prime Minister spoke at length about the benefits these laws were expected to bring to farmers, especially those with small landholdings, and his government's good faith in enacting these legislations.

He then apologised to the people of the country, saying he wanted to convey to them with a 'sacred heart' that there may have been some shortcomings in the government's efforts that it could not convince some farmers about the truth which was "as clear as the light of a candle."

"Despite our efforts, we could not convince some farmers. Even though it was only a section of farmers who were opposing, but they were still important for us... We continued to convince them with all humility and open mind,"

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Remember the laws we made in national interest? We are repealing them in national interest!

Modi said, noting that his government had offered to suspend the laws for two years and amend the provisions which had drawn objections. The Supreme Court has put the laws in abeyance.

Noting that the day of Guru Nanak's birth anniversary was not the occasion to blame anyone, he said, "I want to tell you, the entire country that we have decided to repeal the three agriculture laws."

SPECIAL ON P8



Country's 'annadatas' (food providers) have made arrogance bow its head

through satyagraha

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER



Welcome Hon'ble PM @narendramodi ji's decision to repeal all 3 #FarmLaws, in the best interest of the country and its farmers. Your farms and families have been waiting for long and they will be happy to welcome you back.

@bjd_odisha continues to stand with the farmers

NAVEEN PATNAIK | ODISHA CHIEF MINISTER

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CP issues multiple helpline numbers

■ **Commissionerate Police urges denizens to report mobile phone theft, cyber fraud, extortion, drugs and street crimes via WhatsApp numbers**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: The Commissionerate Police Friday issued several helpline numbers urging the denizens to contact the city police in case of any emergency. The city police issued the numbers on its official Twitter handle.

The citizens who lost their mobile phones or whose phones were stolen in the city can inform the police by sending messages regarding the details of the set on the WhatsApp number 7077798111, the helpline number issued Friday.

"If you have missed/lost your mobile phone in Bhubaneswar city area,

please WhatsApp your name with IMEI No., phone model, and PS case/ GD reference, if any to WhatsApp No. 7077798111," the Commissionerate Police declared on Twitter.

Similarly, it urged the citizens who fell victim to cyber fraud to contact the cyber helpdesk via the helpline number, 7440006709.

Meanwhile, the people who faced the menace of extortion have been advised to contact the Commissionerate Police on 9938910000.

"If you fall prey to DAD-ABATI by any anti-social in Bhubaneswar city, please dial/Whatsapp No. 9938910000," added the Commissionerate Police.

Besides, the Commissionerate Police asked the citizens to share information in connection with drugs and street crime related incidents with the police on the WhatsApp number 7077798111.

Govt mulling to tax cryptocurrency gains

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 19: The government is mulling changes in the income tax laws to bring cryptocurrencies under the tax net, with some changes that could form part of the Budget next year, a top official said.

Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said that in terms of income tax, some people are already paying capital gains tax on the income from cryptocurrency, and in respect of Goods and Services Tax (GST) also the law is "very clear" that the rate would be applicable as those in case of other services.

"We will take a call. I understand that already people are paying taxes on it. Now that it has really grown a lot, we will see whether we can actually bring in some changes in law position or not. But that would be a Budget activity. We are already nearing the Budget, we have to look at that point of time," Bajaj told PTI.

State told to restore damaged riverbanks



AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Nov 19: The National Green Tribunal has directed the Odisha government to restore the riverbanks of the Mahanadi and Brahmani in Kendrapara district that have been adversely impacted by illegal excavation.

The green tribunal was hearing a petition filed by four persons against the extraction of minor minerals and earth by the Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd for the construction of 81-km long Haridaspur-Paradip railway line.

The contractors are allegedly procuring soil for the construction of the earth-bed of the railway line without an environmental clearance certificate or sanction from any competent authority.

The NGT directed the district collector, who is also the chairperson of the District

Environment Impact Assessment Authority, to take all necessary security measures, including deploying monitoring teams, to ensure that there was no illegal excavation in the area.

"Strict surveillance measures through satellite monitoring, as well as installation of CCTV cameras in strategic locations, may be ensured," the eastern-zone bench of the NGT said Thursday.

The two-member bench also directed the government to ensure compliance with NIT Rourkela's recommendations within four months to mitigate the adverse environmental impact.

In an order in February 2020, the tribunal had directed the district collector and the State Pollution Control Board to file an action-taken report regarding restoration of the area, from where soil and sand had been illegally excavated.

On the tribunal's directions, the NIT Rourkela, had assessed the environmental damage due to illegal mining and prepared a restoration plan in the affected area.

The NIT stated that appropriate measures were required immediately to curb illegal excavation, which is continuing for several reasons, including brick-making with the alleged connivance of some local influential people.

The report had identified two prominent locations in the Brahmani and Mahanadi riverbanks that have been severely impacted by illegal excavations.

China's missile 'went around world'

■ **Second highest-ranking American military officer warns China might one day be able to launch surprise nuclear attack on the US**

AGENCIES

Washington/Beijing, Nov 19: China might one day be able to launch a surprise nuclear attack on the United States, the second highest-ranking American military officer has warned as he shed new details of Beijing's hypersonic weapons test in July, which sent a missile around the world at more than five times the speed of sound.

"They launched a long-range missile," General John Hyten, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told CBS News while commenting on China's hypersonic weapons test July 27.

"It went around the world, dropped off a hypersonic glide vehicle that glided all



the way back to China, that impacted a target in China," he said.

When asked if the missile hit the target, Hyten said, "Close enough."

China has denied that it carried out a hypersonic missile test, saying it was testing a reusable spacecraft.

Though the Chinese weapon missed its target by several kilometers, according to the Financial Times, the test marked the first time any country had sent a hy-

personic weapon fully around the Earth. Hypersonic weapons travel at more than five times the speed of sound, making it difficult for radars to detect.

Combined with hundreds of new missile silos China is building, Hyten believes China could one day have the capability to launch a surprise nuclear attack on the US.

"They look like a first-use weapon," Hyten told CBS News. "That's what those weapons look like to me."

Hyten said that in the last five years, China has carried out hundreds of hypersonic tests, while the US has conducted just nine. China has already deployed one medium-range hypersonic weapon, while the US is still a few years from fielding its first one, according to Hyten.

China, which confirmed the test October 18, tried to downplay it, saying it was 'routine test' and emphasised that "it's not missile, but a spacecraft."

THE CLIMATE IS CHANGING

SHOULDN'T WE ?

DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2021

CLIMATE CHANGE: FOCUS ODISHA

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leisure



WILL SMITH BARES HIS SOUL: I WAS TORMENTED BY MY FATHER

With the launch of his memoir titled *Will*, actor-producer Will Smith has laid bare several moments from his life that have left a mark on him. The memoir talks about his complicated relationships with his parents, his wife Jada Pinket Smith and his former-wife, Sheree Zampino.

PAKISTANI ACTRESS SANAM SAEED WANTS TO WORK WITH AAMIR

Pakistani actress Sanam Saeed, who rose to global fame with her hit television show *Zindagi Gulzar Hai*, says she would love to work in Indian films too and share screen space with Bollywood star Aamir Khan.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Now at last you have realised that you have been preoccupied with work at the cost of your family life. Making up to them now is going to take a lot more effort. Ganesh says be ready to open your purse strings for either eating out, going out for a movie or shopping at the best places.

TAURUS
This day has been earmarked for beautification, a makeover, says Ganesh. You are likely to remain preoccupied with ways to enhance your looks and appearance. A new, stylish hair do, face packs and massages, trendy outfits and accessories could be in store.

GEMINI
You will feel lonely and unwanted today. You will feel the need for someone who can calm your troubled mind. Meditation and yoga will help you calm yourself. It is a good day to receive love from that someone special, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will succeed in a new venture and will brim with radiance and energy. Ganesh says this is the best time for get-together and kindle contact with friends and relatives.

LEO
You will look to give your house a new appearance by decorating it or undertaking some renovation projects. You will make the best out of waste and produce some truly marvellous pieces of art for improving the ambience of your nest. You will be able to save up on some money. Laudable, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
You will excel remarkably in whatever work you prefer to engage yourself in today. Ganesh says your aspiration to start a business endeavour in a foreign country will bear fruit. To considerably enhance your self-image, it is necessary to make required improvements in your personal appearance.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that on the work front you may be in the midst of meetings or negotiations, which will work out favorably for you. This will help ease your tension and you will feel mentally free. Today you will feel more vibrant and active too and hence will be able to get more done.

SCORPIO
According to Ganesh, your new business venture is likely to keep you on toes today. You may even neglect your personal life to meet expectations at work. A feeling of disappointment may surround you as things do not go according to planning and your efforts may go in vain. No pains, no gains reminds Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Good Samaritans around you may give unsolicited, but valuable advice. Take it as a hint, and consider it for your betterment. Take your decision after following the advice, and this may definitely yield benefits, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
You want to enhance your knowledge by exploring foreign shores, but luck hasn't favoured you yet. Ganesh predicts today to be a favourable day for you to try again for higher studies. If associated with the Stock Market or speculation, you are likely to make profits.

AQUARIUS
There are no short-cuts to success. You know this very well and work you socks off to get what you want. Colleagues, friends and family - all of them will acknowledge and appreciate your efforts and achievements. Though you will be apprehensive about it, you will have to take some risks to bring the desired change in your life, says Ganesh.

PISCES
Interactions with those of the opposite sex will mark your day. It is also a good day to strike up friendship with those of the opposite sex. For those in love, today is a good day to spend time with your partner.



Sushmita calls Aarya a rewarding experience

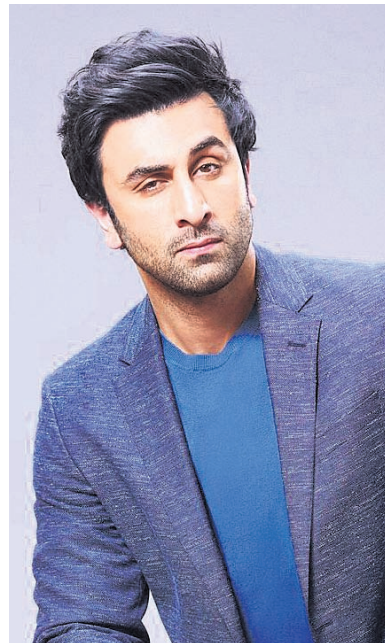
Mumbai: Actress Sushmita Sen has called her web-series *Aarya*, which has earned an International Emmy Awards nomination, a rewarding experience as she says it changed her life on many levels.

Sushmita talked about her journey of *Aarya*, calling the show her reward for all the challenges. She said: "I feel that prior to *Aarya*, I was kind of an actor, on the personal front also, I faced quite a lot of challenges, and a challenging 5 years period at the end of it. I felt like the Universe had to reward me because I've worked so hard to get there! And I can call *Aarya* that reward! It came at the right time, not just on a professional level."

The actress and former beauty queen added: "Playing *Aarya* has been a worthy experience and to do so successfully, showcasing the relationship of a mother and of a woman who can hold the family together, even if the family belongs to the underworld and drug mafia, you glue it all together."

"I think *Aarya* changed my life on many levels. It was an exciting and lovely series as an actor to be a part of. I think it was an all-round experience which has changed my life for the better, for sure."

The second instalment of the show will soon make a comeback on Disney+ Hotstar and tell the riveting story of a woman who goes against all odds for the sake of her family and avenges her husband's killing.



Ranbir-starrer Animal to release in August 2023

Mumbai: Filmmaker Sandeep Reddy Vanga's upcoming directorial film *Animal* starring Ranbir Kapoor is slated to have a worldwide release August 11, 2023.

Animal was earlier slated to release on Dussehra 2022.

The film also stars Anil Kapoor, Bobby Deol and Parineeti Chopra. *Animal* marks Vanga's first association with Ranbir.

The crime drama film, *Animal* is produced by Bhusan Kumar and Krishan Kumar's T-Series, Pranay Reddy Vanga's Bhadrakali Pictures and Murad Khetani's Cine1 Studios.

The film marks Vanga's return as director after the 2017 Telugu blockbuster *Arjun Reddy* and its equally popular Bollywood remake *Kabir Singh*.

Animal is a gangster drama that revolves around the ever-changing nature of the relationship shared by the characters where the protagonist becomes like an animal in nature.

Anushka posts emotional notes after AB de Villiers' retirement

Mumbai: Actress Anushka Sharma took to her Instagram handle and penned down a heartbreaking note for South African ace cricketer AB de Villiers who announced his retirement from all forms of cricket games.

Actor, producer and Virat Kohli's wife, Anushka Sharma called the 37-year old cricket legend's decision 'heartbreaking' and wrote, "One of the greatest men and cricketers I've had the privilege

of knowing and watching. Wishing you, Danielle and the kids the very best in life always. You guys deserve everything beautiful and so much more, this is truly heartbreaking" followed by a broken heart emoji in the caption of AB de Villiers' monochrome picture.

Meanwhile, Virat tweeted, "To the best player of our times and the most inspirational person I've met, you can be very proud of what you've done and what you've given to RCB my brother. Our bond is beyond the game and will always be."

He further added, "This hurts my heart but I know you've made the best decision for yourself and your family like you've always done. [Broken heart emoji] love you @ABdeVilliers17."



of knowing and watching. Wishing you, Danielle and the kids the very best in life always. You guys deserve everything beautiful and so much more, this is truly heartbreaking" followed by a broken heart emoji in the caption of AB de Villiers' monochrome picture. Meanwhile, Virat tweeted, "To the best player of our times and the most inspirational person I've met, you can be very proud of what you've done and what you've given to RCB my brother. Our bond is beyond the game and will always be."



Kartik's fans dedicate Kartik Purnima festival to the star

Mumbai: As the country celebrates Kartik Purnima Friday, the festival has taken on a completely different meaning as hundreds of Kartik Aaryan fans have dedicated the day to the star, taking fandom to a whole new level. Their love and fandom has got #KartikPurnima trending on social media.

Having said that, Kartik Purnima has been trending all across social media with fans expressing their love, sharing videos, performing rituals and even fasting on the occasion for him. And not just girls, but even young boys have celebrated Kartik Purnima with great vigour.

A fanboy of Kartik has kept a fast for the actor Friday while many other girls prepared some sweet delicacies for their favourite actor. Fans have expressed their love on social media with a huge number of videos and messages for their favourite actor.

Tweeted a fan along with a video, "Hey, Kartik Aaryan, on Kartika Purnima I painted these cute bottles for you which lights up just like you light up our world."

Shared another die-hard fan, "We don't need a day to celebrate you Kartik Aaryan but on this beautiful day of



A fanboy of Kartik has kept a fast for the actor Friday while many other girls prepared some sweet delicacies for their favourite actor. Fans expressed their love on social media with a huge number of videos and messages for the star

Kartik Purnima, celebrating it with this sweet sweet brownie. Hope I could share it with you."

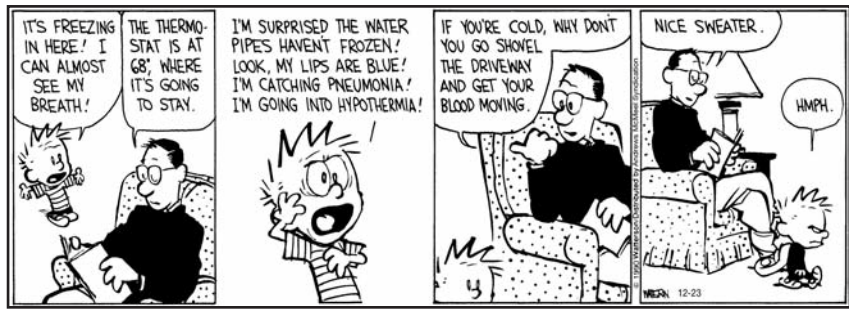
Fans also took to their social media platforms to delve into what they love about Kartik Aaryan. Shared a fan who is a football enthusiast, "Football copy: Kartik Aaryan you are my idol and when I got to know that you love football as much as I do, my happiness was roof high! Happy Kartik Purnima."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Kartik Aaryan has a bank of films which include, *Freddy*, *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*, *Shehzada* and *Captain India*.

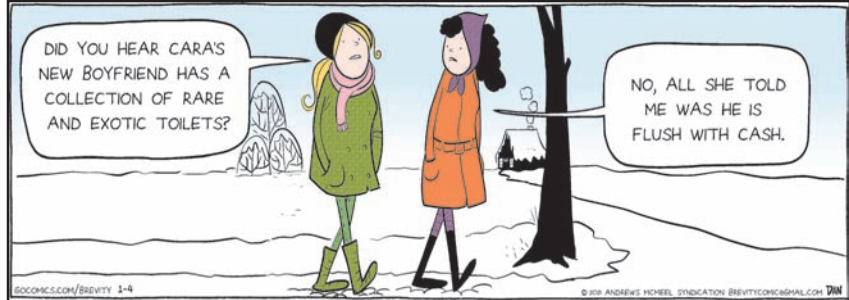
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

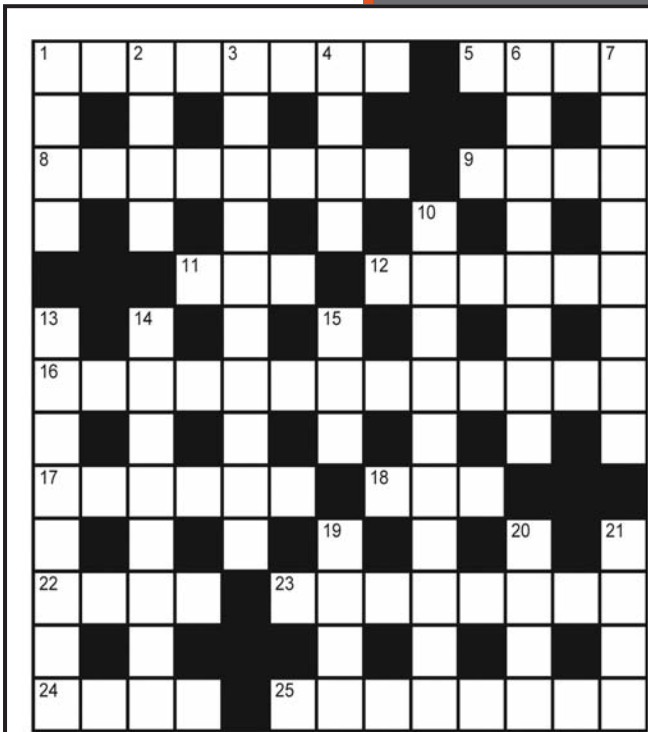


BREVITY



FUN post

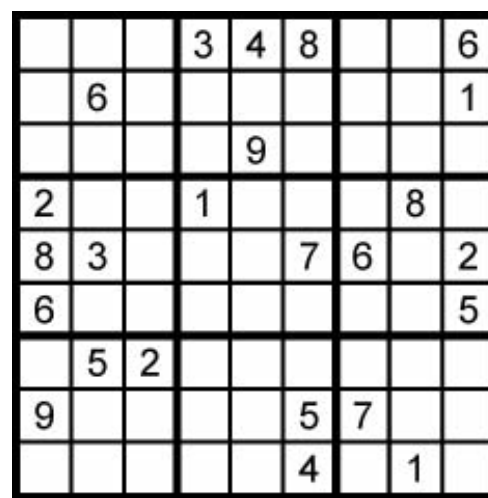
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Platypus
 - 5 Subway system (4,4)
 - 8 Eccentric
 - 9 Therefore
 - 11 Do sums
 - 12 Depressing
 - 16 Gate crashers? (9,4)
 - 17 Ability
 - 18 City on the Danube
 - 22 Kind of sax
 - 23 Not at work (4,4)
 - 24 Diplomat's forte
 - 25 Dupe (4,4)
 - 4 Weaver's apparatus
 - 6 Turmoil
 - 7 Op-ed writer
 - 10 London's Tate, for one (3,7)
 - 13 Painting style
 - 14 Like Olympians
 - 15 Coal holder
 - 19 Diva's song
 - 20 Tower site
 - 21 Durable wood
- Down**
- 1 Ship part
 - 2 Applaud
 - 3 Burger side, maybe (5,5)

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.



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



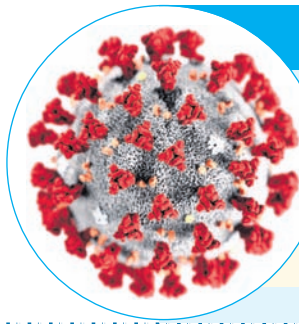
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



MYRIAD HUES

Women draw Rangoli on the occasion of Kartika Purnima at Balabhadrapur in Cuttack, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	25,65,79,261	23,17,50,217	51,51,367
India	3,44,89,623	3,38,97,921	4,65,082
Odisha	10,46,559	10,35,967	8,389

Crorepati RD dept engineer arrested

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: The Odisha Vigilance Friday arrested an engineer for possessing disproportionate assets (DA) worth ₹2.70 crore, including demonetised cash of ₹35,000.

In a statement, the Vigilance said that four of its teams Thursday conducted simultaneous raids on the properties of Rusinath Barala, Assistant Executive Engineer in the Rural Development department of the state government, in Khurda, Dhenkanal and Nayagarh districts. The raids were conducted till late Thursday night.

During the raid, the Vigilance teams found two buildings, nine plots, a four-wheeler, a two-wheeler, bank deposits of over ₹44.73 lakh, insurance deposits of over ₹13.42 lakh, gold and silver ornaments worth ₹9.04 lakh, cash of ₹1.30 lakh and other movable and immovable properties, all totalling to over ₹2.51 crore.

A total of ₹35,000 in demonetised cash was also recovered from Barala during the house search.

The anti-corruption wing of Odisha said that the total disproportionate assets of the engineer were about 397 per cent more than his known sources of income.

Brown sugar worth ₹10L seized in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: The Commissionerate Police seized brown sugar weighing 107.35 grams worth over ₹10 lakh, and arrested three drug peddlers from the outskirts of the Capital city Friday.



The police have so far seized 2.891kg brown sugar & arrested 50 drug peddlers under 'OPS White Spider'

The accused peddlers were identified as Sanjay Kumar Sahoo alias Mantu, 23, and Somanath Mohapatra, 23, of Khurda Town area, and Suresh Kumar Hati alias Silu, 28, of Delanga in Puri district.

Following a tip-off, a team from Tamando police station carried out a raid near the electrical office at Kalinga Vihar Friday morning. During search, cops recovered the contraband brown sugar from the possession of the accused. The cops arrested them by registering a case (246/19) under the NDPS Act.

Notably, City police have so far seized brown sugar weighing 2.891kg and arrested 50 drug peddlers under 'OPS White Spider', a special drive against rampant drug trade in City.

33 seats under BMC reserved for women

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: Thirty-three seats under Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) will be reserved for women in all categories for the upcoming Urban Local Body (ULB) elections here, said the civic body in a report to the H&UD department.

Following instructions from the state government, the civic authority in October this year had launched its ward delimitation exercise. After review, the BMC in its report to Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department stated that 50 per cent of the seats will have female representation under the reserved category, while 20 seats will be reserved for general category.

"Out of the 67 wards under the BMC, the committee that prepared the report has mentioned that six, three and 18 seats have been reserved for Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) respectively," said a BMC official.

The state government in September had passed a Bill capping 27 per cent quota for OBC following which the BMC has restricted the same to 18 which earlier stood at 19.

Bhubaneswar Central Assembly Constituency, which had 21 wards earlier, will now have 19 wards. Ward no 45 and 48 which were earlier under Central Constituency will be brought under Ekamra Constituency.

Meanwhile, ward jurisdictions of 1 to 50 have also been extended equally to include voters of six new mouzas. As per the reports, residents of Patrapada, Bhagabanpur, Subudhipur, Paikarapur and



BHUBANESWAR CENTRAL ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY, WHICH HAD 21 WARDS EARLIER, WILL NOW HAVE 19 WARDS

WARD NO 45 AND 48 WHICH WERE EARLIER UNDER CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY WILL BE BROUGHT UNDER EKAMRA CONSTITUENCY

Shankarpur and Gadakana will now be able to cast their votes this ULB elections. However, the mouzas are unlikely to be declared into new wards as the population is less than the prescribed norms.

While the mouzas of Bhubaneswar block were brought under BMC jurisdiction after 2014, about 18 new revenue villages have been planned to be brought under BMC. The move is planned keeping in view the upcoming census which is likely to enhance the revenue areas of the capital which earlier fell into block panchayat.

"This will allow for a more planned development in these areas. Earlier, many irregular constructions have been made in these areas. The upcoming census is likely to see increase in population of the BMC. A corporation having population in the range of 6 lakh to 12 lakh may have a maximum of 79 wards," a source at the BMC said.

Norms go for a toss as Boita Bandana pulls crowd

Large number of people congregated at river ghats on Kartika Purnima to take bath in the wee hours and sail the miniature boats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: People congregated in large numbers at sea beaches, river ghats and near other water bodies to float miniature boats, marking the occasion of 'Boita Bandana' festival in Odisha Friday despite the restrictions imposed by the state government on mass gatherings at public places to prevent transmission of Covid-19.

On this day, small boats made of banana stem are floated by people to commemorate the rich maritime glory of the state.

Kalinga's sea-facing regions had major trading ports. 'Sadhabs' (mariner merchants) used to sail from Kalinga to distant lands by 'Boitas' (boats) for trade.

Though the administration had imposed restrictions to curb gatherings near water bodies, people were seen thronging water bodies before sunrise for the boat-sailing ritual.

The devotees lit earthen lamps and incense sticks on the tiny boats decorated with coloured flags. They also loaded the miniature boats with flowers and other offerings before sailing them on the water bodies amid ululations and bursting of firecrackers in some places.

Large number of people congregated at river ghats on Kartika Purnima to take bath in the wee hours and sail the miniature boats.

Wishing people on the occa-



People sail miniature boats in Puri sea (top), Kuakhai river in Bhubaneswar (left) and Mahanadi river in Cuttack on the occasion of Kartika Purnima, Friday

sion, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, "Heartiest greetings to the people of the state on the occasion of the holy Kartika Purnima and the Boita Bandana."

"The maritime tradition is a testament to our glorious and prosperous past. Let us remember this glorious history and work together for the progress of

Odisha," Patnaik tweeted. Union Minister Bishwesar Tudu and BJP leader Pratap Sarangi participated in events to mark Boita Bandana.

30.77% schools lack usable toilets: Study

THE STUDY CONDUCTED BY ATMASHAKTI TRUST WITH A SAMPLE OF 10,043 GOVERNMENT-RUN SCHOOLS REVEALED THAT 3,438 SCHOOLS LACK DRINKING WATER FACILITIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: In what has revealed the poor state of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in government-run schools, as many as 3,438 schools of the 10,043 schools studied (34.34%) don't have drinking water facilities while around 30.77 per cent of the schools lack usable toilets.

WASH facilities are the primary indicators which determine whether a child would attend school. Unfortunately, many of them in rural areas do not have access to schools with washrooms or drinking water.

This was revealed in the study conducted by Atmashakti Trust with a sample of 10,043 government-run schools in 82 blocks of 18 districts of the state which was released here, Friday.

The study shows that hygiene and



The Right to Education (RTE) Act states that each school should have separate usable toilets for girls and boys and a safe and adequate drinking water facility. But the study report revealed that there is persistent inadequacy in its availability and usability

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separate usable toilets for girls and boys and a safe and adequate drinking water facility. But the study report revealed that there is persistent inadequacy in its availability and usability.

As per the report, safe drinking water facilities in schools not only keep school-going children away from dehydration and sickness, it also helps in lessening absenteeism. Information shared by the School and Mass Education Minister in the Assembly also reveals that 34,394 (more than 50 per cent) government-run schools have no drinking water facilities.

"As schools reopen, the government needs to prioritise construction and upkeep of school toilets to help bring girls back to the school. Toilet for girls is a more dignified aspect than a facility," said Ruchi Kashyap, executive trustee of Atmashakti Trust.

3 boys drown during Kartika Purnima fest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nimapara/Dhenkanal, Nov 19: In two separate incidents, three minor boys drowned in the state on a day when people were celebrating 'Boita Bandana' on the occasion of Kartika Purnima, Friday.

In the first incident, two minor boys drowned in a pond at Alipingal village of Denua panchayat in Namapara. The deceased were identified as Sai Satyam Barik, 10, son of Bhagyadhar Barik and Shakti Sahu, 7, son of Dhirendra Sahu of the village, police said.

According to villagers, the two minors went deep into the waters while bathing in the pond and drowned.

Locals rushed the duo to Nimapara hospital, where doctors declared them dead-on-arrival. On being informed, police reached the spot and sent the bodies for post-mortem after registering two sep-

arate cases of unnatural deaths. In the other incident, a minor boy reportedly drowned while sailing paper boats at Buddheswari ghat of Brahmani in Bhuban of Dhenkanal district.

The deceased was identified as Rosan Nayak, 13, a Class IX student and the only son of Bidyadhar Nayak of Latabila village under Bhuban police limits.

He was sailing the boats with his family when he accidentally fell into the river and got swept away. His body was recovered by some fishermen at Suleipal ghat.

Lord's Suna Basha sans devotees

PNN/AGENCIES

Puri, Nov 19: Lord Jagannath, his elder brother Lord Balabhadra and sister Devi Subhadra were adorned with the Suna Basha (golden attire) at the sanctum sanctorum of Srimandir on the occasion of Kartika Purnima, Friday.

Servitors of the 12th century shrine performed Mangal Alati, Mailum, Tadaplaji, Abakash, Surya puja, Dwarpal puja and Rosa Homa rituals of the deities in the early morning.

Thereafter, the servitors collected ornaments from the temple treasury and started decorating the deities for the Suna Basha or Rajarajesar Basha. It took around two hours to decorate the deities with the gold ornaments.

Since the temple was closed for people to contain the coronavirus, there were no devotees to witness the unique ritual.

However, hundreds of devotees congregated at the Lions' Gate of Srimandir and offered prayers to Patitapaban, the image of Lord Jagannath.

A report from Kendrapara said people observed Kartika Purnima



Devotees offer prayers in front of the Lions' Gate of Srimandir on the occasion of Kartika Purnima, Friday, as the shrine remains shut due to the Covid restrictions

with much religious fervour by visiting Lord Baladev temple.

Thousands of people from all

age groups Friday floated the miniature decorated boats made of banana tree barks, cork and paper in river

and ponds as part of Boita Bandana festival to remember the maritime glory of Odisha.

Ex-min Sanjeeb Sahoo joins saffron camp

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: Former minister and four-time BJD legislator Sanjeeb Sahoo, along with hundreds of his supporters, joined the BJP Friday at a function here. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and state party president Samir Mohanty welcomed Sahoo to the party fold.

"I travelled across my constituency for a month and discussed with various supporters. All of my supporters have said that they will continue to support me wherever I go. So, as per their suggestion, I joined the BJP today," Sahoo said. The ex-minister further said that he joined the BJP for overall development of his area. With his joining, the BJP is hopeful to strengthen its base in Athmallik constituency in Angul district.

Sahoo had resigned from BJD November 3 this year citing personal reasons. The 61-year-old politician was first elected as MLA from Birmaharajpur constituency in Sonepur district on a BJD ticket in 2003 bypoll.



He was re-elected to the Assembly from the same constituency in 2004. Later, he was elected to the Assembly from Athmallik constituency twice in 2009 and 2014. However, the BJD had denied ticket to the four-time MLA during the last elections in 2019 and fielded former bureaucrat Ramesh Chandra Sai for Athmallik constituency in the last general election. Following this, he felt neglected in the party.

Sahoo was a Minister of State (MoS), Panchayati Raj and Science & Technology from 2006 to 2008. He also held the position of MoS (Independent charge) of School & Mass Education, and Commerce & Transport from 2008 to 2009 and from 2009 to 2012, respectively.

Swargadwar cremation assistants felicitated

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Puri, Nov 19: The district administration Friday felicitated 40 cremation assistants for their dedicated service at Swargadwar here.

Puri sub-collector Bhabataran Sahu, who is also the president of Swargadwar Seva Samiti, praised them for providing round-the-clock service in cremating bodies.

He also presented them ceremonial clothes, certificates and advised them to discharge their services with a human touch to persons coming to Swargadwar for cremation of their near and dear ones.

State Bank of India (SBI) regional manager Sankarshan Mallick, CWC president Sidharth Ray, officers of the civic body and residents of the Pilgrim city were present.

The function was organised jointly by the district administration and SBI.

Swargadwar, considered as a holy place, is being developed at a cost of ₹5 crore as announced by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Govt, Unicef join hands to make state child labour free

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: The state Labour Directorate, in collaboration with Unicef Odisha and Aide-et-Action, organised a state-level stakeholder meeting Friday to kick-start a movement towards eliminating child labour in Odisha.

Setting the context, Unicef Child Protection Specialist Neha Naidu said, "Child labour may rise, especially during this pandemic. Society has a mindset of accepting child labour, thinking that these children have to work because they are poor. Because of family circumstances, children drop out of school and start working. It is also inter-related with child marriage. Each one of us needs to come forward and prevent child labour."

State Labour Commissioner N Thirumala Naik said, "Education frees children from labour. When children go to school, doors of opportunities open for them. We have heard of former child labourers go on to do their PhDs in London. We have to work together to help communities understand the value of education and send their children to school and not to work. We all have a responsibility not to accept child labour around us, and make every effort to help them."

Unicef Odisha Chief Monika Nielsen said, "Children have been deeply impacted by the pandemic and its knock-on effects. Schools have remained closed for far too long and livelihoods have been severely disrupted, putting a large number of children at risk of being pushed into child labour. These children are also prone to exploitation and abuse which can be physical, emotional and sexual in nature. Therefore, it is imperative to have a strong convergence across all measures that are taken to protect children."

Pensioners threaten boycotting polls

Puri: A delegation of EPF Pensioners' Association here Friday threatened the Prime Minister to boycott the elections if the government fails to fulfil their demands. The delegation, led by the association's district-level secretary Kanduri Charan Subudhi, submitted a memorandum to the district Collector addressing the PM. According to the memo, the association had time and again approached the Centre and state demanding a minimum ₹9,000 pension and health benefits to EPF pensioners. However, a little has been done so far. "We have been struggling to make ends meet. If the Centre fails to fulfil our demands, we will hit the streets and boycott the elections," Subudhi said.

Maha to emulate state's skill training model

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) Friday organised a valedictory programme for a 40-member team from the Skill Development department of Maharashtra that visited several government-run industrial training institutes (ITIs) in Odisha between November 15 and 18.

The team from Maharashtra visited ITI-Cuttack, ITI-Berhampur, ITI-Puri, Biju Patnaik Film and Television Institute and World Skill Centre to observe the technical and vocational training in Odisha.

On the occasion, OSDA chairman Subroto Bagchi said, "Odisha has a rich tradition in skill development which has been manifested in the wooden chariots for the annual Rath Yatra in Puri and the preparation of Mahaprasad at Srimandir. The state government

has taken steps to provide skill training to all deserving youths, including those from backward and neglected classes."

Bagchi claimed that the OSDA aims at encouraging entrepreneurship at grassroots level through its Nano-Unicorn Entrepreneurship programme. "The OSDA is providing training and capital funding to youths who could be prospective entrepreneurs," he said.

Director of Technical Education and Training in Odisha, Reghu G. said ITI-Berhampur and ITI-Cuttack had succeeded in getting patents for different innovations during Covid-19 pandemic.

Maharashtra Skill Development department deputy secretary Santosh Rokade said, "We will send a proposal to our government for providing similar skill trainings as imparted in the ITIs of Odisha and initiating programmes like Nano-Unicorn Entrepreneurship in our state."

2ND BEST PS



Gangapur police station in Ganjam was declared as the second best police station in the country for 2021 by the Union Home Ministry. Gangapur police IIC DK Das received the award from Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the conference of DGPs and IGPs in Lucknow, Friday

MAMITA MURDER

Pradhan questions CM's silence

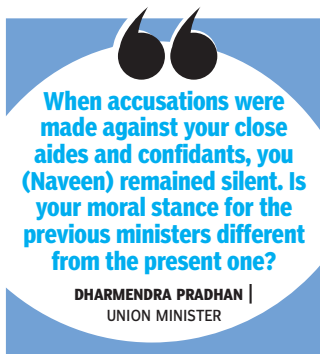
BJD dares the Union Minister to show proof against junior Home Minister Mishra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: BJP leader and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Friday criticised Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for not taking any action against Minister of State (MoS), Home Diba Shankar Mishra over Mamita Meher murder case.

Addressing party workers here during 'Misra Parba', Pradhan said tall leaders like Lal Bahadur Shastri and Lal Krishna Advani have resigned from their positions in the past on moral ground.

"In fact, many ministers of your government during the past 21 years have left their chairs on moral ground. Were all of them found guilty in the court of law?" he asked. "However, when accusations were



made against your close aides and confidants, you (Naveen) remained silent. Is your moral stance for the previous ministers different from the present one?" he further asked. The Union minister said the morals and ethics, which the Chief Minister once stood for, have been

given a go-by when his 'favourite' minister is in the dock.

"Ego has a very short shelf life. It does not stay forever with anyone. You possess the arrogance of Ravan and Duryodhan. It will sink your ship," he said.

Raising questions on the investigations into Mamita murder case, he alleged that the statement of the victim's parents was never recorded under Section 164 of CrPC after registration of the case.

"Even though the 90 days time limit to file chargesheet by police in the case has not been passed, the victim's family has been pressured to move the High Court seeking speedy trial of the case," Pradhan further alleged.

Reacting to Pradhan's statement on twitter, BJD organisational sec-

retary Pranab Prakash Das said, "Shastri had resigned from his position following a train mishap. So many train mishaps were reported and many innocent people died during the tenure of your government. How many Central ministers have resigned?"

Son of the Union MoS for Home Affairs had run his vehicle over farmers and killed seven of them. After the intervention of the Supreme Court, a case has been registered against him, Das said, urging Pradhan to spare some time and teach moral lessons to the MoS, Home Affairs. "If you have the guts, then submit concrete evidence against MoS Mishra in the court or before police, forget about resignation, CM will send him to jail," the BJD leader dared Pradhan.

Odisha logs 242 new nCoV cases, 3 deaths

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: Odisha Friday logged 242 more Covid-19 cases, 45 of them being children and adolescents, taking the state's tally to 10,46,559, while three fresh fatalities pushed the toll to 8,389, a Health department official said.

The rate of infection among children and adolescents stood at 18.59 per cent, up from 12.66 per cent the previous day.

Of the 242 new cases reported from 19 of 30 districts - 141 were detected in quarantine centres and the rest during contact tracing. Khurda district, of which state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported 120 new Covid-19

cases followed by Mayurbhanj at 24 and Cuttack at 18.

Two fresh fatalities were recorded in Bhubaneswar and one in Ganjam district. The state has reported 6,504 deaths during the second wave as against 1,876 in the first. The coastal state currently has 2,504 active cases, while as many as 10,35,613 patients have recovered from the highly infectious disease.

Over 2.31 crore samples have been tested in Odisha, 56,515 of them Thursday. The state's cumulative positivity rate stands at 4.52 per cent. As many as 1,40,93,910 people have been inoculated with double doses of Covid-19 vaccines.

Farm law repeal victory of Cong: Chellakumar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: The Congress Friday attempted to gain mileage from the Centre's decision of repealing farm laws as it stated that the announcement came on former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary, marking a victory for his party alongside the country's farmers.

Odisha Congress in-charge A Chellakumar, during a meeting here, also said that the battle of farmers against the contentious laws over the past year has finally borne fruit.

"On the birth anniversary of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the announcement for withdrawal of three anti-farmer laws was made.

It is a victory for the Congress, which had been opposing the legislations. The credit for the battle and the struggle that led to the revocation of the laws has to go to the farmers," he pointed out.

Over 700 lives were lost during the course of the agitation, Chellakumar noted.

The Congress leader further stated that it was a "well-known fact" the decision was made with an eye on the upcoming assembly elections.

Echoing him, Odisha Congress president Niranjan Patnaik said that farmers, with their determination and courage, have fought for their cause till the end and won over "arrogance".



VICTORY CLAIMS

Congress workers in Bhubaneswar tussle their heads to celebrate the Centre's decision to repeal the three controversial farm laws, Friday

OP PHOTO

WASSUP TODAY

BHUBANESWAR

■ Launch of book 'Khyamata Ra Charitra', Hotel Excellency, near railway station, 5pm

■ 5th Circle Conference of SC/ST Employees' Welfare Association of BSNL, RTTC, Vani Vihar, 11:30am

CUTTACK

■ Function at National Law University of Odisha, institution premises, 3pm

■ Inauguration of mediation centre, Aain Seva Bhavan, CDA Sector-I, 9:45am

■ Conference by Odisha Environmental Society and Ravenshaw University, varsity conference hall, 10am

Programmes/announcements for wassup today may be sent to opwassup@gmail.com for record, it must also carry the sender's mobile number for our verification, but not for publication.

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AFFIDAVIT

I Shailendra Kumar Muduli change my name to Saileranda Kumar Muduli vide affidavit date 18.11.2021 sworn before Notary Jagynewar Acharya at Bhubaneswar.

Covid patient zero was from Wuhan wet market: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Nov 19: The first confirmed case of symptomatic Covid-19 can be traced to a female seafood vendor at a wholesale food market in China's Wuhan, not an accountant who lived far away, according to a new study which points out that the WHO inquiry into the origins of the deadly disease may have got the early chronology of the pandemic wrong.

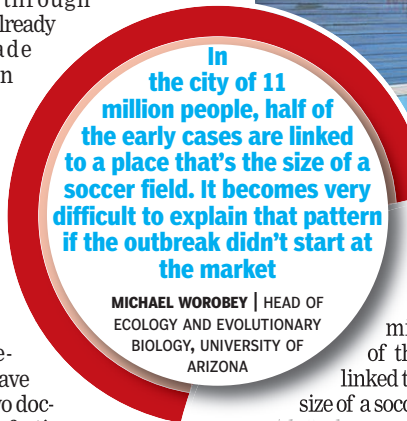
The study states that the first patient worked at Huanan live animal market in the central Chinese city. The New York Times reported Thursday. Wuhan city is where the coronavirus first emerged in 2019 and spiralled into a pandemic. The accountant, who was widely thought to be the first person with Covid-19, reported that his first symptoms appeared December 16, several days later than initially known, Michael Worobey, head of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Arizona, said in the study published in the journal Science Thursday.

"His symptom onset came after multiple cases in workers at Huanan

Market, making a female seafood vendor there the earliest known case, with illness onset December 11," the study said.

Worobey, a leading expert in tracing the evolution of viruses at the University of Arizona, came upon timeline discrepancies by combing through what had already been made public in medical journals, as well as video interviews in a Chinese news outlet with people believed to have the first two documented infections, the report said.

Worobey argues that the vendor's ties to the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, as well as a new analysis of the earliest hospitalised patients' connections to the market, strongly



MICHAEL WOROBEY | HEAD OF ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

suggest that the pandemic began there.

"In the city of 11 million people, half of the early cases are linked to a place that's the size of a soccer field," Worobey said. "It becomes very difficult to explain that pattern if the outbreak didn't start at the market."

Several experts, including one of the pandemic investigators chosen by the World Health Organisation (WHO), said that

Worobey's detective work was sound and that the first known case of Covid was most likely a seafood vendor, it added.

In January, researchers chosen by the WHO visited China and interviewed the accountant who had reportedly developed symptoms December 8, 2019. They released a report in March 2021 and described him as the first known case, the report added.

But Peter Daszak, a disease ecologist at EcoHealth Alliance who was part of the WHO team, said that

he was convinced by Worobey's analysis that they had been wrong. "That December the eighth date was a mistake," Daszak said.

The team never asked the accountant the date his symptoms began, he said. Instead, they were given the December 8 date by doctors from Hubei Xinhua Hospital, who handled other early cases. "So the mistake lies there," Daszak said.

For the WHO experts, the interview was a dead-end: The accountant had no apparent links to an animal market, lab or mass gathering. He told them he likes spending time on the internet and jogging, and he did not travel much. "He was as vanilla as you could get," Daszak said.

Had the team identified the seafood vendor as the first known case, Daszak said, it would have more aggressively pursued questions like what stall she worked in and where her products came from, the report added.

Toward the end of December 2019, doctors at several Wuhan hospitals noticed mysterious cases of pneumonia arising in people who worked at the Huanan Seafood

Wholesale Market, a dank and poorly ventilated space where seafood, poultry, meat and wild animals were sold.

On December 30, public health officials told hospitals to report any new cases linked to the market.

Fearing a replay of SARS, which had emerged from Chinese animal markets in 2002, Chinese officials ordered the Huanan market closed, and Wuhan police officers shut it down January 1, 2020. Despite those measures, new cases multiplied through Wuhan, the report added.

Wuhan authorities said January 11, 2020, that cases had begun December 8. In February, they identified the earliest patient as a Wuhan resident who fell sick December 8 and had no link to the market.

Chinese officials and some outside experts suspected that the initially high percentage of cases linked to the market might have been a statistical fluke known as ascertainment bias.

They reasoned that the December 30 call from officials to report market-linked illnesses may have led doctors to overlook other cases with no such ties.

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SHORT TAKES

Man gets 10-yr jail for raping minor

Phulbani: A court in Kandhamal district sentenced a 32-year-old man to 10 years of imprisonment Friday for abducting and raping a minor girl four years ago. Phulbani Pcoso judge Bhaskar Chandra Sahu also imposed a penalty of ₹18,000 on convict Achyuta Sahu. The man had kidnapped the minor near her house on the pretext of buying her sweets from a market August 3, 2017, and took her to an under-construction building and raped her, according to the prosecution.

3 detained for jumbo poaching

Sundargarh: The Forest department has unravelled the mystery behind the poaching of a tusker at Tendra Khasada forest under Bonai range in Sundargarh district and detained three persons allegedly involved in the electrocution of the elephant. Notably, the tusker was found dead in the forest. It was suspected that the animal had come in contact with a live wire that was laid by poachers to catch wild boars Thursday. The post-mortem report has confirmed its death due to live wire. Locals noticed the animal aged about 50 dead and informed the forest officials. Locals claimed the animal might have died of electrocution as burn injuries caused by electric shock were spotted on the carcass. Those detained were identified as Dasahara Bhuyan, Niranjana Sahu and Jhagdu Bhuyan.

Scam alleged in PMAY

Simulia: Large-scale irregularities were alleged in the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in Shyamsundarpur panchayat under Simulia block in Balasore. Some local residents have taken up the issue with the BDO, the PD, the Collector and the Vigilance department. They have warned of an agitation in front of the block office if no action is taken on the irregularities in the housing scheme. They pointed out one such case in the panchayat where Ramakant Nayak of Kuanpur was allotted a house. However, his house was constructed on the land of another villager, Khagendra Das. As per guidelines, a beneficiary should build house on his/her own land. BDO Sudhir Kumar Singh has assured the locals that he would look into the matter. Locals also alleged that there are several cases of irregularities in various rural housing schemes in the region.

Angul undergoes facelift

Angul: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will inaugurate a slew of beautification and development projects in Angul district during his official visit to the district Saturday. Construction of projects worth crores of rupees was underway for last several months. Patnaik will also lay the foundation stones for several development projects to be taken up with total estimated cost of ₹924 crore. Apart from the inauguration programmes, the CM will distribute 'smart health cards' to a number of beneficiaries under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana. Around 2,77,850 people will get the health cards in the district.

Probe into 'harassment' of old-age pensioners ordered

Jajpur, Nov 19: Beneficiaries of old-age and other pension schemes are allegedly subjected to harassment in the hands of block officials in Jajpur district. The matter came to the fore after Deepak Routray, Joint Secretary of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities department (SSEPD) directed the Jajpur Collector November 16 to conduct a probe into the allegations and submit a report to him within a fortnight. The issue cropped up after Tanushree Mohanty, a native of Barchana block, wrote to the Chief

Minister, Chief Secretary, Secretary SSEPD and Jajpur Collector November 4 alleging inordinate delay in disbursement of old-age pensions. In her letter, she alleged that since April every month beneficiaries have been facing problems in receiving pension. She further wrote that the matter has been brought to the notice of the local authorities but they are yet to be addressed. Beneficiaries aged over 80 years are made to wait for long hours and eventually turned away without their pensions. She demanded that the authorities should fix a particular date for release of pension money every month.



Devotees throng Anusaya ghat of Baitarani river in Patna area of Keonjhar district to take a holy dip on occasion of Kartik Purnima

Port project in Baliapal hits roadblock

OFFICIALS OF A SURVEY TEAM WERE TRAVELLING BY A MOTORISED BOAT IN THE SEA WHEN SOME ACTIVISTS OF UBSC DRAGGED THE BOAT ASHORE AND DETAINED THE OFFICIALS FOR TWO HOURS

Baliapal, Nov 19: People under the banner of Upakula Bhitamati Surakhya Committee (UBSC), which has been opposing the port project proposed at Choumukh and a petrochemical plaza in Baliapal area of Balasore district, detained a survey team Friday. Officials of the team were conducting a survey travelling by a motorised boat in the sea. Some activists of UBSC dragged the boat ashore and detained the officials for two hours. Later, with intervention of Baliapal police, the officials were set free from the project opponents. Reports said that the port project will be developed by the Tata Group. For a long time, local people opposing the project have been keeping a strict vigil on the activities of the administration and the developer of the proposed port. The officials were busy conducting a survey in the sea for the proposed port project since Friday morning. The UBSC had engaged some of its activists to keep track of the survey team. They entered seawater and intercepted the boat



used by the survey team. Later, hundreds of people from nearby villages led by UBSC secretary Arun Kumar Jena rushed to the spot and staged protest at Dagara Bada Gumuti Chhakh. They held a roadside meeting against the port project and the petrochemical plaza. "These projects will gobble up hectares of fertile land that sustain various crops and betel farming," Jena said that about 60,000 people

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE FROM NEARBY VILLAGES LED BY UBSC SECRETARY ARUN KUMAR JENA RUSHED TO THE SPOT AND STAGED A PROTEST AT DAGARA BADA GUMUTI CHHAK AGAINST THE PORT PROJECT AND THE PETROCHEMICAL PLAZA

LOCALS SAID THAT IF THE BEACH FROM HANSKARA RIVER MOUTH TO KANKADAPAL IS DEVELOPED FOR TOURISM, LOCAL PEOPLE WILL GREATLY BENEFIT FROM IT

of six panchayats have vowed to oppose these projects, but the administration is hell-bent on facilitating the project. Locals said that if the beach from Hanskara river mouth to Kankadapal is developed for tourism, local people will greatly benefit from it. Notably, the port project at Choumukh requires around 3,000 acres. Nearly 1,215 acres will be used

for the port and 1,561 acres will be required for constructing road and rail corridors between Haldipada and Choumukh. For rail and road corridor, around 1,300 acres of private land spread over 55 villages of Sadar, Basta and Bhograi would be acquired. Estimated to cost ₹2,400 crore, the port project will be executed under BOOST method and completed in three years.

MUKTA: ₹17 CR SANCTIONED FOR BHADRAK

Bhadrak, Nov 19: Bhadrak town was included in Mukhyamantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan Yojana (MUKTA Yojana). Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced this project for Bhadrak to undertake several development works. Meanwhile, ₹17.62 crore has been provided to the Bhadrak town. By utilising the MUKTA fund, 190 projects will be executed in the town area. Among them are 10 small parks, 14 public gymnasiums, 13 children's sports parks, four roadside vending zones, renovation of 56 roads and drains and 90 main roads. MLA Sanjib Kumar Mallick and BJD leaders thanked the Chief Minister.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
(1) Tender Notice No. ST-OT-TELE-ZONAL-KUR1-247, Dt.12.11.2021
Name of Work: TELECOM ZONAL WORK IN THE SECTION UNDER JURISDICTION OF SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER TELECOM/CONTROL/KHURDA ROAD, SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER TELECOM/KHURDA ROAD AND JUNIOR ENGINEER TELECOM/PURI OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR 12 (TWELVE) MONTHS.
Tender Value: ₹65,97,408.25
(2) Tender Notice No. ST-OT-HASSDAC-KURDIVN-249, Dt.: 12.11.2021
Name of Work: REPLACEMENT OF SINGLE SECTION DIGITAL AXLE COUNTER (SSDAC) BY HIGH AVAILABILITY SINGLE SECTION DIGITAL AXLE COUNTER (HASSDAC) TO IMPROVE THE RELIABILITY OF THE BLOCK WORKING IN KHURDA ROAD-PURI, JAKHAPURA-NAYAGARH, CUTTACK-TALCHER SECTIONS OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Tender Value: ₹2,97,16,216/-
Bidding Start Date: 22.11.2021 (For both Tenders), Date & Time of Closing of Tender: at 11:00 hrs. of 06.12.2021 (For both tenders).
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letterhead and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: <http://www.reps.gov.in>
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/compendia issued for this tender.
Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom), Khurda Road
PR-577/M/21-22

Riparian villages oppose AP's Neradi, Katragada projects

A DELEGATION OF AFFECTED PEOPLE TO MEET CM SOON OVER THE ISSUE

Paralakhemundi, Nov 19: People in some riparian villages along the Vamsadhara river under Kashinagar block in Gajapati district have opposed the construction of Neradi and Katragada barrage projects by the Andhra Pradesh government. Residents of Sara, Palsingi and Badigan villages expressed their displeasure over the ruling of the Vamsadhara Water Dispute Tribunal (VWDT). In June this year, the tribunal has permitted the Andhra Pradesh government to construct the Neradi barrage across the Vamsadhara with ancillary structures, subject to certain conditions. According to the locals, the above three villages are part of a submergence-prone zone of the Neradi project. "After the Neradi and Katragada projects are executed, hectares of their farmlands will be submerged," they fumed at a meeting held at Palsingi. It is said that 106 acres on the Odisha side will be acquired by the Andhra government. A delegation of local people will meet Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in Bhubaneswar to apprise him of their issues. They will oppose the AP government's



Locals feared that Sara, Palsingi and Badigan are in submergence-prone zone. After Neradi and Katragada projects are executed, farmlands will be submerged

bid to build the Neradi project. Notably, the tribunal, in its order, said that the barrage can have a right head sluice of 3,000 cusecs of design capacity to meet the requirements of AP and have a left head sluice (LHS) to cater to the requirements of Odisha below the

Fate of 3 rly projects in Jajpur hangs in balance

Jajpur, Nov 19: Expansion and doubling of three railway lines connecting Jajpur district with Sundargarh, Deogarh, Angul, Cuttack and Dhenkanal districts have been kept in abeyance for over 12 years due to lack of land acquisition. Taking the matter seriously, Deputy Secretary of state Commerce and Transport department Kalpataru Samantray Thursday wrote to the six district Collectors and land acquisition officers (LAOs) concerned to take necessary steps in this regard, sources informed Friday. According to sources, the issue was discussed at a recent review meeting where staff crunch and fixation of low compensation price for land were attributed for the delay. Following the review meeting, notices were issued for land acquisition in 115 villages of Sundargarh, Deogarh and Angul districts for the under-construction Talcher-Bimalagarh railway linking project. Out of 29 villages in Sundargarh, land acquisition is underway in 23 villages. Fund has been sanctioned for land acquisition in nine of the 19 villages of Deogarh. Similarly, out of the earmarked 67 villages in Angul district, land has been acquired by the Railways only in 48 villages. Land is to be acquired in the remaining 19 villages, though funds have been sanctioned for 15 in the district. For the Salagaon-Budhapanka railway line project, out of the targeted 92 villages in Cuttack, Dhenkanal and Angul districts, private, government and forest lands measuring 148.38 hectares are being acquired. However, the land in 11 villages of Cuttack district has already been handed over to the Railways.

Oustees slam govt over land patta distribution plan

Sambalpur, Nov 19: The state government has recently announced that land pattas will be provided to 2,000 families displaced by Hirakud dam in Jharsuguda. Following this announcement, people displaced by the dam project in Sambalpur, Sundargarh and Bargarh have accused the state government of discrimination towards them. It may be noted here that in 2001, the state government had announced to provide 10 decimal of land to all the oustees of the Hirakud dam. It was alleged that the government has remembered its announcement now, after 19 years. Hirakud Budi Anchal Sangram



Samiti, an outfit for displaced people, staged protests in front of the RDC office here Thursday. The activists of the outfit lambasted the state government for neglecting their cause. They alleged that applications of all the displaced families in

"As per official announcement, all oustees would be provided with 10 decimal of land. However, only 2,000 oustees have been identified for the land allocation," they rued. The outfit also pointed out that the government has asked the oustees to furnish land records as old as 65 years and other documents to avail the benefits. Most of the displaced families do not have those documents to prove their claims, while heads of many displaced families have died long back, the outfit said. "Such an announcement for land pattas is nothing but a farce. This is a lollypop. Another 20 years will pass by, but nothing will happen in reality," fumed Gopinath

Majhi of Hirakud Budi Anchal Sangram Samiti. It is worth mentioning here that the government had identified 26,501 families as displaced by the Hirakud dam in 1955-56. The outfit alleged that then only 13,470 families were rehabilitated, while only 50 per cent of the compensation was provided to them. In 1987, the then minister Jugal Kishore Patnaik, replying to a question in the Assembly on the rehabilitation and resettlement, had said that 9,913 oustees had not been paid compensation. After repeated demands and agitations, the government provided only ₹10,000 as compensation per acre to 3,540 oustees each.

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank
HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
CIRCLE OFFICE: BALASORE-756001
Notice For Recruitment of Part Time Sweeper
Applications are invited from eligible Indian Citizens who are domicile of the following Districts where vacancies have been identified, for recruitment of **Part Time Sweeper (PTS)** (1/3rd Scale Wages) for our bank in Balasore Circle.
1. District Wise Vacancies:

Sl No.	DISTRICT	District Wise Vacancies	Reservation Percentage
1.	BALASORE	8	UR-4, SC-2, ST-2
2.	BHADRAK	4	UR-2, SC-1, EWS-1
3.	JAIPUR	2	UR-1, ST-1
4.	KEONJHAR	2	UR-1, OBC-1
5.	MAYURBHANJ	7	UR-2, OBC-1, ST-3, EWS-1
Total			UR-10, OBC-2, SC-3, ST-6, EWS-2

Horizontal Reservation: Out of the above, 1 vacancy is reserved for PWD(HI) and 5 vacancies for Ex-service men.
2. Pay Scale: One-third of Scale of (Rs.14500 - Rs.28145) + other allowances.
3. Eligibility Criteria
a. **Qualification:** Maximum - Not passed 10th class/ standard and there is no minimum qualification and even illiterate are eligible for appointment of PTS.
b. **Age as on 01-07-2021:** Minimum -18 years and Maximum-24 years
Relaxation of upper age limit: SC/ST candidates by 05 years, SC/ST - Physically/Orthopedically Handicap candidates by 15 years, OBC candidates by 03years, OBC - Physically/Orthopedically handicap candidates by 13 years, Physically/orthopedically handicap candidates by 10 years, Ex-servicemen candidates by 03 years in addition to the length of military service and for children/ family members of those who died in the 1984 riots by 03 years. The maximum age limit of all relaxations combined not to exceed 45 years unless it is so provided in Govt. Directives.
c. **Domicile:** The eligible candidates should be the domicile of that district for which vacancies have been notified/published.
d. **Physical Fitness:** The candidates are required to submit a medical fitness certificate at the time of joining besides other formalities.
4. Documents to be enclosed - Self Attested Copies as under:
1. Certificate in support of DOB, 2. Qualification Certificate/ School Leaving Certificate 3. Caste Certificate and latest OBC Certificate with non-creamy layer clause for OBC candidates, 4. Address Proof & ID Proof and any other relevant documents 5. Residence Certificate 6. Aadhar Card, 7. PAN Card, 8. Passport Size Photo (1 Copy) 9. Employment Exchange registration card (if registered) 10. Copy of Income and Asset Certificate if applying under EWS (Economically Weaker section) issued by the competent authority. The Application is to be submitted along with self-attested photocopies of supporting documents and be sent through Registered Post/ Speed Post only to **The Chief Manager, HRD Department, Punjab National Bank, Circle Office, 2nd Floor, Bharat Timber Complex, Vivekananda Marg, Near SBI, Balasore, Odisha-756001** in a closed enveloped superscribing in bold letter as: **Application for the Post of PTS for District:.....**
The last date of receipt of application is **04.12.2021 at (5 PM)**.
Please note: Applications received after due date/incomplete/ without required documents/applications other than domicile of district for which vacancies have been notified will not be considered. No communication will be sent to those candidates whose applications are not being considered. The decision of the Bank regarding selection shall be final and binding and no further correspondence would be entertained. Further, the Bank reserves the right to cancel/postpone/increase/decrease of number of vacancies without assigning any reason whatsoever. **N.B.:** No interview will be conducted. The selection of PTS will be made on the basis of age & qualification criteria. The list of selected candidates will be published on the Notice Board of Circle Office, Balasore.
Place: Balasore, Date: 20.11.2021 CIRCLE HEAD
"Application for the post of Part Time Sweeper" (In A4 Paper)

1. Name:	2. Father/Husband's Name:	Passport Size Photo
3. Permanent Address and Dist:	4. Present Address:	
5. Date of Birth:	6. Max. Qualification as on:	
7. Name of School last attended:		
8. Category:	9. Whether Ex-Servicemen- Yes/ No	
10. Whether PWD (Hearing Impaired)- Yes/ No	11. Mob No:	
12. Employment Exchange No (if any):		
13. PAN No:	14. Aadhar Card No:	

I hereby declare that the above furnished information is true to the best of my knowledge and If the above information found false in future, my candidature may be cancelled at any time without any information.
Place: Signature:
Date: Name:

FOCUS CLIMATE CHANGE

WAS COP26 CHEAP TALK?



are today.

Green shareholder activism may force more disclosure of exposure to climate risk or even outright divestment; but mandatory disclosure under a clear framework will probably be needed to police greenwashing. The new International Sustainability Standards Board is a welcome development in this direction.

Finally, financial regulation and central bank policies also have key roles to play in promoting a green economy. Central banks, particularly after the 2007-09 financial crisis, have a mandate to ensure financial stability, and with climate change posing a systemic risk, they will have to incorporate it in their prudential frameworks. They also will need to foster a more transparent disclosure environment, so that climate risk is properly priced (although this is easier said than done). Many central banks already are engaging in climate stress tests and designing forward-looking transition scenarios.

More controversial are the questions of whether, and to what extent, central banks should favor green assets (or penalise brown ones) in their asset-purchase programs, and to what extent capital requirements should be attuned to sustainability criteria. Should brown loans have a capital surcharge over and above risk considerations (or should green loans carry a discount)? Such provisions would make no sense in a world where carbon is priced properly, but we are a long way from that scenario.

The international community's climate goals remain highly ambitious, especially for a world characterised by great-power rivalries. It is rare for parties with disparate interests to work together as a team. Compromise is necessary, and "cheap talk" is the first step toward agreeing on a common course of action.

The writer, Professor of Economics and Finance at IESE Business School, is the co-author of the report Resilience of the Financial System to Natural Disasters.

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It is easy to see why climate activists would dismiss international negotiations like the recent COP26 climate summit as mere jawboning. But in a world of geopolitical rivalries and significant coordination challenges, compromise – and the disappointment that can come with it – is a fact of life

less-developed countries for foregoing or abandoning carbon-intensive technologies. The question is not only who foots the bill but also how financing should be delivered. The history of development aid is not particularly encouraging. And although it is well established that a global price for carbon is necessary to deal with the negative externality that greenhouse-gas emissions represent, implementing such a regime is difficult. Carbon markets remain mostly underdeveloped.

The deal adopted by almost 200 countries at COP26 will allow countries to meet their climate targets by buying offset credits representing emissions cuts made by others. This system will bring more clarity, but it is open to manipulation. Worse, it permits countries to carry forward carbon credits registered since 2013 and created under the Kyoto Protocol, potentially setting the stage for a flooding of the emissions market and an artificially low carbon price.

The COP26 agreement also encourages the public and private sectors to mobilize more climate finance, and to foster innovation in green technologies. To that end, one promising model is Operation Warp Speed, the US public-private partnership that made possible the extremely rapid development of COVID-19 vaccines.

The financial sector's role in transferring resources from brown to green technologies will be crucial. Asset managers and financial intermediaries may act out of pure self-interest in divesting from dirty assets that they have come to see as too risky (owing either to the effects of climate change or to the transition that will render them obsolete). Alternatively, they may divest at the behest of others who have a green preference or a longer horizon over which to internalize climate problems. Universal owners such as large pension funds, for example, are increasingly aware of the systemic risks posed by climate change.

In any case, the financial sector is now coordinating to align itself more closely with the global climate agenda, as demonstrated by new initiatives such as the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero, chaired by former Bank of England Governor Mark Carney. It has become increasingly clear that the voluntary sustainable-finance mandates backed by financial intermediaries need to be significantly more stringent than they

“Blah, blah, blah.” That was how the young climate activist Greta Thunberg characterised this year's climate summit in Glasgow (COP26) – even before it began. She was right, in a way. Talk is cheap whenever international agreements lack effective mechanisms to verify and enforce commitments. Gatherings like COP26 tend to lack credibility, even when they are presented as a “last chance” to prevent the end of the world as we know it. Nonetheless, such meetings help to raise awareness about the problem and potential solutions, and that is better than the denialism of past years.

True, the final agreement produced at COP26 appears weak, considering that the goal of keeping global warming below 1.5°C is now barely alive. Instead of “unabated coal power” being phased out, now it will be “phased down,” a crucial change inserted at India's insistence (and with China's acquiescence). While “inefficient fossil-fuels subsidies” will still be “phased out” the implication is that “efficient” fossil-fuel subsidies remain an option.

But, remember, talk is cheap. Given India's high dependence on coal, it is perhaps better that it has set its net-zero emissions target for 2070 rather than proclaiming a “mid-century” commitment that is has no intention of upholding.

More broadly, there are two main obstacles to attaining the world's stated climate goals. The first is geopolitical, exemplified by Russia's use of natural gas as a strategic tool to divide Europe between those using nuclear power as an energy-transition technology (France) and those using gas (Germany). Even more important are major rivalries like the one between the United States and China. Here, there is some good news: COP26 seems to have induced the world's two leading polluters to declare that they will work together to combat climate change. (We will know if this is more “blah, blah, blah” if and when bilateral military tensions increase.)

The second big obstacle is disagreement over how to compensate

GIVEN INDIA'S HIGH DEPENDENCE ON COAL, IT IS PERHAPS BETTER THAT IT HAS SET ITS NET-ZERO EMISSIONS TARGET FOR 2070 RATHER THAN PROCLAIMING A “MID-CENTURY” COMMITMENT



Xavier Vives

Consider the Divine Life as the most important thing to obtain.

THE MOTHER



On a bigger mission

The premature repatriation of Secretary, Defence Production, Raj Kumar to his parent Gujarat cadre was reportedly at the behest of the state Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. But the buzz is that the 1987-batch IAS officer has been recalled perhaps for a higher calling. It is being whispered that Kumar may be made Chief Secretary of the state which is headed for Assembly elections late next year. The current Chief Secretary is 1986-batch IAS officer Pankaj Kumar, who was brought in after Anil Mukim retired in September this year. The view is that Kumar will have ample time to get a grip on the state administration before the elections.

Since Kumar will be in service until 2025, sources say, even if he is inducted as Chief Secretary in the state until next year's Assembly elections or even the Lok Sabha elections in 2024, he will still have time to make a comeback to the Centre as Union secretary. That's long-term planning for you, Gujarat-style!

Kerala IFS officer suspended

The Kerala government has suspended Chief Wildlife Warden and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officer Bennichen Thomas for granting permission to Tamil Nadu state for cutting 15 trees growing in the vicinity of the Mullaperiyar Dam, which has been in the news lately. Thomas reportedly acted against the stated stand of the Pinarayi Vijayan government on the sensitive issue.

Sources say that Tamil Nadu has repeatedly approached the Kerala government for cutting the tree, which would allow it to reinforce the small dam before raising the water level in the big Mullaperiyar Dam. While the request was repeatedly rejected, this time it was accepted, though the Kerala government's stance has not changed. It wants a new dam in place of the 125-year-old dam instead of repairing it.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

Turns out that the decision to allow cutting of the trees was taken at a meeting headed by Additional Chief Secretary TK Jose. Thomas handed over a copy of the letter permitting Tamil Nadu to cut the trees. While now ministers and higher officials have been feigning ignorance about Thomas' order; there are sufficient indicators that many senior officials and other Forest Department officials were aware of the order issued by Thomas.

The big question is how did an important government order be issued by one officer alone without the concurrence of the concerned minister and other senior members of the state Cabinet?

Unceremonious exit

Rude shocks are not part of the usually smooth and rarely derailed Railway's playbook. So the sudden dispatch of Railway Board member (Traction and Rolling Stock) Rahul Jain, sent packing on leave until his retirement, still five months away, has created quite a buzz in the Rail Bhavan.

Apparently to the outside eye, there was not even a hint of this development until it was announced. It was rumoured that Jain, who was a secretary-level officer, had got into some heated exchanges of late, which might have escalated rapidly and led to his unprecedented exit. But were these a battle of ideas or merely a personality clash is difficult to say, at the moment. The exit has raised more than a few eyebrows.

Clearly, there is more to this than meets the eye. Sources have told DKB that Jain who was appointed member of the board during former Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal's time wasn't remarkably acerbic or acrimonious, in his own track record. But the current minister Ashwini Vaishnaw is reportedly keen to set off on a path that is, in policy terms, distinct from that of his predecessor. There's nothing untoward there either, say those in Rail Bhavan who've seen change of guard before.

Vaishnaw's fast pace, he believes is critical to improving the performance of the railways, which has seen steadily dwindling revenues and an inability to modernise rail infrastructure. Now some of our sources hint darkly, that Vaishnaw has dumped several initiatives introduced earlier and he is rapidly rebuilding his team at the Board level.

Perhaps, and this isn't established yet, Jain was seen as someone standing in the way of the minister's idea of how he wants to proceed. This is proffered as a possible trigger for what's decidedly an unceremonious departure. But with Railway Board chairman and CEO Suneet Sharma and other members tight-lipped, the absence of an explanation is more unsettling – for other rail babus. There is now also the question of who will replace Jain on the board. There are likely many able contenders, but Vaishnaw is not revealing his cards just yet.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

WISDOM CORNER

I wake up every morning and think to myself, 'how far can I push this company in the next 24 hours.'
LEAH BUSQUE

If people doubt how far you can go, go so far that you can't hear them anymore.
MICHELE RUIZ

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.
CHINESE PROVERB

WORDSWORTH

Carabidologist

This turned up in a newspaper report of a study into the probable number of living species. It was said to be a person who studied beetles. The usual term for a beetleologist is coleopterist (from a Greek word that means sheathing), so carabidologist must mean something else. Finding what it really meant required some minor delving, as it doesn't appear in any of my dictionaries, not even the huge Oxford English Dictionary, and it's clearly a specialist term even among beetle researchers. A carabidologist studies carabids, a large and diverse family of mainly nocturnal predatory ground beetles that includes bombardier beetles, sand beetles and tiger beetles. All carabids are beetles, but by no means all beetles are carabids. If you relied on its etymology for help, you would be left utterly confused. Carabid is said by various dictionaries to derive from Latin carabus. We can ignore its sense in late Latin of a small ship (which has bequeathed us caravel, a small, fast Portuguese or Spanish ship of the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries). The Latin meaning from classical times given in the dictionaries – a sort of crab, crayfish or crustacean – leaves us scratching our heads. Works of a more specialist nature help by pointing out that carabus came into Latin from a Greek word that could mean either a spiny lobster or a horned beetle (it seems that neither Greeks nor Romans were hot on detailed species identification). Carabid has no link with scarab, though that's indubitably also a beetle; several centuries ago the latter was a vague hand-waving term in English for any insect that was presumed to breed in dung.

LOL

LOST MY WIFE

The man approached the very beautiful woman in the large supermarket and asked, "You know, I've lost my wife here in the supermarket."



Can you talk to me for a couple of minutes?"

"Why?"

"Because every time I talk to a beautiful woman my wife appears out of nowhere."

SPECTRUM ENVIRONMENT

Alternative riverfront development model

There is a proposal that the Yamuna riverfront be developed along the lines of Sabarmati riverfront. Certainly Ahmadabad has benefited from the riverfront development. Places have been made for washermen and weekly markets. Displaced persons have been settled elsewhere. The width of the river bed has been reduced from 382 meters to 275 meters and the 80 per cent of the land reclaimed has been kept open. Tree plantation has been done on part of the reclaimed land. More importantly, now Sabarmati is ever full and brimming with water. This is not only enjoyable but also helps recharge the ground water. This model has been adopted in the development of the Thames riverfront in London. Many countries of the world, however, have implemented a different model of riverfront development in the recent years. The river bed is widened instead of being constricted. The widened river bank is planted with trees and inhabited with wildlife and the river is enabled to flow in her earlier natural condition.

We obtain economic progress by building houses and offices on



Bharat Jhunjhunwala

WATER HAS THE CAPACITY TO ABSORB PSYCHIC WAVES. THE WATER OF YAMUNA BRINGS THE PSYCHIC POWER OF YAMUNOTRI

part of the reclaimed land. We reduce the land available in the alternative model and plant dense trees and populate the riverfront with wildlife such as tortoise and deer. This leads to increase in the price of land near the expanded riverfront just as a house facing the park fetches higher price than a house in the narrow lane. This increase in price also adds to the GDP just as increased area adds to the GDP. The alternative model is especially beneficial for India because the share of services sector such as hospital, university and software parks is rising sharply. The greenery and naturally flowing river is good for such offices just as eating small number of rotis with vegetables is more beneficial than eating large numbers of rotis without vegetables.

Our tradition addresses our rivers as "Mother." Prime Minister Narendra Modi had planned to make Varanasi located on the banks of the Ganga a global psychic capital. He had said, "Mother Ganga has called me to Varanasi." The Prime Minister has deep respect for the psychic powers of the Ganga. The same holds for the Yamuna. Prayagraj is venerated because

here the two rivers bringing their psychic charges meet with each other. Japanese scientist Masaru Emoto pasted a label saying "Love" on a bottle of distilled water; and another label saying "Anger" on another bottle. Twenty-four hours later he found that the water crystals made from the water from the bottle saying "Love" were beautiful while those made from the water of bottle saying "Anger" were ugly. This establishes that water has the capacity to absorb psychic waves. The water of Yamuna brings the psychic power of Yamunotri. However, almost all water of the Yamuna is removed for irrigation at the Hathnikund Barrage above Yamuna Nagar. The Yamuna is often completely dry between Panipat and Sonapat. Thus, it is necessary to release sufficient quantity of original water of the Yamuna from Hathnikund so that the psychic charges from Yamunotri reach Delhi and energise its people. The government must assess the economic benefits from giving Yamuna water for agriculture; and the economic benefits by allowing the same Yamuna water to flow near the software parks in Delhi. My assessment is

that the benefit from the same quantity of water to the software parks would be only ₹1,000 from agriculture against ₹1,00,000 from the software parks. Delhi can give adequate compensation to Haryana for releasing the water out of this additional income. Then release of more water from Hathnikund will become beneficial for both Haryana and Delhi.

We need to dispassionately examine the two models of riverfront development for all the rivers of the country. The river can be kept full of water irrespective of whether we constrict or expand her riverfront. Benefits such as places for washermen, weekly markets and ground water recharge will be obtained in both the models. The difference is that the quantity of land is increased and agriculture is expanded in the Sabarmati model. The value of land is increased and hospitals, universities and software parks will be expanded in the alternative model.

The writer is a former Professor of Economics at IIM Bangalore. Views expressed are personal.

Finally, farmers win

Sir, It's clear that without struggle, there will be no change in the world. According to novelist Premchand, "It is the movement that proves that we are alive and that democracy stands before the world with its own dignity." Eventually the movement won. In a major decision, Prime Minister Modi announced that the government would repeal all three farm laws. In his address to the nation, the PM said the three laws were for the benefit of farmers but "we couldn't convince a section of farmers despite our best efforts". The heroic peasants' movement defied all oppression and suppression of the BJP-led Central government, withstanding severe cold, storm and scorching heat. In this heroic struggle, more than 800 lives have been sacrificed and the peasants were ready to sacrifice more. Their only demands were: "Repeal the three pro-monopoly, anti-peasant 'Black Farm Acts and Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2021' and legalise Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all agricultural produce." Their slogan: "We shall fight, we will win". Their conviction was: "We shall continue our struggle, till the goal is reached." The peasants have created history, which will inspire the struggling people to fight against the monopolists and multinational sharks worldwide. Rakesh Tikait, the leader of the Bhartiya Kisan Union, Friday said his outfit will not withdraw the farmers' protest immediately but will wait for the controversial farm laws to be repealed in Parliament as announced by the PM earlier in the day. Let's wait for the next session of Parliament. The steps taken by the government are welcome.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

World Children's Day

Sir, Children's Day is observed all over the world (though on different dates) to remind us about children's right to enjoy their childhood without any boundaries and to become educated well-developed adults in the future. World Children's Day was first established in 1954 and is celebrated on November 20 every year to promote international togetherness and awareness among children worldwide. November 20 is an important date, as the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child on this day in 1959. On this day in 1989, the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Parents, teachers, nurses and doctors, government leaders and civil society activists, religious and community elders, corporate moguls and media professionals, as well as young people and children themselves can play an important part in making World Children's Day relevant for their societies, communities and nations.

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Previous govts devastated Bundelkhand: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mahoba (UP) Nov 19: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday accused the previous state and central governments of devastating the Bundelkhand region by handing over its resources and forests to mafia elements who "looted" them.

"The governments which had been there in Delhi and UP left no stone unturned in devastating this region turn by turn," Prime Minister said here while inaugurating a slew of projects aimed at ending the water scarcity in the parched Bundelkhand region. "It is not hidden from anyone that the jungles and resources were handed over to the mafia. The manner in which these people behaved with Bundelkhand will not be forgotten by the people here," he said.

"A lot was said and done in the name of 'nalkoop' and hand pumps but earlier governments did not tell how water could be made available in the absence of groundwater," the Prime Minister pointed out. "Now when the bulldozer is being



Modi Friday lashed out at 'previous governments in Lucknow and Delhi' for creating water crisis in the Bundelkhand region

used against mafia (elements), some people are raising hue and cry. But whatever they may try to do, the development UP and Bundelkhand will not stop," the Prime Minister asserted. "The question is how this area, which was an example for water conservation in the past, turned into a centre of exodus and water-related problems," the Prime Minister said. "Why were the people not ready to marry their daughters here and daughters here wished

they got married to areas where there is water?" he asked. Attacking the "parivarwadis" (dynastic) governments, he said they kept most of the UP villages thirsty for decades but the government of 'karma yogis' in two years gave tap water to 30 lakh people, said Modi, lauding the Yogi Adityanath government's work in the parched region. "The governments of 'parivarwadis' kept children and daughters deprived of drinking water

facilities but the double engine government made separate toilets in schools," he said. They made announcements in the name of farmers but not a paisa used to reach them, he said. "In the name of ponds, ribbons were cut but the 'commission' was taken in the digging work for embankments and there was corruption in drought relief works." "Those in the government looted Bundelkhand and benefitted their families without caring for your families crying for every drop of water," he said, citing the example of the Arjun Sahayak project, inaugurated by him today, as an example of their work culture.

TN farmers' leader ends hunger strike

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 19: Tamil Nadu farmers' leader P. Ayyakkannu Friday ended the 39-day-old relay hunger strike after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the Centre has decided to repeal the three farm laws passed by Parliament.

Ayyakkannu, along with his fellow farmers, ended the strike and distributed sweets to the motorists in Trichy- Karur high way.

Trichy district Secretary of Tamil Nadu Farmers Association Aylai Sivasuriyan also hailed the Prime Minister's decision to repeal the farm laws against which farmers across the country were protesting since last one year.

Sivasuriyan told IANS: "We wholeheartedly welcome the announcement of the Prime Minister repealing the three farm laws which were totally against the interests of the farmers and agriculture. However, we would like to remind the Prime Minister and his team to make Minimum Support Price for crops into a law as this is another area of exploitation taking place against the farming community of the country."

KIDS' FUN TIME



Children play as Greater Chennai Corporation workers fumigate an area to prevent vector-borne diseases, following heavy rainfall in Chennai

TAMIL NADU RAINFALL

Nine die as house collapses in Vellore

AGENCIES

Chennai, Nov 19: Nine people were killed at Pernambet in Tamil Nadu, Vellore district on Friday when the house in which they were staying collapsed in incessant rainfall.

The deceased include four women and four children and one man. The house collapsed when the family was fast asleep. Fire and Rescue personnel and the police rushed to the spot and took out those injured. Eight people were injured in the accident and are being given medical aid at the Pernambet Government hospital. The bodies are at the Pernambet Government hospital for post-mortem.

Meanwhile, there was a let-up in rainfall in northern districts of Tamil Nadu and neighbouring Pondicherry, especially Friday morning, even as the IMD said the depression will gradually weaken into a well marked low pressure in the next 12 hours.

Following heavy rains in Andhra Pradesh and resultant high flow of water between Tada and Sullurpetta, the Southern Railway announced cancellation-both full and partial-of various trains, besides diverting some others.

"The Depression over southwest Bay of Bengal off north Tamil Nadu coast moved west-northwestwards and crossed north Tamil Nadu & adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coasts between Pondicherry & Chennai. During



THE DECEASED INCLUDE THE IMD HAS FORECAST MORE RAINFALL IN FOUR CHILDREN, FOUR TAMIL NADU AND HEAVY TO VERY HEAVY RAINFALL WOMEN AND ONE MAN IN PARTS OF ANDHRA PRADESH AND KARNATAKA

THE DEPRESSION OVER BAY OF BENGAL CROSSED THE COAST BETWEEN TAMIL NADU AND ANDHRA PRADESH FRIDAY MORNING

0300-0400 hrs IST (3-4 am) of today, the 19th November, 2021," an IMD bulletin said. It lay centred at 5.30 AM as of Friday over north coastal Tamil Nadu and neighbourhood and about 60 km south-southwest of Chennai and 60 km north-northeast of Pondicherry. "It is very likely to continue to move west-northwestwards and weaken gradually into a Well Marked Low Pressure Area during next 12 hours," it said.

Under its influence, thunderstorm with light to moderate rain is likely to occur at many places over Tamil Nadu and Puducherry during the next 24 hours. Heavy

rain is likely at isolated places over Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Vellore, Tirupattur, Erode and Salem districts of Tamil Nadu during the same period, the regional weather office said. Meanwhile, the Southern Railway announced cancelling many services, following "heavy rain and consequent water level flowing at danger level at Bridge No.167 between Tada and Sullurpetta Stations (in AP)." Meanwhile, schools remained closed in many districts in Tamil Nadu, including Chennai and its nearby ones, and those in the neighbouring Puducherry union territory Friday.

Serving liquor in wedding? Take licence or face action

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh), Nov 19: With the onset of the wedding season, the Muzaffarnagar administration has made it mandatory for the people to obtain (F11) licence for serving liquor during the ceremonies.

The administration has also warned of legal action if liquor is found to be served without permission

The administration has also warned of legal action if liquor is found to be served without per-



mission. Letters have been issued to the management of event organisers, hotels, restaurants, banquet halls, resorts, farmhouses, etc., asking them to obtain a 'bar licence' before serving liquor at the party.

District Excise Officer (DEO) Uday Prakash said: "It is mandatory to get a single-day liquor licence issued after paying Rs 11,000. So far, three applications seeking a one-day licence have been received. Meanwhile, three teams

from the excise department are searching venues to check illegal serving of liquor." The DEO added that the licence can be obtained from the department after applying and paying the fee online.

TN TO FORM ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY SOON

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 19: The Tamil Nadu government will form a Road Safety Authority in the coming days to implement schemes to improve safety on roads.



A statement from the Chief Minister's Office said that Chief Minister MK Stalin had chaired a meeting with the ministers and officials from various departments Thursday to discuss the various aspects regarding road safety.

The Chief Minister told the officials to reduce the road accident fatality rate, which is presently at 23.9 per lakh population.

He said that various schemes have been proposed to improve road safety, and called upon the officials to take initiatives to make road travel safe for the commuters.

The state government, according to the statement, has already formulated a draft plan for the promotion of road safety, and has roped in 609 hospitals to provide medical assistance to accident victims within 48 hours.

TN TO CONDUCT HEALTH CAMPS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 19: The Tamil Nadu health department has directed the district collectors to conduct medical camps to prevent the outbreak of any infectious diseases after the floods and incessant rainfall.

The state health secretary Dr. J. Radhakrishnan has called upon the district collectors to conduct medical camps in all the flood-affected areas and to prevent any outbreak of diseases.

In areas where inundation has taken place and water has receded, the state health department has directed collectors to spray bleaching powder, clear debris and garbage, stop the overflowing of sewage with water, fogging, chlorinating water, and reduce mosquito breeding.

The state health department has also directed the district collectors to conduct mobile medical camps to treat diseases like fever, diarrhea, jaundice, and dengue. State health minister Ma Subramanian while speaking to IANS said, "The state health department has directed all district collectors to conduct health camps to prevent any outbreak of diseases. The state health department would be providing all the support



to the district administrations to prevent any diseases from spreading."

Many parts of Tamil Nadu were reeling under the impact of heavy rainfall for the past couple of weeks, which led to waterlogging, inundation leading to breaking of pipes and mixing of sewage into water streams. This has created several issues, increasing the possibility of spread of diseases.

The health department has been conducting massive Covid vaccination camps across the state. Around 50,000 camps centres were conducted every week. The state government has to vaccinate around 1.04 crore people with the first dose of the Covid jab and the experience in conducting vaccine camps has made things easier for the district administrations to conduct health camps to counter the outbreak of communicable diseases after the heavy rainfall.

Agra hosp treats a special patient

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agra, Nov 19: The staff at the district hospital here found themselves in a baffling situation Friday, when a priest came wailing with a request to bandage the broken arm of an idol of Lord Krishna.

The staff was faced with a priest who came distraught to the hospital urging them to attend to the deity's idol, whose arm he accidentally broke while giving it a bath in the morning.

After some reluctance, the hospital carried out a registration in the name of 'Shri Krishna' and also bandaged the arm of the idol back. A video of the crying priest with an idol of 'Laddu Gopal' - the childhood form of the deity - with a broken arm also circulated on social media.

According to some eyewitnesses, the priest reached district hospital at about 9 am and insisted that the hospital staff tend to the idol. Priest Lekh Singh said he broke the idol when he was giving it a bath.

"When I was praying in the morning and giving bath to the idol of the lord, the idol slipped and its arm was broken," he said in statement. "I was deeply moved because I am attached with the god. In my desperation, I went to district hospital to get it treated," he said.

Lekh Singh said he is a priest at the Pathwari temple in Kheria Mod, Arjun Nagar, for the past 30 years. "No one took my request seriously at the hospital. I was broken from inside and began crying for my god," he said.

All about Varanasi hot air balloon show

Many seekers, literary personalities, old world flaneurs, and residents flock to the ghats at Varanasi to take their redemptive holy plunge; with its antique charm, it has served as a continual muse

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 19: For most, Kaashi is the seat of the gods, one sees colourful throngs of pilgrims, a vast sacred-scape, and life-ending climactic ceremonies at the undulating ganga while navigating its crowded streets, which unfold like a Broadway production and a costume drama all at once.

Many seekers, literary personalities, old world flaneurs, and residents flock to the ghats at Varanasi to take their redemptive holy plunge; with its antique charm, it has served as a continual muse.

In its attempt to enchant its apostles and acolytes with another perspective, on the occasion of Dev Deepawali, the city presented another distinct perspective for trav-

ellers to enjoy its mystic appeal and floating lights on its river. The Uttar Pradesh Tourism organised the Varanasi Hot Air Balloon Festival, for visitors to enjoy the joyous celebration of gods celebrating Diwali, and see the city in all its glory from an aerial view.

The Festival adds this experiential repertory, in addition to its landlocked beauties - temples, old paths, craft traditions, gastronomic cornucopia, and unravelling legends in every nook and corner.

This new offering, according to Mukesh Kumar Meshram, Principal Secretary, Culture and Tourism, adds another experience for explorers and will position Varanasi as a top destination for many premium and high-value travellers from around the world.



Spectators take pictures of the hot-air balloons flying over the Ganga

He also stated that the post Covid tourism will focus on creating authentic experiences and traditions into modern packaging for long-

term tourism sustainability. On the occasion, Samit Garg, Founder and CEO of E-factor Entertainment who hosted the

event said that this new offering adds an authentic and high-value offering for the city's living heritage' and that the city's breath-taking terrain and bird's eye view match perfectly in splendour with its wonderfully preserved wonders on the ground. He also stated that New Age travellers are looking for a new type of tourism that is not based on a single product but rather on a succession of fresh and transforming 'experiences'. There is a growing desire for 'exploratory and experience travel' over traditional leisure activities such as visiting tourist attractions.

The Varanasi Hot Air Balloon Festival, which runs from November 17 to 19, is intended to usher in a new era in Uttar Pradesh tourism for well-heeled global visitors.

What they said

Now, sensing defeat in polls, you have suddenly started to realise the reality of this country – this country has been built by farmers, it is a country of farmers, they are the real protectors of the country and no government can run the country by trampling upon the interests of the farmers

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra
Congress general secretary in-charge UP



There is a sad part that more than 700 farmers lost their lives. Had the laws been repealed earlier, the lives of these farmers could have been saved. I salute these martyrs and their families. Nobody will forget your sacrifice

Arvind Kejriwal | Delhi CM

My heartfelt congratulations to every single farmer who fought relentlessly and were not fazed by the cruelty with which @BJP4India treated you. This is YOUR VICTORY! My deepest condolences to everyone who lost their loved ones in this fight. #FarmLaws

Mamata Banerjee | West Bengal CM



PM @narendramodi's announcement relating to the farm laws is a welcome and statesman-like move. As the Prime Minister pointed out in his address, the Government of India will keep serving our farmers and always support them in their endeavours

Amit Shah | Union Home Minister

Samyukt Kisan Morcha welcomes this decision and will wait for the announcement to take effect through due parliamentary procedures

Samyukt Kisan Morcha

I sincerely welcome the withdrawal of three agricultural laws by the Prime Minister on behalf of the Uttar Pradesh government...The government tried to have a dialogue with farmers at every level. But maybe because of some deficiency on our part, we failed to explain our point to the people

Yogi Adityanath | UP CM



The announcement of repealing all three black agricultural laws is a victory of democracy and defeat of the arrogance of the Modi government. This is a victory of the patience of the farmers who have been agitating for the last one year. The country can never forget that hundreds of farmers have lost their lives due to the short-sightedness and pride of the Modi government

Ashok Gehlot | Rajasthan CM

Decision to repeal 3 black farm laws is victory of longest peaceful people's struggle that was started by farmers in Punjab. My salute to the Annadata

Charanjit Singh Channi | Punjab CM



Indian farmers have scripted one of the brightest chapters in the history of class struggles. Salutes to the martyrs, farmers and organisations who fought with unmatched resoluteness and undying spirit

Pinarayi Vijayan | Kerala CM

I wholeheartedly welcome Hon'ble @PMOIndia's decision to repeal the three anti-farmer laws. History teaches us that people's wishes shall prevail in a democracy. I congratulate all the farmers & bow down to their determination for having achieved this through Gandhian means

MK Stalin | TN CM



It is not a question of bowing. This process of liberalisation and globalisation started in 1991-'92. As part of it, various laws were to be formulated. Further, the UPA government had signed an agreement with the WTO. Agriculture Reforms and the Agriculture Marketing Reforms were also part of it

Basavaraj Bommai | Karnataka CM

The quest for justice for those targeted by the government and its agencies through false cases will continue. The PM must apologise for the hardship and trouble caused by his dictatorial step of farm laws to benefit his crony business partners

Sitaram Yechury
CPI (M) general secretary



Great news! Thankful to PM @narendramodi ji for acceding to the demands of every punjabi & repealing the 3 black laws on the pious occasion of #GuruNanakJayanti. I am sure the central govt will continue to work in tandem for the development of Kisan!

Amarinder Singh | Former Punjab CM

The sacrifices of the farmers have paid off. The government in the end withdrew the three controversial laws though it is too late

Mayawati | BSP chief



Anyone who believes the government repealed the #FarmLaws out of the goodness of its heart is completely mistaken. This government only responds to cold hard numbers - bypoll setback = fuel price reduction. Poor internal polls numbers for Western UP & Punjab = #FarmLawsrepealed

Omar Abdullah | National Conference vice president

I hope the Prime Minister and the BJP government will leave their stubbornness and arrogance and will focus on implementing policies of farmers' welfare, will ensure MSP for them and will evolve a consensus with state governments, farmer organizations and opposition parties before taking any such step in future

Sonia Gandhi | Congress president



VOICES HEARD

Thousands of farmers from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh under the aegis of various farmers' unions have been protesting at the borders of the national capital since November 26 last year demanding repeal of the three farm laws. The Centre, which held 11 rounds of formal dialogue with farmers, had maintained that the new laws are pro-farmer, while the farmers claimed they would be left at the mercy of corporations. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Friday that the Centre will repeal the three farm laws, marking a climb-down by his government to meet the unrelenting demand of farmers protesting in several states against the reform measures for almost a year

A farmer reacts at Singhu border in Delhi after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the repealing of the three Central farm laws

PTI PHOTO



Braving all odds

For the past one year, an overwhelming number of farmers have been camping at the Singhu border area of Delhi, braving by turns biting cold, monsoon rains, Covid pandemic scare and also accusations of "creating obstructions", but the spirit of solidarity has allowed them to soldier on against all odds.

The Singhu border between Delhi and Haryana was the fountainhead of the farmers' protest seeking repealing of the three contentious farm laws, and from there the movement had gradually expanded to Ghazipur border touching Uttar Pradesh and other sites.

Friday morning, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that his government has decided to repeal the three farm laws, there was a sense of relief among the farmers present at these sites. The announcement by the government came just a few days ahead of the first anniversary of the beginning of the movement, whose seeds were sown late November last year, and it coincided with the auspicious occasion of Guru Nanak Jayanti.

So, how did the farmers, who had left their homes and families behind, sustain this movement over the year? A likely answer is food, unrelenting spirit, and an army of volunteers who held this agitation, literally with their hands, day in and day out.

While the centrestage of this protracted battle has been on the streets, but the fire in the belly of the farmers, was sustained by the flames burning in the kitchens backstage.

Aggrieved farmers, mostly drawn from Punjab, had arrived at Singhu border on November 26, 2020 answering the 'Dilli Chalo' call of their leaders who have been seeking repealing of the three new farm laws, which they allege will "wreck the lives of hard-working peasants".

On a long stretch straddling the Delhi-Haryana border, fiery speeches on stage, songs of resistance in the streets and cries of 'Sadda Haq, Aithe Rakh' and 'Jo Bole So Nihal' have been part of the daily life at the protest site.

Community kitchens or 'langars' punctuated the sea of farmers, both men and women, who had descended on the site and had earlier said that they wouldn't relent or retreat until their demands were met by the Centre.

Friday, Modi appealed to the protesting farmers to return home, but they appeared in no mood to move.

Palwinder Singh, 45, a farmer from Gurdaspur, who had arrived at Singhu border on day one of the protest along with a 'jatha' to set up a kitchen right in the middle of the highway,

had said in January that "a revolution cannot run on empty stomachs".

"We are farmers who follow teachings of our revered Sikh gurus, and this is Guru ka Langar, all His grace, and we are just the agents of His will. So, we are keeping the fire burning in the kitchen," he had said.

Friday was a doubly sweet day for these protesting farmers, as the government's announcement and Guru Nanak Jayanti or 'Gurpurab' fell on the same day. Some people were distributing sweets and 'jalebis' at Ghazipur border and other protest sites.

But, the nearly year-long journey of protesting farmers have been arduous and painful, beset with tales of loss and longings, of braving cold waves and water cannons, of deaths and suicides.

Gaurav Yadav, the national spokesperson of Bharatiya Kisan Sangathan who was also performing the special 'yagya' on Friday morning said, "We farmers, have braved monsoon, Corona, winters, and faced numerous challenges, but never gave up on our fight".

The spirit of fighting for a cause displayed by these farmers was bolstered by an army of volunteers who lent a helping hand to them in times of dire need. Harjivan Singh, 25, a volunteer with US-based NGO United Sikhs, performed yeoman service during this struggle, offering aid and succour and counselling to farmers who were suffering from depression and anxiety.

"Today, I am seeing them smiling a bit, but farmers have faced a lot in this one year. They are strong and resilient by nature, but many of them buckled under harsh weather conditions and mental agony due to many factors," he said.

Singh said that "hundreds of farmers have died during this struggle, and many have committed suicide", and it will be a fitting gesture, if the government can offer a job to the next of kin of these "shaheed farmers".

A doctor, a retired teacher, an ex-army man, a former Delhi Police constable are among the people who guided and shaped the nationwide movement against the three new agricultural laws which the government agreed to repeal Friday after almost a year of protests. Here are some of the key farmer leaders who spearheaded the protests

RAKESH TIKAIT, national spokesperson of the Bharatiya Kisan Union

Once a Delhi Police Constable, Tikait has played a key role in negotiations with the government. The 52-year-old tried his hand at electoral politics and has been a farmer leader with the BKU for years. He broke out of the confines of western Uttar Pradesh to find a space in the national spotlight during the farmers protest. The watershed moment came when he broke down while talking to reporters after the Republic Day violence in Delhi, striking a deep emotional chord and also pumping new energy into the protests.

DARSHAN PAL, member, working group, All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee

An MBBS doctor by profession, 70-year-old Pal has been very active in talks with central and state leaders over the farm laws. He played a crucial role in bringing farmer unions together and performed the role of coordinator in the talks. He also played a pivotal role in taking the agitation beyond Punjab to farmers in other states of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

PEOPLE BEHIND THE MOVEMENT



HANNAN MOLLAH, CPI(M) politburo member and general secretary of the All India Kisan Sabha

The 75-year-old has been a constant voice demanding the repeal of the farm laws during the protests. He has maintained that the protests will continue till the laws are repealed through a process in Parliament. Mollah has also stood for enactment of legal entitlement for the farmers to sell at MSP and believes that the struggle will continue to achieve this goal.

JOGINDER SINGH UGRAHAN, president, BKU (Ugrahan)

The ex-army man, viewed as one of the more popular farm leaders, belongs to a farming family of Sunam. He has been a frontrunner in the movement with his team behind some aggressive aspects of the protests in Punjab, including the Rail Roko agitation and the 'gheraoing' of BJP leaders. While most farmer unions were protesting at Singhu border, his union almost single handedly held fort at the Tikri border.

BALBIR SINGH RAJEWAL, president, BKU

His skilful articulation of the farmers' viewpoint played a key role during talks with central ministers. The 78-year-old was one of the main leaders during the meetings of the 31 unions in planning and implementing their protests. He was also the brain behind preparing the protest's demand charter.

GURNAM SINGH CHADUNI, president, BKU, Haryana

Credited with mobilising farmers before the three farm laws were passed, 65-year-old Chaduni led many successful agitations earlier and has adopted unique ways to protest, including shirtless marches and throwing potatoes on state highways. It was on Chaduni's call that protesters tried to make their way to a BJP event in Karnal, attended among others by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. The crackdown that followed left several farmers injured and put the Khattar government on the backfoot.

SUKHDEV SINGH KOKRIKALAN, general secretary, BKU, Ugrahan

A retired school teacher, the now 71-year-old farmer leader Kokrikalan has been at the forefront against confrontation with police during the Delhi Chalo agitation.

The government and unions held 11 rounds of talks, the last being on January 22, to break the deadlock and end the farmers' protest. Talks did not resume following widespread violence during a tractor rally by protesting farmers on January 26. From the government's side, the negotiations with the farmers were led by some Union Ministers

NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR | UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER

He had been participating in talks with farmers and on several occasions appealed to them to withdraw their protests over the three farm laws, saying they are in favour of farmers.

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION MINISTER

The Union minister was at the forefront of the talks and has described the laws as pro-farmers on several occasions

and sought a resolution through dialogue.

SOM PARKASH | MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMERCE

He participated in talks with the farmers, maintaining that the government enacted the laws keeping in view the interest of the whole country.

SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL | SAD PRESIDENT

The logjam over farm laws also turned one of BJP's oldest and closest allies Akali Dal against them. Badal announced from the floor of the Parliament that his wife Harsimrat Badal would resign against the farm bills, tabled in Parliament by the Centre for passage. In his speech during a discussion on two of the farm bills Badal said the proposed laws will "destroy" the 50 years of hard work put in by successive Punjab governments and farmers to build the agriculture sector. Soon after, Harsimrat Badal who held the post of Union Cabinet Minister of Food Processing Industries, quit in protest.



Farmers dance at Tikri border in Delhi after the farm laws were withdrawn Friday

PTI PHOTO

national



MSP is bigger issue than farm laws, it is the lifeline of Indian farmers. If the Central government genuinely wants to fulfil their promise of doubling the farmers income or accepting the C2 formula of the Swaminathan report, then they should accede to this demand
NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU | CONGRESS PUNJAB UNIT PARTY PRESIDENT

LIFTING CURBS

The Railway Board has issued an order to resume serving cooked meals to passengers on trains, a service that was discontinued due to Covid-19 restrictions



of the day quote

The number of Corona cases has increased in Rajasthan. We are keeping an eye on this. Everyone has to take precautions in this context



ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

In 2020-21, the increase in inflation in Delhi was 3.0% while Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai and Bangalore registered 4.6%, 4.4%, 4.1% and 4%, respectively



MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

No matter how many conspiracies the opposition has been making, God is watching from above and as long as there are blessings of the people no one can stop us



YS JAGAN MOHAN REDDY | AP CM

SHORT TAKES

Complaint filed against Kangana

Port Blair: The Andaman and Nicobar unit of the Congress has lodged a complaint against actor Kangana Ranaut for describing India's Independence in 1947 as 'bheek' or alms, a party statement said. The written complaint was filed at Aberdeen Police Station here by Andaman and Nicobar Pradesh Mahila Congress Committee zonal coordinator (South Andaman) Zubaida Begum Wednesday, it said.

Chandrababu breaks down

Amaravati: A sobbing Telugu Desam president N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday vowed to step into the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly again only after returning to power. "Till then, we will go to the people and sort it out," he told a press conference at the TDP headquarters here. The former Chief Minister, who hitherto had rarely shown any emotions overtly, broke down in the press conference and cried for a while, alleging that the ruling YSR Congress had been humiliating him no end. "This is a dharmaportam (just battle) against the atrocious rule of the YSRC. I will go to the people and seek their support. If people co-operate, I will strive to save the state," the TDP chief said.

K'taka sees rise in dengue cases

Bangalore: At a time when the Karnataka government is doing extremely well as far as management of Covid-19 situation is concerned, the rising number of dengue cases in the state has left its health department worried and hunting for ways to curb the rise. The number of dengue cases has seen a sudden spurt of 84 per cent in the recent past causing worries. The state had recorded 2,987 dengue cases till September this year. However, after heavy and untimely rains, a total of 2,516 new cases were recorded till November 17 from September.

Seven members of banned outfit held

Chatra (Jharkhand): Seven members of the outlawed Tritiya Sangharsh Prastuti Committee (TSPC), including its self-styled sub-zonal commander, have been arrested with arms and ammunition here, a senior police officer said. Acting on leads from a local man, who was apprehended as he was trying to flee on seeing security personnel, the district armed police and the CRPF launched a search operation Thursday in Simaria police station area and other parts of Chatra, and apprehended all seven TSPC members, SP Rakesh Ranjan said.

Allahabad HC asks Centre to consider UCC

The court directed marriage registrar or officer of petitioners' districts to immediately register the marriage of the petitioners without insisting or awaiting approval of the competent district authority with regard to conversion of faith

AGENCIES

Prayagraj (UP), Nov 19: Responding to as many as 17 petitions related to interfaith marriages, the Allahabad High Court has asked the Central government to consider setting up a panel for implementing the mandate of Article 44, which says that the "state shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) throughout the territory of India".

"The UCC is necessity and mandatorily required today. It cannot be made 'purely voluntary' as was observed by BR Ambedkar 75 years back, in view of the apprehension and fear expressed by the members of the minority community," the court said.

Justice Suneet Kumar said it is the need of the hour that the Parliament comes up with a "single family code" to protect interfaith couples from being "hounded as criminals". "The stage has reached that the Parliament should intervene and examine as to whether the country requires multiplicity of marriage and registration laws or the parties to a marriage should be



ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT

brought under the umbrella of single-family code," the court observed. The standing counsel appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government pointed out that the petitioners' marriage could not be registered without an enquiry by the district authority as they did not get the mandatory approval from district magistrate before converting to the faith of their partner for the purpose of marriage. The petitioners' coun-

sel, however, asserted that citizens have the right to choose their partner and faith; and the conversion took place out of free will.

"Interference by the state or by the private respondents (family members) would tantamount to encroaching upon their constitutional right to freedom, choice, life, liberty and to live life on their own terms as man and woman," the counsel said, adding that prior approval of the district authority fol-

lowed by registration of marriage is not an essential condition before conversion of faith and marriage. The bench then observed that "Marriage is just an association of two persons recognized by law. There is nothing 'special' about marriage to subject it under different laws for various communities, thus erecting barriers in the free intermingling of the citizens. The petitioners herein cannot be hounded as criminals."

The court later directed the marriage registrar or officer of the petitioners' districts to immediately register the marriage of the petitioners without insisting or awaiting approval of the competent district authority with regard to the conversion of faith.

Justice Suneet Kumar, who passed the court order while allowing the petitions filed by one Mayra a.k.a. Vaishnavi and 16 others pertaining to interfaith marriage contracted by the petitioners, further called upon the Union government to initiate the process as the stage has been reached.

"Marriage is just an association of two persons, recognized by law," the court added.

Farm law repeal: Legal battle comes to an end



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 19: After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement to repeal the three farm laws, the batch of petitions pending in the Supreme Court challenging these laws would become infructuous. The top court had also constituted a committee to report on the three farm laws.

The Supreme Court had stayed the implementation of three farm laws: i) Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; (ii) Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020; (iii) Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020.

"We are of the view that the constitution of a committee of experts in the field of agriculture to negotiate between the farmers' bodies and the government of India may create a congenial atmosphere," the top court had said in its order then. On November 26 last year, the farmers' unions began their agitation on various Delhi borders, which is still continuing for nearly a year now, after the Centre failed to convince the protesters despite holding several rounds of negotiations.

The national capital also witnessed violence at Red Fort on a tractor rally taken out by the protesting farmers.

Justifying the stay on the implementation of farm laws, the top court had said: "We deem it fit to pass the following interim order, with the hope and expectation that both parties will take this in the right spirit and attempt to arrive at a fair, equitable and just solution to the problems." The committee was given two months to submit its report on the three laws. The com-

The Supreme Court had stayed the implementation of the three farm laws January 12 after scores of farmers from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh pitched their tents on various Delhi borders in protest against the three laws

mittee, after consulting a large number of farmers and several stakeholders, had submitted its report before the March 19 deadline.

The committee initially comprised four members: Bhupinder Singh Mann, national president, Bhartiya Kisan Union and All India Kisan Coordination Committee; Parmod Kumar Joshi, agricultural economist, and director for South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute; Ashok Gulati, agricultural economist and former chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices; and Anil Ghanawat, president, Shetkari Sanghatana. Mann resigned later. The committee had also sought views and suggestions of the general public through a public notice, which was published in major newspapers. During this period, a woman residing in Noida had moved the top court seeking direction to remove the road blockade as it was prolonging her travel time from home to office.

During the hearing, a bench headed by justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul noted that the farmers have the right to protest, but roads can't be blocked indefinitely. The bench had also sent notice to several farm leaders in the matter.

Another win for Sidhu, his pick now Punjab's top government lawyer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Nov 19: Senior advocate D S Patwalia has been appointed as the new advocate general of Punjab, said an official Friday.

Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu is leant to have been pushing for his appointment. Patwalia was appointed as the state's top law officer days after the resignation of senior advocate A P S Deol was accepted by the Punjab cabinet.

"The Governor of Punjab in exercise of power conferred under Article 165 of the Constitution of India is pleased to appoint Deepinder Singh Patwalia, senior advocate, Punjab and Haryana High Court, as advocate general for the state of Punjab with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office," according to an



official order. Patwalia's name had earlier also come up when Charanjit Singh Channi took over the chief minister in September. But then A P S Deol was given the charge of the AG.

Sidhu strongly opposed the appointment of Deol, who had represented former Punjab DGP Sumedh Singh Saini in cases related to the 2015 police firing incidents after the desecration of a religious text.

Sidhu had even stepped down as the Punjab Congress chief over the appointments of Deol and Iqbal Preet Singh Sahota as the director general of police.



Artistes perform during the cultural evening on Uttarakhand State Day at India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi

RAIN BATTERS ANDHRA, 8 KILLED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, Nov 19: A heavy downpour of up to 20 cm wreaked havoc in three Rayalaseema districts and one south coastal district in Andhra Pradesh, leaving at least eight people dead Friday.

Twelve people were still reported missing in Kadapa district, while the Indian Air Force, SDRF and Fire Services personnel rescued tens of people caught in the flash floods. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy over phone and enquired about the situation and promised all help to the state.

The Chief Minister will undertake an aerial survey of the flood-hit districts on Saturday, the CMO said in a release.

Swollen rivers and rivulets caused a huge deluge in the districts, cutting off roads at some places and throwing life out of gear. In many places, roads turned into canals and swept vehicles away. Though the Tirupati



A policeman carries an old man on his back to evacuate him from a flooded area at Rajampet in Kadapa district

International Airport at Renigunta in Kadapa district, at least five people were killed in a flash flood in the Cheyyeru rivulet while 12 more were still missing.

Kadapa Collector Vijaya Rama Raju told PTI that eight people in all were killed in the district in the floods.

The conductor of a State Road Transport Corporation bus and two other passengers met with a watery grave in Kadapa district as the vehicle tilted in the flood. Two

Hills. In Rajampeta constituency in Kadapa district, at least five people were killed in a flash flood in the Cheyyeru rivulet while 12 more were still missing.

The conductor of a State Road Transport Corporation bus and two other passengers met with a watery grave in Kadapa district as the vehicle tilted in the flood. Two

The IAF team carried out a winning operation using a Mi-17 helicopter to rescue the ten people, who were stuck in a JCB

others in the bus were rescued, according to an official release.

In neighbouring Anantapuram district, 10 people stranded in the Chitravati river flood at Veldurthi village were rescued by the Indian Air Force personnel, who specially flew in from Yelahanka Air Force Station in Karnataka.

The Anantapuram district administration sent an SOS to the IAF following which the rescue operation was carried out successfully. SDRF, police and Fire Services personnel rescued tens of people from flood-hit places in Kadapa and Chittoor districts.

Covid severity rises with obesity: Experts

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Nov 19: People with Covid-19 and also obesity have an increased risk of severe disease, hospitalisation and death.

Doctors at the Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences (RMLIMS), in an educational and awareness programme organised on Thursday, said that obesity weakens the immune system, making the individual susceptible to infectious diseases.

Obese patients also suffer from coronary artery disease, diabetes,



Representational image chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma that make them more vulnerable to Covid severity. Head of gastro-surgery

department at RMLIMS, Prof Anshuman Pandey said: "About 35 obese patients, who had gone through bariatric surgery (surgery to modify the stomach and intestines to treat obesity and related diseases) at RMLIMS in last two years, beat Covid-19 better than others with the same problem during the second wave. The main reason behind this was that their co-morbid conditions such as diabetes, respiratory disease, blood pressure, thyroid and arthritis had improved after surgery."

Head of department cardiology,

India allows export of 20mn Novavax to Indonesia

India has approved the export of 20 million doses of the Novavax Covid-19 vaccine made by the Serum Institute of India (SII) to Indonesia, according to a government document seen by Reuters and a government source. The government has also decided to allow the export of 10 million doses of a licensed version of the AstraZeneca shot made by SII, which it calls Covishield, to the global vaccine-sharing programme COVAX, two sources said. Shipment is likely to happen towards the end of next month, one of the sources said. SII and the health ministry could not be contacted early Friday.

Bhuvan Tiwari highlighted the ill effects of Covid-19 on the health of obese patients. He said: "Obesity is a modifiable risk factor of Covid-

19 and our goal should be to achieve a healthy weight at the population level that might reduce adverse outcomes in near future."

Modi hands over LCH to Air Force

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jhansi (UP), Nov 19: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday handed over the indigenously developed light combat helicopter (LCH) to the Indian Air Force in Jhansi.

The Prime Minister, on the concluding day of 'Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv' in Jhansi to celebrate the 193rd birth anniversary of Rani Laxmi Bai, also laid the foundation stone for a plant under Bharat Dynamics, which will be established at a cost of ₹400 crore to make propulsion system for anti-tank guided missiles in Jhansi.

He also laid the foundation stone for the 600 MW ultra-mega solar park in Jhansi that is designed to convert the city into a solar hub.

According to official sources, the light combat helicopter incorporates advanced technologies and stealth features for effective combat roles.

The LCH has been designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. It is the only attack helicopter in the world that can land and take-off at an altitude of 5,000 metres with considerable load of weapons and fuel.

The LCH incorporates advanced technologies and stealth features for effective combat roles. The Prime Minister also handed over drones developed by Indian startups to the Army, and advanced electronic warfare suites for destroyers, aircraft carriers and frigates to the Indian Navy.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister paid tributes to Jhansi, the land of valour, and recalled the contribution of Rani Laxmibai in the freedom struggle.

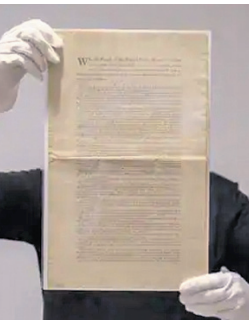
international



Every time we think there is nothing more absurd, aggressive, unfriendly and unconstructive that can come from that side of the ocean, and every time we are wrong unfortunately
DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN

RARE ORIGINAL COPY OF US CONSTITUTION AUCTIONED

An extremely rare original copy of the US constitution was sold Thursday for \$43 million -- a world record for a historical document at auction, Sotheby's said. It is one of only 11 known surviving copies of the US charter, signed September 17, 1787 at Philadelphia's Independence Hall



of the day quote

Lukashenko's regime's use of vulnerable people as a means to put pressure on other countries is cynical and inhumane. NATO stands in full solidarity with all affected allies

JENS STOLTENBERG | SECRETARY-GENERAL, NATO

We are going through a particularly bad patch in our relationship (with China) because they have taken a set of actions in violation of agreements for which they still don't have a credible explanation

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

Like our rather more modest ancient stone circles in England, the pyramids remind us of a connection to our planet that we have over time forgotten

PRINCE CHARLES | BRITAIN

SHORT TAKES

Joe Biden praises Canada, Mexico

Washington: Reviving three-way North American summit after a five-year break, President Joe Biden Thursday joined with the leaders of Canada and Mexico to declare their nations can work together and prove "democracies can deliver" even as they sort out differences on key issues. But as Biden, along with Canadian PM Justin Trudeau and Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, spoke of their mutual respect, the three leaders also found themselves dealing with fresh strains on trade, immigration, climate change, and other matters. "We can meet all the challenges if we just take the time to speak to one another, by working together," said Biden.

Ukraine to reduce gas transit tariffs

Kiev: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that his country stands ready to reduce the cost of gas transit through its territory in an attempt to prevent the energy crisis in Europe. In a phone conversation with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Zelensky said that Ukraine can also provide its underground gas storage facilities for storing strategic fuel reserves, reports Xinhua news agency.

Pak eases 10-day intimation norm

Islamabad: Pakistan has temporarily relaxed its mutually agreed limit with India of 10 days advance intimation before the arrival of Sikh pilgrims to the revered Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan for the 552nd birth anniversary celebrations of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev, according to a media report Friday. Geo News reported quoting sources that the decision has been taken by Pakistan as a sign of respect for the religious sentiments of the Sikh pilgrims due to India's recent decision to reopen the Kartarpur Corridor ahead of the celebrations at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib.

Japan Cabinet nod to stimulus package

Tokyo: Japan's Cabinet approved Friday a record 56 trillion yen (\$490 billion) stimulus package, including cash handouts and aid to ailing businesses, to help the economy out of the doldrums worsened by the coronavirus pandemic. "The package has more than enough content and scale to deliver a sense of security and hope to the people,"

FIRST IN EUROPE

Austria reimposes full lockdown

With cold weather setting in across Europe, governments have been forced to consider reimposing unpopular lockdowns against continued Covid-19 contagion



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

AGENCIES

Vienna, Nov 19: Austria will become the first country in western Europe to reimpose a full coronavirus lockdown this autumn to tackle a new wave of infections, and will require its whole population to get vaccinated as of February, the government said Friday.

Roughly two-thirds of Austria's population is fully vaccinated, one of the lowest rates in western Europe. Much of the public is sceptical about vaccines, a view encouraged by the far-right Freedom Party, the third biggest in parlia-

ment. It is planning a protest against coronavirus restrictions Saturday. Austria introduced a lockdown for those who are not fully vaccinated Monday but since then infections have continued to set new records. Its infections are among the highest on the continent, with a seven-day incidence of 991 per 100,000 people.

"We have not succeeded in convincing enough people to get vaccinated," Chancellor Alexander Schallenberg told a news conference, saying the lockdown would start Monday and last up to 20 days. The blanket requirement to get

vaccinated will start Feb 1, he added. "It hurts that such measures still have to be taken." The issue has deepened a rift between Schallenberg's conservatives and their coalition partner, the left-wing Greens. Schallenberg said only days ago he did not want to impose extra restrictions on the unvaccinated, even as Health Minister Wolfgang Mueckstein called for a nighttime curfew.

"Too many among us have not shown enough solidarity. I ask you all to help. Take part, support these measures, let us try to reduce our social contacts for a maximum of 20 days so that the Christmas holidays are protected," Schallenberg said.

'Germany is one big outbreak'

Berlin: The head of Germany's disease control agency said Friday that the country has entered into a "nationwide state of emergency" because of surging coronavirus infections. Lothar Wieler, the head of the Robert Koch Institute, said regular medical care cannot be guaranteed anymore in some parts of the country because hospitals and intensive care wards are overstretched. He called for urgent additional measures to tackle the rise in Covid-19 cases, which topped 50,000 for the third day running. "All of Germany is one big outbreak," Wieler told reporters in Berlin. "This is a nationwide state of emergency. We need to pull the emergency brake." His comments came as the upper house of parliament Friday approved new measures to control the outbreak proposed by the center-left alliance that emerged after the Sept 26 national election.

Norway tightens entry rules

Copenhagen: Norwegian officials said Friday the country is introducing stricter controls at border crossings, requiring everyone to register before entering the country, in a bid to tackle the rise in Covid cases. Norwegian Justice Minister Emilie Enger Mehl said the move that enters into force Nov 26, is "to get a better grip on who comes in." Norway has, like other European countries, seen a recent rise in Covid-19 cases with more hospitalisations. All people aged 16 and over, both Norwegian nationals and foreigners, are supposed to register on a government website at least three days before entering the country. There, they will get a confirmation that authorities can ask for at border checkpoints. People without it can be refused entry. Health Minister Ingvild Kjerkol also urged people to stop shaking hands and greet others by giving elbow bumps, nods, smiles or a hand on the heart.

PREZ TO UNDERGO ROUTINE COLONOSCOPY

Biden to transfer power to Kamala Harris briefly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bethesda (US), Nov 19: President Joe Biden will briefly transfer power to Vice President Kamala Harris on Friday when he undergoes a "routine colonoscopy at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center," the White House said.

Biden drove early Friday to the medical center in the Washington suburbs for his first routine physical exam as president. Press secretary Jen Psaki said Biden would be under anesthesia during the procedure and would transfer power to Harris.

"As was the case when President George W Bush had the same procedure in 2002 and 2007, and following the process set out in the Constitution, President Biden will transfer power to the Vice President for the brief period of time when he is under anesthesia, she said. The Vice President will work from her office in the West Wing during this time."

Biden, 78, had his last full exam in December 2019, when doctors found the former vice president to be "healthy, vigorous" and "fit to successfully execute the duties



of the Presidency," according to a doctor's report at the time. Biden, who turns 79 Saturday, is the oldest person to serve as president, and interest in his health has been high since he declared his candidacy for the White House in 2019.

Dr Kevin O'Connor, who has been Biden's primary care physician since 2009, wrote in a three-page note that the then-presidential candidate was in overall good shape.

Harris, the first woman, person of color and person of South Asian descent to be vice president, will be making history during the short time she is serving as acting president. She is scheduled to travel to Ohio later Friday once Biden resumes his duties.

UK bans militant group Hamas

AGENCIES

Jerusalem/London, Nov 19: Britain's interior minister Priti Patel Friday said she had banned the Palestinian militant group Hamas in a move that brings the UK's stance on Gaza's rulers in line with the United States and the European Union.

Hamas has significant terrorist capability, including access to extensive and sophisticated weaponry, as well as terrorist training facilities, Patel said in a statement. "That is why today I have acted to proscribe Hamas in its entirety."

The organisation will be banned under the Terrorism Act and that anyone expressing support for Hamas, flying its flag or arranging meetings for the organisation would



be in breach of the law, the interior ministry confirmed. Patel is expected to present the change to parliament next week. Hamas - full name the 'Islamic Resistance Movement' - has political and military wings. Founded in 1987, it opposes the existence of Israel and peace talks, instead advocating armed resistance against Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories. Until now Britain had banned

PAK SCRAPS CHEMICAL CASTRATION CLAUSE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 19: Pakistan's Parliamentary Secretary for Law and Justice, Maleeka Bokhari, revealed Friday that a clause providing for chemical castration of habitual rapists has been removed from the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2021, in the light of objections raised

by the Council of Islamic Ideology, the Dawn reported.

ISLAMIC COUNCIL OBJECTS

Flanked by Law Minister Farogh Nasim at a press conference in Islamabad, Bokhari said the CII had objected to the punishment of chemical castration for rapists, describ-

MIGRANTS' MISERY



Children stand in front of a fence and address Polish law enforcement officers, who stand on the other side of the frontier, on the Belarusian-Polish border in the Grodno region, Belarus

US FDA EXPANDS COVID-19 BOOSTERS TO ALL ADULTS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, Nov 19: The United States Friday authorized Pfizer and Moderna Covid vaccine boosters to all people aged 18 and older, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said.

The decision "helps to provide continued protection against Covid-19, including the serious consequences that can occur, such as hospitalization and death," said acting FDA commissioner Janet Woodcock.

"This emergency use authorization comes at a critical time as we enter the winter months and face increasing Covid-19 case counts and hospitalizations across the country," added Moderna CEO Stéphane Bancel.

The FDA said it based its deci-



sion on strong immune response data from hundreds of people dosed with the two vaccines.

Pfizer's vaccine is dosed at 30 micrograms, the same as the primary series, while Moderna's is 50 micrograms, half the primary series -- but this was not cited by the FDA as data used to make its decision.

Pfizer also carried out a clinical trial involving 10,000 people aged

Boosters were previously available to the immune compromised, over 65s, people at high risk of severe disease and people in high risk occupations

over 16 which found the booster restored vaccine efficacy to 95 percent. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will hold a meeting later Friday to discuss clinical recommendations for who should now seek a vaccine.

Both companies are conducting post authorization studies to assess the risks of myocarditis, or heart inflammation, which is more elevated in younger males.

Philippines church leader charged with child sex trafficking

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Los Angeles, Nov 19: The leader of a Philippines-based church was charged with having sex with women and underage girls who faced threats of abuse and "eternal damnation" unless they catered to the self-proclaimed "son of God, federal prosecutors announced Thursday.

Apollo Carreon Quiboloy and two of his top administrators are among nine people named in a superseding indictment returned by a federal grand jury last week and unsealed Thursday. The indictment includes three Los Angeles-based administrators of Quiboloy's church who were charged last year. The new indictment also names a church administrator in Hawaii.

Quiboloy, 71, is head of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ church. The church claims to have 6 million members in about 200 countries. Its United States headquarters is in the Van Nuys area of Los Angeles.

The church backed the 2016 candidacy of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, a close friend of Quiboloy. Duterte used the group's radio and TV program in southern Davao city to express his views on issues way back when he was mayor of the southern port city.

Brazil's Amazon deforestation surges to worst in 15 years

Before Jair Bolsonaro's term began in Jan 2019, the Brazilian Amazon hadn't recorded a single year with more than 10,000 square kilometers of deforestation in over a decade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rio De Janeiro, Nov 19: The area deforested in Brazil's Amazon reached a 15-year high after a 22 per cent jump from the prior year, according to official data published Thursday.

The National Institute for Space Research's Prodes monitoring sys-



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

tem showed the Brazilian Amazon lost 13,235 square kilometers of rainforest in the 12-month reference period from Aug 2020 to July 2021. That's the most since 2006.

The 15-year high flies in the face of Bolsonaro government's recent attempts to shore up its environmental credibility, having made

overtures to the administration of US President Joe Biden and moved forward its commitment to end illegal deforestation at the United Nations climate summit in Glasgow this month.

Before Jair Bolsonaro's term began in Jan 2019, the Brazilian Amazon hadn't recorded a single

This is the real Brazil that the Bolsonaro government tries to hide with fantastical speeches and actions of greenwashing abroad. The reality shows that the Bolsonaro government accelerated the path of Amazon destruction

MAURICIO VOIVODIC | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR BRAZIL, WWF

year with more than 10,000 square kilometers of deforestation in over a decade. Between 2009 and 2018, the average was 6,500 square kilometers. Since then, the annual average leapt to 11,405 square kilometers, and the three-year total is an area bigger than the state of Maryland.

"It is a shame. It is a crime," Márcio Astrini, executive secre-

tary of the Climate Observatory, a network of environmental non-profit groups, told The Associated Press. We are seeing the Amazon rainforest being destroyed by a government which made environmental destruction its public policy.

Bolsonaro took office with promises to develop the Amazon, and dismissing global outcry about its destruction. His administration has defanged environmental authorities and backed legislative measures to loosen land protections, emboldening land grabbers. This week at a conference in the United Arab Emirates to attract investment, he told the crowd that attacks on Brazil for deforestation are unfair and that most of the Amazon remains pristine. Brazil's environment ministry didn't immediately respond to an AP email requesting comment

on the Prodes data showing higher deforestation.

The state of Para accounted for 40% of deforestation from Aug. 2020 to July 2021, according to the data, the most of any of nine states in the Amazon region. But its year-on-year increase was slight compared to Mato Grosso and Amazonas states, which together accounted for 34% of the region's destruction. The two states suffered 27% and 55% more deforestation, respectively.

And early data for the 2021-2022 reference period signals further deterioration. The space agency's monthly monitoring system, Deter, detected higher deforestation year-on-year during both September and October. Deter is less reliable than Prodes, but widely seen as a leading indicator.

of the day quote

We can expect to reach pre-Covid levels of demand very soon. We are already operating more than 90 per cent of our pre-Covid capacity



VINOD KANNAN | CHIEF COMMERCIAL OFFICER, VISTARA

Our repeated and periodic buybacks ensure our employees continue to grow with us. The MeESOP program takes this commitment further, breaking hierarchies to make every employee an owner, and providing more avenues for wealth creation



VIDIT AATREY | FOUNDER AND CEO, MEESHO

We continue to make strong progress in positioning the company for sustained revenue growth, and margin expansion



BRIAN HUMPHRIES | CEO, COGNIZANT

SHORT TAKES

Sitharaman to visit IFSC-GIFT City Sat

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will on Saturday visit India's maiden International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City and interact with stakeholders. The discussions will focus on the role of GIFT-IFSC as a gateway to global financial services for Indian corporates within India, attracting global financial business to India and growth as Fintech global hub, the finance ministry said in a series of tweets. The visit underlines the commitment of the government towards developing GIFT-IFSC as India's premier financial services centre and dominant gateway for global financial flows in and out of India.

Flipkart to enter healthcare sector

Bangalore: The Flipkart Group on Friday announced its foray into the healthcare sector through the launch of Flipkart Health+. As part of this development, the Group has signed definitive agreements to acquire a majority share in Sastasundar Marketplace Limited which owns and operates SastaSundar.Com, an online pharmacy and digital healthcare platform. SastaSundar.Com offers a digital healthcare and pharmacy platform supported by a network of more than 490 pharmacies, a Flipkart statement said.

PhonePe declares ESOP buyback

New Delhi: Digital payments platform PhonePe Friday announced a buyback of employee stock options (ESOPs) worth ₹135 crore. The buyback offer follows a three-tier model, based on seniority, a statement said. The company's founders will not be participating in the buyback, while the top leadership can sell up to 10 per cent of their vested stock, it added. All other current employees can sell up to 25 per cent of their vested stock. The company currently has over 2,500 employees.

Route Mobile raises ₹867 crore via QIP

New Delhi: Route Mobile Ltd, a Communication Platform as a Service (CPaaS) provider, said it has raised ₹867.49 crore via Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP). The QIP saw interest from a mix of international and domestic investors and several existing and new shareholders participated in the QIP, a statement said.

15% rise in export of processed food and agricultural products

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 19: In a major boost to export prospects of agricultural produce, India registered a significant surge in export of agricultural and processed food products in April-October period of current Financial Year, 2021-22, in comparison to the corresponding seven month period of last fiscal, 2020-21.

According to the Quick Estimates released by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), the overall export of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) products witnessed 14.7 per cent growth in terms of USD during April-October 2021 over the same period of the previous year.

This rise in exports has been achieved notwithstanding Covid-19 restrictions. The significant rise in agri-exports is seen as a testimony of the government's commitment to increase farmers' income through giving thrust on boosting exports of agricultural and processed food products of the country.

The significant jump in exports of agricultural and processed food products during the first seven months of current fiscal is in continuation of growth in exports witnessed in the financial year 2020-21. As per the Quick Estimates, the exports of fresh fruits and vegetables registered a 11.6 per cent growth in terms of USD, while shipment of processed food products like cereals preparations and



The overall export of APEDA products increased from \$10,157 million in April-October 2020 to \$11,651 million in April-October 2021

The export of rice, which recorded a positive growth of 10.5 per cent, increased from \$4777.35 million in April-October 2020 to \$5278.95 million in April-October 2021

In April-October 2020-21, fresh fruits and vegetables were exported to the tune of \$1374.59 million which rose to \$1534.05 million in April-October 2021-22

miscellaneous processed items reported a growth of 29 per cent.

India reported a 85.4 per cent jump in export of other cereals while the export of meat, dairy & poultry products witnessed an increase 15.6 per cent in the first seven months of the current fiscal (2021-22).

The export of other cereals increased from \$274.98 million in April-October 2020 to \$509.77 million in April-October 2021 and the export of meat, dairy and poultry products increased from \$1978.6 million in April-October 2020 to \$2286.32 million in April-October 2021.

The cashew export witnessed a growth of 29.2 per cent in April-

“We feel good about our business in India. We have a good footprint in financial services, in telecom, in government (business) in the industrial sector amongst many others. We are very pleased with the progress of our business here

ARVIND KRISHNA | CHAIRMAN AND CEO, IBM

ALIBABA SHARES SLUMP

Alibaba shares slumped by more than 10 per cent in Hong Kong trade after the Chinese online retail giant warned of a slowdown in consumer spending, BBC reported. The company forecast that its annual revenue would grow at the slowest pace since its stock market debut in 2014



Forex reserves go down by \$763mln

Foreign currency assets dropped by \$2.094 billion to \$575.487 billion in the reporting week, according to the data

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 19: The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$763 million to \$640.112 billion in the week ended November 12, RBI data showed.

In the previous week ended November 5, the reserves had decreased by \$1.145 billion to \$640.874 billion. It touched a lifetime high of \$642.453 billion in the week ended September 3, 2021.

In the reporting week, the decline in the foreign exchange reserves was on account of a dip in foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) weekly data released on Friday showed.



Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were up by \$1.461 billion to \$40.239 billion in the reporting week. The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

FPIs stock holding value rises \$667bln in September

New Delhi: The value of the foreign portfolio investors' (FPI) holdings in the domestic equities reached \$667 billion in three months ended September 2021, a surge of 13 per cent from the preceding quarter, according to a Morningstar report. This was largely on the back of strong performance by the Indian equity markets along with net inflows from FPIs at the later part of the quarter. At the end of the quarter ended September 2021, the value of FPI investments in Indian equities shot up sharply to \$667 billion, which was considerably higher than the \$592 billion recorded in the previous quarter, a spike of around 13 per cent, the report noted. As of September 2020, the value of FPI investments in Indian equities had been \$398 billion. However, FPIs' contributions to Indian equity market capitalisation fell marginally during the quarter under review to 19 per cent from 19.1 per cent for the June quarter.

dipped \$103 million to \$19.184 billion.

The country's reserve position with the IMF was down by \$27 million to \$5.201 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

Govt launches Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for services

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 19: Union Minister Narayan Rane Friday launched the Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for the services sector.

“The scheme will help in meeting the technology-related requirements of enterprises in the services sector and has a provision of 25 per cent capital subsidy for procurement of plant and machinery and service equipment through institutional credit to the SC-ST MSEs without any sector-specific restrictions on technology up-gradation,” according to an official statement.

The Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) launched the scheme at Guwahati. Rane also felicitated SCST Entrepreneurs of the North-eastern region and urged the youth to take up the entrepreneurship to become job givers than job seekers, the statement said.

He assured the youth that no stone will be left unturned by the Ministry of MSME in their journey to become successful entrepreneurs.

He stated that favourable policies of the government and different schemes implemented by the MSME ministry, especially for marginalised sections of the society, are helping the region realise its full potential.

RIL reboots Aramco deal, to check picking stake in O2C business

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 19: After missing two self-imposed deadlines, billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd Friday announced recalibration of its proposed \$15 billion deal to sell 20 per cent stake in its oil refinery and petrochemical business to Saudi Aramco, saying the two firms have agreed to re-evaluate the proposed investment in light of the Indian firm's new energy forays.

The stake sale talks, which were first officially revealed in August 2019, are being reset in light of Reliance making forays into new energy business in recent months by investing \$10 billion in alternative energy over three years.

“Due to the evolving nature of Reliance's business portfolio, Reliance and Saudi Aramco have mutually determined that it would be beneficial for both parties to re-evaluate the proposed investment in O2C business in light of the changed context,” the Indian firm said in a statement.

FORD DIPS TOE INTO COMPUTER CHIP BIZ

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Detroit, Nov 19: Ford Motor Co is in talks with a computer chip maker to shore up its semiconductor supplies and avoid a repeat of this year's auto factory shutdowns caused by semiconductor shortages.

Few details of the nonbinding agreement with GlobalFoundries Inc. were released, but the deal aims to boost supplies with joint development of automotive-grade chips. And it could result in joint manufacturing to support the auto industry, the companies said Thursday in a prepared statement.

Ford has been hit particularly hard by a global chip shortage that has weighed on nearly every automaker. Like other companies, Ford at times has had to temporarily close auto plants and even build models without some computers, and installing them later.

The company's US sales fell 27% from July through September and it lost 2.4 percentage points of market share largely because it couldn't produce enough vehicles to meet consumer demand.

“This agreement is just the beginning, and a key part of our plan to vertically integrate key technologies and capabilities,” said CEO Jim Farley, who is pushing Ford to develop more of its supply chain

SUPPLY CRUNCH



to ensure the parts keep flowing.

Spokeswoman Jennifer Flake said the companies are at the “memorandum of understanding” phase of their relationship but want to work together to design chips and possibly leverage their manufacturing experience.

GlobalFoundries, based about three hours north of New York City in the town of Malta, says on its website that it has chip factories in the US, Germany and Singapore, and is among the world's largest independent semiconductor makers with more than 15,000 employees.

Financial details of the agreement were not released, it does not involve cross-ownership between the companies, the statement said.

The chip shortage has roots to the spring of 2020 as global au-

Industry executives and analysts predict that the shortage will last well into next year, and that automakers may not get back to normal production until 2023

tomakers were forced to shutter factories to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. The factories came back online sooner than expected with safety precautions, but by then, many chip makers had shifted production to high-demand consumer electronics.

A fire at an automotive chip plant in Japan exacerbated the problem. Since most chips are made in Asia, the shortage highlighted a lack US chip-making capacity that has drawn the attention of the Biden administration.

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY

Amazon inks collaborations to boost women entrepreneurs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 19: Amazon India Friday said it has joined hands with four organisations as part of its Amazon Saheli programme to accelerate the growth of women entrepreneurs across the country.

These organisations include Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS), Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission (UPSRLM), Chhattisgarh State Forest Department (CG Forest) and Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services (ARIAS).

Through this, Amazon and the government bodies will come together to assist and empower lakhs

of women entrepreneurs associated with them from the four states to register their business with Amazon India and access a wider market base, a statement said.

Amazon Saheli programme will offer extensive training and skill development workshops for its participants to help women entrepreneurs associated with them understand the nuances of online selling and develop skills and capabilities necessary to grow their business on Amazon.

On the occasion of Women's Entrepreneurship Day, Amazon India launched a special WED storefront with a selection of products made available by women-owned businesses.

BIZ BUZZ

Benz unveils AMG hatchback at ₹79.50L

New Delhi: German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz Friday launched its performance oriented compact car AMG A 45 S 4MATIC+ priced at ₹79.50 lakh (ex-showroom all-India). The car is powered by a 2-litre turbocharged engine, producing 421 hp and can accelerate from 0-100 kmph in 3.9 seconds and has a top speed of 270 km/hr, Mercedes-Benz India said in a statement. Commenting on the launch, Mercedes-Benz India Managing Director and CEO Martin Schwenk said, “We are strengthening our A-Class portfolio with the launch of the new Mercedes-AMG A 45 S 4MATIC+ which is the fastest hatchback in the country.” The company is also strongly reinforcing the importance of the new generation sports car in its overall growth strategy, he added. “The introduction of the AMG 45 S 4MATIC+ underscores our commitment towards introducing the most desirable products from our global portfolio for our discerning customers in India,” Schwenk added. With the latest launch, Mercedes-Benz India said the AMG now has 13 products in its portfolio in India, which is “the strongest line-up for any performance brand”.



Online startups' listings make a killing, leave behind legacy cos

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 19: Expectations of further digitisation-led economic growth has propelled the market valuations of just-listed startups in comparison to legacy-cum-brick and mortar businesses, analysts said.

Accordingly, valuation of firms such as PB Fintech (PolicyBazar), Zomato and Nykaa, among others, have risen multifold times from their offer price. Besides, most of these startups' market valuation has crossed the milestone of ₹1 lakh crore.

“New generation businesses are expensive because of their high growth potentials in this essentially rising digital world.

Henceforth, it is fair to accept that such new-age companies will be valued and traded much higher than the old business models,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

However, he said that one needs to understand that this huge gap in valuations is based on a belief that they will evolve stronger, increase penetration, grow their brands faster, and ultimately become profitable.

“Else, they have the risk to end up as a cash-gulping equipment, destroying the commercial system of the respective industry. Not all will rise as a winner from the new-age companies,” Nair said.

“The old businesses are also expected to develop and integrate



with new technology in the future. Accordingly, we can also notice that not all from the 2020 and 2021 listed tech-based companies have performed great,” he added.

According to Parth Nyati,

US market where many companies tried to cash in on the tech boom along with Google and Microsoft, but most of them failed to continue with their business and even it took many years for both Google and Microsoft to reach their peak valuations of the time of the tech boom,” Nyati said.

Likhita Chepa, Senior Research Analyst at CapitalVia Global

Research, said: “The technological revolution in the last decade saw a slew of startups coming up, which disrupted the status quo and established a new way of doing business. Some of these startups have grown into profitable companies, while the others have expanded to a size where they can take their company public.”

The startup ecosystem is changing in India and many people think that the country has the potential to produce big tech companies like what the US and China did in the past. Therefore, there is a frenzy for new-age business IPOs in India and most of the promoters want to cash in on this euphoria with unrealistic valuations

PARTH NYATI | FOUNDER OF TRADINGO

Founder of Tradingo: “We know that the digital economy is witnessing exponential growth across the globe where India is in a leading position.”

“We can take the example of the

ABD BIDS ADIEU TO CRICKET

India seal series in style

GUPTILL ECLIPSES KOHLI AS HIGHEST T20I RUN-GETTER

Ranchi: New Zealand opener Martin Guptill Friday surpassed Indian star Virat Kohli to become the leading run-getter in T20Is. Guptill surpassed Kohli during the second T20 match of the three-match series. India's Test and ODI captain, Kohli has been rested for the series. Guptill has 3248 runs to his name compared to Kohli's 3227. Guptill averages a little over 30 while Kohli is way ahead of him on that front with an average of 52. Rohit Sharma is third in the leading run-getters' standings with more than 3000 runs.

the visitors to a modest 153/6. The spin duo was ably supported by the debutant Harshal Patel (2/25). In a must-win match for the Kiwis, who are trailing 0-1 in the three-match series, Martin Guptill (31, 15b, 3x4, 2x6) and Daryl Mitchell (31, 28b, 3x4) took the Indian pacers to the cleaners after being put into bat. Mark Chapman (21) also got start but failed to capitalise. Cruising at 64/1 in the powerplay, the Kiwis suddenly hit a roadblock in the crucial middle overs and managed just 64 runs from 7 to 16 overs with Ashwin and Axar (1/26) dominating the New Zealand batters in the dew-laden condition. **BRIEF SCORES:** New Zealand 153/6 (Glenn Phillips 34, Martin Guptill 31, Daryl Mitchell 31, Mark Chapman 21; Harshal Patel 2/25, Ravichandran Ashwin 1/19, Axar Patel 1/26) lost to India 155/3 (KL Rahul 65, Rohit Sharma 55; Tim Southee 3/16) by 7 wickets.



ON A ROLL: KL Rahul raises the bat after reaching half century, while Rohit Sharma looks on; Harshal Patel (inset) reacts after getting a wicket during the second T20I against New Zealand in Ranchi, Friday

Ranchi, Nov 19: Skipper Rohit Sharma (55, 36b, 1x4, 5x6) and his deputy KL Rahul (65, 49b, 6x4, 2x6) stitched an enterprising century-plus opening stand to power India to a comfortable seven-wicket win over New Zealand in the second T20I and take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series here Friday. Chasing a modest 154 under heavy dew condition, the Indian captain and vice-captain started off in contrasting styles en route to their respective half centuries. Quiet at start, Rohit stepped off in the middle overs. Rahul started off in a brisk fashion as the duo stitched together 117-run opening stand that virtually sealed the chase. The Indian skipper is now involved in the most century-plus stands (13), overtaking 12 by Babar Azam and Martin Guptill. The duo got out in the space of 13 balls but by then India needed just 19 off 27 balls and Rishabh Pant (12 n o) sealed the issue with successive sixes off Jimmy Neesham in the 18th over to take India home with 16 balls to spare. He was accompanied by Venkatesh Iyer (12 n o) at the other end. Skipper Tim Southee (3/16) got all the wickets for the Kiwis bowling a splendid four-over spell. The third and final T20I is scheduled to be played at the iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata Sunday. Earlier, India rode on a tight bowling display by the spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin (1/19) and Axar Patel (1/26) to stymie New Zealand's explosive start and restrict

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Boumous seals ATKMB victory

Goa, Nov 19: ATK Mohun Bagan put up a dominating display to beat Kerala Blasters 4-2 in the opening game of the ISL here Friday. Hugo Boumous (third & 39th minutes) and Liston Colaco (50th), brought in for upwards of Rs 3.5 Crore, paid instant dividends by scoring in the goals. Roy Krishna (27th), too did not fail to capitalise from the spot, yet again amongst the goals. For Blasters, young enigma Sahal Abdul Samad (24th) and Jorge Pereyra Diaz (69th) were on target. Former FC Goa and Mumbai City FC star Boumous became the league's fastest scorer in an opening encounter, finding the net from outside the box within three minutes. ATK Mohun Bagan would be happy with the performance considering Kerala Blasters entered the game with a robust pre-season.

Sindhu, Srikanth enter semis

Bali, Nov 19: Premier Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth continued their impressive run and registered dominant victories to enter the semifinals of their respective events at the Indonesia Masters Super 750 badminton tournament here Friday. While reigning World Champion Sindhu, seeded third, scripted a convincing 21-13, 21-10 win over Turkey's Neslihan Yigit in 35 minutes in the women's singles quarterfinals, Srikanth made short work of compatriot HS Prannoy 21-7, 21-18 in the men's last eight fixture. With the win the two-time Olympic medalist Sindhu extended her dominating head-to-head record against the Turkish shuttler to 4-0. The 26-year-old from Hyderabad, ranked seven, had beaten Yigit last month as well in the Denmark Open. In the men's event, former World No.1 Srikanth was at his vintage best and gave away just 7 points in a lopsided first game. The second game was more evenly matched as Prannoy, who claimed an upset win over Tokyo Olympics gold



medallist Victor Axelsen earlier, made a strong recovery. Prannoy started the proceedings aggressively, racing to a 5-2 lead but Srikanth came from behind to snatch the lead at the mid-game interval. Having gained momentum, the former World No.1 then extended his lead to 15-12 and despite Prannoy levelling the proceedings once again, Srikanth sealed the match to reach his second consecutive semifinals. He will now take on either

Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn or Denmark's Anders Antonsen, who is seeded third, in the semifinals. Sindhu, who has got relatively easy opponents until now, has a tough match ahead as she will face top seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan. Although Yamaguchi is currently ranked third in the world and is the top seed, Sindhu has a superior 12-7 head-to-head record against the Japanese shuttler and has won both the meetings between the two this year.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Johannesburg, Nov 19: One of contemporary cricket's greatest batters, South African legend AB de Villiers on Friday announced his retirement from all forms of the game, which he dominated for 17 years with his 360 degree batting. The 37-year-old versatile cricketer's decision has effectively ended his association with his IPL franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore. He made the announcement on Twitter, ending an illustrious career, which saw him play in 114 Tests, 228 ODIs and 78 T20Is for the Proteas. Since starting his association with RCB in 2011, he has enjoyed 11 fruitful seasons with the franchise and was its batting mainstay alongside Virat Kohli. De Villiers has played 156 matches for RCB and scored 4,491 runs. He is the second all-time leading run scorer behind Kohli and holds the



'BEST PLAYER OF OUR TIMES'

VIRAT KOHLI: To the best player of our times and the most inspirational person I've met, you can be very proud of what you've done and what you've given to RCB my brother. Our bond is beyond the game and will always be. This hurts my heart but I know you've made the best decision for yourself and your family like you've always done. I love you. **RCB:** End of an era! There's nobody like you, AB. We'll miss you dearly at RCB. For all that you've done and given to the team, to the fans, and to cricket lovers in general, Thank You AB. Happy retirement, legend! **SHIKHAR DHAWAN:** Your contribution to cricket has been immense. A true legend of this beautiful game and a wonderful athlete. Good luck for whatever the future has in store for you.

ing at this decision took a lot of time, but after a lot of contemplation, I've decided to hang up my boots and spend quality time with my family. I would like to thank the RCB management, my friend Virat Kohli, teammates, coaches, support staff, fans, and the entire RCB family for showing faith and supporting me all through these years. "It has been a memorable journey with RCB. Have so many memories on the personal front to cherish for the lifetime. RCB will always be very close to me and my family and will continue to support this amazing team. I am an RCBian forever."



De Villiers' statement

■ It has been an incredible journey, but I have decided to retire from all cricket. ■ Ever since the backyard matches with my older brothers, I have played the game with pure enjoyment and unbridled enthusiasm. Now, at the age of 37, that flame no longer burns so brightly. ■ Last, I am aware that nothing would have been possible without the sacrifices made by my family - my parents, my brothers, my wife Danielle and my children. I look forward to the next chapter of our lives when I can truly put them first. ■ I would like to thank every teammate, every opponent, every coach, every physio and every staff member who has travelled the same path, and I am humbled by the support I have received in South Africa, in India, wherever I have played. ■ Cricket has been exceptionally kind to me. Whether playing for the Titans, or the Proteas, or RCB, or around the world, the game has given me unimagined experiences and opportunities, and I will always be grateful. ■ That's the reality I must accept - and, even if it may seem sudden, that is why I am making this announcement today. I've had my time.

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UN wants proof of Shuai's well-being

Geneva, Nov 19: The United Nations said Friday it wants proof of the whereabouts of Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai, missing ever since she made sexual assault allegations against a former vice-premier. The UN Human Rights Office called for a fully-transparent investigation into the former Grand Slam doubles champion's claims against Zhang Gaoli. "It would be important to have proof of her whereabouts and well-being and we would urge that there be an investigation with full transparency into her allegations of sexual assault," Liz Throssell, a spokeswoman for UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet's office, told reporters here. "According to available information, Peng, a former world doubles number one, hasn't been heard from publicly since she alleged on social media that she had been sexually assaulted." "We would stress that it's important to know where she is and her state, know about her well-being. We think it would be important that there's an investigation

Ruud seals ATP Finals last 4 spot

Turin, Nov 19: Casper Ruud completed the semifinals line-up at the ATP finals Friday, setting up a meeting with holder Daniil Medvedev after a 2-6, 7-5, 7-6(7-5) victory over Andrey Rublev. The 22-year-old Norwegian qualifies as runner-up from the Green Group as World No.1 Novak Djokovic is already through and faces Alexander Zverev for a place in the final. The match was a straight shootout for a last-four place, with World No.5 Rublev the favourite having won his four previous matches against Ruud. The decider was almost a mirror of the second set as Rublev broke at 3-2, only for Ruud to immediately draw level with a break. The set went to a suitably dramatic tiebreak, where Ruud sealed his last-four spot with an ace. Whatever happens in the semifinal this weekend, it has been a remarkable year for Ruud who won five tour singles titles and achieved his highest world ranking of eighth last month. Thursday, World No.3 Zverev set up a semifinal clash with Djokovic at the season-ending event for the top eight players by beating Hubert Hurkacz 6-2, 6-4. Zverev lost to Djokovic at the Australian Open and US Open



this year but beat the Serb at the Tokyo Olympics en route to the gold medal. Zverev, the 2018 champion at the finals, didn't face a single break point against Hurkacz, a first-time qualifier. Both players served 11 aces amid quick conditions inside the Pala Alpitour.

Zverev's victory meant that Medvedev's final group match later against Jannik Sinner - an alternate who replaced the injured Matteo Berrettini - was largely meaningless. Still, Medvedev won 6-0, 6-7(5-7), 7-6(10-8) - saving two match points in the third-set tie-breaker.

Archers lose to Korea twice in recurve finals

Dhaka, Nov 19: The Indian recurve archers once again failed to match the mighty Koreans and suffered one-sided losses to settle for two silver medals in the men's and team events of the Asian Archery Championships here Friday. The archers also bagged a bronze in the recurve mixed team event with an easy 6-0 win over Uzbekistan as India concluded their campaign at the continental showpiece with one gold, four silver and two bronze medals. In the last edition too, India had won seven medals (1-2-4), although the archers bettered the silver medal's count this time. The competition once again exposed the archers' weakness against the Koreans in the recurve section, as they lost both their finals to their perennial nemesis which meant that India are yet to win a gold in the Olympic discipline since 2013. The duo of Jayanta Talukdar and Deepika Kumari were the last gold medalists in recurve section - they had won the mixed team event in Taipei eight years ago. The recurve men's team last won a gold way back in 2007, while the women have never climbed to the top of the podium.

At the Bangladesh Army Stadium in Banani, the script unfolded on expected lines with the men's recurve team of Kapil, Pravin Jadhav and Parth Salunkhe going down 2-6 (52-57, 53-55, 56-54, 55-57) to top seed Lee Seungyun, Kim Pil-Joong and Han Woo Tack. The women's recurve team of Ankit Bhakat, Madhu Vedwan and Ridhi proved to be way below par and surrendered meekly to Ryo Su Jung, Oh Yejin and Lim Haejin 0-6 (57-52, 59-49, 56-60). The recurve mixed team of Kapil and Ankit Bhakat later won 6-0 (35-32, 37-32, 36-35) against Uzbekistan's Abdusattorova Ziyodakhon and Amir Khan Sadikov. India's only gold of the meet came courtesy World Championship triple silver medalist Jyothi Surekha Vennam in the compound women's individual event. Jyothi showed the way Thursday when she overcame the Korean challenge twice en route to winning her second Asian medal. Jyothi settled for a silver in the mixed team event after losing to the top seed Koreans by one point to conclude her campaign with two medals. India bagged another silver in the compound men's individual event after Abhishek Verma lost to Korea's Kim Jong Ho.