



PAK HOCKEY TEAM ARRIVE IN ODISHA

Bhubaneswar: The junior hockey team of Pakistan arrived in the city Saturday to participate in the Junior Hockey World Cup being held from November 24 to December 5, the Pakistan high commission said Aftab Hasan Khan, the Charge d' Affaires at the high commission extended a warm welcome to the hockey team in New Delhi, it said in a statement. It said a senior

diplomat of the High Commission received the members of the team at the Indira Gandhi International airport. The visit of the Pakistani hockey team to India comes days after New Delhi decided to reopen the Kartarpur Sahib corridor. The ties between the two countries significantly nosedived after India announced in August 2019 its decision to withdraw the special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and MORE ON P12 bifurcate the state into two Union territories.



68.66 PER CENT PASS IN PLUS II OFFLINE EXAM Bhubaneswar: The results of Plus II offline examination-2021 conducted

by the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) were announced Saturday. Total pass percentage of students stood at 68.66 as 8,460 students cleared the examination. While 6,310 students in Arts stream passed the examination, 1,501 cleared in Science, 422 in Commerce and 227 in Vocational courses in offline exam this year. Girls outshone boys

with 67.76% in the examination. The pass percentage of boys stood at 62.71. The Plus II offline examination was conducted for the students who were not satisfied with their results allotted to them on basis of alternate assessment. Total 13,043 students had made registration for the examination, of which over 12,321 appeared in the examination held from October 1 to 11, 2021.



Newborn stolen from Sonepur DHH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, Nov 20: In a shocking development, a newborn girl was allegedly stolen by an unidentified woman from the district headquarters hospital (DHH) in Sonepur, Saturday. The matter came to the fore after the hospital authorities lodged a complaint at the Town Police Station in Sonepur.

Acording to reports, Santoshini Tandi, wife of Gajendra Tandi of Sandha village under Birmaharajpur police limits, was admitted to the Gynecology and Obstetrics Department of the hospital Friday. She was compelled to lie on the verandah due to unavailability of a bed.

Later, Santoshini gave birth to a baby girl and continued to lie on the verandah with her child for post-delivery treatment. The incident occurred when Santoshini went to the toilet after handing over her newborn to her mother-in-law. Meanwhile, an unidentified woman came there and requested Santoshini's mother-in-law to hand over the infant to her so that she could hold the baby for some time.

A while later, the woman sud denly disappeared from the spot with the baby in her arms. Panicked, Santoshini's family members tried to search for the woman but failed to trace her. Later, Santoshini's family lodged a complaint. The police have launched an investigation to trace the newborn and the unidentified woman.



RISKY WAY

Volunteers evacuate a woman from a flooded area at Gudiyatham in Vellore district in Tamil Nadu, Saturday. At least 25 people were killed while 17 are missing in rain-related incidents in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh since Friday PTI PHOTO

BJD's pretence on farm laws

The ruling BID has welcomed the repeal of the three controversial farm laws, but itself introduced similar Ordinances in the state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar. Nov 20: The ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in Odisha has welcomed the decision of the Centre to repeal three controversial farm laws saying it always stands for the interest of farmers. However, it seems that the BJD has maintained two sets of rules on the entire issue.

Since the BJP came to power at the Centre in 2014, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare wanted to usher in reforms in the agriculture marketing sector in the country and had drafted a model law entitled "Agriculture Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017".

As agriculture is in the State List of the Constitution, the ministry was pushing all the states, including Odisha, to draft similar Bills for their respective states.

Accordingly, the Odisha gov-ernment had brought two Ordinances, a copy-paste of the draft Bill shared by the Centre, namely the "Odisha Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation), Ordinance" and the "Odisha Agricultural Produce and Livestock



Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance" in May 2020. The ordinances were issued at least three weeks before the promulgation of the Central Ordinances, revealing that the BJD too was in a hurry to implement the laws.

Despite opposing some sections of the farm laws enacted by the Centre, Odisha government re-promulgated the Agriculture Marketing Ordinance in November, 2020 as the tenure of first Ordinance expired. However, the government dropped the Ordinance on contract farming in the face of stiff opposition.

On the other hand, it introduced the Odisha Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 in the last Winter Session of the Assembly. However, as the opposition Congress and farmers opposed the move and the farmers' stir at national-level turned into a mass movement, the state government did not try to pass it.

The BJD government had promulgated two Ordinances to pave way for implementing laws similar to the Centre's controversial farm laws in the state

The Agri Marketing Bill was also introduced in Assembly to allow private players to exploit the farmers across the state

The BJD, very cleverly, had raised voices against certain provisions in the new farm laws in both Houses of Parliament. However, it never demanded scrapping the Bills - unlike few other Opposition parties.

The Agricultural Marketing Ordinance (later converted into a Bill) was brought to replace the **Odisha Agricultural Produce** Market Act, 1956, which was in force in the state since 1957.

As per provisions, both the Ordinances were almost similar to the Central laws. The Odisha Contract Farming Ordinance allowed a farmer to enter into a written agreement for any farm produce, which is same as the Central Acts.

Similarly, the Agri Marketing Bill aimed to ward off fragmentation of the market for agricultural produce and livestock by removing the concept of the notified market areas and ensuring effective enforcement of regulations by the Agricultural Produce and Livestock Market Committee It also allowed

private investors to directly enter the agricultural market and buy any agricultural product from anywhere in the state. It had provisions for providing better market linkages to farmers and introduced provisions for single-point levy of market fee across the state and single trading licence statewide to realise cost effective transitions.

Both the contract farming Ordinance and the agricultural marketing Bill lapsed as they were not passed by the state Assembly within the prescribed period.

Speaking about the above Ordinance and Bill, Cooperation Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain said, "Taking advantage of the lockdown, the Centre had promulgated the Ordinances and asked all states to promulgate similar Ordinances. So we did that. But, now both the Ordinances have lapsed."

The state's further course of action will depend on the next move of the Centre, he said.

Meanwhile, Opposition BJP and Congress criticised the state government for its double standards on this issue. "They are maintaining one stand in the Parliament and another in the state. It shows BJD's opportunistic behaviour,"

alleged BJP leader Bishnu Sethi. Congress leader Debasish Patnaik alleged, "As the undisclosed nexus between the state and Centre on this issue was exposed, both BJD and BJP leaders are now indulging in blame game.'

Farmers in no mood to forgive NO EVIDENCE AGAINST State relaxes Covid curbs on **ARYAN: BOMBAY HC** ■ *The reaction to the shock* cultural shows U-turn in the northern states AGENCIES

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Your notings alone won't do. Please attach election schedule to every file!

WEATHER C				
	BHUB	СТК		
<mark>d</mark> MAX	29.6°C	28.0°	C	
₽ MIN	22.0°C	22.0°	C Forecast	
Humidity	81%	78%		
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	Generally cloudy sky	

has been less than positive, a worrying sign for PM Modi

REUTERS

Mohraniya, Nov 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi may have caved in to farmers' demands that he scrap laws they say threaten their livelihoods, but reactions to the shocking U-turn in rural north, where the BJP faces key elections next year, have been less than positive, a worrying sign for a leader seeking to maintain

his grip on national politics. In the village of Mohraniya, located in Uttar Pradesh, farmer Guru Sevak Singh said that he and others like him have lost faith in Modi and his party.

"Today Prime Minister Modi realised that he was committing blunder, but it took him a year to recognise this and only because he now knows farmers will not vote for his party ever again," said Singh. Thousands of agricultural work-



People serve langar to farmers protesting at Singhu border in New Delhi, Saturday

ers have protested outside New Delhi and beyond for more than a year, shrugging off the pandemic to disrupt traffic and pile pressure on Modi and the BJP who say the new laws were key to modernising the sector. In 2020, the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre passed three farm laws in a bid to overhaul the agricultural sector that employs about 60 per cent of India's work-

Angry farmers took to the streets, saying the reforms put their jobs at risk and handed control over crops and prices to private corporations. The resulting protest movement became one of the country's biggest and most protracted.

Leaders of six farmer unions who spearheaded the movement in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab states said they would not forgive a government that labelled protesting farmers as terrorists and anti-nationals.

Mumbai, Nov 20: The Bombay High Court has ruled that there was "no prima facie evidence" against Aryan Khan and co-accused Munmun Dhamecha and Arbaaz Merchant for charges pertaining to 'conspiracy' and 'common intent' in the case lodged against after the cruise ship raids

Delivering the detailed 14-page order; Justice Nitin Sambre said that considering the material brought on record by the NCB the court has not found that prima facie. there was no positive evidence against the accused trio.

Khan, Dhamecha and Merchant were granted conditional bail by the high court October 28 vide a speaking order and the detailed order was made available only Saturday.

Justice Sambre further said that the NCB claim on the common intention to commit an offence under the NDPS Act. (accused) found to be in possession of commercial quan-

> China's tennis star Peng Shuai accused a top Communist Party politician of sexually assaulting her

China blocks #MeToo movement

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Beijing, Nov 20: China's #MeToo movement has stumbled in the face of swift Internet censors, a patriarchal society and a legal system that places a heavy burden on the claimant.

Explosive claims this month by tennis star Peng Shuai that a former top Communist Party politician had sexually assaulted her marked the first time allegations have hit the top layer of government. But her accusations were swiftly scrubbed from the Chinese Internet, and she has not been seen publicly since. Others have faced the same fate,

with an increasingly austere Beijing cracking down on any form of grassroots social movement.

The global #MeToo movement reached China in 2018 when a wave of women published allegations of sexual harassment against university professors. Threatened by the prospect of an uncontrolled mass movement, authorities quickly began blocking social media hashtags and keywords. The phrase

#MeToo is still blocked. Prominent feminists face regular police harassment and detention - including activist Sophia Huang Xueqin, arrested in September for "inciting subversion of state



force but is deeply inefficient, in debt

and prone to pricing wars.

Missing Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai

power", according to Reporters Without Borders.

Although leader Xi Jinping has declared women are "an impor-

tant force driving social development and progress", there are barely any women in key government roles in China. Political leadership is a man's world, with only one woman in the Communist Party's elite 25-member Politburo. Xi has also been aggressively pushing a conservative narrative

of women as mothers and wives. New legislation clarifying the concept of sexual harassment was passed last year in China, but ac-

cusers still face major obstacles. "You have to constantly prove you're honest ... and that you're not using this issue to hype yourself,' a woman who had made an allegation of sexual misconduct said, asking to remain unidentified as she feared retaliation. But for the accused, "it's actually very simple", she said. "He can just deny it and does not need to prove his innocence."

The cases that see the light of day are often shot down by courts and a large majority of cases brought under sexual harassment charges are the accused pressing back with defamation charges.

Wang Qi, a World Wildlife Fund employee who alleged online that her boss had forcibly kissed and repeatedly harassed her, was hit with a retaliatory defamation lawsuit from him in 2018. She was ordered to apol-

ogise by a court which concluded she had insufficient proof and had

tity of drugs and hatching conspir-

cause the accused trio was travel-

ling on the cruise cannot be grounds

to invoke the offence under Section

29 (criminal conspiracy) against

them. "This court is required to be

sensitive to the fact that there has

to be presence of basic material in

the form of evidence so as to sub-

stantiate the case of conspiracy

against the applicants (accused),"

He further said that no drugs

Justice Sambre noted.

were found on Khan.

The court said that merely be-

acy is "liable to be rejected".

"spread falsehoods" about him. And a Beijing court this year dismissed the case of Zhou Xiaoxuan, who accused state TV host Zhu Jun of groping her when she was an intern. The court said Zhou had provided insufficient evidence. Zhu in turn sued Zhou for defamation.

Courts require accusers to show evidence far stronger than that provided by the accused, often turning away witnesses close to the accusers including friends and colleagues. But Beijing has allowed allegations to swirl when it suits them.

SRC PK Jena said cultural gatherings have been allowed to open with due compliance to Covid protocols

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: With the improvement in Covid-19 situation, the state government has allowed cultural activities, including open air theatres, drama. orchestra and melodies from

Saturday. In an order, Special Relief Commissioner PK Jena said cultural gatherings, programmes including melodies, orchestra, *iatra*, opera, dances-classical, folk and other permitted dance forms, cultural competitions, open air theatres, drama, street plays and other such performances have been allowed to open with due compliance to Covid protocols.

Auditoriums, assembly halls and similar facilities are allowed to open, he said.

As per the order, local authorities (District Magistrates/SPs/ Municipal Commissioners or any other officer authorised) concerned will give permission for the open air theatres, operas, subject to compliance of Covid-19 safety protocols such as mandatory wearing of face masks, physical distancing, provision of thermal scanning, among others.

Keeping the size of the open ground in view, maximum 2,000 persons will be allowed ensuring maintenance of prescribed physical distancing norm and the seating arrangement shall be made accordingly. For indoor halls, the numbers per cent of the seating capacity of the hall.





DREW BARRYMORE ON USING DATING APPS TO FIND LOVE

Hollywood star Drew Barrymore says she finds dating application very hard because she only seems to find people who are 'too young'... "(It's) so hard on dating apps. They are too young. I dip in and out (of using them," she said while speaking to Gayle King on her show.

DELROY LINDO JOINS MARVEL'S BLADE

Actor Delroy Lindo is joining the cast of Marvel Studios' Blade, starring Mahershala Ali as the titular human-vampire hybrid. Lindo is the first actor to join the cast since Ali broke the news of the Blade reboot at the end of Marvel's 2019 panel at San Diego Comic-Con, reports variety.com.



FORTUNE FORECAST GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181* ARIES

You are very apprehensive about your possessions today, and will not like to share them. This mood may be because of someone particular. Affairs regarding love, Ganesha says, are progressing fine, and your married life will bloom

TAURUS

A short trip could be in the offing today, says Ganesha. Before proceeding, you may, however, be compelled to make changes in your itinerary. If you are not too happy with the new schedules and decide to stick to your original plans, you are likely to feel disturbed, uneasy at the

GEMINI

end of the day.

You will find yourself caught in two minds repeatedly, owing to your unpredictable mood swings. This will be the cause of a lot of mental stress. You can reduce you anxiety by talking out your issues with embers and experts

CANCER

A day to indulge in fantasy. Your ideas will be fantastic. Your status and prestige go up. People will praise your efforts. (Your efforts will be appreciated). A day of creativity and success, with Ganesha's blessings in tow

LEO

A challenging day awaits you. You will face some tensions and problems, however this doesn't mean you will not be able to complete all your work successfully. Your personal life will proceed as usual however expectations from you at the work-front will increase. You need to maintain a balance between your home and work-place, says Ganesha

VIRGO

Children will be a source of a lot of appreciation today, in and out of the classroom Your logical abilities will become stronger. Ganesha advises you to stay peaceful, flow with the tide and enjoy yourself, regardless of what happens in the day



Siddhant-Navya enjoys each other's company!

What has lent credence to the rumour is that the 'Gully Boy' actor reportedly said that there is someone special in his life who is not an

actor but related to lent credence the industry to the rumour

Mumbai: B-town's rumour mills have been working overtime about the friendship between Siddhant Chaturvedi and Navya Naveli Nanda.

The Gully Boy actor and Amitabh Bachchan's granddaughter seem to be enjoying each other's com pany. What has

is that Sidhant reportedly said that there is someone special who

is not an

actor but re-

lated to the

Navya does

industry.

not

have aspiration to enter the film industry, unlike brother Agastya, who is rumoured to be part of Zoya Akhtar's upcoming film based on Archie comics.

Navya's buddy Ananya Panday is Sidhant's co-star in Shakun Batra's film. A while back, there was tattle about Nanda and Jaaved Jaaferi's son Meezaan, who claimed that they were just friends.

Navva runs an online healthcare portal while Sidhant's latest film *Bunty Aur Babli 2* with Rani Mukerji, Saif Ali Khan, Sharvari Wagh, Pankaj

Tripathi and others hit the theatres Friday. AGENCIES



52nd

International Film

'Ek Duje Ke Liye best ever movie shot in Goa'

Panaji: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant Saturday disclosed that Sholay was his all-time favourite film and that Ek Duje Ke Liye, the K. Balachander movie starring Kamal Haasan, was among the best to be shot in his state.

Soon after delivering his speech at the inaugural ceremony of the 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI)

in a rapid-fire question-an-

swer session with the

show's host, director

52nd International Saturday, Sawant engaged **Film Festival of** India kicks off

Karan Johar much to the delight of the audience. When asked about the association between Goa and IFFI, the Chief Minister said film stars and everybody else were waiting for the festival to open in Goa.

The state, Sawant added, had been hosting the festival for the past 17 years, but this year it was special because of the efforts of Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur.

What was it about this IFFI that excited him the most? The Chief Minister replied by saying that after the Covid-19 pandemic, this was the first event in which 75 film stars were participating. "I think in the next nine days there will more

film stars coming to Goa than we have seen in a long time." he said.

Art camp to promote Sambalpuri handloom

Bhubaneswar: A four-day mural art camp kicked off at Cadrola village in Sambalpur district to popularise Sambalpuri handloom and its stunning designs. Begun Thursday, the event, organised by Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi (OLKA) in association with Sambalpur district administration, will come to an end today.

A team of 42 artists is showcasing their craft, based on Sambalpuri handloom designs provided by the handloom artisans, by decorating the walls of 47 families at Meherpada, Brahmanapada and Kanjigouripada of the village.

Akademi secretary Panchanan Samal said, "A documentary film has been shot on the designs to promote the artisans of Sambalpuri handloom which will be screened on the concluding day of the camp. Many weavers, affected by the pandemic induced lockdown, turned to other professions to eke out a living. The Akademi, with the support of the state government, is trying to reach out to them and popularizing their skills by conducting mural art camps.'

Earlier, OLKA had organised such a camp at Heritage Village Raghurajpur in Puri where 150 artists decorated houses of Pattachitra artisans with mural paintings highlighting the content of Nabakalebar, Rath Yatra, Ramayana and Mahabharata



An artist painting a wall in Sambalpur

Spencer more impressive than Diana

Set in 1991, *Spencer* is a haunt-ing reimagining of the tense three-day Christmas week-**KRISTEN STEWART** end in the life of Princess Diana **BRINGS LAYERS** which she spent with the royal family at the Sandringham Estate, a pre-**OF HUMAN** posterously large six-storey country **COMPLEXITIES** mansion that stands on 20,000 acres off the Norfolk Coast. **TO A FIGURE** WHO, FOR ALL

This biographical film about Princess Diana is mounted like a psychological drama full of dream sequences, internal and external pain, metaphor-laden scenes, and dialogues, showing her brooding moods. The narrative begins with



bours to the royal REVIEW family. This cleany tells us that she is on her own, and this is

sons William (Jack Nielen) and Harry (Freddie Spry) by her side, Diana is trapped in a loveless marriage to a diffident Prince Charles (Jack Farthing).

RECTOR: Pablo Larrain. CAST: Kristen Stewart, Sally ory, Stella Gonet, Richard

finds a biography of Anne Boleyn (Amy Manson), the wife of Henry the VIII who was accused of adultery and beheaded so that her husband could marry once again, and she begins to find in Bolevn a kindred spirit. As she's robbed of her privacy out-

straightforward interpretation of the princess' displeasure with the royal traditions and holiday spectacle. He shows us Diana during her most vulnerable moments: weak, nasty, and most of all, self-destructive.

Kristen Stewart proves entirely compelling as the moody Diana. Her role is an interpretation of a classic role, bringing layers of human complexities to a figure who, for all the myth that surrounds her, still looms large in the global conscience.

Timothy Spall, Sean Harris, and Sally Hawkins in supporting roles have their moments on screen. Jack Farthing appears as a poor caricature of Prince Charles. Overall, Larrain's Spencer is much more impressive than Oliver Hirshbiegel's 2013 film Diana starring Naomi Watts.



charm. Your house and its arty interior decoration will impress people

SCORPIO

Do your deeds and don't expect returns is what

Indian mythology has taught us since time immemorial. Now, it's time to implement it, especially at work. You may have to wait a little longer in terms of your business and joint venture. However, don't lose hope as the fruits of patience are sweet.

SAGITTARIUS

The cloud of worries is likely to keep you gloomy today. Try to burst that cloud, and take a decision that would help you to solve your troubles. There may be some delay, if you want the situation to get back to normal. However, as Ganesha says, you would be the one who would benefit at the end of the day!

CAPRICORN

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

Are you facing a roadblock in your path? Make a minor change in your route, you will find a smooth and clear road once again, advises Ganesha. The efforts you have made in the past will come to fruition, today. Don't get satisfied with your current achievements, you still have a long way to keep working hard.

PISCES Do not commit yourself to any large investments today

It is best to avoid speculative activities. For those who have a job, the cooperation of your colleagues will help you progress, says Ganesha



CAN'T GO

THROUGH

NITH IT!

SURROUNDS

LOOMS LARGE

PEANUTS

HER, STILL

THE MYTH THAT

bob-cut hair and driving her little green car alone through the countryside lost in the area where she grew up as neigh-

Diana sporting her blonde 🚄

no accident, and that she has lost parts of herself over the years, trying to live up to expectations. Once on royal grounds, with her two

who openly betrays her. Feeling effectively imprisoned,

FUN

Diana's anxiety and depression start to get the better of her when she

CROSSWORD

as if they are closing in on her. She loses her grip on reality until she can break out and save herself. The director's vision is not a

side and inside the opulent estate,

the walls of the Gothic palace feel





CALVIN AND HOBBES











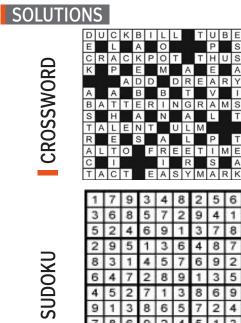


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

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





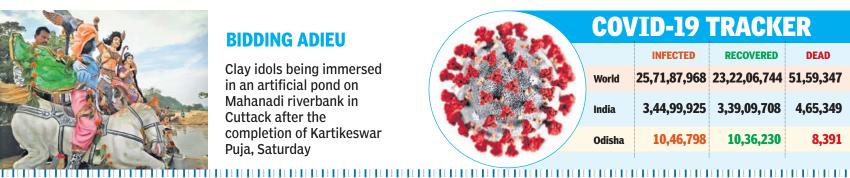






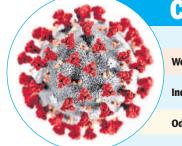


downtown



BIDDING ADIEU

Clay idols being immersed in an artificial pond on Mahanadi riverbank in Cuttack after the completion of Kartikeswar Puja, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
/orld	25,71,87,968	23,22,06,744	51,59,347
dia	3,44,99,925	3,39,09,708	4,65,349
disha	10,46,798	10,36,230	8,391

Naveen flags off projects worth ₹2,056 crore in Angul, Dhenkanal



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik hands over a BSKY smart health card to a beneficiary in Dhenkanal. Saturday. 5T Secretary VK Pandian (far left) and Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Mallik (extreme right) are also seen OP PHOTO

Around 10 lakh people each in both the districts can avail the benefits of smart health card

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday launched several developmental projects worth ₹2,056 crore for Angul and Dhenkanal districts.

The Chief Minister visited both the districts Saturday to launch the distribution of the smart health cards to Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) beneficiaries and dedicated the projects to the two districts. He launched projects worth ₹880 crore and ₹1,176 crore in Dhenkanal and Angul districts re spectively.

Addressing the gathering in Angul, Naveen recalled the plight of former freedom fighters and former Chief Ministers Nabakrushna Choudhury and Malati Choudhury. Stating that the Bajirao hostel established by them is famous in the district, Naveen paid tribute to the fighters of

JOURNEY SO FAR

BSKY smart health card programme has so far been launched in 15 districts of the state

The smart health card will be provided to 3.5 crore people of 96 lakh families

Each family can avail Etreatment cost up to ₹5 lakh per annum

Women members can avail benefits up to ₹10 lakh every year

Talcher Prajamandal Movement. He said that the state government is now focusing on drinking water.

Naveen also said that farmers in the district have shown keen interest on Millets Mission. About 3,000 farmers have joined the programme which would strengthen the nutri-

tion security of the state, he added. Inaugurating various projects in Dhenkanal, he said that Dhenkanal is well known for its industrial growth and development in the horticultural sector. Besides.

he announced ₹50 crore for the development of the tourism sector in Dhenkanal

Around 10 lakh people each in both the districts can avail the benefits of smart health card. With this, BSKY smart health card programme has been launched in 15 districts of the state.

The smart health card will be provided to 3.5 crore people of 96 lakh families. Each family can avail treatment cost up to ₹5 lakh per annum. Women members can avail benefits up to ₹10 lakh every year.

Before the arrival of the Chief Minister in Dhenkanal, activists of the BJP and the Congress held black flag demonstrations close to the meeting venue and shouted slogans demanding the dismissal of Minister of State for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra for his alleged involvement in the murder of school teacher Mamita Meher, and justice for her family.

While BJP activists held demonstrations at Dhenkanal, Congress activists held protests in Angul. The police had taken several BJP and Congress leaders into custody prior to the arrival of the Chief Minister.

₹500 crore for road repair, sewage work

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday sanctioned ₹500 crore for repair and development of roads and sewage-related works in urban areas across the state.

The Chief Minister directed that work be started immediately and completed before the next monsoon season.

Several mishaps due to poor condition of the roads and sewage system have been reported in the recent past.

A 15-year-old school boy had died after falling into an open drain in September here. His body was recovered around 10 km away from the spot.

Notably, there has been a steady increase in number of road fatalities from 3,931 in 2014 to 4,738 in 2020 in the state though the deaths had come down last year due to lockdown following the outbreak of Covid-19.

Joint account not mandatory for spouse pension: Centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: Joint bank account is not mandatory for spouse pension, the government said Saturday

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh said the Narendra Modi government has always sought "ease of living" for all sections of society including retirees and pensioners who are the nation's assets with all their experience and long years of service rendered by them.

He said in case the head of office is satisfied that it is not possible for the retiring government servant to open a joint account with his or her spouse for reasons beyond his or her control, this requirement may be relaxed, an official statement said. All banks disbursing central



government pension have been advised that in case the spouse (family pensioner) opts for the existing joint bank account for credit of family pension, banks should not insist on opening a new account. it said

A joint bank account with spouse is, however, desirable and it is to be opened with their spouse in whose favor an authorisation for family pension exists in the Pension Payment Order (PPO), said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry

Operation in these accounts

HC MEDIATION CENTRE

would be on "former or survivor" or "either or survivor" basis as desired by the pensioner, Singh said.

The reason for opening of joint bank account is to ensure that family pension may be commenced without any delay and the family pensioner is not subjected to any hardships for opening of a new pension bank account, the state ment said.

This also ensures minimum documentation for the family pensioner while submitting request for commencement of family pension, it said.



Supreme Court Justice AM Khanwilkar inaugurates the Mediation Centre of Orissa High Court in Cuttack, Saturday. Justice AS Bopanna of the Apex Court and Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar were also present on the occasion

Air pollution may lead to premature birth: Experts

Tewborns and children are more susceptible to air polion inside and outsid



Post Diwali, the national canital has the worst air quality of all world capitals. The air quality in Delhi continues to be in 'very poor category'

ing lifelong health problems. "Exposure to air pollution at a Capital city less clean than __ Berhampur, Rourkela, Puri POST NEWS NETWORK

Municipal Corporation was ranked 56th. This was followed by Rourkela Balasore and Puri that stood at

57th, 109th and 125th respectively.

Among other cities, Bhadrak per-

formed worst to stand at 261st po-

sition followed by Baripada Town,

Sambalpur Town and Cuttack that

ranked 202, 167 and 162 respectively.

"We have improved our rank-

their homes which may have adverse impact on their cognitive development.

The polluted air affects unborn children in mothers' womb which may lead to premature birth, affecting brain and cognitive development of the baby, said Chandra Mohan Kumar, Additional Professor of Paediatrics at AIIMS, Patna.

He said that air pollution is one of the major killers of under-five children accounting for 1 in 10 deaths indirectly as an underly ing cause. More than 90 per cent children below 15 years of age are breathing toxic air and the figure goes as high as 98 per cent in low and middle income countries as compared to 50 odd per cent in de-



veloped nations, said Kumar. Therefore children absorb more Citing the reason for children pollutants. being disproportionately more sus-Post Diwali, the national capital ceptible to the effects of air polluhas the worst air quality of all

tion, he said, "They breathe more world capitals. The air quality in rapidly and live closer to the ground Delhi continues to be in 'very poor as well, where some pollutants category'. reach peak concentrations.

According to authorities, the air

he air quality is likely to improve from Sunday owing to relatively strong winds and may reach 'poor' category, say the Patna AIIMS authorities

quality is likely to improve from Sunday owing to relatively strong winds and may reach 'poor' category.

Rakesh Bagdi of Paediatric department at Lady Hardinge Medical College says that children are more prone to develop the symptoms of pneumonia due to the alarming air pollution. He said that the air pollution harms children during the developmental stage of their life, causinhibit brain development and increase the risk of conditions such as asthma and can increase the risk of pneumonia," said the doctor.

Respiratory problems like difficulty in breathing, pneumonia, and infection in eyes and burning sensation are the most common symptoms in children. Hospitals in the national capital have seen an increase in the number of child patients with these symptoms.

"Keeping children indoors in the house as much as possible, giving them water and other liquid at regular intervals, berating indoor exercise and use of masks are some preventive measures for children, said Delhi based senior consultant Rajeev Ranjan. IANS

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: The Capital city has made improvement in its ranking in the annual Swachh Survekshan-2021 by jumping 89 points from the previous year's 233 to 144 among 372 cities in 1-10 lakh population category. However, it lagged behind urban local bodies (ULBS) like Berhampur. Rourkela and Puri.

Indore was adjudged the cleanest city in India for the fifth time in a row in the rankings released by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Saturday.

Bhubaneswar secured 2,908 points in the 1-10 lakh population category but stood at fifth position among nine ULBs in Odisha. With a score of 3,751, Berhampur ings in this year's survey by focusing on efficient solid waste management programmes and urban defecation. We had planned 41 Micro Composting Centres (MCC) out of which 25 are operational. Similarly Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) have been increased from 10 to 24. Seperation of wet and dry waste at source has also helped in waste management," said a BMC official.

COPS NAB THREE NOTORIC **RIMINALS AT LUNCH TABLE**



POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, Nov 20: Officials of a special squad of Khurda police Saturday claimed to have arrested three notorious criminals from a restaurant at Palla Square here and seized a gun from them.

However, another dreaded criminal managed to give the cops a slip. The special squad of Khurda police has recently launched a drive to execute the non-bailable warrants (NBWs) pending against the anti-social elements.

The squad had arrested altogether 521 criminals till Friday and kept tab on the activities of some others. It came to know that four dreaded criminals were having lunch at a restaurant at Palla Square around 1pm Saturday.

Soon, members of the special squad reached the restaurant in plain clothes. They initially overpowered one of the four criminals while the remaining three tried to escape the spot by threatening the cops with a gun, sources said.

"After a brief scuffle, the officials of the

- The special squad of Khurda police has recently launched a drive to execute NBWs pending against the anti-social elements
- The squad had arrested altogether 521 criminals till Friday and kept tab on the activities of some others
- Tipped off about the 4 criminals having lunch at a restaurant at Palla Square around 1pm Saturday, the squad nabbed three of them

special squad managed to arrest three criminals while another managed to escape. The arrested criminals have been booked in several cases at various police stations in Khurda. We are interrogating them and trying to know from where they had brought the gun," said Khurda Superintendent of Police (SP) Rajkishore Dora.

Dora further informed that the Khurda police has prepared a list of all notorious criminals in the district. "Steps are being taken to make Khurda a crime-free district," he added.

STATE BANK OF INDIA **n** SBI STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH. Plot No.: 778, 1st Floor, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For Immovable Properties) [Rule-8 (1)]

Publication of Notice regarding possession of Property u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002(54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice under section 13(2) was issued on the dates mentioned against below accounts and stated hereinafter calling upon the following Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with interest within 60 days from

the date of receipt of said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Act on the date mentioned against below accounts. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India, for an amount stated below with interest, costs and expenses thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Account/ Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors	Owner of the Property	Description of the Property Mortgaged / Charged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Dues Amount
Borrower: M/s. Nigam Enterprisers, Prop.: Shri Puranjan Padhi, At: Plot No.; 250, Bomikhal, Near Geetanjali Apartment, Cuttack Road, Bhubanesv Guarantor: Shri Purna Chandra Padh DLA-23, V.S.S. Nagar, Bhubaneswar -	Chandra Padhi. var - 751010/ i, At: Qtr. No.:	All that part and parcel of the property consist of Land a Dumuduma, Tahasil: Bhuba Dist.: Khurda, Khata No.: 432 2301, Area: Ac.0.016 Dec. or Kissam: Gharabari	and Building a neswar, PS.: K /1157, Plot No.:	at Mouza: handagiri, 417/1700/	₹23,07,456.34 as on 30.11.2019 + further interest from 01.12.2019, incidental expenses costs, etc. thereon
Borrower: Shri Rohit Kumar Kandoi, S/o.: Pradip Kumar Kandoi, At/PO.: MIG-28, Phase- III, Ananta Vihar, Pokhariput, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda - 751020 Ac.0.480 Dec.,Bounded by North: Sub	Kumar Kandoi, S/o.: Pradip Kumar Kandoi	DSRO, Bhubaneswar, Status: 1008, Plot No.: 96/2963, A	Land situated under the Juri Sthitiban, Khata rea: Ac.0.55 D	at Mouza: sdiction of a No.: 482/ ec. out of	₹27,08,012/- as on 26.01.2020 + further interest from 27.01.2020, incidental expenses costs, etc. thereor
Borrower: M/s. Shreetex Commercial Pvt. Ltd., Represented through its Managing Director: Mr. A Plot No.: 1330/6429, Palasuni, G Bhubaneswar - 751025	Mr. Aruna Kumar Kar. runa Kar, At:	All that part and parcel of the property consist of Land and Bu Town, Unit No.: 27, Jhirpani	27.01.2020 uilding at , Mouza , PS.: Townshi Khata No.: 17	15.11.2021 a: Rourkela p, Tahasil: 1/635, Plot	as on 26.01.2020 + further interest from 27.01.2020, incidental expenses
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 20.11.20	21	Sd/- Authorised Office	r, State Bank o	f India, SAI	RB, Bhubaneswa











downtown

'CONVENTIONAL FIRMS NOW PLEDGE **NET ZERO STRATEGY'**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sambalpur, Nov 20: Chief guest at IIM Sambalpur business conclave Kapil Maheshwari Saturday said most of the conventional companies now pledge 'net zero' strategy to fight climate change.

Net-zero refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gas produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere.



Speaking at the sixth edition of the annual business conclave 'Marmagya 6.0' organised by IIM Sambalpur, Maheshwari, president of the renewable energy and green hydrogen ecosystem development in Reliance Industries, said, "Driving future profits and still caring for the environment is the way forward."

Noting that the next 10 years will witness a great transformation for all B-school students or new-generation business leaders, Maheshwari said, "It's a great opportunity to learn and figure out new business models"

The theme of the two-day meet which commenced Saturday is 'Business in New Reality'. The conclave aims at understanding the responsibilities and opportunities in the post-Covid scenario.

IIM Sambalpur director Mahadeo Jaiswal said Covid-19 has paved the way for "new realities". "Data analytics, machine learning, arti ficial intelligence, and blockchain are changing the landscape of the traditional practices that the industry has been following all these

years," Jaiswal said. Keynote speaker Pradeep Panigrahi, head of corporate sustainability at Larsen and Toubro, said a thorough check on carbon dioxide emissions must be taken up by all companies to stay in business. Highlighting that "decarbonising" the investment landscape was the key to the future of humankind. Panigrahi said, "We must take cognisance of this situation and act on it at the ground level."

WASSUP TODAY

CUTTACK

 Cyclothon by Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Limited, Indoor Stadium, 6 am

 Conclusion of the National seminar organised by the Odisha Environmental Society and Ravenshaw University, conference hall of the varsity, 3.55 pm

> 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.

NGT seeks ATR on illegal quarrying in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

rying in the district.

block in the district.

New Delhi, Nov 20: The National

Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed

Keonjhar Collector to file an ac-

tion-taken report (ATR) stating the

compensation collected from min-

ers involved in illegal stone quar-

A bench of Judicial Member B

Amit Sthalekar and Expert Member

Saibal Dasgupta asked the Collector to file a compliance report with

regard to the action taken against illegal miners and steps taken for

restoration of the illegally-quarried

site in Madanpur under Ghasipura

in the tribunal alleging illegal min-

ing of laterite stone in Keonjhar dis-

trict. Significantly, the state gov-

ernment had filed an affidavit in

the tribunal November 16 stating

that 21 out of 57 defaulting laterite

Earlier, an application was filed

State govt had informed the NGT Nov 16 that 21 out of 57 defaulting laterite stone miners have been identified in the district

stone miners have been identified in the district. The miners have extracted 413 pieces of laterite slab from the site, said the affidavit.

Miscellaneous cases have been filed against the miners under the provisions of Rule 51 of the Odisha Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016 for realisation of penalty, added the affidavit. The government had stated that all the defaulting miners were issued notices to appear before the Tehsildar and explain as to why compensation amount may not be recovered from them.



LAW VARSITY CONVOCATION

Degree holders at the eighth convocation of the National Law University Odisha in Cuttack, Saturday OP PHOTO SC turns down plea for compassionate job at SAIL

DELAY IN SEEKING COMPASSIONATE JOB MILITATES AGAINST OBJECTIVE TO GIVE IMMEDIATE HELP TO FAMILY. SAYS SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: Any delay in seeking compassionate appointment militates against such a claim as the objective to provide immediate amelioration to the family of a deceased government employee stands extinguished by then, the Supreme Court has said.

A bench comprising justices MR Shah and Sanjiv Khanna set aside the concurring verdicts of the Orissa High Court and the Central Administrative Tribunal to provide job on compassionate grounds to the son of a deceased employee of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), citing delay in making the claim.

"The delay in pursuing claim/approaching court would militate against the claim for compassionate appointment as the very objective of providing immediate



amelioration to family would stand extinguished," the bench said, allowing the appeal of public sector undertaking SAIL against the concurring verdicts of the High Court and the CAT.

SAIL was asked by the CAT, whose 2019 judgement was upheld by the HC, to provide a compassionate appointment to the second

son of its deceased employee. The son, through his mother Gouri Devi, had approached the HC seeking the job in 1996. Interestingly, prior to the second son, the first son of the deceased employee had also approached the SAIL authorities for compassionate appointment in 1977 when his father died and his plea was rejected as per the policy

SAIL was asked by the CAT, whose 2019 judgement was upheld by the HC, to provide a compassionate appointment to the second son of its deceased employee. The son, through his mother Gouri Devi, had approached the HC seeking the job in 1996

nterestingly, prior to the second son, the first son of the deceased employee had also approached the SAIL authorities for compassionate appointment in 1977 when his father died and his plea was rejected as per the policy prevalent then

prevalent then.

Referring to the facts of the case, Justice Shah, writing the judgement for the bench, said at this stage it is required to be noted that in the year 1977, the eldest son made an application for appointment on compassionate ground, which was rejected in the year 1977 and the same has attained finality.

"Despite the above fact, the second time the application was filed was in the year 1996 now to appoint the second son, which was after a period of 18 years. Despite the fact that there was a delay of 18 years in making the second application, unfortunately, the Tribunal still directed the appellant to re-consider the case and to appoint the second son on compassionate ground, which has been confirmed by the High Court by the impugned judgement and order," it said.

Setting aside the verdicts of the HC and the tribunal, the SC judgement said that the man was not entitled to appointment on compassionate grounds on the ground of "delay and laches".

Man arrested for duping neighbour of ₹16.90 lakh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: The Commissionerate Police has arrested one person on charges of duping his neighbour of ₹16.90 lakh by luring him into investing in his business in lieu of huge profit.

The accused has been identified as Chittaranjan Samal of Mahanga in Cuttack district. Samal is currently staying in Old Town area under Shree Lingaraj police limits.

The victim Siba Kumar Mohapatra claimed in his complaint that Samal used to stay near his residence at Gati Krushna Villa apartment in Tankapani area.

Samal who introduced himself as the owner of Maa Gouri Traders would pressurise the complainant to invest in grocery wholesale business run by him. Samal also promised the victim huge profit on his investments.

Subsequently, Mohapatra gave ₹17.50 lakh to Samal in different instalments in August, 2020.

However, he received a shock when some people familiar with Samal informed him about Samal's criminal records. The man had allegedly duped several other individuals too.

Mohapatra later asked Samal to return his money. He initially returned some amount but later avoided paying Rs16, 90,000 to the victim.

Meanwhile, Samal along with his family left the apartment December 9, 2020 and started doing business by changing his agency name to Sri Raghunath Agency.

On January 14 this year, the victim, Mohapatra, had met DCP Umashankar Dash with his complaint. The DCP had then directed the Badagad police to investigate the case (62/21).

Police arrested Samal Saturday and the SJDM court here sent him to judicial custody.

Recently, there has been a rise in real estate frauds in twin city

'Searching customer care number on Google risky'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: At a time when cyber crooks are cheating scores of people posing as online customer care executives, the Commissionerate Police Saturday advised the citizens not to search customer care numbers of any in-

stitution on internet Bhubaneswar DCP Umashankar Dash Saturday urged the residents of the Capital city not to search customer care numbers of institutions like banks, electronic companies, service providers and insurance companies on popular search engine sites like Google. He advised the denizens to collect the customer care number of any institution from the official website of the particular agency only. Dash stated that all the established companies don't have customer care numbers but unique



helpline numbers do exist to as-

sist the customers. In November, the cyber help desk of city police has received around 10 such cases in which vic-

Training begins for Census-2022

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Saturday began training for the in-charge officers who will be conducting the field surveys for the Census-2022 in the state capital.

As per an order of the Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Singh, eight OAS officers have been selected as charge officers (COs) for the Census. The officers underwent the training programme along with admins and other supporting staffers of the civic body. The training programme was conducted under the chairmanship of Additional Commissioner Laxmikanta Sethi while Deputy Director Census, Haradhan Karmi joined as principal facilitator of the programme. Talking to all 50 participants in the training session, Karmi discussed the roles and responsibilities of COs.

BDA, OSHB distribute lease deeds to 121 beneficiaries

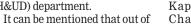
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: The Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) and Odisha State Housing Board (OSHB) distributed 'Lease Deed' to more than hundred beneficiaries under different schemes at Jaydev Bhawan here. Saturday. As per sources, about 121 lease deeds, which included 78 of BDA and 43 of OSHB, were handed over to the beneficiaries. Each benefi ciary was given a plant along with their property title document to encourage them for planting a tree and taking care of it like their family member. "As many as 2,803 beneficiaries (1925 of OSHB and 878 of BDA) will benefit from it. This has been possible due to Chief Minister

Naveen Patnaik's visionary leadership and timely step in waiving off interest to the tune of ₹29.15 crore. Besides, the CM has also made various services available online for citizens' convenience." said Pratap Jena, Minister for Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department.

6A Housing Scheme; Udayagiri Vihar Housing Scheme and Arya Vihar Housing Scheme.

Similarly, the six housing schemes of OSHB were Sri Satyasai Enclave at Aigania; LIG Housing Scheme, Dumduma, Ph-IV; Staff Housing Scheme, Kapilaprasad; HIG 7 Acres Chandrasekharpur: Model



CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By an affidavit before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar I have changed my name MAMATA MANJARI MALL to MAMATA PARIDA after marriage for all purposes.

LOST

I, Smt. Reena Agarwalla, 43 years, W/o Ramrup Agarwal have lost my regd. saledeed in connection with my flat No. M-5/403, 4th floor, Block M-5, Debashram, Bashistha, Bhubaneswar vide regd. No. 1081103071 in somewhere. So I declare that I have not utilise the said document in any purposes and their has not any litigation, liabilities or have not sold or mortgage in anywhere.

Smt. Reena Agarwalla

tims have fallen prey to the cyber fraudsters after getting the contact numbers of the criminals through Google search for customer care numbers. Many other victims also filed cases at local po-

lice stations in this regard. Dash revealed that ₹2 lakh was fraudulently withdrawn from a victim's SBI account after he contacted the fraudsters, who posed as customer care executives. He had collected the number from Google.

₹29.15 crore, the BDA has exempted ₹19.20 crore while the OSHB waived off around ₹9.94 crore with regard to execution of lease deed in respect of six schemes of BDA and five housing schemes.

The six housing projects of BDA in which the lease deed were distributed are Ananta Vihar Housing Scheme, Phase- II; Pokhariput Housing Scheme; Kalinga Nagar Plotted Development Scheme; K-6 & K-

Housing Scheme, V.S.S Nagar, Ph-II and LIG Housing at Sikharchandi.

Speaking on the occasion, BDA Vice-Chairman Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh said the authority has been working on several new projects and soon 1,000 new housing units will be ready for which allotment may start from January end.

The BDA is also constructing around 7,500 housing units under Affordable Housing project.

Covid severity risk not higher in immune-suppressed: Study

analysed electronic health records *Contrary to the* of adults hospitalised with Covidpreliminary study 19 from January 2020 to June 2021 published earlier this year, in the US.

drugs and ventilator or

mortality risk

Rheumatology journal.

eople taking medications that

The study included 2,22,575 inthe team found no dividuals, including 16,494 patients significant association who had been on immunosuppressive medications prior to hosbetween the chronic use of pitalisation. immunosuppressive

The researchers separated these medications into 17 classes and found that none was associated with a significantly increased risk of being put on a ventilator -- an indication of severe Covid-19 illness.

suppress the immune system "In general, people taking imoverall do not have a higher munosuppressive medications may risk of dying from Covid-19 or be reassured that they can safely continue to do so during this panbeing put on a ventilator than those not taking these drugs, according demic," said study lead author to a study published in The Lancet Kayte Andersen, a doctoral candidate at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School.

The team led by researchers at "These findings are encouraging Johns Hopkins University in the US

Of the 303 drugs examined, they found that only one drug, rituximab. a monoclonal antibody that targets antibody-producing E cells, was associated with a substantially increased risk of death compared to medically similar hospitalised Covid-19 patients

and important, given how commonly these medications are used," said G Caleb Alexander, a professor at the Bloomberg School's Department of Epidemiology.

The latest study, drawing from a nationwide dataset gathered by the National COVID Cohort Collaborative, covered a sample of Covid-19 patients that was over 100 times larger than the preliminary study

he researchers found that The researchers recent patients taking immunosuppressive drugs did not face significant increases in the risk of Covid-19 death compared with nonimmunosuppressed hospitalised patients

At the start of the pandemic, people who take immunosuppressive drugs for organ transplants, autoimmune diseases, cancers and other conditions were considered as being at potentially increased risk of severe outcomes, given their weakened immune systems.

On the other hand, some of the damage to lungs and other organs in severe Covid-19 comes less from direct viral damage and more from immune overactivation, they said.

By the summer of 2020, doctors were treating severe Covid-19 with immunosuppressive drugs such as dexamethasone, they said.

The researchers noted that it was not initially clear whether the long-term use of immunosuppressive drugs increased or decreased the risk of severe Covid-19.

In a smaller, preliminary study published earlier this year, the team found no significant association between the chronic use of immunosuppressive drugs and ventilator or mortality risk.

This suggested any increased

susceptibility to infection and viral spread may be balanced by a decreased susceptibility to harmful inflammation, the researchers said.

The latest study, drawing from a nationwide dataset gathered by the National COVID Cohort Collaborative, covered a sample of Covid-19 patients that was over 100 times larger than the preliminary study. The researchers found that overall, hospitalised Covid patients taking immunosuppressive drugs did not face significant increases in the risk of Covid-19 death compared with non-immunosuppressed hospitalised patients.

Of the 303 drugs examined, they found that only one drug, Rituximab. a monoclonal antibody that targets antibody-producing B cells, was associated with a substantially increased risk of death compared to similar hospitalised Covid patients.

OR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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







SHORT TAKES

Major blast by **Maoists foiled**

Koraput: Acting on a tip-off, a special team of the 151 Battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF) recovered IED making explosives hidden by Maoists from Pujariput forest area under Boipariguda block in Koraput district bordering Chhattisgarh, Saturdav. Official said the recovery was made along the roadside near Puihariput Chhak on Ramagiri Gupteshwar road, about 5 km from the Company Operating Base (COB) at Ramagiri in the district. The IED materials were found concealed and placed on the pavement of an under-construction roadside near Pujariput Chhak. The team members were carrying out a search operation with the help of sniffer dogs when they traced the explosives kept purportedly to trigger explosion in future and foiled the plan of the rebels.

NTPC sponsors 13 candidates

.....

Sundargarh: NTPC Darlipali Friday gave a send-off to 13 candidates for pursuing two year full time ITI Course at CIPET, Bhubaneswar. The selected candidates are from project affected villages and will pursue the course under electrician and fitter trades with complete residential facilities. Speaking at the event, AK Samaiyar, CGM, NTPC Darlipali encouraged students to study meticulously and stressed on hard work and dedication to make their families and villages proud. Samaiyar along with Vijay Chand, GM, O&M and TK Bageshwar, GM, TS distributed stationery and bedding kits. NTPC Darlipali will bear all expenditure of 13 candidates for two years amounting to ₹30 lakhs. Earlier, 15 candidates had been sponsored by NTPC Darlipali. Abhimanyu Behera programme coordinator, was present at the event

MAHANGA DOUBLE MURDER

Court asks cops to submit CDR of 3 accused

STATE LAW MINISTER PRATAP JENA'S NAME HAS FIGURED IN THE FIR

AGENCIES/PNN

Bhubaneswar/Kendrapara, Nov 20: A court in Cuttack district Saturday expressed displeasure over the slow pace of investigation into the Mahanga double murder case in which state Law Minister Pratap Jena's name had figured in the FIR.

The Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Salipur, directed Mahanga police to submit call detail records (CDRs) of three persons comprising the minister's assistant Bapi Biswal, block chairman Sharat Naik and late Prafulla Biswal for the period between December 2020 and February 2021, the petitioner's advocate Pravin Kanungo, told reporters.

Former Mahanga block chairman and BJP leader Kulamani Baral along with his associate Dibyasingha Baral were hacked to death at Nrutanga village January 2, 2021.

Ramakant Baral, the son of Kulamani Baral, had filed a petition in the court alleging that the chargesheet was silent on the minister's role in the double murder case. After investigation, the police

had filed a charge-sheet against 14 accused people but dropped the name of the minister.

In August, the court directed the Mahanga police to reinvestigate the case as the law minister's name was not mentioned in the charge sheet though the petitioner had filed a case at the police station against 13 persons, including the minister, alleging their involvement in the murder.

The police were yet to submit the revised report. Meanwhile, the opposition Congress and BJP activists Saturday waved black flags at the law minister when he was on his way to attend a function at a government high school in Kendrapara district. Alleging his involvement in the Mahanga double murder case, the activists of the opposition parties raised slogans against Jena demanding his immediate resignation. When contacted Rajiv Lochan Panda the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of Kendrapara said, "A case has been registered in this connection at the police station. We have detained four Congress activists and five BJP supporters."Jena was

unavailable for a comment.



POST NEWS NETWORK

welcome the guests, Saturday

Nuapada, Nov 20: An increase in poaching activities in Sunabeda wildlife sanctuary has threatened the survival of tiger population as the state government launched efforts to accord the tiger reserve status to the sanctuary, a report said.

The sanctuary was formed comprising 52 villages of 12 panchay ats of Sunabeda Pati hill (Goda hill) on the western border of the state in 1984. It spread over 600 sqkm and is situated at a height of 3.000 feet above sea level bordering Chhattisgarh. The sanctuary has become the habitat for various types of wild animals and birds.

The wildlife department conducted a tiger census in the sanctuary for the first time through the identification of pug marks in 1995. The drive traced the presence of 10 Royal Bengal Tigers (RBT) and 41 leopards in the sanctuary. Among the RBTs, five were male and five female.

Similarly, among the leopards 10 were male, 10 female, 10 cubs while 11 could not be identified. Keeping the results of the census in mind, the Centre proposed to declare the Sunabeda wildlife sanctuary as a tiger reserve project in 1996. In the census conducted in 1998, 17 RBTs and 23 leopards were traced in the sanctuary. In the cen-

sus in 2000, 12 RBTs and 12 leopards were found to be living in the sanctuary. In 2002 census, 24 RBTs and 24 leopards were found while in

2004 census, 32 RBTs and 36 leopards were found. However, the census programme had to be aborted after Maoists

KEEPING THE TRADITION ALIVE

strayed inside the sanctuary and made it their safe haven. The census was undertaken 12 years later in 2016.

However, only four RBTs and 20 leopards were found living in the sanctuary. In the 2018 census conducted with the help of pug marks and camera trapping, seven to 12

SUNABEDA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

DACHING MENACE TO BIG CATS

Bhalumunda village under Bargaon block in Sundargarh district was declared as a folk art village at a function as tribals perform a traditional dance to



RBTs, leopards and a rare species of black tiger were found in the sanctuary. The report was not published with doubts being raised on the claims. However, it was indicative that the population of

3

6

tigers in the sanctuary declined. Later, senior wildlife officials of the state and Chhattisgarh discussed on the modalities of implementing the tiger reserve project in Sunabeda wildlife sanctuary August 12, 2019. Meanwhile, the National Tiger Conservation Authority(NTCA) gave its approval to declare Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary as a tiger reserve project but it has not been announced as the state government is yet to give its approval

Increased poaching activities have threatened the survival of tigers. The poachers have become active inside the jungle as forest officials have stopped patrolling inside the jungle on the pretext of Maoists.

The forest officials raided Tipajhar village under Sadar forest range and seized a severed head of a leopard and its hide, September 20, 2020. Seven poachers were also arrested during the raid. The STF team raided Sinapali in February and arrested two traders when they were trying to sell off a leopard hide.

The forest officials raided M Rampur in Kalahandi district and seized a leopard hide and arrested seven persons, July 9 and 10, this year. The probe revealed that the hide was of a leopard from Sunabeda wildlife sanctuary. Sensing the increased poaching activities, the state government has launched efforts to declare the Sunabeda wildlife sanctuary

as a tiger reserve. Contacted, Sashi Paul, principal chief conservator of forests (PCCF), said efforts are on to fulfill the norms as required by NTCA and the sanctuary will become a tiger reserve project.

Snake venom worth ₹1.5 cr seized in Deogarh, two held

THE SQUAD MEMBERS FEIGNING AS DECOY CUSTOMERS TRIED TO BUY THE VENOM BEFORE ARRESTING THE TWO

POST NEWS NETWORK

under Riamal police limits in this district.

The accused were identified as Kailash Sahu of Sindurapanka locality under Sadar police limits and Ranjan Kumar Padhi of Sakshipada area in Sambalpur district. According to police, the special squad led by SDPO Pratyush Kumar Mohapatra got information from a reliable source that the accused from Sambalpur district were negotiating with vari-



on the spot, the police team led by sub-



Two accused a deal with the two to purch

pounced on them and arrested the two. The venom kept in the bowl and two mobile phones were seized from their possession. They were taken for interrogation where they admitted to their crime.

Reamal police registered a case in this connection and produced the two in court. The accused were remanded to judicial custody after the magistrate rejected their bail pleas. A detailed probe has been launched

30	No. A4/22	n No.EENH KJR-06/2021-22 2 11 Dt.17.11.2021 hkeonjhar@gmail.com
	No. of the work:-	2 Nos. Building Work.
	Estimated cost:-	11.87 Lakh & 57.50 Lakh (Approx.)
	Period of completion:-	6 (Six) & 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months
	Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal:-	From 10.00 Hr 26.11.2021 to 17.00 Hr of 08.12.2021
	Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal:-	17.00 Hr of 08.12.2021.
,	Date of opening of Bid from	11.30 Hr of 10.12.2021

Deogarh, Nov 20: In a major crackdown Friday afternoon, a special squad of police seized snake venom worth ₹1.5 crore and arrested two persons after a raid in Tarang village

ous parties to sell snake venom. Members of the special squad swung into action and raided Tarang village.

Instead of apprehending the duo

inspector Maguni Gadanayak followed the venom traders to Sindurapanka locality.

There the squad members feigning as decoy customers tried to strike snake venom. There the accused showed around one kg of cobra venom stored in a glass bowl and demanded ₹1.5 crore as its value.

The squad members immediately

in this connection.

"It was ascertained during a preliminary probe that the market value of the snake venom would be around ₹1.5crore," Gadanayak said.

7 Name and address of the		Executive Engineer, N.H.		
officer inv	iting Bid:-	Division, Keonjhar		
	ils can be seen rsodisha.gov.in	from the e-procurement portal		
		K. Panda), Executive Engineer		
OIPR-34048/1	1/0001/2122	N.H. Division, Keonjhar		

AHEAD OF RURAL POLLS IN GANJAM

Cong in tatters as BJD surges

Jena was elected from

seat in 2009

In 2004, BJP's Kishore Chandra Singh

won from Dharakote Assembly seat as the

BJD shared the seat with the saffron

party as part of an alliance. After the

alliance was severed, the BJP continued

to suffer organisational loss

Sanakhemundi Assembly

for the Congress

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur; Nov 20: The Congress party has lagged behind others in reorganising its cadre in panchavat and civic body elections in Ganiam district. Over years the grand old party has been losing its ground to the Biju Janata Dal (BJD). Its miserable condition is evident from the fact that between 2000 and 2019, only four Congress MLAs have won in the Assembly elections.

In the past, Ganjam was a Congress fort while its main opponents were Left wing parties. The ruling BJD has broadened its base in the district while the BJP has suffered organizational loss after separation from the ruling party.

In 2000, Usharani Panda was elected on the Congress ticket from Sorada Assembly seat. In 2004, Trinath Behera was elected as MLA on the Congress ticket from Gopalpur Assembly segment while Congress's Ramesh Jena was elected from Sanakhemundi Assembly seat in 2009.

However, the ruling BJD made a clean sweep in all the 13 Assembly constituencies in 2014, handing out a crushing defeat to the Congress. In the 2019 Assembly elections. Jena was the sole legislator who won



A year ago, Ramesh Jena was made president of In 2000, Usharani Panda was the district unit of the Congress. However, the elected on the Congress ticket party's hopes to gain its lost ground faded as from Sorada Assembly seat. In 2004, Trinath Behera was the party shows no sign of improving. New faces have been inducted as members of the elected as MLA on the Cong Congress's executive committee to boost the ticket from Gopalpur Assembly organisation segment while party's Ramesh

Sources said the Congress and the BJP are not in a position to counter the BJD in the district

> On the other hand, factionalism in the Congress cost it dear in Ganjam.

> A year ago, Ramesh Jena was made president of the district unit of the Congress. However, the party's hopes to gain its lost ground faded as the party shows no sign of improving. New faces were inducted as members of the Congress's executive committee to boost the organisation.

The ruling party has chalked out strategies with its MLAs and frontline leaders keeping in touch with party cadre at the grassroots. Its organisational process at the block level and in the civic body areas are going on. The party has given importance to the leadership of women, vouths and student leaders. Sources said the Congress and the BJP are not in a position to counter the BJD in the district.



The undersigned as Authorized Officer of State Bank of India has taken over possession of the following Properties. Public at large is informed that e-auction of the charged Properties in the below mentioned cases for realisation of Bank's dues will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS and AS IS WHAT IS" & "WHATEVER THERE IS" BASIS on the terms & conditions specified here under.

	DATE & TIME OF E-	AUCTION: 10.12.2021 from 11.	00 AM to 3.00 PM				
SI. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantors(s) / A/c. No.	Properties Details	Outstanding dues for recovery of which Property is/are sold	A) Reserve Price / B) EMD / C) BID Increment Amount			
1.	Borrower: Sri Tushar Bhuyan, S/o: Late Padma Lochan Bhuyan, MI-213, Chhend Colony, Kalinga Vihar, Rourkela, Dist: Sundargarh, Pin-769015 / A/c. No.: 35732199504.		₹16,04,751.00 as on 30.11.2017 + interest thereon w.e.f. 01.12.2017 + further expenses & costs	A) ₹4,55,000/- B) ₹45,500/- C)₹10,000/-			
2.	Borrower: Sri Sunil Kumar Dehury, S/o: Sri Devraj Dehury, AT/PO: Jakeikela, Main Road, PS: Bonal, Dist: Sundargarh, Odisha- 770038 / A/c. No.: 32457564233.	OD-05A-8228, Engine No.:	₹ 52,17,206.88 as on 31.03.2018 + interest thereon w.e.f. 01.04.2018 + further expenses & costs	A) ₹8,10,000/- B) ₹81,000/- C) ₹10,000/-			
3.	Borrower: (1) M/s Shakti Transport, Prop.: Sri Rajendra Ku. Jaiswal, AT/PO: Plot No.: T4/21, Civil Township, Rourkela, PS: Raghunathpali, Dist: Sundargarh, Odisha-769001, (2) Sri Rajendra Ku. Jais Rourkela, Dist: Sundargarh, Odisha-7690	Engine No.: E613CDGC073640, Chasis No.: MC2L1KRC0GC008745. wal, Qr. No.: HHH/8, Civil Township,	₹36,47,120.00 as on 28.02.2019 + interest thereon w.e.f. 01.03.2019 + further expenses & costs	A) ₹6,12,000/- B)₹61,200/- C) ₹10,000/-			
4.	35688128724. Borrower: Sri Anand Kumar Dora, S/o: Aswini Kumar Dora, AT: Pradhan Pada, (Infront of Varun Residency), Budharaja, Sambalpur-768004/A/c. No.: 35624875931.	Regd. No.: OD-15F-9014, Engine No.:	₹24,79,940.01 as on 24.12.2018 + interest thereon w.e.f. 25.12.2018 + further expenses & costs	A)₹9,12,000/- B) ₹91,200/- C) ₹10,000/-			
5.	Borrower: Smt. Janhabi Dehury, W/o: Sri Bhubaneswar Dehury, AT/PO: Jakeikela, Main Road, PS: Bonal, Dist: Sundargarh, Odisha-770038 / A/c. No.: 33590173677.	05-J-9432, Engine No.: DTEZ409511,	₹50,19,948.66 as on 31.03.2018 + interest thereon w.e.f. 01.04.2018 + further expenses & costs	A) ₹11,81,000/- B) ₹1,18,100/- C) ₹10,000/-			
		the Properties : 06.12.2021 bet		PM			
	0404.2-	st date for submission of EMD:					
her	This Public Notice will be treated as a notice to the borrower(s) / guarantor(s) / mortgagor(s) of the above loan accounts. They ar nereby advised to liquidate their entire dues before the auction date, failing which the property will be auctioned and balance dues, any, will be recovered from them with interest and cost.						
	The General Terms and Conditions of e-Auction sale is available on the website: https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others						
SI. SI. SI.	rking Yard Details: No. 1. & 3. SBI. RACPC/ SMECCC Stoc No. 2. M/s M B Stockyard, Jalda, 'C' Blo No. 4.Puspanath Stockyard, NH53, Cho No. 5.M/s City Investigation, Stockyard	ock, Rourkela, udhury Chowk, Sindurpank, Samba	lpur				
		nlesse contact: Moh : 93383 571					

For further detailed query please contact: Mob.: 93383 57165, Mob.: 9861053292

Date : 20.11.2021, Place: Sambalpur S/d- Authorized Officer, State Bank of India, SARB, Sambalpur





power post

FOCUS NATION

What men call knowledge, is the reasoned acceptance of false appearances. Wisdom looks behind the veil and sees. SRI AUROBINDO



Disruptive Reforms

wo sets of people reacted strongly to the announcement that the farm laws are being repealed. The farmers who were on protest, mostly from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, celebrated. Their resistance has won them a famous civil rights victory. The second set were people angered by the decision, and they were those in the middle class and the media, who are not farmers. They are the Prime Minister's supporters, and for them this was a move that was unacceptable because it represented a retreat.

This second set of people had nothing to do with farming and the laws did not touch them directly. They, and people like them, use the word 'reform' without necessarily understanding what the word means. The word is positively charged, meaning that when we use it we are trying to communicate something that is good. This is similar to another word of more modern currency, and that is 'disruption', which is also seen as a good thing. The dictionary tells us that reform means "to make changes in something in order to improve it." In this instance the laws were going to negatively affect, according to the protesting farmers, their systems of procurement and their agricultural produce markets. Were they right or were they wrong? Was it a good reform or a bad one? How is it possible for those who have never dealt with an APMC or met an arhtiya and cannot tell the difference between bajra and jowar to know? And yet we have non-farmers weighing in firmly in favour of the 'reforms'

Even those who are not directly associated with the subject that the reforms touch must consider another thing. That, in India and especially in the last

eight years, reforms and bold moves have been accompanied by a lack of planning. On 8 November 2016, the Cabinet was summoned to discuss something important. But ministers were all told to leave their mobile phones behind when they came. After the meeting, the Prime Minister told Indians that their ₹1000 and ₹500 notes were not valid tender. Because the Cabinet ministers did not know that this decision was coming, their ministries did not know it was coming. No time had been given by their departments to considering the fallout, risks, problems and solutions. All these had to be done after the announcement was made and after the notes had been demonetised. Most of us are familiar with what happened after that.

On the night of 24 March last year, Indians were told that for the next three weeks they would be confined to house arrest. Many were locked in with no food and no money and no work. In March this year, the BBC filed 240 RTIs (right to information requests) with the government. They wanted to find out which ministries had been consulted before the national lockdown was announced that night. They found out that no ministry and no expert had been consulted before the decision was taken and executed. Again, we have experienced what the fallout was. In Sri Lanka, days before the lockdown, the government told construction sites to wind

down their work, put in place the mechanism to distribute food through the neighbourhoods and only then enforced the lockdown. In India, none of this happened. It was a snap of the fingers.

Deliberate and sudden changes in the way things happen are called a disruption. The dictionary defines this word as "the action of preventing something, especially a system, process, or event, from continuing as usual or as expected." While the middle class and the media use this word as a positive one, it must be considered whose lives are being disrupted and what the disruption means for them.

The compulsory use of Aadhaar to access subsidised grain has meant that many of the poor cannot get their entitlement because connectivity is bad or their fingerprints have been eroded from labour and differ from the record. For the media the use of Aadhaar to ensure that benefits only reached those who qualified was a masterstroke (and in fact both the UPA and the NDA pushed for this linkage). But for those who actually must go through this process we call reform, the problems created are real and damaging. For me and people like me, demonetisation was not much of a problem because there was access to money through online and card payments. It was not even a disruption for us in that sense. But it brought to a halt that part of the economy that dealt mostly with cash. Some of us may cheer the reform but others did see it positively. What some of us think are strong, bold and firm decisions are cruel, harsh and unwanted for others. This is what we need to consider when we look at what has happened with the farm laws. They are being repealed because those who understood what the laws meant to their lives and their livelhoods and their families stood firm for a year and said no.

LAWS GONE, VOTES BANKED

There are many ways to see the sudden change of the Prime Minister's position on the farm laws that have led to farmer protests for more than a year now. By any account, the change from a hardline position that we'll do anything but repeal these laws to an apology for these laws marks a dramatic turn of events. There is much celebration that the Prime Minister had to give-in in the face of resistance, and who better to teach him a lesson or two in humility than the hardy farmers of India who could see through a game in farmland corporatisa tion that they despised. In a bitterly divided nation, expect reactions to follow known political positions. It will take some time for the fuller import of the action to be understood and analysed.

Yet, a few narratives cannot be missed. The action comes close to key state elections in Puniab and Uttar Pradesh. The former has been the central arena of protests against the farm laws and has already cost the BJP a political ally. New allies are waiting but won't shake hands till the hated laws are out of the way. In Uttar Pradesh, there have been signals that the laws will extract a political cost. Both state elections will determine a lot for the political landscape of India, given their size and significance. It is impossible to miss the case that this is a government giving in not because it has changed its stance or position but because it is now unwilling to pay the political price for its actions. This means that the BJP has led a strategic withdrawal to get something much more valuable to the party. The announcement on the holy day of Guru Nanak Jayanti will further be seen in this light, not dissimilar to the manner in which Modi suddenly visited the Rakabganj Gurudwara in Delhi in December 2020 in an attempt seen as a way to appease agitating farmers,



If the withdrawal is strategic, and if the BJP does not pay a political price for its misadventure and the late withdrawal, this battle will come back in some way

many Sikhs among them, without government machinery could not giving anything in return. There, show them the correct path? This the 'granthi' reading the 'paath' path for the BJP has been to sign preached, even as the Prime up for a new age of farmland neo-Minister bowed, that there was liberalism ruled supposedly by no use visiting a holy place with-'efficient' markets and controlled out a change of heart. The trouactually by large corporates. These are important questions and the ble with an event management star is that everything begins to last word has not yet been written be seen in a narrow light of proon the desperate attempt to corjections and imagery and transporatise large swathes of rural India. If the withdrawal is strateactions. Even a serious change of gic, and if the BJP does not pay a heart is difficult to accept as such. Given that, it is pretty clear that political price for its misadventhere is no change of heart here. ture and the late withdrawal, this In his address, the Prime Minister battle will come back in some way. made it clear: "I want to say sin-The second and more impor-

cerely that perhaps there must tant narrative not to be missed have been some deficiency in our politically is that the BJP today penance that we could not explain stands on no high ground when it comes to the votes. The party is able the truth like the light of the lamp to the farmer brothers." A charito track the public mood and take table explanation would be to let hard action where required to prothat pass, and argue that what tect its votes and to consolidate else could the PM on back-foot say. its rise to power. The longer the BJP We could grant him an honourable stays, the more of an imprint its brand of politics leaves on the na-Yet, the Prime Minister is saytion, and this is what the BJP ing, literally, that the farmers did wants to achieve. What is the value not get the 'truth', whatever that of three farm laws in the face of means. Is he then saying that the an overwhelming majority in UP farmers of India stuck with the and Punjab? The latter gives the 'lies' fed to them and the entire party a license to do much more,

possibly change the very constitutional base on which the nation has been built since Independence. So, the laws can go if the votes are banked. The recent warning by Meghalaya Governor Satya Pal Malik that BJP leaders can't enter many villages in UP and that the BJP won't win the elections if the farm laws stay had therefore been taken seriously by the party.

In one way, this is expedient, even dishonest. But equally, a finely tuned ear to the mood of the people is an important lesson that many political parties now almost in the wilderness can learn. This does not mean breaking on principles, and make no mistake that nothing in the thinking of the BJP leadership has changed on the matter. But an active party machinery, thinking and responding on issues and how they might play out, with a clear goal to electoral victory to enable it build on its mission, is a lesson not to be missed.

There could also be unexpected surprises for the BJP, given the force and time it spent to push the laws. That lost goodwill can still spring some ugly dividends. It is not out of order that the Bhartiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait has said the agitation will not be immediately withdrawn, something the Prime Minister asked for. After having struggled for over a year, with several hundred farmer lives lost and abuse heaped on protesters, including the attempt by the BJP to label them as terrorists, it will take some time for the farmers to go back. In early remarks, Tikait has said they would want the action to happen in Parliament before formally withdrawing the agitation. Today, it is the farmers who have won and it is not easy to say what this victory means for farmers as a political force like never before

The writer is a journalist and a faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal. ©THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM HEALTH

Ending the pneumonia pandemic

exit and let that statement be.

OVID-19 has exposed the limited ability of health systems around the world to cope with a pandemic of respiratory infection. With the official death mococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV). count from COVID-19 now over five million, and the unofficial count

dren, has not been able to protect more than half of them with one of the most powerful weapons against pneumonia – the pneu-This leaves a lot of children-more than 350 million under the age of

ernments are still scrambling to reduce the death toll. Of the 50,000 COVID-19 deaths that continue to occur each week. 70% are in lowand middle-income countries. This is unacceptable. The panprogrammes. The Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) Oxygen Emergency Taskforce alone has provided more than \$600 million in oxygen supplies to countries in need and should be funded by the G20 to do more. And private

What some of us think are strong, bold and firm decisions are cruel, harsh and unwanted for others. This is what we need to consider when we look at what has happened with the farm laws

Aakar Patel



WHAT IS THE

VALUE OF THREE FARM LAWS IN THE FACE OF AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY IN UP AND PUNJAB?

WISDOM CORNER

- In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, THOMAS JEFFERSON stand like a rock
- Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance MARTIN LUTHER KING. JR and conscientious stupidity.
- If you aren't in the moment, you are either looking forward to uncertainty, or back to pain and regret. JIM CARREY

WORDS**WORTH**

Posh

Something posh is elegant or stylishly luxurious; in Britain it also means somebody or something typical of the upper classes. The best known and most widely believed story is that it comes from old-time ship travel from Britain to India on the packet boats run by the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company. It supposedly stood for "Port Out, Starboard Home". It is explained that somebody who had a cabin on the port side on the outward trip, and on the starboard side on the return trip, had the benefit of the sea breeze, and shelter from the sun, on the hottest part of the journey through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea. Such cabins were reserved for the most wealthy passengers, we are told, and the P&O company stamped their tickets with POSH to show their status. The trouble is there's absolutely no evidence for it and P&O flatly denies any such term existed. It's just a legend, though a very persistent one. One argument against it is that posh is known from 1918, while the story of its origin first appears only decades later. The wide popularity of the shiprelated story hasn't stopped people finding other possibilities. Some have pointed to The Diary of a Nobody of 1892, in which George and Weedon Grossmith introduce a character of that name: "Frank called, but said he could not stop, as he had a friend waiting outside for him, named Murray Posh, adding he was quite a swell". Others are intrigued by lines from Leaves of Grass, by Walt Whitman: "Cold dash of waves at the ferry-wharf, posh and ice in the river, half-frozen mud in the streets", but posh here is a dialect term for mud or slush (as in Yorkshire dialect one might say "T roads is all iv a posh"). Eric Partridge favoured an origin in an abbreviated form of polished or polish (an example of what's called grammatical syncopation, where a middle syllable has been left out). The most probable solution - though unprovable because slang is so rarely written down - is that it comes from London street slang for money. This may well derive from Romany posh, half, originally applied to a halfpenny, then to any small sum of money, and then to money in general.



Leith Greenslade

RESPIRATORY **INFECTIONS HAVE BEEN THE MOST CONSEQUENTIAL 'MISSING PIECE' OF THE GLOBAL**

HEALTH AGENDA

estimated at up to five times higher, the struggles of health systems everywhere have been evident to all.

What is less clear is how the world could have been so blindsided by COVID-19. Respiratory diseases have long been the leading infectious cause of death globally. Prior to COVID-19. an estimated 2.5 million adults and children died from pneumonia each year. No other infection causes anywhere near this number of fatalities.

And pneumonia deaths occur in all countries. In high-income countries, deaths are concentrated among older adults, while in low-income countries, children are primary victims. Many middle-income countries struggle with large numbers of deaths among both groups.

Given these data, respiratory infections have been the most consequential 'missing piece' of the global health agenda. Prior to the pandemic, there had never been a global health campaign focused on reducing pneumonia deaths or a global health agency responsible for supporting countries to prevent, diagnose, and treat pneumonia.

Even Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. which has a mandate to vaccinate the world's most vulnerable chil-

five - dangerously exposed.

Not even the wake-up calls provided by two respiratory infection outbreaks-severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS-CoV) in 2002 and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS-CoV) in 2014-were enough to persuade national governments and global health agencies to emphasise pneumonia control.

As a result, health systems on every continent were unprepared when SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, emerged and quickly became a pandemic. National health authorities were illequipped to deal with waves of people needing rapid diagnosis and treatment-especially the massive amounts of medical oxygen required by COVID-19 patients.

Tragic stories of deaths due to lack of access to care began emerging from Latin America in the early summer of 2020 and soon spread to Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. It is impossible to forget the suffering of patients struggling to breathe or the plight of family members and health professionals desperately searching for oxygen. Now, more than 18 months into the pandemic and despite the avail-

ability of effective vaccines, gov-

for pneumonia control everywhere. Countries should never again suffer mass fatalities as a result of a respiratory infection pandemic. And such large numbers of people should not continue to die from non-COVIDrelated pneumonia year after year.

demic must become a turning point

But they will, unless national governments turn their reactive pandemic-response plans into proactive pneumonia-control strategies. Putting into place a permanent, effective way to respond to pneumonia would reduce respiratory deaths from all kinds of infections and decrease the risk of another respiratory pandemic. Achieving this goal will require full coverage of powerful pneumonia-fighting vaccines, better diagnostic tools at all levels of health-care systems, and improved access to treatments. It will also require action to reduce the leading risk factors for pneumonia death, including air pollu-

tion, child wasting, and smoking. Global health and development agencies like the Global Fund, the World Bank, Unitaid, the WHO, and the United Nations Children's Fund should turn the COVID-19 support they have been providing to low- and middle-income countries into long-term pneumonia control

philanthropies should continue supporting efforts by NGOs to strengthen respiratory care services beyond the pandemic.

Without this continued support, the world will remain exposed to the possibility of another respiratory infection pandemic. And we will risk failing to achieve many of the Sustainable Development Goals for health, especially the targets for reducing maternal, newborn, and child deaths and lowering communicable and non-communicable disease burdens.

Although COVID-19 has exposed some critical flaws in the global health architecture, it has also revealed how much national governments, global health and development agencies, and donors can accomplish when pressed to invest in the fight against respiratory infections. And there is much left to do.

The cost of not investing the resources needed to fight pneumonia will be measured in millions of lives lost every year and millions more every time a new pandemic strikes.

The writer is Coordinator of Every Breath Counts. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

etters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are 101 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, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Apt honour for a legend

Sir, Not for nothing is the name Prakash Padukone synonymous with Indian badminton. Nine consecutive national badminton titles is no mean achievement for a player who rose from humble beginnings. But Prakash put India on the international badminton map at a time when players of Indonesia, China and Denmark were ruling the roost. The 1980 All England Badminton title was an unbelievable feat accomplished by the master player who swept apart Denmark's Morten Frost Hansen, who went on to become the Indian legend's good friend later, en-route to the final where the mercurial, but maverick, Liem Swie King was blown away by the 'Prakash tornado.' Prakash's All England winning feat became a marker of sorts to judge future Indian players. It was considered an unofficial world championship then and, for all practical purposes, Prakash had become the world champion by lifting the coveted title. Following his Wembley triumph, badminton received a major fillip in India, and players and parents started noticing the game's potential. For five years, between 1980 and 1985, he was among the top three men's badminton players. He stole the show without being aggressive; he was a touch player who excelled at the nets. But more than statistics and style, the way he carried himself on and off the field was a sight to behold. Never known to lose his cool on the court, Prakash never questioned the referees unlike many past greats. The World Badminton Federation (WBF) has honoured itself by deciding to confer the 'lifetime achievement award' on the maestro

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

The great backdown

Sir, By rolling back the three controversial farm reform laws and urging the protesters to return home, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has conceded defeat. Modi said that his government, despite best efforts, could not explain to a section of farmers that the laws were in the larger interest of the farmer community. Though a section of the farmers had vehemently opposed the controversial farm laws, their implementation would have been a win-win situation for both farmers and food companies. If the farm laws had come into effect, the farmers would have been free to sell their produce anywhere in the country. It could have also helped in eliminating middlemen from the supply chain and enabled the farmers to get a better price for their produce

NJ Ravi Chander; BANGALORE











Naxal activities are not limited to only remote areas of eastern Maharashtra but 'urban naxalization' is being seen in big cities of the state SHARAD PAWAR | NCP CHIEF

WELCOME MOVE

The Union Health Ministry has activated a service on the CoWIN portal that allows anyone to check an individual's vaccination status with the person's registered mobile number and name, followed by an OTP for consent



uote

There should be sustained coordination between security agencies and heightened surveillance of vital installations for ensuring a secure

environment for the people of the union territory MANOJ SINHA JAMMU AND KASHMIR

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Due to the prime minister's effort to make India self-reliant, the country is progressing rapidly

SMRITI IRANI UNION MINISTER

Kerala is much ahead of other states in providing online education to children during the COVID-19 pandemic as 91 per cent of those in rural areas were able to continue their studies with the help of technology PINARAYI VIJAYAN KERALA CM

SHORT TAKES

Five terror associates held

Srinagar: A sleeper cell module was busted in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir and five active militant associates of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) were arrested Saturday, police said. Those arrested were identified as Showket Islam Dar, Aijaz Ahmad Lone, Aijaz Gulzar, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat and Nasser Ahmad Shah, all residents of Lelhar in Pulwama.

Man gets life term

Muzaffarnagar: A special court Saturday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for abducting and murdering a 17year-old Dalit boy here. Special judge for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe cases Jamshed Ali also imposed a fine of ₹40,000 on convict Raikumar after holding him guilty under Indian Penal Code sections 364 (kidnapping), 302

Focus shifts to MSP; key meet today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: After its decision to repeal the three agri laws. the Centre is now facing pressure from agitating farmer unions and opposition parties to bring in a legislation guaranteeing Minimum Support Price, with ruling BJP MP Varun Gandhi also joining the chorus Saturday saying the stir won't end till this issue is resolved.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella body of the agitating unions, is meeting Sunday to decide on the next course of action, including on the MSP issue and the proposed daily tractor march to Parliament during the upcoming Winter Session, SKM core committee member Darshan Pal said.

Farmer leaders said the protesters will stay put at border areas of Delhi until the Centre formally repeals these laws in Parliament after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surprise announcement on Friday and indicated their stir for a statutory guarantee of MSP and withdrawal of the Electricity Amendment Bill will continue.

"Our call of tractor march to Parliament still stands. A final decision on the future course of the agitation and MSP issue will be taken in a meeting of the SKM at Singhu Border on Sunday,"Darshan Pal said on Saturday.

While the opposition needled and mocked the government after it agreed to rollback the farm laws, BJP MP Varun Gandhi, who had deviated from the party line to speak out in favour of the protesters, wrote to Prime Minister



A farmer speaks on the phone at Singhu border in Delhi, Saturday PTI PHOTO

Narendra Modi, urging him to accept the farmers' demand for a statutory MSP guarantee. The MP from Pilibhit in Uttar

Pradesh said if the decision to repeal farm had been taken earlier, "innocent lives would not have been lost"."This movement will not end without the resolution of this (MSP) demand and there will be widespread anger amongst them, which will continue to emerge in one form or the other. Therefore, it is very important for the farmers to get the statutory guarantee of MSP for their crops." he wrote and also demanded that ₹1 crore compensa-

tion be given to farmers "martyred" in the movement against the laws. Like Varun Gandhi, BSP chief Mayawati also demanded a law to guarantee MSP and withdrawal of cases against the protesters."There should be a new law to ensure the minimum support price for the produce of farmers, and barring cases of serious nature. all cases registered against farmers, who are the country's pride should be withdrawn. This should be ensured by the Centre, and it would then be appropriate," she tweeted. The Congress and Left parties have also demanded that a law should be enacted on the MSP guarantee while repealing the three laws from last year.

Union minister General V K Singh, however, lamented the insistence of a section of farmers on a rollback of the reform legislation."I asked a farmer leader to tell me what is black (in the farm laws). You people say this is a black law. I asked them what is black barring the ink (used). They said we endorse your view but these (laws) are still black," the former Army chief said in Basti, Uttar Pradesh."What is the cure (for this)? There is no cure," he said expressing his exasperation. "In farmers' organisations, there is a fight for supremacy among themselves. These people cannot think about the benefits to small farmers." he said.

Hizbul Mujahideen district commander killed in encounter

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 20: Newly-appointed district commander of proscribed terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) Mudasir Wagay was killed in Kulgam encounter Saturday, officials said.

Jammu and Kashmir police said, acting on a specific input regarding presence of terrorists in Ashmuji area of district Kulgam, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by Police, army's 9 RR and 18Bn CRPF.

During the operation, as the presence of terrorists was ascertained, they were given ample opportunities to surrender, instead they started firing indiscriminately on the search parties.

The joint parties ensuring safety of civilians rescued and shifted all the civilians to safer places. The fire was retaliated leading to an encounter.

"In the ensuing encounter, newly appointed district commander of proscribed terror outfit HM was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter. He has been identified as Mudasir Wagay, son of Jamal Wagay and resident of Malwan Kulgam," police said.

Police said as per its records, killed terrorist Mudasir was an A plus categorized terrorist and was active since 2018 figuring among the list of most wanted terrorists.

"He was part of groups involved in several terror crimes including attack on security forces and civilian atrocities. He was also involved in killing of a political worker Gh Hassan Lone in Devsar area of Kulgam," police said.

The Insas rifle recovered from the killed terrorist is the same which was snatched by terrorists in year 2017 at Pombay DH Pora during an attack on bank vehicle. Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including said Insas rifle were recovered from the site of encounter.

All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation. Police have registered cases under relevant sections of law and investigations have been initiated.

NOBLE GESTURE

Rain spells trouble in Andhra, 25 killed



A flooded area in Kadapa

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy The Chief Minister asked the conducted an aerial survey in Kadapa, officials to conduct an Anantapuramu and Chittoor districts enumeration of the crop losses as to assess the damage soon as the flood water recedes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, Nov 20: Heavy rains under the influence of a low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal left 25 persons, including a member of the State Disaster Response Force, killed in different districts of Andhra Pradesh since Friday, while 17 persons still remained missing, the state government said Saturday.

The Indian Air Force, NDRF, SDRF, Police and Fire Services personnel saved at least 64 persons, including a police inspector, from the massive flash floods in Anantapuramu, Kadapa and Chittoor districts, the government

said in a note. In all, 17 teams of NDRF and SDRF were engaged the rescue and relief operations in the three flood-rayaged districts in Ravalaseema region, along with SPS Nellore in south coastal Andhra. Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy conducted an aerial survey in Kadapa, Anantapuramu and Chittoor districts to assess the damage.

He spoke to Collectors of Kadapa and Chittoor districts and obtained details about the devastation and asked the officials to conduct enumeration of the crop losses as soon as the floodwater receded

The government announced an ex-gratia payment of ₹5 lakh each to the kin of those killed. The intensity of the rainfall reduced Saturday, but brought little respite to people as several habitations remained marooned because of the flash floods.

While the situation in Tirupati town still remained grim. with many areas inundated, the scene on the holy Tirumala Hills was relatively better, though pouring rain did inconvenience pilgrims. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams reopened the ghat roads for vehicular traffic, though the two stairways meant for pil grims to trek the Hills remained closed. Pilgrims who booked tickets online were being allowed for darshan of Lord Venkateswara.

The deluge in the Chief Minister's native Kadapa district saw the Annamayya project getting breached and left a trail of destruction in many villages downstream under the Rajampet constituency

More than 30 people were washed away from three villages along the Cheyyeru river course, where water from the Annamayya medium irrigation project gushed in.

At one point on Friday, two lakh cusecs of floodwater flowed out of Annamayya project while its normal capacity was just two tmc ft.

Kadapa, thus, reported the highest toll of 13 so far. In Kadiri town in Anantapuramu district, a building under construction collapsed due to incessant rain and fell on an adjoining building, killing at least seven persons, including three children.

Covid patient returns – home after 202 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

rushed her to the Sadar Hospital where the doctors declared her dead on arrival. Angered by her death, a large number the woman's family members went to the Sadar hospital and allegedly damaged some properties, besides assaulting the medical staff including two doctors -- Vikash Kumar, deputy

police personnel arrived at the hospital and managed to disperse the mob. "My wife was healthy while visiting the Sadar hospital... She wanted to take the second dose of Covid vaccine as just couple of days remaining for our daughter's marriage. I am sure that the doctors of the hospital had given her wrong injection that led to her death. Murder case should be registered against the alleged doctors and nurses." Jitendra Kumar said.

Woman dies after taking Covid vax shot

Patna, Nov 20: A woman in Bihar's Aurangabad district has died after taking the second dose of Covid-19 vaccine Saturday, an official said. The deceased, Rinku Devi, went to Sadar Hospital in Aurangabad and took the second dose of Covid vaccine. She collapsed on the road

Bhadua village.





INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

CMO, and Amrit Kumar.

(murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence). According to specia counsel Yashpal Singh, Dalit boy Arun was abducted and murdered by Raikumar and later dumped his body in a Ganga canal at Khanpur village in the Mansurpur area of the district on April 10, 2017.

Two killed

Jaisalmer: Two persons sitting on a roadside were crushed to death by a car here, while five others sustained injuries. police said Saturday. The incident took place Friday night when both deceased, as well as the injured, were sitting on a roadside outside a railway station, police said. The deceased were identified by the police as Kailash (35) and Suresh (30), both from Bhopal.

Nigerian held

New Delhi: A Nigerian national allegedly involved in cheating people by hacking their WhatsApp accounts was arrested from Bengaluru, the Delhi Police said Saturday. The accused Okwudiri Paschal (40) was arrested while he was withdrawing the cheated amount of ₹20,000 from an ATM in the Karnataka capital on November 16, they said.

Girl rescued

New Delhi: A minor girl, who was kidnapped on November 12 in the national capital, was rescued by the Delhi Police from Rudrapur in Uttarakhand. an official said here Saturday. According to the official, on November 12 the father of the girl, a resident of Uttam Nagar in New Delhi came to Mohan Garden police station and reported that his 16-year-old minor daughter was missing since 4:30 pm on that day.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Nov 20: Ahead of the Cabinet reshuffle, all ministers in the Congress-ruled Rajasthan resigned during a meeting at Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's residence here Saturday evening.

State Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra, who along with two other ministers had offered to resign in a letter to party's national president Sonia Gandhi, had moved a proposal in this regard at the beginning of the meeting following

which all ministers resigned. Dotasra, Harish Chaudhary and Raghu Sharma had expressed their desire to work for the party in the letter to the Congress president."All ministers resigned in the meeting," Pratap Singh Khachariyawas, who held the charge of the transport minister, said here.

"We have been asked to go to the PCC office at 2 pm on Sunday where further instructions will be given by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot,

AICC general secretary Ajay Maken and PCC chief Govind Singh Dotasra," Khachariyawas said. Khachariyawas said it is for the

chief minister and the party high command to do reshuffling and it will be known tomorrow what instructions are given by them. 'We will be reaching the PCC

office tomorrow at 2 pm. We will be following further instructions given to us there," he said. Sources said the oath ceremony will be held on Sunday at Raj Bhawan

The in-charge for Rajasthan affairs at the AICC, Ajay Maken, who arrived in Jaipur on Friday, was also present at the chief minister's residence The strength of the Ashok Gehlot

cabinet was 21 before the ministers resigned.

Rajasthan, where the number of MLAs is 200, can have a maximum of 30 ministers, including the chief minister. The clamour for Cabinet reshuffle had been growing for the past several months.



People feed Siberian seagulls in Surat, Saturday

Dahod, Nov 20: A 45-year-old woman, who had tested positive for coronavirus on May 1 this year, was discharged from a medical facility in Gujarat's Dahod city, after 202 days of hospitalisation, her family members said Saturday.

Geeta Dharmik, whose husband is a railway employee at Dahod, had tested positive for the infection during the second wave of the pandemic on her return from Bhopal, they said.

She had to be hospitalised for a total of 202 days before the doctors at Dahod railway hospital decided to discharge her after her recovery, they said.

"The family members were overjoyed to receive her home from Dahod railway hospital Friday. She remained hospitalised at Dahod and Vadodara for a total of 202 days, during which she was kept on oxygen support," her husband Trilok Dharmik said. He said he had lost hope for her recovery for as many as nine times during this period, but she bounced back every time and was finally discharged.

Clamour grows to withdraw UAPA,

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

restoration of Article 370.

New Delhi, Nov 20: After the Prime Minister Friday announced the withdrawal of farm laws, clamour grows for the repeal of the contentious CAA and restoration of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. The Muslim leaders have urged the Prime Minister for withdrawal of the UAPA and CAA while leaders in J&K have demanded the

The Winter Session of

Parliament could see the demand

as opposition is up in arms to cor-

ner the government after the an-

nouncement of the repeal of farm

laws which they term as victory

The opposition may jointly press

their demands, though on Article 370 and CAA there could be a division within the opposition ranks as many may not take the risk to raise the issue of CAA and 370 ahead of polls in five states.

The leaders in the opposition may be jubilant after the government decided to step back on the issue of farm laws but analysts feel if the issue of Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and 370 will be raked it will work as fodder for the BJP. The Muslim leaders. however, think otherwise. They say CAA agitation was called off

due to Covid and now the government should step back on it also. The leaders from Kashmir are also putting their demands to restore Article 370. Jammu and



Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party President Mehbooba Mufti said, "Desecrating Indian constitution to dismember and disempower J&K was done only to please their voters. I hope they course correct here

too and reverse the illegal changes made in J&K since August 2019."

Another former Chief Minister and National Conference (JKNC) leader Farooq Abdullah said that the Union government must restore Article 370, 35A and the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir. The CAA is mainly being opposed by the people from the Muslim community, and some other sections of the society, alleging that the Act is discriminatory in nature.

РТІ РНОТО

Syed Sadatullah Hussaini, President, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, said: "We now urge the government to also look at the other antipeople and anti-Constitutional laws like CAA-NRC, etc., and ensure that they too are withdrawn at the earliest. We feel delighted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has finally acceded to the demands of the farmers. Had it been done earlier, the losses could have been averted.

President of Majlis-e-

Mushawarat, Navaid Hamid, said, "All draconian laws, including CAA and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), need to be withdrawn. The minister whose son was involved in the killing of farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri must be immediately sacked and ade quate compensation should be given to all the farmers who died during the Kisan Andolan."

The Muslim leaders say that the CAA movement encouraged the farmers to protest against the farm laws. The government should also withdraw the CAA now.

"Once again the truth has come to light that if a movement is run with honesty and patience for a legitimate cause, one day success will be achieved."

against the government.



Sidhu at it again; calls Pak PM 'elder brother' BJP back in Punjab poll scene,

Punjab Congress chief's remark draws sharp reactions from BJP leaders and Congress MP Manish Tewari

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Nov 20: Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu Saturday addressed Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan as his 'elder brother' and raked a controversy -- a repeat of 2018 when he visited Pakistan for the swearing-in ceremony of the latter and hugged the army chief there.

Sidhu made the assertion of 'bada bhai' (elder brother) while interacting with the CEO of the Kartarpur project in Pakistan.

He was in Kartarpur along with several Punjab Cabinet ministers to pay obeisance in Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara. Sidhu also said he has lots of love for the Pakistan Prime Minister.

Responding to Sidhu's remarks, BJP IT Cell head Amit Malviya slammed the Congress high-command for favouring 'Pakistan loving Sidhu over veteran Amarinder Singh'

"Rahul Gandhi's favourite Navjot Singh Sidhu calls Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan his 'bada bhai'. Last time he had hugged Gen Bajwa, Pakistan Army's Chief, heaped praises. Is it any surprise that the Gandhi siblings chose a Pakistan loving Sidhu over veteran Amarinder Singh?" asked Malviva.

After returning from Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara, Sidhu demanded opening of the corridor for crossborder trade.

"I request that if you want to change Punjab's life, we should open the borders. Why should we go through Mundra Port, a total of



2,100-km? Why not from here (Kartarpur corridor), where it's only 21-km (to Pakistan)," he told the media. Without mincing words, Sidhu thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart Prime Minister Imran Khan for reopening the corridor.

Responding to the controversy over Sidhu's calling Khan his 'bada bhai', Punjab minister Pargat Singh, who was accompanying Sidhu during his visit to Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara, said: "When PM Modi goes (to Pakistan) he is a 'Desh Premi', when Sidhu goes, he is 'Desh Drohi'. Can't I call you a brother? We follow Guru Nanak Dev's philosophy.'

However, Sidhu's Congress party MP Manish Tewari slammed him for his 'bada bhai' remark. "Imran Khan may be anybody's

elder brother but for India he is that cat's paw of Pakistan deep state ISI-military combine that

drones arms and narcotics into Puniab and sends terrorists on a daily basis across LOC in J&K. Have we forgotten martyrdom of our soldiers in Poonch so soon?" Tewari asked in a tweet.

In 2018, then Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had said his Cabinet minister Sidhu's hug to Pakistan Army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa in Islamabad was "not a nice gesture and was completely avoidable." Sidhu should have avoided indulging in such a gesture when Indian soldiers are getting killed every day on the borders, Amarinder Singh had said.

"After all, it is the Army chief who gives orders to kill, with soldiers merely following the order," he had added. Hitting out at the Punjab

Congress chief, cricketer turned politician Gautam Gambhir asked Sidhu to send his son or daughter to the border before calling the head of a terrorist state as big brother.

In a tweet, BJP Lok Sabha member from East Delhi, Gambhir said, 'Send your son or daughter to the border and then call a terrorist state head your big brother! #Disgusting #Spineless.

Later, Gambhir asked Sidhu to remember that Pakistani terrorists killed more than 40 civilians and jawans in Kashmir in the last one month.

"Does Sidhu remember that Pakistani terrorists killed more than 40 of our civilians and jawans in Kashmir in the last one month. We are fighting against terrorism for 70 years with Pakistan. Shame on him. Send your family, sons and daughters to the border to fight and then you will understand the intentions of Pakistan. What can be more shameful than calling the Prime Minister of a terrorist country a big brother,' Gambhir said.

BJP national general secretary, C.T. Ravi tweeted, "Punjab Congress President Navjot Singh Sidhu calls Terroristan Prime Minister Imran Khan Niazi as BADA BHAI. And they say INC stands for Indian National Congress! Gaddar Congress.

AAP's Raghav Chadha also criticized Sidhu for the remark. "Deeply worrying that Punjab's ruling party chief & Chief Minister are professing their love for Pak PM & Pakistan--a country that exports terror, executes terror modules, sends tiffin bombs & drones arms/drugs into Punjab," Raghav Chadha said in a tweet.

tie-up with Amarinder possible

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Nov 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement on repealing the Centre's three farm laws is expected to help the BJP put up a fight in the upcoming Punjab Assembly polls, political observers said.

The party has not been able to campaign for the polls so far because of the farmers' opposition to its leaders in Punjab.

The Opposition party in Punjab can now also look forward to the possibility of a tie-up with former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's new party. After the PM's announcement, Singh indicated that he was open to working with the BJP-led Centre on farmers' issues.

The old alliance between the BJP and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) broke last year when the SAD guit the National Democratic Alliance over the farm laws.

While quitting the Congress after his "humiliating" ouster from the CM's post, Amarinder Singh had indicated that he was hopeful of a seat-sharing arrangement with the BJP, provided the agitation over the new laws was resolved in the farmers' interest.

Singh had earlier met Union Home Minister Amit Shah. He said he discussed the farmers' stir with him and urged him to resolve the crisis urgently with the repeal of the three laws.

The elections for the 117-member Vidhan Sabha are expected to witness a multi-cornered contest among the ruling Congress, the



Polls Ahead

The old alliance between the BJP and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) broke last year when the SAD guit the National Democratic Alliance over the farm laws

The Opposition BJP in Punjab can now look forward to the possibility of a tie-up with former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's new party

he elections for the 117-member Vidhan Sabha are expected to witness a multicornered contest among the ruling Congress, the SAD-BSP alliance, the Aam Aadmi Party and the BJP

SAD-BSP alliance, the Aam Aadmi Party and the BJP. Amarinder Singh Friday thanked

Modi for the decision on farm laws. "Huge huge day for all of us in

Punjab. I'd been pursuing the matter with Centre for last 1+ year & had met@narendramodiji.@AmitShah ii requesting them to heed the voice of our annadaatas. Really happy they've heard farmers & understood our concerns," the former CM's media aide tweeted quoting him.

"This has not only come as huge relief to farmers but has paved way for Punjab's progress. I look forward to working closely with @BJP4India led centre for development of Kisans. I promise Punjab's people I won't rest till I wipe every tear from every single eye, Singh said.

Modi Friday announced that the government has decided to repeal the three farm laws, which were at the centre of protests by farmers for a year. Farmers in large numbers, most of them from Punjab and Haryana, have been camping at Delhi's borders since November

2020 protesting over the agri-marketing laws.

Remain cautious till farm laws MP police book Amazon India officials repealed: Channi to farmers after busting online ganja sale racket

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Batala (Gurdaspur), Nov 20: Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi Saturday asked farmers to be cautious till the Centre's farm laws are repealed, saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi has just made an announcement on it. The PM Friday had announced

that his government had decided to repeal the three farm laws, which were at the centre of protests by farmers for the past year.

"Prime minister Narendra Modi has just made an announcement regarding repealing of farm laws and Punjabis especially farmers need to be cautious until the farm laws are formally repealed," said Channi after laying the foundation stone of a sugar mill here, according to an official release. Channi Saturday said conspiracies are being hatched to derail progress and prosperity of Punjab, adding that those who are welcoming the announcement of the PM are a part of this



'The Puniabis must not sit idle but have to be extra vigilant until the entire process is completed," he

said. those who are wel At



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has just made an announcement regarding repealing of farm laws and **Punjabis especially farmers** need to be cautious until the farm laws are formally

repealed CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Nov 20: Police in Madhya Pradesh's Bhind district Saturday registered a case against executive directors of Amazon India after busting a racket which allegedly sold ganja (cannabis) under the guise of selling a sweetener

PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

Shiromani Akali Dal of being the

Amazon had said in a statement earlier that it does not allow sale of illegal products through its platform, and it was cooperating with the probe in the matter.

through the e-commerce platform.



THROUGH ITS PLATFORM, AND IT WAS COOPERATING WITH THE PROBE IN THE MATTER

A case under section 38 of the Narcotic **Drugs and Psychotropic Substances** (NDPS) Act was registered against executive directors of Amazon India which operates as ASSL in the country

pany's platform enables third-party

sellers to display, list and offer for

sale products to customers directly

listing and sale of products that are

prohibited under law in India, he

The company does not allow the

"The issue was notified to us

MANOJ KUMAR SINGH I BHIND SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE

had said.

AMAZON SAID IN A STATEMENT EARLIER THAT IT DOES NOT ALLOW SALE OF ILLEGAL PRODUCTS

He said repealing of laws is baseless until the guarantee of minimum support price for crops is not given.

coming the PM's announcement, Channi asked them to explain the reason to rejoice as Punjab has lost more than 700 sons and daughters during the struggle.

He said it is shameful that for the sake of their "vested political interests" some political leaders are bent on sacrificing the interests

of the state. Channi said the state government will construct a memorial to those who died during the course of the agitation.

Channi also accused the

"chief architect" of the laws, saying they had brought one such bill in the Punjab Assembly, which be-

came basis for the Union government to introduce the laws now. He alleged that the Akalis were "hand in glove" with the BJP in bringing the "draconian laws".

The CM said an "elite and unholy nexus" of politicians across party line had excluded power from common man just to "loot" Punjab. He said now this nexus has been broken and the power is with

the common man.

A case under section 38 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was registered against executive directors of Amazon India which operates as ASSL in the country, Bhind Superintendent of Police Manoj Kumar Singh told PTL

The FIR did not mention any individual official by name, he said. Section 38 deals with the role of companies and their managements in an offence related to nar-



cotic substances.

A case was registered under the NDPS Act at Gohad police station in the district November 13 after 21.7 kilograms of gania was seized from Gwalior residents Bijendra Tomar and Suraj alias Kallu Pawaiya, the SP said. Their questioning led to the arrest of Mukul Jaiswal, another Gwalior resident, and purchaser Chitra Balmiki, a resident of Mehgaon in Bhind, he said.

The investigation revealed that Pawaiya and Jaiswal had formed a company named 'Babu Tex' and got it registered on Amazon as a seller, Singh said.

They supplied ganja from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh through the company under the guise of selling stevia, a plantbased sweetener, he said.

Earlier this week, an Amazon

and we are currently investigating whether there is any noncompliance on part of the seller. We assure full cooperation and

spokesperson had said the com-

support required to investigating authorities," the spokesperson had added.

Country's cleanest city turns waste into fuel, money

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Nov 20: The efforts taken by the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) to keep the city clean not only earn it bragging rights as India's cleanest city year after year, but also some hard cash.

Indore was adjudged the cleanest city for the fifth year in a row in the Union government's annual survey Saturday. The IMC earns Rs 8 crore annually from the plants which convert waste into useful products such as bio-CNG, an official said.

The corporation employs about 8,500 sanitary workers in three shifts from 6 am to 4 am -- 22 hours a day -- to keep the city clean.

"A new 550-tonne capacity bio-CNG plant is going to be commissioned soon, which will take the civic body's annual earnings from waste treatment to Rs 10 crore,' said Asad Warsi, the IMC's advisor for the Swachha Bharat Abhiyan. At present, the private companies which make bio-CNG, compost and other products by processing wet and dry waste pay about Rs 8 crore to the IMC every year, he told PTI.

'The city generates 300 million litres per day (MLD) of sewage water. Of this, 110 MLD water is reused to water public gardens, farms and also for construction



under the Swachh Survekshan

in a row in the Union government's annual survey

he Indore Municipal Corporation earns Rs 8 crore annually from the plants which convert waste into useful products such as bio-CNG

he corporation employs about 8,500 sanitary workers in three shifts from 6 am to 4 am -- 22 hours a day -- to keep the city clean

activities," Warsi said. The cleanliness model of the

2021 for cleaning up the Kanhcity is based on 3 'R's -- Reduce. Reuse and Recycle. For the past six Saraswati river and 25 small and years, there are no big garbage big drains. This was achieved, pricontainers in the city. About 700 vemarily, by stopping the release of hicles with compartments to segsewage water into the river and regate six types of waste including drains from 1,746 public and 5,624 bio-waste such as diapers and sandomestic outfalls, officials said. itary napkins collect garbage from "Indore has got used to being in almost every doorstep, officials

the first place," Madhya Pradesh said. The IMC disposes of 600 tonnes Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said while congratulateach of wet and dry waste every day. ing the city earlier in the day. In August, Indore was also declared the country's first 'Water Plus' city

Talking to reporters, Chouhan said, "Madhya Pradesh has re-



Indore has got used to being in the first place

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN I CM

ceived 35 awards under the cleanliness survey this year. I want to congratulate the people of Indore, elected representatives, local municipal corporation, local administration, social workers and sanitation workers for being awarded the cleanest city of the country for the fifth time.'

Indore has also got the first place in Safai Mitra Suraksha challenge, he said, adding that in the annual cleanliness survey, Bhopal, Ujjain, Pachmarhi Cantt, Hoshangabad, Dewas and Badwah also won the awards.

According to Chouhan, under the garbage-free city category, Bhopal, Ujjain, Gwalior, Dewas, Singrauli, Burhanpur and Dhar also won the award besides Indore.

Of the 35 awards that Madhya Pradesh bagged, 21 were handed over during the main function on Saturday. The state had received 27 awards in the cleanliness survey last year, he said.

MP to levy tax on fodder for conservation of cows

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Nov 20: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has directed the state authorities to chalk out a plan to impose tax on fodder for cows, which will help in the conservation of these animals, an official said.

The chief minister gave this direction while chairing a review meeting of the Madhya Pradesh Gaupalan Evam Pashudhan Samvardhan Board (MP Cow Rearing and Livestock Promotion Board) Thursday.

"The chief minister said that a tax plan should be prepared for (procurement of) cow grass (fodder). Also, public participation should be encouraged for cow conservation," the official said.

At the meeting, the CM asked the officials to make special arrangements to increase the sale of cow products by launching a massive publicity campaign.

He said that phenyl made of cow urine should be used in government offices, an official statement said.

The chief minister said the Kamdhenu Gau Abhyaranya, a cow sanctuary in Agar Malwa, 190



km north-west of Bhopal, developed by the MP Gau Samvardhan Board, should be turned into a model for the country and made the best national level cow sanctuary

Chouhan also said that the work of the development of gaushalas (cow shelters) in the state should be given to voluntary organisations.

"The work of gaushalas is synonymous to service. Voluntary organisations can develop gaushalas well...," the release quoted Chouhan as saying.

He directed the officials to pro- 🔫 vide grants to gaushalas run by non-government voluntary organisations.

Chouhan also called for special efforts to improve the breed of cows in the state and underlined theneed for research to increase the production of milk in cows.















A national-level discussion should be held with political parties to inculcate self-discipline among legislators and check the rising tendency of indiscipline and disruption in the Houses

QUAKE JOLTS ASSAM

A moderate quake, measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale, occurred in Assam's main city of Guwahati and adjoining areas Saturday but no loss of life and damage to property has been reported so far



OM BIRLA | LOK SABHA SPEAKER



IITM is a central government institute, which has analysed per hour data of Safar to

understand the source of pollution. IITM's data analysis from October 24 to November 8, shows that 69 per cent of Delhi's pollution is due to external source and 31 per cent is due to Delhi's internal source

GOPAL RAI DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

The truth of Chinese occupation should also be admitted now RAHUL GANDHI CONGRESS LEADER

Modi could not explain the benefits of the Land Acquisition Ordinance and those of demonetisation to economists and countrymen

RANDEEP SURJEWALA CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Two arrested

Kutch: Two persons were arrested with 1.5 kilograms of charas in Gujarat's Kutch district, police said Saturday. Acting on a tip-off, a team from Mandvi police station in the district conducted a raid near a temple and arrested a man with the contraband, an official said. "He said he had procured it from a person from Bada village here. We raided the address given by him and arrested one more person. We seized 1.5 kg charas worth Rs 1.57 lakh from the two accused on Friday,' the Mandvi police station official said.

5 dead, 3 injured

Ahmedabad: Five persons were killed and three others injured when the van they were travelling in was hit by a tanker near Valana village in Ahmedabad district of Guiarat early on Saturday, police said. The accident took place round 5 am or connecting Vataman to Bhavnagar, they said. "Eight persons were travelling in the van to Khambhat in Anand district. The van was being driven on the wrong side of the road when it was hit by a tanker near Valana village. Four persons died on the spot, while another one succumbed to injuries on way to a hospital in Khambhat. The mishap also left three others injured," an official of Koth police station said.

Dearth of drug detection kits in NCB

As per sources, the drug control agency is lacking 3,190 Narcotics Drug Detection Kits (NDDK), 622 Precursor Chemicals Detection Kits (PCDK) and 380 Ketamine Detection Kits (KDK) that assist a Drug Law Enforcement Officer (DLEO) in forming a reasonable belief about a substance being a drug

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 20: Drugs control agency -- Narcotics Control Bureau -- is facing shortage of drug detection kits that are used to identify drugs and precursors most commonly encountered in the illicit drug trade.

As per sources, the drug control agency is lacking 3,190 Narcotics Drug Detection Kits (NDDK), 622 Precursor Chemicals Detection Kits (PCDK) and 380 Ketamine Detection Kits (KDK) that assist a Drug Law Enforcement Officer (DLEO) in forming a reasonable belief about a substance being a drug.

The kit is a portable case containing different reagents that are used to test a small quantity of the substance recovered and determine its nature based on the colour



range resulting from the reactions of the suspect substance with the reagents. Notably, as mentioned above, there are only three types of test

kits used at present: NDDK to test traditional drugs like Ganja, Charas, Opium, Heroin, Cocaine, and the

like; PCDK to test Acetic Anhydride. Ephedrine, Pseudoephedrine etc and Ketamine Kit. All these kits are very user friendly and play a vital role in stopping the drug trade. The NCB has recently been in the

headlines for the high-profile cruise bust case in Mumbai in which

Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan's involvement is still being probed.

In another massive drugs bust just four days ago, the drugs control agency seized 1,127 kg consignment of marijuana from Maharashtra's Nanded district. A month back, the NCB seized 3 kg drugs worth crores of rupees in Bengaluru. The consignment, which was to be sent to Australia, was hidden in three lehengas.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau data, as many as 9,31,268 cases were registered for the Liquor & Narcotic Drugs and related acts, in 2020. All these data and cases of drug haul, point towards an urgent need of providing more drug detection kits to the NCB so that the menace of drug abuse is brought under control.

Rajnath sends strong message to Pak, China

NAMING PAKISTAN. THE DEFENCE **MINISTER SAID IT KEEPS TRYING TO DESTABILISE INDIA THROUGH TERRORIST ACTIVITIES**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pithoragarh, Nov 20: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Saturday said India wants good relations with its neighbours but warned that it will give a fitting reply to any country that attempts to occupy even an inch of its land.

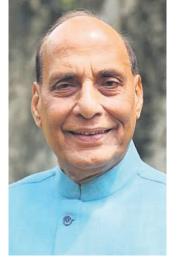
Singh, a senior BJP leader, was in poll-bound Uttarakhand to launch the second leg of the 'Shaheed Samman Yatra' from Jhaulkhet Moonakot in Pithoragarh district.

We want good ties with our neighbours. India has never attacked any country. Neither has it ever occupied a foreign territory. Having good ties with neighbours has been India's culture but some people don't understand this. I don't know whether it is their habit or temperament," he said.

Naming Pakistan, Singh said it keeps trying to destabilise India through terrorist activities and a stern message has already been given to it.

"We have given a clear message to our neighbour on the western border that if it cross its limits, we will just not retaliate on the borders but can even cross over into its territory and do surgical and airstrikes," he said.

'We have one more neighbour (which does not seem to understand things)," the defence minister said without naming China. Singh said he must make it clear that if there is an attempt by any country in the world to "occupy even an inch of our land, India will give a fitting reply to it".



Noting that everyone was aware of India's defining victory in 1971, Singh warned India's neighbours of not living under any delusion.

The defence minister said there was an attempt to create misapprehensions in Nepal about a road from Lipulekh Pass to Mansarovar through Dharchula that was inaugurated by him recently.

"But it has failed to affect our close cultural ties with Nepal," he said. Conferring Nepal Army Chief General Prabhu Ram Sharma with the honorary rank of Indian Army Chief recently is a reassertion of India's close cultural ties with Nepal, Singh said.

Launching the second leg of the 'Shaheed Samman Yatra', Singh said the state government should ensure that names of matvrs and the names of their villages should be inscribed on the Sainya Dham being built in Dehradun as a memorial tribute to them.

Soil from homes of 1.734 martyrs' families in Uttarakhand are being collected in urns to be brought to Dehradun and used in the construction of the Sainya Dham, a vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Woman gangraped ____

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 20: A 20-year-old woman was gang-raped in the national capital last week after which

MAOISTS BLOW **UP RLY TRACKS IN JHARKHAND**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Latehar/Medininagar/Chaibasa Nov 20: Suspected members of banned CPI (Maoist) blew up portions of railway tracks in Jharkhand's Latehar and West Singhbhum districts in the early hours of Saturday, disrupting train services on Barkakana-Garhwa and Howrah-Mumbai routes, police said.

A rail track between Sonua and Lotapahar stations in West Singhbhum, under Chakradharpur Division of South Eastern Railway (SER), was damaged past Friday night in a blast that was allegedly triggered by the Maoists.

The banned outfit has called for a nationwide bandh on Saturday to protest against the arrest of its top leader Prashant Bose alias Kishan Da, who was carrying a bounty of Rs 1 crore on his head, by the Jharkhand Police.

Ajay Linda, the district superintendent of police, said that suspected ultras have triggered a lowintensity blast between Sonua and Lotapahar and damaged some sleepers laid underneath the tracks.



Cadets celebrate after their passing-out parade at Officers Training Academy in Chennai, Saturday

Indore gets cleanest city tag again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: Indore was adjudged India's cleanest city for the



The second and third positions in the 'cleanest city' category of the 'Swachh Survekshan Awards, 2021

Three held

Palghar: With the arrest of three persons, the Mira Bhayandar-Vasai Virar police in Maharashtra claimed to have detected at least 12 cases of house break-in and theft. Assistant Commissioner of Police (Virar), Ramchandra Deshmukh on Friday said all these offences had been registered at Virar police station in 2021. "The police teams visited the crime spots and studied the modus operandi of these incidents. Based on the intelligence inputs, we zeroed in on the accused and nabbed them," he said.

Services on main Howrah-Mumbai line were restored via an alternative track from 8 am on Saturday and services returned to

normal two hours later, he said. In Latehar, too, a blast took place on the railway tracks between

Richughuta and Demu stations around 12.30 am, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Palamu Range, Raj Kumar Lakra, said.

Maoist cadres squad blew up the tracks, bringing trains to a halt on the Barkakana-Garhwa route, under the Dhanbad division of Eastern Central Railway (ECR), Lakra said. All police stations in Palamu, Garhwa and Latehar have been

put on high alert, the DIG said. ECR Railway spokesperson PK Mishra said a trollev of a diesel engine was damaged in the blast. Mishra also said train movement on Richuguta-Tori line, under the Dhanbad division of ECR, could be restored only after ten hours of operation.

Several trains were diverted, while Dehri-on-Sone-Barwadih and Barwadih-Nesubogomo special trains cancelled, he stated.

fifth time in a row in the central government's annual cleanliness awards while Chhattisgarh retained the first position in the state category. The second and third positions

in the 'cleanest city' category of the 'Swachh Survekshan Awards, 2021' were secured by Surat and Vijayawada, respectively. Varanasi, represented by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi in Lok Sabha, has been adjudged the "cleanest Ganga town" while Bihar's Munger and Patna have been ranked second and third in the category. Varanasi had won the same award last year as well.

Although Indore and Surat retained their positions in the 'Swachh Survekshan Awards 2021', Navi Mumbai lost its third spot to Vijaywada and was in the fourth position in the latest survey results announced by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on Saturday. According to the ministry, Maharashtra has bagged a total

of 92 awards, the highest by any state, followed by Chhattisgarh with 67 awards.

Under the survey, a total of nine

President Ram Nath Kovind during the presentation ceremony of the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2021, in New Delhi PTI PHOTO

cities -- Indore, Surat, New Delhi Municipal Council, Navi Mumbai, Ambikapur, Mysuru, Noida, Vijayawada and Patan -- have been certified with 5 star city ratings under the garbage-free city category while 143 cities have been rated as 3 star. President Ram Nath Kovind gave away the awards in the presence of Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and others at an event here.

The ministry said in the latest nationwide cleanliness survey, 4,320 cities were covered in 28 days,

India shocker: 1 kid killed every 45 minutes in accidents

adding that over 4.2 core people had given their feedback. Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, having more than 100 urban local bodies, have been adjudged the second and third cleanest state in the country. In the category of states with less than 100 urban local bodies, Jharkhand has been ranked first, followed by Haryana and Goa.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel received the award for the country's cleanest state from President Ram Nath Kovind at the

vere secured by Surat and Vijayawada, respectively

Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, having more than 100 urban local bodies, have been adjudged the second and third cleanest state in the country

event. The 10 top-ranked cleanest cities, having a population of more than one lakh, are Indore, Surat, Vijaywada, Navi Mumbai, New Delhi, Ambikapur, Tirupati, Pune, Noida and Ujjain. Lucknow has been ranked the lowest among 25 cities in the same category.

According to the ministry, Vita has been ranked the cleanest city with less than one lakh population, followed by Lonavala and Sasvad. All the three cities are from Maharashtra.

New Delhi Municipal Council secured the first position in the country's cleanest small city category of 1-3 lakh population while Hoshangabad and Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) emerged as the "Fastest Mover small city" and "Best Small City in Citizens' Feedback" categories, respectively.

police swung into action and arrested two people, police said Saturday.

According to an official, a call was received on November 13 at the Pandav Nagar Police station. When the police reached the spot in Mayur Vihar Phase-1, they found two females who told them that one of them was gang-raped by two people. The accused also attempted to assault the other - a minor.

Delhi Commission of Women's Crisis Intervention Centre's (CIC) counsellor was informed who recorded the victims' statement. "The victims were counselled," the official said.

Both of them were then sent for medical examination and a case under sections 376 (Rape), 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code was registered against the accused and an investigation initiated.

The police deployed several teams and a massive search operation was launched to nab the accused. The accused identified as Nawal, a resident of Acharva Niketan Patparganj in Delhi and Nagendra Bhatti, a resident of Pandav Nagar in Delhi were later arrested from Yamuna Khadar area of the city.

On sustained interrogation, they admitted to having committed the crime. "The investigation is still on," the official added. Crime against women in the national capital continued to show an upward trajectory, compared to last year's data.

Notably, as per data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) a month ago, the national capital recorded the highest number of crimes against women ২ among all the metropolitan cities of the country.

According to the data compiled by the Delhi Police, 1,725 women have been allegedly raped in the current vear till October 31. In 2020, 1429women had to face the violence till the same period.

Man beaten to death

Muzaffarnagar (UP): A man was beaten to death by two men over old enmity in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district. following which the accused were arrested, police said Saturday. Sunil Kumar, a lineman in the electricity department, was beaten up by the two accused with sticks and bricks near Bahavari village leading to his death. Station House Officer of Kotwali police station Yashpal Singh said. During investigation, Harendra and Bhura confessed to killing Kumar over an old rivalry, the SHO said.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 20: A whopping 11,168 kids below 18 years of age get killed annually in road accidents in the country, which translates to one in every 45 minutes, or 31 daily, accounting for 7.40 per cent of all fatalities, as per official data, raising a big concern over the safety of minors in the country.

The stunning revelation was made at a workshop on 'Making Roads Safer for Chidren' held here on Thursday, in which Synergie and Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP), top officials and leading experts took part.

Additional findings of a survey conducted by Synergie's Co-founder



Saurabh Verma showed that only 22 per cent kids strap on seat belts, while 53 per cent said their parents don't care if they violate traf-

fic rules. Maharashtra Transport Commissioner Avinash Dhakne said that road discipline is missing in the country and it is the parents who have a key role in educating their children on road safety aspects.

"Schools do train students in the basics of road safety, but people still violate the rules. We need to do our best to reduce deaths on roads and create a conducive commuting environment for adults and children alike," urged Dhakne.

Dattatraya Saste, member of a high-level expert committee on road safety at the Centre, said that the safety of children is the collective responsibility of all the stakeholders.

"In the coming days, various tools will be developed in the fields of road safety, motor vehicles and

road networks to tackle the safety issues, especially those pertaining to children," Saste said.

Verma stressed on the need to focus on the 4E approach --Education, Enforcement, Engineering and Environment & Emergency care -- to tackle child road safety aspects.

Advisor to Mumbai Traffic Police, Shankar Vishwanath, said that with increasing number of children walking or travelling longer distances to schools, colleges or playgrounds in Indian cities and villages, now is the time to start focussing on 'Child Safety While Commuting' to protect them and ensure the country's future.







international

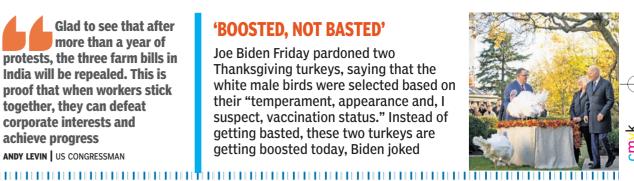
Glad to see that after more than a year of protests, the three farm bills in India will be repealed. This is proof that when workers stick together, they can defeat corporate interests and

ANDY LEVIN US CONGRESSMAN

achieve progress

'BOOSTED, NOT BASTED'

Joe Biden Friday pardoned two Thanksgiving turkeys, saying that the white male birds were selected based on their "temperament, appearance and, I suspect, vaccination status." Instead of getting basted, these two turkeys are getting boosted today, Biden joked



uote

Kenosha shootings verdict: Rittenhouse acquitted

THE RITTENHOUSE TRIAL WAS THE HIGHEST-PROFILE US CIVILIAN SELF-DEFENSE CASE SINCE 2013

States remains committed to preventing Iran from gaining a nuclear weapon. And we remain committed to

The United

a diplomatic outcome of the nuclear issue. But if Iran isn't willing to engage seriously, then we will look at all of the options necessary to keep the United States secure

LLOYD AUSTIN US DEFENSE SECRETARY

Most of our peacekeeping missions have a political and security environment that has

deteriorated. Are we equipped enough as a multilateral system to address these threats?

JEAN-PIERRE LACROIX UN PEACEKEEPING



wasteful plastics banning the supply of plastic straws stirrers and cotton buds, while our carrier bag charge has cut consumption by 95% in the main

supermarkets GEORGE EUSTICE UK ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY

SHORT TAKES

Russia: record virus toll persists

Moscow: Russia's record high coronavirus death toll persisted for a second straight day Saturday, as the number of new infections declined. The state coronavirus task force reported 1,254 COVID-19 deaths, matching Friday's tally. The task force also reported 37,120 new confirmed cases. The daily new infections in recent weeks appear to have a downward trend but still remain higher than during previous surges of the virus. The latest surge in infections and deaths comes amid low vaccination rates and lax public attitudes toward taking precautions.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenosha, Nov 20: Kyle Rittenhouse was acquitted of all charges Friday after testifying he acted in self-defense in the deadly Kenosha shootings that became a flashpoint in the debate over guns, vigilantism and racial injustice in the US.

Rittenhouse, 18, began to choke up, fell forward toward the defense table and then hugged one of his attorneys as he heard a court clerk recite "not guilty" five times. A sheriff's deputy whisked him out a back door.

'He wants to get on with his life," defense attorney Mark Richards said. "He has a huge sense

of relief for what the jury did to him today. He wishes none of this ever happened. But as he said when he

testified, he did not start this." The verdict in the politically combustible case was met with anger and disappointment from those who saw Rittenhouse as a vigilante and a wannabe cop, and relief and a sense of vindication from those who regarded him as a patriot who took a stand against lawlessness and exercised his Second Amendment right to carry a gun and to defend himself. Supporters donated more than \$2 million to-

ward his legal defense. The Rev. Jesse Jackson, the longtime civil rights leader, said the

verdict throws into doubt the safety of people who protest in support of Black Americans.

"It seems to me that it's open season on human rights demon-

Rittenhouse. a then-17-year-old former police youth cadet, said that he went to Kenosha to protect property from rioters but that he came under attack and feared for his life

strators," he said.

Rittenhouse was charged with homicide, attempted homicide and reckless endangering for killing two men and wounding a third

with an AR-style semi-automatic rifle in the summer of 2020 during a tumultuous night of protests over the shooting of a Black man, Jacob Blake, by a white Kenosha police officer.

Rittenhouse, a then-17-year-old former police youth cadet, said that he went to Kenosha to protect property from rioters but that he came under attack and feared for his life. He is white, as were those he shot. The anonymous jury whose racial makeup was not disclosed by the court but appeared to be overwhelmingly white, deliberated for more than three days.

President Joe Biden called for calm, saying that while the outcome of the case "will leave many Americans feeling angry and concerned, myself included, we must acknowledge that the jury has spoken." Former President Donald Trump, who at the time of the shootings said it appeared Rittenhouse had been "very violently attacked," issued a statement Friday congratulating Rittenhouse on the verdict, adding "if that's not self defense, nothing is!"

Rittenhouse could have gotten life in prison if found guilty on the most serious charge, first-degree intentional homicide, or what some other states call first-degree murder. Two other charges each carried over 60 years behind bars.

Europe: COVID crisis pits jabbed against unjabbed

SPIKING INFECTIONS AND MEASURES TO REIN THEM IN ARE COMBINING TO USHER IN A SECOND STRAIGHT GRIM HOLIDAY SEASON IN EUROPE



Thousands protest upcoming lockdown

Vienna: Thousands of protesters gathered in Vienna Saturday after the Austrian government announced a nationwide lockdown to contain the quickly rising coronavirus infections in the country. The far-right opposition Freedom Party was among those who have called for the protest and vowed to combat the new restrictions. Demonstrations against virus measures were also expected in other European countries including Switzerland, Croatia and Italy. The Austrian lockdown will start early Monday and initially will last for 10 days, and will then be reevaluated. At the most it will last 20 days

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, Nov 20: This was supposed

'Orgy of violence'

protesters in rioting that erupted in downtown Rotterdam around a demonstration against COVID-19 restrictions late Friday night. The Dutch city's mayor called it "an orgy of violence." Police said that two rioters were hospitalised after being hit by bullets and investigations were underway to establish if they were shot by police. The condition of the injured rioters was not disclosed. Officers arrested 51 people, about half of them minors, police said Saturday afternoon.

mandatory, more and more gov ernments are clamping down.

Starting Monday, Slovakia is banning people who haven't been vaccinated from all nonessential stores and shopping malls. They also will not be allowed to attend any public event or gathering and will be required to test twice a week just to go to work.

It is not only nations of central and eastern Europe that are suffering anew. Wealthy nations in the west also are being hit hard and imposing restrictions on their populations once again.



A krathong (floating basket) floats on a canal during the Loy Krathong festival, which is held as a symbolic apology to the goddess of the river, in Bangkok, Thailand REUTERS

Taliban to pay overdue salaries of govt workers

Thousands of Afghan government workers are owed at least three months of salary

REUTERS

Kabul, Nov 20: Afghanistan's



Minor Hindu boy sexually abused, murdered in Pak

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 20: While the world observes 'World Children's Day', an 11-year-old Hindu boy was sexually assaulted and brutally murdered in Pakistan Sindh,

citizen - the vaccinated against the unvaccinated. Governments desperate to shield overburdened healthcare systems are imposing rules that limit choices for the unvaccinated in the hope that doing so will drive up rates of vaccinations. Austria Friday went a step further, making vaccinations mandatory as of Feb 1. While Austria so far stands alone in the European Union in making vaccinations

creasingly is pitting citizen against

In a first: Zero COVID death in B'desh

from the coronavirus in the last

24 hours, adding the recovery rate

Praising Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina, Dr Ayesha said, "This good

news makes people very happy ... I

must say, PM Hasina's contribu-

tion to the healthcare sector is be-

However, sounding a warning,

she said, "Pandemic is on the rise

all over the world. The relief is

that the death toll came down to

hind the success.

now stands at 97.72 per cent.

The Hague: Police opened fire on

Man convicted of threatening Pelosi

Phoenix: The US Attorney's Office in Arizona says a man from Bullhead, Arizona, has been convicted of threatening to kill or harm Nancy Pelosi. speaker of the US House of Representatives. A Friday statement from the office said a jury found 77-year-old Steven Arthur Martis guilty Thursday of one count of communicating an interstate threat to kill or harm the speaker. He is to be sentenced January 25

Wanted fugitive in US found dead

Seneca: One of the most wanted fugitives in the United States apparently died about four months ago in a South Carolina home about 16 years after he was first wanted in San Diego for sexually assaulting children, investigators said. Frederick Cecil McLean, 70, died of natural causes in July, but his body wasn't found until November 6 when someone asked deputies to check on a neighbour who hadn't been seen in a while, Oconee County Coroner Karl Addis said

Curbs in Canadian province post flood

Vancouver: The British Columbia government announced Friday it is limiting the amount of fuel people can purchase at gas stations in some parts of the province and is restricting non-essential travel as highways begin to reopen following torrential rains that caused floods and mudslides.

to be the Christmas in Europe where family and friends could once again embrace holiday festivities and one another. Instead, the continent is the global epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic as cases soar to record levels in many countries.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

March 18, 2020.

Dhaka, Nov 20: Bangladesh

Saturday reported zero Covid fa-

tality for the first time since the pan-

demic broke out in the South Asian

country in March last year. The

first Covid death was reported

Dr Avesha Akhter. Assistant

Director (Admin) of the 250-bedded

TB Hospital of Dhaka, told IANS

that 190 patients also recovered

With infections spiking again despite nearly two years of restrictions, the health crisis in-

Greece, too, is targeting the unvaccinated. Prime Minister Kvriakos Mitsotakis announced a battery of new restrictions late Thursday for the unvaccinated, keeping them out of venues including bars, restaurants, cinemas, theatres, museums and gyms, even if they have tested negative.

zero. But if the people do not stay

She also urged the people to fol

It (Covid-19) can become strong

any moment. Everyone should re-

main alert, she said. Bangladesh re-

ported seven Covid deaths and 253

cases Friday. With the latest fa-

talities and fresh infections, the

death toll in the country rose to

27,946 while the caseload increased

to 15,73,889, respectively.

aware, it could rise again.

low the Covid-19 protocols.

Taliban administration will begin paying the overdue salaries of government workers from Saturday, of ficials said.

Thousands of Afghan government workers are owed at least three months of salary, one of the many crises faced by the Taliban since the Islamist movement took over the country in August

The finance ministry says that, starting today, the past three months salaries of all government workers and staff will be paid totally, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said on Twitter.

It was not immediately clear where the funds to pay the salaries would come from.

Even before the Taliban seized control last in August, many public sector workers said they had not been paid for weeks. After the movement took power, billions of dollars of Afghan government funds parked abroad in the United States and Europe were frozen.

Foreign governments have been unwilling to fund the Taliban-led

administration directly to help with financial commitments such as payment of workers. Global financial institutions have also halted funding.

After a meeting Thursday between the special envoys of Germany and the Netherlands and Taliban officials in Kabul, the envoys expressed willingness to explore paying health and education sector workers directly through international organisations.

It is unclear if the Taliban's announcement Saturday is related to this.

Another Taliban spokesman, Inamullah Samangani, said on Twitter Saturday that the daily revenue collections of the Taliban administration had been increasing daily.

Express Tribune reported.

His body was found Saturday in Babarloi town in Khairpur Mir. According to family members, the boy, Kaana Sachdev, went missing Friday evening and his body was later found in an abandoned house within the limits of the Babarloi police station.

The entire family was busy in Guru Nanak's birthday events. We do not know how the child went missing. He was found dead in the house at 11 pm, Raj Kumar, a relative of the child told The Express Tribune. He was a grade five student, and was born in 2011, Kumar said, adding that the whole area was gripped by fear after the horrific incident, the report said.

Soon after the incident, police and local representatives of the Child Protection Authority shifted the body to Civil Hospital Sukkur for a postmortem examination.

The SHO of the Babarloi police station said that the boy was strangled to death before the culprits sexually assaulted him.

NASA SEEKS IDEAS FOR A NUCLEAR REACTOR ON MOON

The proposal requests are for an initial system design and must be submitted by Feb 19

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boise (US), Nov 20: If anyone has a good idea on how to put a nuclear fission power plant on the moon, the US government wants to hear about it.

NASA and the nation's top federal nuclear research lab Friday put out a request for proposals for a fission surface power system.

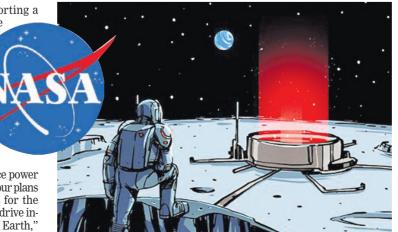
NASA is collaborating with the US Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory to establish a sun-independent power source for missions to the moon by the end of the decade.

If successful in supporting a sustained human presence on the moon, the next objective would be Mars. NASA says fission surface power could provide sustained abundant power no matter the en-

> vironmental conditions on the moon or Mars. "I expect fission surface power systems to greatly benefit our plans

> for power architectures for the moon and Mars and even drive innovation for uses here on Earth,' Jim Reuter, associate administrator for NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate, said in a statement.

The reactor would be built on



Earth and then sent to the moon. Submitted plans for the fission surface power system should include a uranium-fueled reactor

core, a system to convert the nuclear power into usable energy, a thermal management system to keep the reactor cool, and a distribution sys-

tem providing no less than 40 kilowatts of continuous electric power for 10 years in the lunar environment.

Some other requirements include that it be capable of turning itself off and on without human help, that it be able to operate from the deck of a lunar lander. and that it can be removed from the lander and run on a mobile system and be transported to a different lunar site for operation.

Additionally, when launched from Earth to the moon, it should fit inside a 12-foot (4-meter) diameter cylinder that's 18 feet (6 meters) long. It should not weigh more than 13,200 pounds (6,000 kilograms).

The proposal requests are for an initial system design and must be submitted by February 19.

The Idaho National Laboratory has worked with NASA on various projects in the past. Most recently, the lab helped power NASA's Mars rover Perseverance with a radioisotope power system, which converts heat generated by the natural decay of plutonium-238 into electrical power.

The car-sized rover landed on Mars in February and has remained active on the red planet.

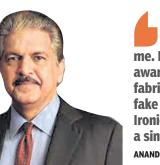
The Energy Department has also been working to team up with private businesses on various nuclear power plans, notably on a new generation of smaller power plants that range from small modular reactors to small mobile reactors that canquickly be set up in the field and then removed when not needed.











Someone saw this online and alerted me. I need to make people aware that this is completely fabricated & fraudulent. Takes fake news to a new level. Ironically, I have not invested a single rupee in cryptos ANAND MAHINDRA | CHAIRMAN, MAHINDRA GROUP

AIRASIA INDIA RESUMES INFLIGHT F&B

Budget airline AirAsia India Saturday said that it has resumed inflight food and beverage (F&B) service across all its routes. The move, it said was is in line with relaxations in the regulatory guidelines issued November 16, which had restricted meal service on flights less than 2 hours



uote 77

We've resolved these things in the past and I believe we'll resolve them in the future. It is our expectation that there will be a

resolution so that UK consumers are not impacted VASANT PRABHU CFO, VISA

Business and leaders today are preparing for never normal, a new age which will be characterised by

rapidly evolving cultural, social values and attitudes such as increased demand for good corporate governance and enhanced brand intent

DHIRENDRA PAL SINGH CHAIRMAN, UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSIO

The weight of the world is now behind this, wind and solar you could argue - led the way and the weight of the world was not behind wind and solar, but there is so much momentum amongst the private sector and the public sector NOEL QUINN CEO, HSBC

SHORT TAKES

Ola expands test rides of e-scooters

New Delhi: Electric vehicle (EV) manufacturer Ola Electric Saturday announced that customers in over 1,000 cities and towns will be able to test ride and experience the Ola S1 electric scooter. The test rides will be initially open only for those who have purchased or reserved the Ola S1 and S1 Pro scooters. "Amazed and proud to see the strong response to our S1 test rides! Thousands of you have tried and loved it!" Bhavish Aggarwal, Founder and CEO. Ola tweeted. We are now expanding test rides to 1000+ cities across India by December 15, he added. The next leg of customer test rides will be commencing from November 27 onwards, in 11 more cities including Surat. Thiruvananthapuram. Kozhikode. Visakhapatnam. Vijayawada, Jaipur Coimbatore,

EPFO gets nod to invest in InvITs

At present, the National Highways Authority of India and Power Grid Corporation have launched public sector infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: The central board of trustees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has approved the government's proposal to allow the retirement fund body to invest up to 5% of its annual deposits in alternative investments funds including the infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs). The decision was taken at the

229th meeting of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's apex decision making body - Central Board of Trustees (CBT), headed by Union Labour Minister Bhupender Yaday

Asked whether the EPFO will invest in private sector InvITs, Yadav told reporters after the meeting here, "At present we have decided to invest in only newly added government instruments (bonds and InvITs). It will be decided on case to case basis by FIAC.

However, this will be on a case to case basis and on approval from the Finance Investment and Audit Committee (FIAC) and the investments will initially be restricted to public sector funds only.



Explaining the rationale behind the decision, Labour Secretary Sunil Barthwal told reporters,"If we want to provide high rate of interest then we have to follow guidelines of finance ministry. There are certain instruments (prescribed in norms) where we were not able to invest due to various reasons. Now we would be in a position to investment in those instruments."

However, he added that at present only public sector bonds and InvITs will be considered. Two committees on establish-

ment related matters and futuris-

INSTRUMENTS LIKE INVITS IN THE PATTERN OF INVESTMENT FOR PENSION FUNDS

E BOARD DECIDED TO EMPOW ER FIAC TO DECIDE UPON THE INVESTMENT OPTIONS, ON A CASE-TO-CASE BASIS

THE CENTRALISED SYSTEM WILL FACILITATE DE-DUPLICATION AND MERGER OF ALL PF ACCOUNTS OF ANY MEMBER. IT WILL ALSO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT OF TRANSFER OF ACCOUNT ON CHANGE OF JOB

tic implementation of Social Security Code will be headed by the Minister of State Labour and Employment. The remaining two committees on digital capacity building and pension related issues will be headed by the Union Labour and Employment Secretary. The draft 68th annual report on

the functioning of the EPFO for the year 2020-21 was also approved in the meeting, with the recommendation to place it before Parliament.

"Approval was accorded for development of centralised IT-en-

EPFO net adds 15.41L subscribers in Sept

Retirement fund body EPFO net added 15.41 lakh subscribers in September 2021, reflecting a growing trend in net payroll additions post the second wave of the pandemic. The provisional payroll data of EPFO released today highlights that the EPFO has added around 15.41 lakh net subscribers during the month of September 2021, a statement by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) said Saturday. For the month of September, the net subscriber addition has increased by 1.81 lakh (or over 13 per cent) as compared to the previous month of August 2021 when it was 13.60 lakh. The data reflects a growing trend in net payroll for the first six months of the current financial year except in May, when the nation was reeling under the second wave of Covid-19.

abled systems by C-DAC. Post this, the field functionalities will move on a central database in a phased manner enabling smoother operations and enhanced service delivery," the statement said.

ANTI-MONOPOLY CRACKDOWN

China fines tech giants

Each violation carried a penalty of 500,000 yuan (\$80,000), the regulator said

MTNL, BSNL assets worth ₹970cr on sale

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 20: The government has listed for sale real estate assets of state-run telecom firms MTNL and BSNL at a reserve price of around Rs 970 crore, according to documents uploaded on the DIPAM website.

"Non core asset monetisation commences with the first set of six properties of BSNL/MTNL bid out on the MSTC portal," DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey tweeted Saturday.

BSNL properties located in Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Bhavnagar and Kolkata have been posted for sale at a reserve price of around Rs 660 crore. The Department of Investment

and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) website has listed MTNL assets located in Vasari Hill Goregaon in Mumbai for sale at a reserve price of around Rs 310 crore.

MTNL's 20 flats located in Oshiwara have also been put up for sale as part of the asset monetisation plan of the company.

The flats include two units of 1room set, 17 units of 1 bedroom hall and kitchen (BHK) and one unit of 2 BHK. Their reserve prices range from Rs 52.26 lakh to Rs 1.59

The monetisation commenced with the auction of first set of six properties belonging to the telecos

crore.

The e-auction for MTNL assets will take place December 14.

The asset monetisation is part of the Rs 69,000 crore revival scheme for MTNL and BSNL which was approved by the government in October 2019. Both the public sector firms were to identify and monetise assets worth Rs 37,500 crore by 2022.

"We will proceed as per market demand for asset monetisation," Purwar added.

JK Lakshmi comes up with premium product in city

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: Keeping in mind, the special construction needs of the discerning consumers of Odisha and to partner in the progress of the state, JK Lakshmi Cement Ltd. one of India's most prestigious companies, launched a premium cement brand Platinum Supremo Cement in city, Saturday.

Renowned Boxer Vijender Singh, the brand ambassador of Platinum Supremo Cement said "I am delighted that I have been associated with the company for many years now. By my personal experience of using Platinum Supremo Cement, when it was manufactured for trials, for my own house, has made me believe that this cement is the best in class.

Builders face huge challenge over raw materials' price hike

The realtors seek state government's assistance and urged to take proactive steps to resolve the issue at the earliest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: The members of Credia Bhubaneswar, a leading real estate body raised concerns over the unprecedented rise of construction raw materials and sought the state government's intervention to address the issue. The builders expressed that the real estate sector, which has already been hit by the coronavirus pandemic, is being pushed into a crisis due to the steep hike in the cost of sand, cement, steel and transportation costs etc. Kantilal Patel, President, CREDAI Bhubaneswar said, "Real Estate is one of the major sectors which was badly hit by the Covid pandemic and subsequent lockdown which resulted to labour migration, shortage of raw material, and affected the selling of the units. Now post pandemic when the industry is trying to normalise its operation, the rise in the price of the materials like steel, cement, sand etc is putting a big hurdle. The steel price was between Rs 43000 and Rs 48000 in 2020 but now it ranges transportation cost.' Beijing, Nov 20: Chinese tech giants including Alibaba Group and Tencent Holdings were fined Saturday for failing to report corporate acquisitions, adding to an anti-monopoly crackdown by the ruling Communist Party.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The companies failed to report 43 acquisitions that occurred up to eight years ago under rules on "operating concentration," according to the State Administration for Market Regulation. Beijing has launched anti-monopoly, data security and other crackdowns on tech companies since late 2020. The ruling party worries the companies have too much control over their industries and has warned



has continued to increase, proactively sorting out and reporting concentration that has not previously been declared illegally, and actively cooperating with investigations," the market regulator said, as per the report.

Ōther companies fined in the latest round of penalties include on-

April for practices that regulators said suppressed competition. Meituan, a food delivery platform, was fined \$534 million October 8.

The report also pointed out that dealing with undeclared cases in accordance with the law can not only



Vadodara, Bhubaneswar Tiruppur and Nagpur.

Pre-owned Audi showroom in city

Bhubaneswar: Audi, the German luxury car manufacturer, opened its preowned luxury car showroom -Audi Approved: plus, in City. Spread over an area of 4,500 sq ft, this state-of-the-art showroom will cater to the increasing demand for highquality pre-owned luxury cars in Bhubaneswar and the nearby areas. Balbir Singh Dhillon, Head of Audi India, said, "This facility will offer a wide range of pre-owned Audi cars that come with complete peace of mind for customers. Audi India offers industry best 2 years unlimited kilometers warranty on its certified pre owned cars. With this showroom, we are set to bring the Audi experience to newer regions." The showroom can display seven cars and every car that is sold via the pre-owned outlet undergoes over 300 multi-point checks, said an official.

between Rs 58000 and Rs 65000, a tonne, respectively. The corresponding rates for cement, which ranged from Rs 200 to Rs 250 for a 50kg bag, now costs between Rs

300 to Rs 350 respectively Overall, the cost of construction has increased by 40 - 50% in Odisha. The builders are worried as they would have to bear the extra cost amounting nearly to Rs 8 lakh to Rs 10 lakh per unit if the cost escalation was to be borne by them in view of the RERA rules. Umesh Patnaik, General Secretary said, "In recent time the transportation price is also hiked due to increase of fuel prices. The increase in petrol/diesel prices has a major effect on material

prices as there is an increase in

them not to use their dominance to gouge consumers or block entry to new competitors.

"With the in-depth advancement of anti-monopoly law enforcement, the awareness of corporate operators' concentration declarations

line retailers JD.Com Inc, Suning Ltd and search engine operator Baidu Inc. The companies "failed to declare illegal implementation of operating concentration," the regulator said on its website. Alibaba was fined \$2.8 billion in

BIZ BUZZ

Vizous Interio opens new centre

BHUBANESWAR: Vizous Interio Pvt Ltd, one of most trusted modular furniture brand of Odisha and Chhattisgarh, Saturday, opened second extension centre in Laxmisagar, Bhubaneswar, Odia film actress Anu Choudhury inaugurated the new centre in presence of Chandrakanta Das and Rakhal Navak. director of the company. The new centre is spread across 5000 sg/ft with wide range display of modular products. All products are made on high precision Italian and German machines with technologically advanced manufacturing facility resulting in fine finish, best guality & top notch looks. Das said, "In

the last decade when we looked for factory for finished customized modular products, we could not even source a single manufacturer in Odisha. Thus we decided to set up a high precision modular factory in 2012 to provide factory finished elegant products to customers. Since then we have taken huge initiatives to provide fine guality finished products & have emerged as one of the 'Most Prominent Service Provider of Customized Modular Products in Odisha & Eastern India.'

ously optimize a transparent and predictable environment of fair competition, but also effectively urge enterprises to enhance their compliance awareness and capabilities, and promote sound development of enterprises and industries.

The company's president Arun Shukla said "Platinum Supremo Cement with its unbeatable quality and supreme strength will capture everyone's attention. Its ability to create denser concrete for roofs makes it rise above from rest of the competition and that is why the brand promise is Ab Har roof bane zabardast Strong. We are confident new product too would garner a special place in the heart of consumers of Odisha."

A flag off ceremony was held, Friday, at company's plant at Cuttack in which first Platinum Supremo Cement was dispatched to top dealers in Odisha.

jumped 80% on their debut this

proaching IPOs which have seen

huge demand may take a beating

ket ... even the ones that have seen

huge subscriptions will see a drop

in the premiums," Arun Kejriwal,

founder of independent research

"This will put spokes in the mar-

Now analysts fear that even ap-

month.

on listing.

DISAPPOINTING MARKET DEBUT

Skies darken for Indian IPOs post Paytm's failure

lofty value.

Singapore.

West Elm enters Indian market

Mumbai: Global design home retailer West Elm has entered the Indian market and has launched two stores here in partnership with Reliance Brands. It has opened its first brick-and-mortar store in India this October 2021 at Jio World Drive, followed by a store at the Ambience Mall in Gurgaon this week, said a statement from Reliance Brands. West Elm, a Brooklyn-based retailer, is known for its modern designs for the home, offering an array of conscientiously made products including functional furniture, bedding and bath, kitchen and dining, lighting, décor and more.

INVESTORS AND ANALYSTS WHO EXPRESSED CONCERN **OVER THE IPO VALUATION OF THE** LOSS-MAKING PAYTM **AT ABOUT \$18.7 BILLION HAD CAUTIONED THAT** FROTHY VALUATIONS WITH UNCLEAR **BUSINESS MODELS MIGHT NOT END UP WELL IN THE CURRENT** MARKET



Mumbai, Nov 20: Paytm's dismal stock market debut this week is likely to put a damper on future offerings after the IPO of the digital payments firm ranked among the worst-performing in Indian history, six analysts and

AGENCIES

bankers said Friday.

Indian companies have raised a staggering \$9.7 billion through initial share sales in the first nine months of 2021, for the highest such tally in any of the corresponding periods of the last two decades, said accountants EY. But offerings planned for later



this year, such as those by payments rival MobiKwik and hotel aggregator OYO, will face questions after Paytm's debut plunge of more than 27%, as investors turned queasy at its lack of profits and

'This episode should hopefully

bring some realism to valuations

that promoters expect from the

public markets," said Kristy Fong,

a senior investment director at

fund manager abrdn, based in

But the debut of Paytm, which

is backed by Ant Group and

SoftBank, was in stark contrast to

that of food delivery firm Zomato,

which surged 66% in July after

raising \$1.2 billion.

Similarly, shares in FSN E-Commerce, which owns cosmetics-to-fashion platform Nykaa,

BEHEMOTH LIC IN THE WINGS

All eyes are turning to plans for India's biggest-ever IPO, that of state-owned life insurance behemoth LIC, which is expected by the end of March 2022 and could raise more than \$10 billion if the government offers a stake of 10%. Some analysts see little risk from the Pavtm fallout for LIC, however, as it is a household name in India, commanding more than 60% of the life insurance market, with assets exceeding \$500 billion. Some say concerns over LIC cannot be ruled out, though, despite a business model that is starkly different from that of Paytm. "Everybody will be in a bit of a learning mode after this (Pavtm) listing," said one of the investment bankers working on LIC's IPO, adding that they remained confident about its chances.







OrissaPOST NOVEMBER 21 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

Bhuvneshwar Kumar while

Yuzvendra Chahal wouldn't mind

getting a game in place of Axar Patel or Ravichandran Ashwin.

Similarly, Rishabh Pant, who

has been playing non-stop since

start of the World Test

Championship, may be rested and

Kishan can be given a go in the

If one looks at the series, the

biggest gain has been Ravichandran

Ashwin's form in white ball cricket

after the previous regime kept him

in the cold for four years as they

Figures of 2/23 and 1/19 from two

games has put Ashwin firmly in

contention for a 'Player of the

Series' award. Harshal Patel has car-

ried on from where he left at the IPL

and a Player of the Match per-

formance on debut will boost his

India's playing XI (probable): Rohit

Sharma, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan

Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas

Iver, Venkatesh Iyer, R Ashwin,

Bhuvneshwar Kumar/Deepak

Chahar, Harshal Patel, Yuzvendra

morale going into the season.

never believed in him.

last game

With the series in the pocket, Rohit

BFC register classic victory versus NEUFC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bambolim, Nov 20: Bengaluru FC beat NorthEast United FC 4-2 in a thrilling ISL match that saw six different players scoring goals here Saturday.

Cleiton Silva (14th minute), Jayesh Rane (42nd) and Prince Ibarra (81st) provided the fireworks for Bengaluru FC, while Deshorn Brown (17th), Mathias Coureur (25th) scored for the Highlanders along with Mashoor Shereef (22nd), who unfortunately found his own net.

An entertaining 11 minutes ensued with four goals, two at either end. First up, Brazilian target man Silva made most of Udanta Singh's build-up play, to leave NorthEast defenders high and dry with a fine goal.

Three minutes later, Brown was to have his say in the game. VP Suhair, on the left flank, brilliantly found Brown who, with a controlled first touch, smashed into the net to draw level.

NorthEast then shot themselves in the foot. Ashique Kuruniyan lobbed the ball in from range and it rebounded off the crossbar and came back into play. Mashoor Shereef, instead of clearing it, scored an own goal.

On the other end, new signing Mathias Coureur made amends for his teammate. Suhair yet again set up the move for Coureur to slot it in on the second time of asking, equalising for the second time in the night.

Sunil Chhetri, desperate to get into the act, squandered a chance but it was Jayesh Rane right before halftime who drove down a left-footer to bring up the fifth goal of the game. There was one bit left, where Alan Costa's long ball found Prince Ibarra, who cut in and finished with style.

Blues extend lead as Foxes outfoxed



REUTERS

Leicester, Nov 20: American forward Christian Pulisic was back among the goals as Premier League leaders Chelsea extended their advantage at the top of the table to six points with a comfortable 3-0 win at Leicester City Saturday.

The visitors raced into a twogoal lead inside 28 minutes after Antonio Rudiger climbed highest from a corner to head home and N'Golo Kante arrowed in a rare goal. Chelsea put the game to bed when Pulisic, who has endured a frustrating, injury-interrupted season, stepped off the bench and scored in the 71st minute.

The victory, Chelsea's fifth from six away league games this season, moved the Blues onto 29 points, six clear of second-placed champions Manchester City. The Foxes are well off the pace in 12th after their fifth loss of the season.

Chelsea started brightly, with former Leicester full back Ben Chilwell denied by the crossbar early on. The goal that gave the vis-

itors the lead was always likely to come via one route though: Coming into the match, no side had scored Premier League goals with headers this season than Chelsea, and no team has conceded more via headers than Leicester. Sure enough, some slack Leicester marking allowed Rudiger in to head home.

It was all too easy for Chelsea thereafter, with Leicester offering no response. With Leicester also allowing far too much space ahead of them, Kante took advantage to make it two, given time to carry the ball to the edge of the home penalty area before firing in.

It took the hosts until the 58th minute to create a shot on or off target, with substitute James Maddison shooting straight at Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy, before Daniel Amartey did actually force Mendy into a fine stop.

Chelsea's strength in depth was clear for all to see as two substitutes combined to put the game to bed, as Hakim Ziyech fed Pulisic, who scored his first Blues goal since August at the near post.

Lewis wins pole for inaugural **Qatar Grand Prix**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Losail, Nov 20: Lewis Hamilton and Max Vetstappen qualified 1-2 for the inaugural Qatar Grand Prix, setting up a showdown between the Formula One championship contenders at the very start of Sunday's race. The race is the first in a 10-year deal between F1 and Qatar.

Hamilton won the 102nd pole of his career, fourth of the season and first since the Hungarian Grand Prix in August. Hamilton trails Verstappen by 14 points in the championship fight with three races remaining.

He beat Verstappen by 0.455 seconds Saturday to win the pole at Losail International Circuit. The seven-time champion said his stomach had been bothering him since he arrived in Qatar, but a good night's sleep helped his recovery.



Ishan Kishan, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Yuzvendra Chahal and Avesh Khan might get into the playing XI in the inconsequential third T20I in Kolkata, Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 20: Captain Rohit Sharma will not waver from his ruthless approach but might try out a few of his reserve players as India aim for a clean sweep against New Zealand in the third and final T20I, here Sunday.

Bilateral T20I series in various parts of the globe is fast losing its context due to too many private leagues but for Indian team, after their World Cup disaster, a series win might help in partially healing the wounds.

For New Zealand, it's more about completing the assignment after a punishing schedule that will see them play five games (since T20 WC semifinal) in less than two weeks.

The inhuman scheduling means that, a 0-3 defeat without services of skipper Kane Williamson will bruise egos but not deflate them as results of bilaterals count very little in the long run.

Having already pocketed the series with a couple of near perfect chases on Jaipur and Ranchi bel-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

here Saturday

Bali (Indonesia), Nov 20: Double

Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and

Kidambi Srikanth crashed out of

the Indonesia Masters Super 750

badminton tournament after suf-

fering straight game defeats in the

women's and men's singles semifinals respectively to bring the cur-

tains down on Indian campaign

Sindhu lost to Japanese top seed

Akane Yamaguchi while Srikanth

was outplayed by third seed Anders

Antonsen of Denmark. Even though

Sindhu had a superior 12-7 head-to-

head record against the Japanese

shuttler going into the tie, having

won both the meetings between

ters, there couldn't have been a better venue than Eden Gardens for skipper Rohit to end the series on perfect note and also try out some of his reserve bench players.

The first series as \overline{full} -time T20 captain has gone well for Rohit as he won two tosses, his bowlers put a stranglehold on Black Caps batters during end overs and then as a batter he provided great starts to

set the platform. The script has been flawless so far and before Rohit goes into the break, a 3-0 annihilation of New Zealand in 'City of Joy', where he once scored an epic 264 in an ODI, will be like an icing on the cake.

For coach Rahul Dravid, a dominant performance like this will also help him settle the nerves into the new role before the marquee Test series against the same rivals starting in less than a week's time.

Having already won the series, Rohit and Dravid will now like to maintain a fine balance between winning and also trying out all their available resources to see how each and every individual is

India campaign ends

Giving Venkatesh Iyer a go with the ball with the evening breeze from River Hooghly aiding a bit of movement won't be a bad idea but it depends whether Rohit wants a sixth bowler.

Hence the likes of Ruturaj Gaikwad, Avesh Khan and Ishan Kishan will expect that their skipper consider them for a game in this series

Gaikwad, who came into the series with an Orange Cap in the IPL might get a look-in in the topthree where he is the most comfortable batting.

But for that to happen, either skipper himself or his deputy KL Rahul might have to take rest for the game, which is more of an academic interest and gives an ideal premise to check the bench strength. Resting Rahul looks more logi-

cal as he is supposed to play a rigorous Test series in four days time and one T20 International won't make much of a difference for the stylish right hander. Similarly, the exciting Avesh

Khan could be tried in place of either Deepak Chahar or

Odisha begin SA, Korea arrive in Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chahal & Avesh Khan.

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20: Teams of South Africa and South Korea have arrived Saturday for the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's Junior World Cup, to be played at the iconic Kalinga Stadium November 24-December 5.

South Africa, who arrived in the morning, have been grouped in Pool A alongside Belgium, Chile, and Malaysia. South Korea, who arrived in the afternoon, have been clubbed with in a challenging Pool C along with Spain, the Netherlands and United States.

"It's been a period of difficult two years due to the pandemic with lots of training and preparations getting disrupted. But we have prepared the best we can back at home. So, no excuses, every team has faced similar challenges, and we are ready to go," asserted Sihle Ntuli.







the two this year, the Indian was no match for her rival. losing 13-21.9-21 in a one-sided duel that lasted just 32 minutes.

Sindhu, seeded third, was not at her usual best and trailed her Japanese opponent from the start in both the games. In the second game, Sindhu had a brief lead before Yamaguchi dominated her rival throughout to seal the issue in her favour.

The Japanese will now play the winner of the other semifinal between fourth seed An Sevoung and Thailand's Phittayaporn Chaiwan.

Srikanth lost 14-21 9-21 to



men's singles semifinals. The former World No.1 Indian was able to hold on Antonsen initially, levelling the scores at 3-3, 4-4, 5-5 before falling behind. Srikanth made another fine recovery in the first game, narrowing down the gap to 12-11 but eventually lost steam.

In the second game also, both were tied at 4-4 but the Dane took eight straight points to zoom to 12-4. The Indian could not recover from there while Antonsen never let his guard down to win the second game and the match.

in the state. Jena, himself is a former state champion and nationallevel ice skater.

Without even having ice skat-

Ice skating is a popular Olympic

The national camp will take place at ISKATE, Gurgaon November 22-26 as informed by Jena, secretary of Odisha Ice Skating Association (OISA).

THE TEAM

Arman Subudhi, Ashlesha Panda, Sai Sriyansu Rout, Aditya Mishra, Biren Das, RN Ayan, Swayansu S. Kanungo, Kaustav Patnaik, Krupa Doshi and Kushi Agarwal; Coach: Susant Kumar Sahoo; Official: Jatin Panda

head coach, South Africa.

Excited to compete at the iconic Kalinga Stadium, Ntuli said, "I believe it is the best stadium in the world and I am very happy for my players getting the opportunity to play at the stadium. We are very excited."

South Korea captain Soung Min Bae talked about their preparations for the event. "We prepared for the World Cup in Donghae, in Korea. We held a national camp where we had to play at least 10matches, which has made our team stronger. Our players do not have much experience of playing in



Members of the South Africa team (top) and South Korea team pose for group photos upon their arrival in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

such a big stadium, just like most players from all teams, but we are confident we will get better as the tournament progresses," he said. South Africa will face off against

Belgium in the first game of the tournament November 24, while Korea will take on the Dutch team in their campaign opener November 25.

Verstappen said Red Bull was lacking pace and noted that teammate Sergio Perez failed to advance to the final qualifying group. Perez will start 11th.

Valtteri Bottas, teammate to Hamilton at Mercedes, qualified third and was followed by Pierre Gasly of AlphaTauri. Gasly has been fast all weekend but a tire puncture near the end of qualifying slowed him, Fernando Alonso qualified fifth and was followed by Lando Norris and Carlos Sainz.

PENG TO 'SHOW UP IN PUBLIC' SOON!

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, Nov 20: An employee of Chinese state TV has posted photos of missing tennis star Peng Shuai online in a new effort to dispel concern about her disappearance after she accused a senior leader of sexual assault.

The photos appeared Friday Twitter, which cannot be seen by most internet users in China. The state TV employee, Shen Shiwei, wrote they were on Peng's account on the WeChat message service with the comment, "Happy Weekend."

The ruling Communist Party faces mounting appeals from tennis stars and the sport's professional tour to prove Peng, a three-time Olympian and former No.1-ranked women's doubles player, is safe and let her speak freelv.

Meanwhile, the editor of a newspaper published by the party said Peng would "show up in public" soon.

The controversy is politically awkward as the Chinese capital prepares to hold the Winter Olympics



distributed a statement it said spokesperson Friday denied knowcame from Peng that retracted the ing about the outcry over Peng's accusations against Zhang.

The editor of Global Times, an English-language newspaper published by the Communist Party, said on Twitter he had confirmed from unidentified sources that the photos "are indeed Peng Shuai's current state.³

"In the past few days, she stayed in her own home freely and she didn't want to be disturbed," wrote the editor, Hu Xijin. "She will show up in public and participate in some activities soon. The photos showed Peng with a

Tennis players take on China's Communist Party

NEW YORK: Some of the world's most famous tennis players, distraught by the disappearance of colleague Peng Shuai, are challenging China's Communist Party to get answers. So far it's a standoff with little visible impact as tennis players like Naomi Osaka, Serena Williams and Novak Djokovic - joined by tennis governing bodies, human rights groups, retired players, and several athletes' lobbies- try to turn their profiles into power. China is just two-anda-half months from hosting the Beijing Winter Olympics. China's Foreign Ministry has repeatedly disavowed any knowledge of the case. "Censorship is never OK at any cost," Osaka wrote on social media, adding the hashtag 'WhereIsPengShuai'. Williams added: "This must be investigated, and we must not stay silent." The Professional Tennis Players Association has called for player solidarity to defend Peng. Despite Peng being a former Olympian, the IOC has remained quiet. Kirsty Coventry, the head of an IOC's Athletes' Commission that is supposed to represent the interests of Olympic athletes, has not commented.

Djoko backs WTA's China pull-out threat

TURIN: The tennis world continues to demand to know the whereabouts and welfare of missing Chinese player Peng Shuai, who disappeared after accusing a former top Chinese official of sexually assaulting her. The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Friday threatened to pull out of the lucrative Chinese part of its tour unless it is proved that Peng is safe. "There's too many times in our world today when you get into issues like this that we let business, politics, money dictate what's right and what's wrong," WTA chairman Steve Simon said in an interview on CNN. "And we're definitely willing to pull our business and deal with all the complications that come with it because this is bigger than the business." Men's World No.1 Novak Djokovic backed that stance. He said: "It's important because this is horrifying. I mean, a person is missing. China is a huge country. It's a very important part of the world especially for the WTA. They have many tournaments there. I mean, this is necessary for us to take whatever action. I heard just now that the WTA is willing to pull out from China with all the tournaments unless this is resolved. I support it 100 per cent."

gray cat and holding a panda figurine in what appeared to be a private home with stuffed animals lined up behind her. There was no indication when the photos were taken. The chairman and CEO of the Women's Tennis Association, Steve Simon, Wednesday questioned the

legitimacy of the statement released by CGTN. Simon said it "only raises my concerns as to her safety.

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



disappearance.

peated refusals.

Peng, 35, hasn't been seen in

public since posting a statement on

social media this month accusing

Zhang Gaoli, a former member of

the party's Standing Committee,

the ruling inner circle of power, of

forcing her to have sex despite re-

Shen works for CGTN, the

English-language arm of China

Central Television that is aimed at

foreign audiences. His Twitter

post came after CGTN this week



