



STAR WEDDING

After more than a decade of courtship, actors Rajkumar Rao and Patralekha finally have tied the knot

LEISURE P2



VI, VII CLASSES RESUME

Physical classes for 6th and 7th standard resume after a gap of more than one and half years

DOWNTOWN P3



VIRTUAL SUMMIT TODAY

Xi Jinping will hold a virtual meeting with Joe Biden amid mounting tensions in bilateral ties

INTERNATIONAL P10

NOW, NIGHT POST-MORTEM IN HOSPITALS IS ALLOWED

New Delhi, Nov 15: The Centre Monday allowed conducting post-mortem after sunset in hospitals with adequate infrastructure, except in cases of homicide, suicide, rape, decomposed bodies and suspected foul play.

Referring to the development, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in a tweet in Hindi said, "An end to the system put in place by the British! Post-mortem can be conducted round-the-clock. In furtherance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's idea of good governance, the health ministry has decided that post-mortem can be con-

ducted even after sunset in hospitals which have the facility to carry out the procedure at night." "In response to the multiple references received by the Union Health Ministry from various sources and in line with the government's commitment to promote ease of living by reducing burden imposed due to

compliance to government processes, changes have been made in the post-mortem protocols to allow for the procedure to be conducted after sunset effective from today," the health ministry said. "Apart from friends and relatives of the deceased, this new procedure also promotes organ donation and

transplant as organs can be harvested in the stipulated time window after the procedure," it said. The multiple representations to the ministry in this regard were examined by a technical committee in the Directorate General of Health Services, Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

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OODLES OF COURAGE



A member of the Odisha Junior Teacher Aspirants' Association tries to scale a barricade put up by the police during the outfit's agitation for fulfilment of their two-point charter of demands at PMG Square in Bhubaneswar, Monday (Report Page 3) PHOTO: MANORANJAN MISHRA

Favourite officers get long extensions

■ A day after extending the tenure of ED and CBI chiefs, Centre has raised the tenure of Home Secy, Defence Secy, IB & RAW chiefs to five years

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 15: The central government Monday extended the tenure of the Home Secretary, Defence Secretary, Director of Intelligence Bureau and Secretary of Research and Analysis Wing for a period of two years.

According to the gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension November 15, the tenure of these officials can be extended up to five years.

"Provided also that the central government may, if it considers necessary in public interest to do so, give extension in service to the Defence Secretary, Home Secretary, Director of Intelligence Bureau, Secretary of Research and Analysis Wing and Director of Central Bureau of Investigation appointed under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 (25 of 1946) and Director of Enforcement ap-



pointed under the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 (45 of 2003) in the central government for such period or periods as it may deem proper on a case-to-case basis for reasons to be recorded in writing, subject to the condition that the total term of such Secretaries or Directors, as the case may be, who are given such extension in service under this rule, does not exceed two years or the period provided in the respective Act or rules made thereunder, under which their appointments are made," the notification read.

According to the gazette notification: "The chiefs of the central

agencies currently have a fixed two-year tenure, but the government can now give three annual extensions from case to case basis." The Union government Sunday issued a notification to extend the tenure of the Directors, Central Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement Directorate up to five years. On May 27, the Centre had extended the tenure of Intelligence Bureau Chief Arvind Kumar and Secretary, Research and Analysis Wing, Samant Kumar Goel by one year. Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla was also given an extension of one year beyond his tenure on August 12, 2021.

Women scribes held for posts get bail

Agartala: Two women journalists, who were arrested over their social media posts on the recent communal incidents in Tripura, were Monday ordered to be released on bail by a magistrate's court. Samridhi Sakunia from Jharsuguda in Odisha and Swarna Jha, both working for HW News Network, were named in an FIR at Fatikroy Police Station in Tripura Sunday on a complaint filed by a VHP supporter. Judicial magistrate Shubhra Nath granted bail to them after they were produced before the court. The two journalists were detained in Assam's Karimganj Sunday.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Please do not fail students who write absurd answers. They might leave the school and end up as our rulers!

PANCHAYAT POLLS

Spend limit for candidates up

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: Accepting the suggestions made by various political parties, the State Election Commission (SEC) has increased the poll expenditure limit for candidates contesting for sarpanch, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad members.

As per an order issued by the SEC, the poll expenditure limit for Zilla Parishad members was enhanced up to Rs 5 lakh while for Panchayat Samiti members and Sarpanch candidate, the limit was increased to Rs2 lakh.

Now, candidates contesting for Zilla Parishad members can use up to five jeeps or cars and 10 two-wheelers whereas Panchayat Samiti member nominees can use a maximum of two jeeps or cars and five two-wheelers.

Similarly, the candidates contesting for Sarpanch posts can use two jeeps or cars and five motorcycles. Use of auto-rickshaws will be allowed as well.

However, the ZP candidates will

have to submit details of the vehicles they use to the Sub-Collector whereas Panchayat Samiti Member and Sarpanch candidates will submit the details to concerned Block Development Officer (BDO). The candidates will have to disengage the vehicles from the campaigning services 36 hours prior to the polling.

Usually the voting time was from 7 am to 12 pm. This time, the voting times have been enhanced by another hour. The voting will be held from 7 am to 1 pm during the upcoming Panchayat elections.

This time, there will be a central counting at the block-level instead of booth level counting on the same day, the political parties had proposed to the SEC to extend the timing during the recently held meeting.

Many political parties had also proposed to increase the election expenditure of sarpanch and samiti member candidates from Rs 80,000 to Rs 2 lakh and to increase the amount from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh for Zilla Parishad candidates.

SC talks tough on pollution in Delhi

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 15: The Supreme Court Monday directed the Centre to hold an emergency meeting on the pollution crisis and by Tuesday decide on steps like stopping non-essential construction, transport, power plants and implementing work from home to tackle the situation, saying "the cat is out of the bag" now as the "hue and cry" over stubble burning being a big contributor was without any basis.

Ordering the Centre to hold the meeting with the secretaries concerned of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and UP, the bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana said, "In fact, now the cat is out of the bag, the farmers' stubble burning contributes to 4 percent of the pollution... So, we are targeting something which is totally insignificant".

It pulled up the city government for making 'lame excuses' and passing the buck to civic bodies for not taking emergent measures in handling the crisis.

The bench, also comprising Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant, said that construction, industry, transport, power and vehicular traffic are the major culprits in causing pollution and asked the Centre to take steps regarding these factors.

Joe Biden's ties with Kamala Harris are in crisis

■ Rumours are swirling that the US President is considering appointing Harris to Supreme Court as a backdoor method of selecting a new VP

AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 15: US President Joe Biden's ties with Vice President Kamala Harris are in crisis, with the latter's staff furious that she is being 'sidelined', while the President's team is increasingly frustrated by how Harris is playing with the American public, the Daily Mail reported. Harris's approval rating has

plunged even further than Biden's in recent months, with rumours swirling that the US President is considering appointing her to the Supreme Court as a backdoor method of selecting a new Vice President, the report said.

Harris and her top aides are reportedly frustrated with Biden for handing her 'no-win' issues like the border crisis, White House insiders told CNN.

They cited how the President defended 'white man' Pete Buttigieg, the transportation secretary, more vigorously than her. At the same time, Biden's staff are reportedly disappointed with Harris over self-inflicted controversies, like her 'awkward' laughter when asked about visiting the border by NBC's



Lester Holt. They blame her failure on the border crisis for sliding poll numbers. A new ABC News/Washington Post poll shows Biden at 53 per cent disapproval and 41 per cent ap-



proval - down 11 points from April, the report said. Publicly, the White House insists that the relationship between Biden and Harris remains harmonious and productive.

But privately, Harris's aides gripe that she's been set up to fail, and handed a portfolio that is not commensurate with her historic status as the first woman, and first woman of colour, to hold the Vice President's office, the report said.

"They're consistently sending her out there on losing issues in the wrong situations for her skill set," a former high-level Harris aide told CNN. Typically, the incumbent Vice President is considered an automatic lock for the party's next open-field presidential primary.

For the Democrats, it's not clear whether that day will come in 2024, if Biden decides not to seek reelection at the age 80, or 2028, if he runs again as he has vowed both publicly and privately.

3 front-runners for next DGP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: With the government allowing incumbent DGP Abhay to retire from services December 31, the race for the next chief of the state police has begun. The government issued a notification November 10 allowing Director General of Police (DGP) Abhay to retire December 31, 2021.

Speculations have started in the power corridor about the possible names for the next DGP of Odisha. Names of some senior most IPS officers including Pradeep Kapur, Santosh Upadhaya and Manoj Chhabra are doing the rounds.

Kapur, Abhay's 1986 batch mate, is serving as the director of the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) and has been on a central deputation since 2015.

Chhabra is working as the Special Director General of Police, Special Armed Police—Odisha while Upadhaya is the DG, Prisons and Directorate of Correctional Services. Abhay, the 1986-batch IPS, was appointed as DGP in November 2019 and scheduled to retire from service in June this year. However, the government extended his tenure by another six months as per the directive of the Supreme Court which mandated that the tenure of the state DGP should be at least two years. As Abhay's two-year tenure ends December 9, 2021, speculations are high that the government will appoint a new DGP on or before this date.

As per process, the state government will send a proposal mentioning names of senior Odisha cadre IPS officers to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The UPSC will then shortlist three officers from the state government's list and send their names for final selection. The state government then chooses one of the three shortlisted officers left with at least two years of service.

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	60718.71	↑ 32.02
NIFTY	18109.50	↑ 6.70
DOLLAR	74.38	↑ ₹0.04
EURO	85.10	↓ ₹0.01
GOLD	₹49,310	↓ ₹4
SILVER	₹66,755	↓ ₹389

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
MAX	28.7°C	28.8°C
MIN	21.1°C	21.5°C
Humidity	88%	96%
Rainfall	6.6mm	3.4mm
	Forecast Partly cloudy sky later	

leisure



DAVE GAHAN SUFFERS FROM 'IMPOSTOR SYNDROME'

Lead singer of the electronic band *Depeche Mode* Dave Gahan has just released his new covers album with Soulsavers called *Impostor*, and has said that he struggles with 'impostor syndrome' as a live performer.

TOM FELTON CAME CLOSE TO LANDING HARRY POTTER'S ROLE

Actor Tom Felton almost beat Daniel Radcliffe to his iconic role of Harry Potter. He played Draco Malfoy in the wizarding saga but director Chris Columbus, who helmed the first two movies, has revealed the makers were keen to cast him in the lead role.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
The yogis have finally succeeded in impressing you. Was it a stint in a Art of Living course? Ganesh gives you the thumbs-up and suggests you join that music or dance class you have been wanting to. Generally a nice day, and success is on the cards.

TAURUS
Ganesh sees you in a very romantic mood today. Your thoughts, tender and dreamy, will keep drifting towards someone special; someone of the opposite sex. Come evening and you will, in all likelihood, be sitting closely together, arm in arm, with your spouse or your sweetheart.

GEMINI
Maintaining the image you have created in the minds of people, as well as upholding your reputation in society will give you some anxious moments today. You will work hard to improve your social standing, and will get results by the end of the day.

CANCER
Ganesh advises you to watch your back today. However, he wants to make it clear that you may be at the receiving end of others' actions. Anyway, your cautious and watchful approach will save you from needless discomfiture.

LEO
On some days, the sun doesn't seem to have risen from the east, and neither does it seem you have gotten up on the right side of the bed. You start your day in a tensed atmosphere in the morning, caused by some annoyance on the part of one of your family members. But the day is not as bad as it seems.

VIRGO
The artist, the comedian and the showman in you are all set to take the floor today. Entertain people and set the evening ablaze with your arsenal of jokes and gags, says Ganesh. But save valuable time and energy for other pressing matters and responsibilities too.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that you will try to enhance your skill regarding new technological inventions and will want to learn about the same in your spare time. Ganesh says that if you wish to gain success you need to first leave your ego behind. Only then will you be able to stride ahead on the path to progress.

SCORPIO
You are in a mood of introspection and analysis, says Ganesh. This is likely to give you a clear vision in the days to come. Your systematic approach towards work will provide you room to think out of the box.

SAGITTARIUS
Begin your day with a renewed zest. Consider a jump case of lucrative offer. Cracking a telephonic interview may prove to be a milestone in your career path. Your dedication and determination towards your work and goals makes you a deserving employee, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Things may just fall in to your lap today. You will help those in need but will get extremely upset when the outcome is not as per your expectations, feels Ganesh. It is not an encouraging sight and it will affect your confidence adversely. But, you are over-reacting, as these disappointments are not as big as they seem.

AQUARIUS
You want to spread peace and joy all around, and today you may achieve that. You, however, may have to sacrifice your own preferences and interests to ensure that the problems get solved. It is a noble thing to play the role of peace maker, but people may take you for granted, feels Ganesh.

PISCES
Today your professional and love life will cause worry. You will want to be emotionally balanced but you may not find the time to sort things out. Long sightedness and open discussions will help resolve matters easily.

Rajkummar-Patralkha gets hitched



Mumbai: After more than a decade of courtship, actors Rajkummar Rao and Patralkha finally tied the knot. The two shared images of their intimate wedding on Instagram.

"Finally after 11 years of love, romance, friendship and fun, I got married to my everything today, my soulmate, my best friend, my family. Today there is no greater happiness for me than being called your husband @patralekhaa Here's to forever .. and beyond," the Newton actor captioned the image in

his Instagram Stories.

The actor wore a cream sherwani, while Patralkha wore a red bridal saree. Her veil had oaths of love written in her native language, Bengali.

In the photo, the two held hands and smiled at each other lovingly. Another photo had Rajkummar applied the red vermilion on his bride's forehead - a typical custom of a Hindu wedding.

The two, who worked opposite each other in Hansal Mehta's *Citylights*, were living in together for the past several years.

The couple had an intimate wedding in Chandigarh in a luxury resort that had select friends and family in attendance. Actors Huma Qureshi, Saqib Saleem, Aditi Rao Hydari reportedly represented the film industry at the do. AGENCIES

Cuttack Weds Sambalpur set for Kartika Purnima release

Bhubaneswar: Upcoming Odia film *Cuttack Weds Sambalpur* is all set to release in theatres on Kartika Purnima, Friday Sambit plays the male lead opposite debutant Sushmita Pradhan while Bapi David, with this film, is making his debut as a director.

Produced under the banner of RR Events and Cine Productions, the romantic family drama also features Kuna Tripathy Guddu, Pintu Nanda, Pradip Dehta, Raja and Mahaprasad Kar in key roles.

Ramesh Barika and K Tamanna are the producers of the movie while the story and dialogues have been penned by Jatindra Pradhan and Jitendra Seth. Baidyanath Das and Kamalesh Chakrabarty have scored the music. Major portions of the movie have been



A poster of the movie

shot in Sambalpur; Bargarh and Cuttack.

Film's story revolves around two lovers - One from Cuttack and the other from Sambalpur - and how they fall in love, reveal the makers.

Sanju's elder daughter says no to acting

Mumbai: Trishala Dutt, daughter of actor Sanjay Dutt, has passed the idea of entering the world of Hindi cinema as she said that she is 'busy building' her own legacy.

Trishala, an ardent social media user, treated her fans and followers to a question and answer session on Instagram.

A user asked her: "Do you have plans to enter into the film industry to carry on Sanjay Sir's legacy?"

She replied: "No. I'm busy building on leaving my own legacy behind."

Another user asked Trishala about her plans of getting married, to which the 33-year-old confessed that dating at

this age and day is a disaster.

"Dating in this age is a disaster. An utmost disaster. There's always someone thinking they can do better lol. I'll get married whenever I find a proper gentleman that treats me with respect, love, and appreciation that I deserve. And of course, vice-versa. Happy wife - happy life," she replied.

Trishala's verified profile has over 573K followers on the photo-sharing website. She is Sanjay's eldest child, from the late Richa Sharma. IANS



MTV EUROPEAN MUSIC AWARDS

BTS, Sheeran win big

Justin Bieber, who was the frontrunner with eight nominations, didn't win any award



Korean pop sensation *BTS* and British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran were the big winners at the 2021 MTV European Music Awards. *BTS* won the most awards, including Best Pop, Best Group, Best K-Pop and Biggest Fans, but were not on hand to collect the awards. Sheeran, who was present, won Best Artist and Best Song for *Bad Habits*, reports *variety.com*.

Italian rock band and 2021 winners of the Eurovision Song Contest *Maneskin* won Best Rock.

Show host and performer Saweetie won Best New, Nicki Minaj won Best Hip-Hop and Olivia Rodrigo Best Push.

Colombian singer Maluma who won Best Latin, said:

"Colombia is not Pablo Escobar anymore - Colombia is Maluma, baby."

YUNGBLUD won the award for Best Alternative.

"I would like to say that this award is a tribute to individualism - this is an award for the 13-year-old boy from the north of England who was absolutely terrified to be who he was," the musician said. The Best Collaboration award

went to Doja Cat ft. SZA for *Kiss Me More*, while David Guetta won Best Electronic and Billie Eilish was honoured with the Video for Good award.

Among the regional local act categories, Taylor Swift won for the US and Little Mix for the UK and Ireland.

Justin Bieber, who was the frontrunner with eight nominations, didn't win any awards.

After a virtual 2020, the event was live from the Papp Laszlo Budapest Sportarena in Hungary and aired on MTV in 180 countries. Sheeran opened the proceedings with a rendition of his latest single *Overpass Graffiti* and later on performed his hit number *Shivers*. IANS

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

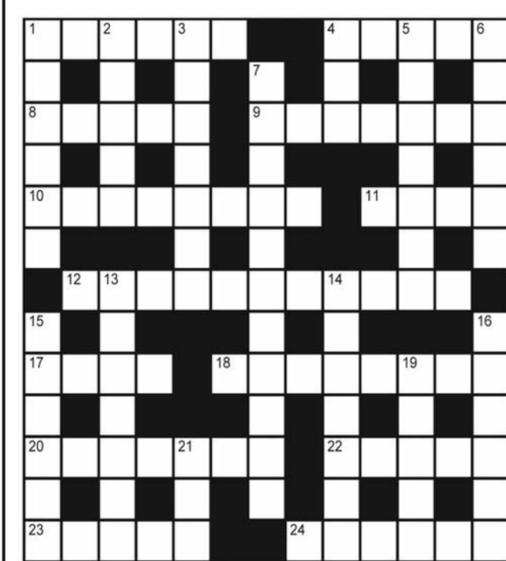


BREVITY



FUN post

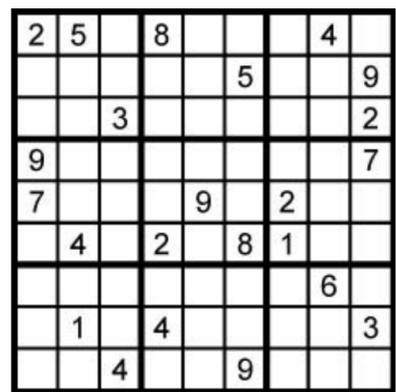
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Orts
 - 4 Wine barrels
 - 8 Scrapbook
 - 9 Better
 - 10 Paragon (5,3)
 - 11 Liberate
 - 12 Hawks and owls (5,2,4)
 - 17 Summit
 - 18 Minor to-do
 - 20 Athlete's forte
- Down**
- 22 Give the green-light
 - 23 Bracelet site
 - 24 Sporting dog
 - 1 Unsafe
 - 2 Planetary shadow
 - 3 Perplexed
 - 4 Tube top
 - 5 Bane
 - 6 Lake Vanern locale
 - 7 Some radio personalities (4,7)
 - 13 Hockey game venue (3,4)
 - 14 Share in a meal
 - 15 Most of Mauritania
 - 16 Minor rain storm
 - 19 Coastal feature
 - 21 Wrath

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

Realtor held for duping lady teacher of ₹23 lakh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: The Commissionerate Police has arrested a person from Uttar Pradesh for duping a woman teacher of ₹23 lakh on the pretext of selling her a homestead land in the City. The accused was identified as Parsuram Kandi, a native of Niali area in Cuttack district but was staying in the Capital city.

Police sources claimed that the complainant, Madhusmita Mishra, used to visit the residence of the accused at Ninth Empire Apartment in BJB Nagar here to give tuition to his son. Kandi reportedly persuaded her to purchase a land from him as he was in real estate business for long. Kandi's wife also persuaded Mishra to purchase a land from her husband.

She eventually fell in their trap and gave them ₹23 lakh through installments last year in lieu of a plot at Badagada Mouza here. However, Kandi started avoiding the victim after the receipt of the money. "After getting money Parsuram Kandi neither registered the land nor refunded the money in spite of several requests made by her," police said.

Meanwhile, Mishra stopped visiting Kandi's house after the Covid-induced lockdown was clamped in the city. Taking advantage of the situation, Kandi along with his family fled to Uttar Pradesh.

Police launched a manhunt after registering a case (231/21) on the basis of the complaint lodged by the victim July 7, 2021. Police later came to know that Kandi had also duped several others and he was involved in three others cases registered at Badagada police station. He used to invest the duped money in share market.

The accused was arrested from Muhammadabad in Uttar Pradesh by a team of Commissionerate Police. He was Monday produced before the court that sent him to judicial custody.

Teacher aspirants seek 'job or jail'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: Seeking "job or jail", several aspirants for junior teachers' posts scuffled with the police while trying to enter the premises of the Odisha Assembly Monday. At least 50 demonstrators were detained and later released, a police officer said.

The protesters, under the banner of the Odisha Junior Teachers Aspirant Union, have been staging a demonstration at the Mahatma Gandhi Road, close to the Assembly since last week.

Though more than 10,000 junior teachers' posts had been lying vacant for a long time, the state government had not issued any notification for the recruitment of junior teachers in the schools since 2016 on different alibis, Brahmananda Barik, the president of the association, claimed.

When the agitating members of the association marched towards the Assembly building, the police picked up nine of them on the charge of breaching peace on a public thoroughfare.

"We were democratically staging a peaceful agitation when the police picked up our nine friends and took them to Saheed Nagar police station. This was not acceptable to us and our members attempted to barge into the Assembly premises in protest," said Barik.

Wearing black headbands and holding placards that read 'Job or Jail', some of the protesters staged a sit-in in front of the gate with posters of BR Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi, and Bhagat Singh.

"If the government is unable to provide us jobs, send us to jail so that unemployed youths can get meals in prison," said one of the protesters.

Ahead of the Winter Session of the Assembly which commences December 1, different organisations and employees' associations have started reserving space in the MG Road area to stage demonstrations throughout the month.

Apart from junior teachers, Odisha State Motor Driver Sangh, Sanskrit Teachers' Association, and some other women organisations have already put up tents in the appropriate area to stage demonstrations during the Assembly session.

Capital administers over 26L vax doses

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: The Capital City, Monday, achieved another milestone by crossing 25 lakh Covid-19 vaccinations mark by registering a total of 26,48,813 doses administered under Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) so far.

As per sources, the vaccination drive which covers more than 1,600 people daily will be intensified under the direct supervision of Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Singh.

Till November 14, about 14,00,349 have been given the first dose of the vaccine, while 12,48,464 have received both shots. Out of it, 8,26,631 people between 18 and 44 years have got the first dose while 7,35,152 persons in this age group are fully vaccinated with both the doses.

Similarly, 4,76,284 beneficiaries of 45 years and above age group

have taken the first dose while 4,22,874 were fully vaccinated. Meanwhile, a total of 56,328 front-line workers have been administered the first dose of the vaccine while 50,534 were fully vaccinated. Moreover, 36,106 healthcare workers have taken the first dose of the vaccine while 33,204 beneficiaries were fully vaccinated.

'Har Ghar Dastak'
The BMC, Monday, stated that it would aggressively push the Union government's "Har Ghar Dastak" campaign to ensure no person is left behind in the vaccination exercise in the state capital.

A special team formed by the civic body visited around 1,075 households across the City till Monday and identified 178 unvaccinated households. Around 2,500 eligible beneficiaries were fully vaccinated.

State to get ₹442cr for energy efficiency prog



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 15: Odisha will get a total investment of ₹441.66 crore for demand side management (DSM) programme launched by ISC and EESL in partnership with four discoms (distribution companies) in the state.

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture under the Ministry of Power along with Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC), with support from P4G launched a utility-based demand side management (DSM) programme for the discoms in Odisha, a statement said.

According to the statement, a total investment of ₹441.66 crore has been planned in the state in a phased manner. EESL will be taking up all the upfront and initial investment for implementation of the project and the same shall be recovered from the participating consumers in a period of 3-5 years.

The utility-based DSM project, when implemented, will generate financial savings of ₹12-13 crore for the discoms of Odisha apart from associated incentives. Further, it will lead to savings of ₹73.57 crore for the consumers of discoms.

"To address the country's acute power deficit, utilities are con-

The programme aims to accelerate adoption of energy efficient technologies to reduce energy consumption as well as greenhouse gas emissions

fronted with the task of improving end-use energy efficiency and managing power demands for sustainable growth. This has made the utility-based DSM Programme in Odisha a vital enabler for improving the financial viability of discoms.

"Consumers too will benefit from the programme through lower energy consumption and reduced energy costs," said Energy department principal secretary Nikunjia Bihari Dhal.

Through DSM, Odisha will be able to address the rising power supply costs, energy subsidies, climate change, environmental degradation and energy security concerns. The programme will also result in seasonal peak demand reduction, energy savings and reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases.

"With growing energy con-

sumption in Odisha, fueled by urbanisation and the development of industries and infrastructure, the utility-based DSM programme will prove to be a highly effective mechanism to ensure energy efficiency. Demand side management comes with an array of benefits and we want them to reach consumers as well as discoms," said OERC chairman UN Behera.

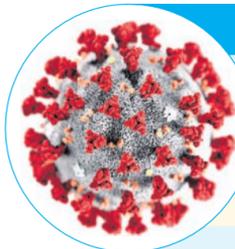
Odisha was considered the pilot project, based on the interest shown by TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) and TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL) during the initial planning stage.

The DSM programme aims to accelerate adoption of energy efficient technologies to reduce energy consumption as well as GHG emissions. This programme is further being planned in Jharkhand and Telangana.

The programme aims to replace around 4.5 lakh old fans with super-efficient fans with an investment of ₹86.55 crore. A further replacement of around 45,000 of old ACs with super energy efficient ACs with an investment of ₹223.83 crore and replacement of around 14,370 old motors with IE3 Motors with an investment of ₹131.28 crore will also be undertaken.

NEW START

Congress leader from Khurda's Begunia Pradeep Sahoo joins BJD in presence of party leaders at BYJD office in Unit-VI area of Bhubaneswar, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	25,42,25,024	22,98,51,559	51,18,482
India	3,44,47,536	3,38,49,785	4,63,655
Odisha	10,45,656	10,34,759	8,379



PANCHAKA BEGINS

Girls draw rangoli near the Mangala Temple in Shankarpur area of Cuttack on the first day of Panchaka, a five-day ritual that marks the culmination of the holy month of Kartik, Monday

OP PHOTO

Classroom teaching for VI, VII resumes

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: After a gap of more than one-and-a-half years, physical classes for 6th and 7th standard students resumed in the state Monday.

The schools reopened for Classes VI and VII students with strict adherence to the Covid-19 norms. The classes started at 9:30am and continued till 1pm. Classes will continue on all the days excluding Sundays and public holidays. There will be no recess or lunch hour, officials said.

The classrooms have been sanitised prior to reopening. "After conducting thermal scanning and ensuring wearing of masks, students have been allowed to attend school. After completion of teaching, they were allowed to go home at 1 pm," said Rajeswari Raypritiyam, headmistress, Unit VIII Boy's High School.

BJEM School principal Sandhya Jena said, "We've got consent letter for physical classes from more than 50 per cent of the parents of Class VI and VII which is a positive sign."

The students expressed happiness over reopening of the schools. "Physical teaching has no alternative. It's easier to understand a subject while attending physical classes than online. I'm happy to attend the classes physically and to meet friends and teachers," said a girl student of Unit-III Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir of Bhubaneswar.

BASELINE ASSESSMENT
The Directorate of Teacher Education and SCERT directed the OSEPA Monday to carry out baseline assessment of Class VI and VII students with reopening of schools.

The baseline question papers in Odia, English and Mathematics have been developed by the Directorate of TE and SCERT. Assessment may be done as per following schedule i.e. Odia November 22, English November 23 and Mathematics November 24. Instructional design suggested for Class VIII students may be followed for both Class VI and VII students.

Won't allow Mishra into Assembly: Oppn

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: Intensifying their protest against Minister of State (MoS) for Home, Dibya Shankar Mishra over Mamita Meher murder case, Opposition Congress and BJP Monday said they would not allow Mishra to enter the Assembly during the Winter Session that would commence December 1.

Mishra is in the eye of storm for his alleged proximity with Gobinda Sahu, the prime accused in the murder case.

Senior Congress legislator Santosh Singh Saluja said, "We will urge Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik not to allow Mishra into the House as direct allegations of murder and sex scandal have been levelled against him by Mamita Meher's parents."

If such a person enters the House, it will lose its sanctity and dignity, he said.

"We will strongly protest against the minister and will not allow him to sit on the floor," threatened the Congress leader, adding further strategies will be chalked out at the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting.

Jatni MLA Suresh Routray (Congress) said since there are allegations of involvement of the minister in Mamita murder case, he would not be allowed to enter the sacred House.

Supporting the stand of Congress, BJP MLA Kusum Tete said her party is also not in favour of allowing the MoS into the Assembly.

"If Mishra, against whom allegations have been levelled in a murder case, enters into the House, the dignity of Assembly will be damaged," she said.

Reacting to the allegations made by Opposition parties, senior BJD



We will urge Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik not to allow Mishra into the House as direct allegations of murder and sex scandal have been levelled against him by Mamita Meher's parents

SANTOSH SINGH SALUJA | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER



Unless the allegations against the minister are established, no one has the rights to disallow an elected representative into the Assembly in a democratic set-up

ASWINI PATRA | BJD MLA

MLA Aswini Patra said, "Unless the allegations against the minister are established, no one has the rights to disallow an elected representative into the Assembly in a democratic set-up."

If there is an actual involvement of the minister, inquiry will find it out and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will take the call as he heads the Home department, Patra said.

The ruling party will chalk out a detailed plan on how to counter the Opposition parties in this issue during the BJD Legislature Party meeting, he added.

Munda fought for protection of tribal rights: PM

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 15: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday paid tributes to revered tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda on his birth anniversary.

On the occasion, Modi also greeted the residents of Jharkhand, which was formed on Munda's birth anniversary in 2000. Noting that the state enjoys a historical identity and has a distinct culture, the Prime Minister wished that the land of Lord Birsa Munda advances in the development journey. Modi said Munda always struggled to protect the rights of tribes and to give impetus to the fight for independence.

His contribution to the country will always be memorable, he said in a tweet. Later in the day, the Prime Minister paid floral tributes at the statue of Munda in Parliament complex on his birth anniversary.

The government has announced that Munda's birth anniversary will be celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas. After paying tributes at the statue of the tribal leader, Prime Minister Modi left for Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh to participate in the



PM Narendra Modi & other senior leaders pay tributes to Birsa Munda on the freedom fighter's birth anniversary in Parliament complex, Monday OP PHOTO

'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas Mahasammelan' and launch multiple initiatives for the tribal community. Earlier, Modi launched 'Bhagwan Birsa Munda Smriti Udhyan Sah Swatantrata Sangrahalaya' in Ranchi virtually. The museum has been built in association with the Jharkhand government at the Old Central Jail in Ranchi, where the tribal freedom fighter had sacrificed his life.

The museum will also highlight other tribal freedom fighters asso-

ciated with different movements such as Shahid Budhu Bhagat, Sidhu-Kanhu, Nilambar-Pitambar, Diwa-Kisun, Telanga Khadiya, Gaya Munda, Jatra Bhagat, Poto H, Bhagirath Manjhi and Ganga Narayan Singh. The museum will have a 25-ft statue of Munda and nine-ft statues of other freedom fighters of the region as well. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has so far sanctioned the construction of 10 tribal freedom fighter museums.

Naveen pays tribute to Birsa Munda

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday paid rich tribute to prominent tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda on the occasion of the legendary leader's birthday.

Taking to twitter, Patnaik said, "My tribute to brave freedom fighter and tribal leader Saheed Birsa Munda on his birth anniversary.

His bravery and courage was exemplary in the history of freedom struggle of India. His struggle for protection of tribal interest and rights will always remain as a source of inspiration."

India's largest hockey stadium, which is coming up at Rourkela in Odisha's Sundargarh district, has been named after the tribal hero

Birsa Munda, who is also referred as 'Dharti Aaba' (God on earth). The stadium will host the 2023 Men's FIH Hockey World Cup.

Birsa Munda united the tribals against the British and forced the colonial rulers to introduce laws protecting the land rights of the tribals.

He spearheaded the tribal Millenarian movement that arose in the erstwhile Bengal Presidency comprising western districts of Bengal, Bihar and Odisha.

Munda was born November 15, 1875, in Chhotanagpur plateau of present-day Jharkhand. He had organised his first protest march for remission of forest dues during the great famine of 1895.

The prominent tribal leader was arrested March 3, 1900, while taking rest with his guerrilla army at Jamkopai forest in Chakradharpur. He died in Ranchi jail June 9 that year aged 25.



Birsa Munda birth anniversary celebration in progress at I&PR department hall in Bhubaneswar, Monday OP PHOTO

NHRC moved seeking ₹15L aid for rape survivor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: A City-based rights activist Monday filed a petition before the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) seeking payment of ₹15 lakh as compensation to a gang rape survivor of Nimapara area in Puri district.

The activist urged the commission to instruct the government to pay the compensation amount and send documentary proof in this regard within three weeks.

He also urged the commission to direct the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) of Puri district to take stringent action against the culprits and send Action Taken Report (ATR), charge sheet and medical examination reports within three weeks.

The lady had reportedly gone to an open field near her village Friday evening to answer the nature's call. The accused persons who were roaming around nearby the place spotted the lady standing alone on the bank of a river running near the village. They forcefully took her to a secluded place nearby and sexually abused her.

Meanwhile, the delay in her return raised suspicion in the mind of her husband who reached the spot searching for her. The accused fled the spot after seeing her husband. The man rescued his wife and filed a complaint at the local police station. Subsequently, police arrested the four individuals.

BMC ban on Bada Osha celebrations

Bhubaneswar: BMC Monday issued an order imposing restrictions on congregation of people at river ghats and other water bodies in the Capital city for Bada Osha and Kartika Purnima celebrations. The civic authority issued the order in view of the novel coronavirus still prevalent in the Capital city. During celebration of Bada Osha and Kartik Purnima, people in large numbers flock to Bindusagar Lake and various other water bodies to take holy dip in the wee hours and sail miniature boats. The BMC instructed that visit to temples will also be restricted. The order warned that persons found violating the order will be punished under relevant laws.

WASSUP TODAY

BHUBANESWAR
National Press Day by National Journalist Welfare Board, Soochana Bhawan, 4pm to 9pm

CUTTACK

Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Children's Science Congress, KMBB Science Higher Secondary School, Naranpur, Trisulia, 10:30am

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.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before the Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, I, Bhimasen Sahoo have changed my name to Biimaasen Sahoo. Henceforth, I shall be known as Biimaasen Sahoo instead of Bhimasen Sahoo for all purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit before Notary Public, Kendrapara, on 28.09.2010, I have changed my name from NINI to NINI MAHARANA. Henceforth, I shall be known as NINI MAHARANA for all purposes.

JHARSUGUDA THERMAL POWER PLANT

MoEF asked to file affidavit in 3 weeks

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 15: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) Monday granted three weeks time to the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) to file its affidavit on an application that challenged environmental clearance (EC) given to a thermal power plant in Jharsuguda.

A bench of Judicial Member B Amit Sthalekar and Expert Member Saibal Dasgupta also asked the Odisha government to file its affidavit within three weeks while posting the matter for hearing to January 3 next year.

Significantly, an application has been filed in the tribunal seeking quashing of the environmental clearance given to thermal power plant at Talabira in Jharsuguda.

The appellant contended that the environmental impact assessment was made but various factors have not been taken into consideration.

The environment watchdog noted that the appellant highlighted the inadequacies in the report of the sub-committee constituted by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) which, according to him, was not considered by the EAC while granting the Environmental Clearance.

The applicant further alleged that the thermal plant is being set up in a critically polluted area. Moreover, impacts on ambient air quality, water bodies, land health and others have not been studied well in the EIA report, the applicant argued.

FOGGY MORNING



Motorists negotiate a fog-covered road in Bhubaneswar, Monday morning

OP PHOTO

Stay on CB's Cuttack fake drug case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 15: The Orissa High Court Monday ordered a stay on the proceedings of the sensational spurious anti-Covid drug trade case related to Medilloyd Medicant Private Limited by the Special Judge Court here till further instructions.

Justice Sashikanta Mishra ordered the stay while hearing a plea filed by Medilloyd Medicant Private Limited's managing director Siba Prasanna Jena August 5. The court has scheduled the next hearing for December 13.

In his petition, Jena had informed the HC that the drugs control squad has registered a case related to the fake drugs with the SDJM Court here, while another case related to the issue has been filed by the Crime Branch (CB) with the Special Judge Court here. "Under provisions of law, trial of an offence cannot be done by separate courts simultaneously," Jena had said, urging the HC to quash the case registered by the CB with the Special Judge Court here.

The drugs control squad had recovered fake medicines, including Favipiravir, worth ₹69 lakh following a raid at Jena's Medilloyd Medicant Private Limited at Kanika Square here June 11 this year. It was alleged that Jena's firm used to procure medicines at much cheaper price from Max Relief Healthcare in Mumbai and sell those at exorbitant prices.

Brown sugar worth ₹25L seized; 1 held

Bhubaneswar: The Commissionerate Police has apprehended a drug peddler from Canal Road in Laxmisagar area here and seized brown sugar worth around ₹25 lakh. The arrested, identified as Khirud Kumar Sahu alias Gagu, 35, is a resident of Plot No-1184 at Laxmisagar Upasahi. A team of Laxmisagar police Sunday carried out a raid at Santoshi Vihar on Canal Road and intercepted the accused. During the search, the police seized 260 gram brown sugar, worth around ₹25 lakh, from his possession.

Below 200 nCoV cases after 9 days

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: Odisha's daily Covid-19 infection figure dropped below 200 mark after a gap of nine days as the state logged 185 new cases on Monday taking the tally to 10,45,656 while two fresh fatalities pushed the coronavirus death toll to 8,379, a Health department official said.

The 185 new cases included 35 children and adolescents in the age group of 0 to 18 years. The rate of infection among children and adolescents now stands at 18.91 per cent against the previous day's 16.03 per cent.

The state November 5 had reported 170 new cases. While the number of new cases Sunday was 262, it stood at 247 Saturday, 263 Friday, 271 Thursday and 387



PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

Wednesday.

Of the 185 new cases, Khurda district of which the state capital Bhubaneswar is a part reported the highest 76 cases followed by 18 in Sambalpur and 14 in Cuttack. Twelve districts did not report any new cases during last 24 hours.

As 185 people tested positive for infection out of 56,857 samples tested Sunday, the daily test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.32 per cent. The TPR was 0.43 per cent Sunday, 0.40 per cent Saturday, 0.39 per cent Friday, 0.43 per cent Thursday and 0.60 per cent

SC tells DMs to identify Covid orphans for PM-Cares benefits

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Monday directed District Magistrates and Collectors in all states including Odisha to identify children eligible for benefits under PM CARES fund and share the details with the Union government. A two-judge bench of the SC comprising Justices L. Nageswara Rao and BR Gavai observed that it is the duty of the state governments to identify and approve children eligible for benefits under PM Cares for Children scheme so that the Union government can release financial support for them. The bench also asked the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aishwarya Bhati to file a status report giving details of the financial support provided in response to applications received under PM Cares for Children scheme so far. ASG Bhati submitted that 4,848 applications have been received so far and out of that, a total of 1,719 have been approved by the DMs. The ASG further submitted in the court that accounts had been opened for those aged above 18 years, and joint accounts are being opened with DMs for minors.

Wednesday. The Health and Family Welfare department said that two patients from Khurda district, including a 66-year-old woman from Bhubaneswar, died

taking the Covid-19 death toll to 8,379 Monday. This apart, 53 other Covid-19 patients have also died due to comorbidities, he said.

LORD'S FAV

Special tulsi leaves from Patali Sriketra in Subarnapur district reach Srimandir in Puri, Monday

OP PHOTO

Top rank for SAI International in All India School survey

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: The SAI International School here has secured the top rank in the category of All India Day-cum-boarding Schools of 2021-22 of the 15th Annual Education World India School Rankings survey conducted by Education World in association with Centre for Forecasting and Research Pvt Ltd which was released in Bangalore Monday.

Apart from SAI, ODM Public School has got 14th rank in Day-cum-boarding Schools category.

In another category, Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya (OAV) at Hatiota in Ganjam district secured 10th rank nationwide in Government Day Schools category while in Government Boarding Schools cat-

egory, OAV of Patharchepa in Bolangir district got 10th rank.

Likewise, DAV Public School at Unit VIII here got 75th rank in Top Co-Ed school category.

The 15th annual Education World India School Rankings (EWISR) 2021-22 survey, Part-I survey rates and ranks the country's top 3,000 schools in three main and seven sub-categories.

Part-I of the survey covered league tables of India's Top Day Schools: Co-ed, Day-cum-boarding, all Boys and all Girls schools, as well as Government Day & Boarding schools and Special Needs schools, was released Monday.

In Part-II, League tables of Legacy Boarding schools (Co-ed, all boys, exclusively girls), new genre International schools (Day, Day-

cum-boarding and wholly Residential) and Budget Private and pre-primary schools will be released December 15.

Founder-editor of Education World Dilip Thakore said, "In the year of the Covid pandemic during which all schools were under lockdown for over 60 weeks, two new parameters - 'online education effectiveness' and 'mental and emotional well-being services' - have been added. No country has such an extensive and comprehensive primary-secondary school ranking survey that provides insights into ways and means to continuously raise teaching-learning standards for the greater good of the community and country. We are proud to present the world's largest and most sophisticated school rankings survey."

Pupils' mental health paramount post Covid: Study

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: The prolonged school closure and movement restriction have caused fear, anxiety, stress and social bearings among children. Therefore, with schools reopened for Class VI and VII from November 15 in state, addressing the mental wellbeing of these children will play a crucial role in helping them overcome psychological distress and adjust smoothly in a post-Covid classroom.

This was reported Monday by an online study collaboratively conducted by City based Atmashakti Trust and Odisha Shramajeebe Mancha. The study was conducted on 2,219 school going children of Class 1 to 8 from 84 blocks of 16 rural districts.

The report says, "Almost half of children (49.8 per cent) reportedly

could not get required support from their family members in their emotional, social as well as learning needs during the pandemic.

Most importantly, out of the 2,219 children, 91.5 per cent were from government-run schools, 84.7 per cent were from schools under School and Mass Education (S&ME) department and 6.8 per cent were from schools managed by ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare department.

Lack of access to online education also played a major role in children's elevated mental stress. Over 94 per cent children interviewed for the study reported that they did not have access to a smart phone, making their learning difficult and stressful. Online education was attended merely by 10.2 per cent of the sampled children.

According to the study, 68.9 per cent children said there was no connection between them and their teachers during the school closure period

Even more shockingly, 73.2 per cent children reported that they experienced mental and physical abuse during the pandemic



PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

Also, 47.3 per cent children said that they were engaged in household work to support their families

Even 17 per cent of children, who attended online classes anyway, showed their discontent say-

ing that it was challenging for them on many fronts. While 12.8 per cent of them reported that they

could not interact with teachers or ask questions in fear of being bullied, 14.7 per cent of them felt embarrassed to ask a question as none of them were prepared for the concept of online classes.

According to the study report,

As schools reopen, there is an emergent need for an action plan to address the mental wellbeing of children, especially those from marginalised communities who were mostly left out of any support during the pandemic

RUCHI KASHYAP | EXECUTIVE TRUSTEE, ATMASHAKTI TRUST

68.9 per cent children said there was no connection between them and their teachers during the prolonged school closure period.

Even though school closure was essential to reduce the transmission of Covid-19 among children, it affected their social behaviour badly. Even more shockingly, 73.2 per cent children reported that they experienced mental and physical abuse during the pandemic. Also, 47.3 per cent children said that they were engaged in household work to support their families.

"As schools reopen, there is an emergent need for an action plan to address the mental wellbeing of children, especially those from marginalised communities who were mostly left out of any support during the pandemic," said Ruchi Kashyap, Executive Trustee of Atmashakti Trust.

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SHORT TAKES

Similipal Park closed for tourists

Baripada: Similipal National Park in Mayurbhanj will remain closed for visitors until further orders due to unseasonal rain and dense fog in the region following a low pressure system formed over south Andaman Sea, the park authorities informed Monday. According to the park's deputy director Sai Kiran DN, the restriction has been imposed with immediate effect from November 15. The proactive step was taken as a measure to prevent any untoward incident. Usually, a large number of tourists from the state and outside visit the national park during winter, Sai Kiran clarified. "Most trails in the park have become slushy and a thick blanket of fog engulfs the national park. It could become dangerous for the visitors. Hence, we decided to keep the visitors away from the biosphere reserve," the deputy director said. The park authorities have not specified any date regarding reopening.

₹1.07 cr Covid aid not distributed

Balasure: As many as 7,176 construction workers in Balasure district are yet to receive the Covid assistance money allegedly due to the lackadaisical attitude of the block authorities. Hence, assistance money amounting to ₹1.07 crore is lying undistributed. In 2020, each district was provided ₹9,51,45,000 to be distributed among construction workers as Covid assistance money. The BDOs were entrusted with the job of distributing ₹1,500 to each of the 63,430 construction workers who had renewed their registration. It is said that while some of these left out workers have migrated to other states, some others are yet to be traced and many have their names in the list of neighbouring blocks. These factors are being ascribed for the sanction money not being distributed. When contacted, assistant district Labour Officer Sanjay Keshari Pradhan said the money is lying undistributed because, except for Bhogarai and Soro, authorities in the remaining 10 blocks have not submitted their reports yet.

JCB driver crushed to death

Nayagarh: In a freak mishap, a JCB driver lost his life Monday after he was crushed to death under a huge stone while working at a quarry in Puania area under Sarankul police limits in Nayagarh district. The deceased has been identified as Sushant Das of Odsinga village under Narsinghpur police limits in Cuttack district. According to sources, the incident occurred while stone mining was being undertaken at a quarry in Puania. Sushant was trying to knock down a big stone that rolled down and fell directly on the JCB, crushing him to death at the spot. However, Sushant's family and locals suspected foul play and are questioning whether the death was caused by a rolling stone or following a blast in the quarry. Furthermore, his family that alleged of illegal stone mining is going on without any check at the quarry. Meanwhile, police have seized the body and sent it for post-mortem. An investigation has been launched to find the reason behind Sushant's death.

Man held for rape on pretext of marriage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 15: A man was arrested in Ganjam district Monday for allegedly raping a 21-year-old woman on the pretext of marrying her and forcibly terminating her pregnancy.

The 22-year-old accused was arrested after the woman filed a complaint with the police Monday. Aska police station inspector PK Sahoo said. The woman in her complaint alleged that the man had raped her several times since 2019 after promising to marry her.

The last time he had allegedly sexually exploited her inside a shrub on the bank of a river was February 30 this year, the woman said.

When she became pregnant, the



person terminated her pregnancy by administering some medicines and threatened to kill her if she reported the matter to the police, the woman said in the complaint.

The woman had come in contact with the man in 2018 and he used to frequently visit her residence as a neighbour, police said.

"We have registered a case based on the complaint and started an investigation," Sahoo said. A medical examination of the accused and the victim has been conducted, he said.

New storm over Kharasrota project

AN RTI QUERY REVEALED THAT NO LAND HAS BEEN ACQUIRED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT FOR THE PROJECT ON KHARASROTA RIVER NEAR BARUNADIHA VILLAGE IN KENDRAPARA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Nov 15: A fresh controversy has erupted over the ₹892-crore Kharasrota mega drinking water project after an RTI query revealed that no land has been acquired by the state government for the project on Kharasrota river near Barunadiha village in Kendrapara.

In response to the RTI query, local residents alleged that the information has exposed the adamant attitude of the government officials towards forcible execution of the disputed project, despite vehement opposition by the locals and in apparent violation of the prescribed guidelines.



FILE PHOTO

According to sources, the information was recently made public by the District Collectorate in response to an RTI application filed by activist Pratap Chandra Mohanty. Land acquisition for the project has not been carried out yet, the sources said.

"Land for the mega drinking water project on Kharasrota river under Rajkanika tehsil of Kendrapara district and under Chandbali tehsil of Bhadrak district has not been acquired yet by the undersigned land acquisition officer (LAO). Hence, the sought information could not be provided," the official communication provided in response to the RTI application read.

The government had earlier claimed that it has carried out an environmental and social impact study for the mega project.

"I had filed an RTI application seeking information from IIT-Hyderabad. The institute clearly informed that Megha Engineers & Infrastructure Limited (executing agency of the project) carried out the EIA study and submitted a 122-page report. IIT-Hyderabad only vetted the report, which means it made some corrections," the RTI activist and convener of Kendrapara Zilla Suchana Adhikar Abhiyan (KZSAA) stated.

On being contacted, Kendrapara Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) executive engineer Basant

Farmers spend sleepless nights to save crops



POST NEWS NETWORK

Binika, Nov 15: Farmers are spending sleepless nights guarding their ready-to-harvest as well as harvested crops from boars and elephants in Binika area of Subarnapur district.

Since there is no let up in boar and elephant menace, these days the farmers have been forced to spend sleepless nights to save their crops. For last couple of days, hundreds of boars from Bhandara, Papi,

Singhijuba, Jamapali, Kadalipali and Chulimali reserve forests under Binika range are raiding the paddy fields and destroying the ripe crops in the farmlands.

Adding to their woes, elephants from Ulunda forest are frequently raiding Binika after crossing the Mahanadi river. These pachyderms are causing extensive damage to the crops and are not sparing even the harvested crops kept in farmyards.

When it comes to saving their

AS IF THE WILD ANIMALS' MENACE WAS NOT ENOUGH, THE INCLEMENT WEATHER HAS ALSO BEEN PLAYING SPOILSPORT

crops; thinking about their health is the last thing on the farmers' minds. Braving winter and mosquito menace, they are guarding their crops at their farmlands and farmyards, remaining awake all through the night. Some have erected *manchas* (wooden platforms) from where they are keeping an eye on their crops below.

As if the wild animals' menace was not enough, the inclement weather has also been playing spoilsport. With the paddy procurement centres yet to open in Binika area, hundreds of farmers, who have already harvested their crops, are in a fix. The unseasonal rain has aggravated the situation. They apprehend that the harvested paddy they have saved from marauding animals would be damaged due to the moisture in the atmosphere.

The farmers are yet to receive their assistance money for the crops they lost to boars last year. This year, these animals have already

LOST LABOUR



Farmers of Kabisuryanagar area in Ganjam district showing their paddy crop damaged by unseasonal rain to visiting officials and demanding compensation

Nayak expressed his ignorance over the issue pertaining to land acquisition for the mega project. Reacting to the issue, the legislator of Aul, Pratap Keshari Deb, said no land acquisition is required for the drinking water project.

It is pertinent to mention here that the state government had previously said, in response to another RTI application, that the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) study for execution of the drinking water project was carried out by Megha Engineers & Infrastructure Ltd, Hyderabad. Subsequently, the state government's claim was refuted by Professor Shashidhar of IIT-Hyderabad. He clarified in his statement that the government did not, at all, request the IIT for any EIA study.

Ownership of a 70 decimal land where the project is being constructed has been recorded in the name of Kharasrota mega drinking water project and a person named Sheikh Hussein Basa is the trustee.

Tender process for the mega project was completed two years ago. Construction work was started by Kendrapara administration despite protest from the Kharasrota Banchao Sangram Samiti. The local outfit alleged that the project would create water shortage in the area.

The farmers of Sindurapur, Babupali, Bankighardi, Singhijuba and Papi demanded that the administration consider their problem seriously and take steps to open the paddy procurement centres at the earliest and assess their crop loss.

When contacted, Binika ranger Sibaprasad Nayak said the affected farmers would be compensated for the damages caused by wild animals last year and the current year.

Surveillance cameras at Bhitarkanika

Kendrapara: The authorities of Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara district Monday started installation of cameras in the second phase. The cameras are being installed to monitor the movement of animals and to curb poaching. According to a senior forest official, the department had installed 20 sophisticated cameras in the first phase. A total of 300 cameras are to be installed in the park during the 2021-22 fiscal, under the All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) Project, the source stated. The surveillance cameras in the second phase were installed at Barunei, Dobandhi, Thakuradia and Angari forests under Rajnagar range. The cameras can run for 24 hours at a stretch and also can store video footage for a month.

NOTICE				
TATA STEEL LONG PRODUCT LTD				
Regd. Office : Bombay House 24, Horni Mody Street, Fort, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400 001				
NOTICE: Is hereby given that the certificate[s] for the under mentioned securities of the Company (Erstwhile Tata Sponge Iron Ltd) has/have been lost/ mislaid and the holders of the said securities/ applicants has/ have applied to the Company to issue duplicate certificate [s]/				
Any person who has a claim in respect of the said securities should lodge such claim with the Company at its Registered Office within 15 days from this date, else the Company will proceed to issue duplicate certificate [s] without further intimation.				
Name(s) of the share holder(s)	Kind of securities and face value	Certificate No(s)	Distinctive Nos. From - To	No. of Securities
Late Kesavulu Tanguturu Husband of Vasanthakumari Tanguturu	EQUITY SHARE Rs.10/- per share	00044633	8351151 - 8351200	50
Total :				50
Place: Chennai				
Date: 16-11-2021				
Late Kesavulu Tanguturu Husband of Vasanthakumari Tanguturu Name(s) of the share holder(s) / Applicants				

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
KHORDHA DIVISION
Email: dfokhordha@gmail.com
INVITATION FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. 02/2021-22

No. MM-243

1. Name of the work	: Construction of Different Buildings.
2. Total no. of Works	: 07 Nos.
3. Estimated cost	: Rs.10,75,000.00 to 23,72,000 (Approx)
4. Class of Contractor	: As Per TCN
5. Period of Completion	: 3 1/2 (Three & Half Calendar Months)
6. Type of tender	: Single Cover Tender
7. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal	: From 11.00 A.M. of Dt.17.11.2021 to 17.00 hrs of dt.26.11.2021
8. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	: Dt.26.11.2021 upto 17.00 hrs
9. Submission of Original documents (TP cost, EMD, Affidavit etc. as per DTCN)	: During office hours from 10.30 A.M. on dt.29.11.2021 to dt.30.11.2021 upto 17.00 hrs in the office of the undersigned.
10. Date of opening of Bid through online	: Dt.01.12.2021 at 11.00 hrs in the office of the undersigned.
11. Name & Address of the O.I.T (Officer Inviting Tender)	: Divisional Forest Officer, Khordha Division, Khordha

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>
N.B. Subsequent corrigendum/addendum if required shall be available in the website as indicated above.
Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer
Khordha Division, Khordha
OIPR-08035/11/0005/2122

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. A-620
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
BURLA IRRIGATION DIVISION, BURLA
PHONE NO. 0663-2430445;
E-mail id: sambalpurirrigation@rediffmail.com

'e' Tender Call Notice No. BID-04/2021-22 (Online)

1. Nature of Works	: Renovation of H.R. Gate/ VRB/ Foot Bridge
2. Nos. of works	: 05 (Five) Nos.
3. Amount Put to Tender	: Rs.6.78 Lakhs to 16.35 Lakhs Approximately.
4. Period of Completion	: As per D.T.C.N.
5. Date and Time of availability of Bid Document in the Portal	: Dt: 16.11.2021 at 11.00 PM to Dt: 25.11.2021 upto 5.30 PM.
6. Last Date / Time for receipt of Bids in the Portal	: Dt: 25.11.2021 upto 5.30 PM.
7. Date of opening of Bid	: Dt: 26.11.2021 at 11.00 AM.
8. Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	: Dt: 25.11.2021 upto to 04.00 PM.
9. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Superintending Engineer, Burla Irrigation Division, Burla A/Po- Burla - 768017, Dist.- Sambalpur Email id: sambalpurirrigation@rediffmail.com

Further detail can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer,
Burla Irrigation Division, Burla
OIPR-32129/11/0010/2122

'Missing' for 26 years, man reunites with family

POST NEWS NETWORK

Soro, Nov 15: A 36-year-old man, who went missing in 1995, reunited with his family at Sadhuapada village under Soro block in Balasure district leaving all villagers teary-eyed.

Satyananda Nayak's family comprised five members - himself, his wife Basanti, two daughters and a son. His son, Satyanada, fondly called Sania, is the eldest.

Sania was 10 years old when he went missing from near his house where he was playing with his friends. Not finding him, the family members searched for Sania at all possible places but failed. The family did everything possible to trace Sania's whereabouts. They visited temples and shrines and consulted fortune-tellers, but all in vain.

However, Basanti had not lost hope and



her faith on God. She spent these 26 years praying for the safe return of her son.

Finally, her prayers were answered.

Some locals first spotted Sania roaming at Soro railway station Sunday. They immediately informed this to

Satyananda's family. Without losing a moment, family members and relatives went to the railway station and brought him back to the village.

The subsequent series of scenes made everyone emotional. Seeing his mother after a long gap, Sania couldn't help crying, resting his head in Basanti's lap, with the latter also sobbing.

Sania could recognise his childhood friends and asked about some others who were not in the village.

When asked what led to his missing, he said he mistakenly got onto a train at Soro railway station and found himself in Kolkata. From there, he went to Gujarat and then to Punjab. Before coming to Soro, he worked at a private company in Delhi. He said the love for birth place and the affection of family members and relatives brought him back to Sadhuapada village.

Central Bank of India
Regional Office: Plot No.: 108-B, 1st Floor, Unit - VII, Surya Nagar, Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of the Central Bank of India** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the following Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notices. The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Central Bank of India** for an amount stated and interest thereon. **The Borrower's/Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

NAYACHOVK BRANCH/ Name of the Account / Borrowers & Address	Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor /Mortgagor	Amount demanded in Securitisation Notice/ Possession Notice	Date of Securitisation Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of Mortgaged / Charged Property
1) Mr. Bibhupada Mohapatra, S/o: Pradipta Kumar Mohapatra, 2) Mrs. Jyotsnamayi Mohapatra, W/o: Pradipta Kumar Mohapatra, At: Ranihat, Sagadia Mohapatra, P.S./P.O.: Sagadia Sahi, P.S./P.O.: Mangalabag, Cuttack-753001	Mr. Pradipta Kumar Mohapatra, S/o: Mr. Nabakishore Mohapatra, At: Ranihat, Sagadia Mohapatra, P.S./P.O.: Mangalabag, Cuttack-753001	₹39,05,905/- as on 11.04.2021 / ₹ 40,69,533/- as on 08.11.2021 plus interest thereon & other expenses etc.	12.04.2021 / 11.11.2021	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Cuttack Town, Unit No.: 23, Samanta Sahi, P.S.: Mangalabag, PS No.: 4, Tahasil: Cuttack Sadar No.: 217, District: Cuttack, Khata No.: 1205/808, Plot No.: 1963/3666, Area: Ac.0.009 Dec., standing in the name of Mr. Pradipta Kumar Mohapatra, Bounded by East: Part Plot No.: 1963, West: Plot No.: 1964, South: Plot No.: 1962, North: Plot No.: 1963(P) allotted to Pravat Kumar Mohapatra

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 15.11.2021
Authorised Officer, Central Bank of India

FOCUS CLIMATE ACTION

RICH WORLD'S HYPOCRISY



Rich-country governments have previously made too many empty climate promises, undermining the interests of developing countries that have contributed little to climate change

figure massively overstated the actual flows from developed-country governments, because bilateral public climate finance (which should have been provided to the developing world under the Paris accord) averaged less than \$27 billion per year. The remainder came from multilateral institutions – including development banks – and private finance, which rich-country governments sought to take credit for mobilising. Compared to this paltry sum, global fossil-fuel subsidies amounted to an estimated \$555 billion per year from 2017 to 2019. Likewise, the rich world's promises of green technology transfer have become mere lip service. Developed-country governments allowed domestic companies to cling to intellectual-property rights that block the spread of critical knowledge for climate mitigation and adaptation. When countries like China and India have sought to encourage their own renewable-energy industries, the US, in particular, has filed complaints with the WTO.

This short-sighted strategy ultimately benefits no one, including the firms whose immediate financial interests it serves, because it accelerates the planet's destruction and the revenge of nature on what now appears to be terminally stupid humanity. The student and activist marches in Glasgow against this myopic approach are important, but are nowhere near enough to force governments to change course.

The problem is that powerful corporate interests are clearly intertwined with political leadership. People around the world, and especially in the Global North, must become much more vociferous in insisting on meaningful climate action and a real change in economic strategy that resonates beyond national borders. Only that can end the rich world's green hypocrisy and save us all.

The writer is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a member of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

Many people around the world already consider the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow a disappointment. That is a massive understatement. Global leaders – especially in the developed world – still fail to grasp the gravity of the climate challenge. Although they acknowledge its severity and urgency in their speeches, they mostly pursue short-term national interests and make conveniently distant 'net-zero' emissions pledges without clear and immediate commitments to act.

Making matters worse, many rich-country leaders' statements in Glasgow are at odds with their actual climate strategies, and with what they say in other settings. So, while G7 leaders at the summit were issuing underwhelming green commitments for several decades in the future, they were busy allowing and enabling more fossil-fuel investment that will generate additional production and greenhouse-gas emissions over the medium term.

For example, could the real US government please stand up and declare itself? In his recent address in Glasgow, President Joe Biden said that "as we see current volatility in energy prices, rather than cast it as a reason to back off our clean energy goals, we must view it as a call to action." Indeed, "high energy prices only reinforce the urgent need to diversify sources, double down on clean energy deployment, and adapt promising new clean-energy technologies."

But just three days later, the Biden administration claimed that OPEC+ is endangering the global economic recovery by not increasing oil production. It even warned that the United States is prepared to use "all tools" necessary to reduce fuel prices.

This is one of the most blatant recent examples of climate hypocrisy by a developed-country leader; but it is by no means the only one. And the duplicity extends to the proceedings at COP26 itself, where developing-country negotiators are apparently finding that

advanced economies' positions in closed-door meetings are quite different from their public stances.

Rich countries, which are responsible for the dominant share of global carbon-dioxide emissions to date, are dithering on longstanding commitments to provide climate finance to developing countries. They are also resisting a proposed operational definition that would prevent them from fudging what counts as climate finance. And they are still treating adaptation to climate change as a separate stream, and refusing to provide finance to avert, minimise, and address the loss and damage associated with climate change in the worst-affected countries.

The declared COP26 promises also reveal the developed world's double standards. A group of 20 countries, including the US, pledged to end public financing for 'unabated' fossil-fuel projects, including those powered by coal, by the end of 2022. But the prohibition applies only to international projects, not domestic ones. Significantly, the US and several other signatories refused to join the 23 countries that separately committed to stop new coal-power projects within their borders and phase out existing coal infrastructure.

But even if the pledges in

Glasgow had been more solid, rich-country governments, in particular, face a major credibility problem. They have previously made too many empty climate promises, undermining the interests of developing countries that have contributed little to climate change. Advanced economies have made emissions-reduction commitments that they have not kept, and reneged on their assurances to developing countries regarding not only climate finance but also technology transfer.

The climate finance commitment is now 12 years old. At COP15 in Copenhagen, advanced economies promised to provide \$100 billion per year to the developing world, and the 2015 Paris climate agreement made it clear that all developing countries would be eligible for such financing. This amount is trivial relative to developing countries' need, which is in the trillions of dollars, and also when compared to the vast sums that rich countries have spent on fiscal and monetary support for their economies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But the developed world has not fulfilled even this relatively modest pledge. In 2019, total climate finance channelled to developing countries was less than \$80 billion; the average amount each year since 2013 was only \$67 billion. And this



Jayati Ghosh

THE RICH WORLD'S PROMISES OF GREEN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER HAVE BECOME MERE LIP SERVICE

To stand for the Truth in all circumstances, to declare it if necessary in the teeth of the worst opposition and to be ready to all you can for its sake, is the definition of heroism.

THE MOTHER



Work & Home

'Boss' is not a bad word. Sometimes one even endearingly calls one's superior 'boss.' But 'bossism' in the professional world more often than not becomes a dirty word. It implies an exercise of power by an individual authorised to supervise the work of subordinates to the point of bullying. A good boss is supposed to know the art of persuasion and how to get the best out of the staff without imposing authority too obtrusively. The bad boss is, of course, a bully who uses the tool of intimidation, injecting fear into the minds of his subordinates to force them to do a work the way he wants them to do. In that case work becomes a form of torture that often forces the worker to quit at the first opportunity. Bossism has acquired an even sinister connotation in the pandemic-ridden world where 'work from home' (WFH) has become the new normal with the internet playing a key role. Things have become so intolerable that Portugal has introduced, for the first time in the world, a legislation to rein in the boss who tries to regulate the private life of his subordinates by intruding into his or her home through the internet or mobile phones making them virtually bonded labourers.

When the pandemic hit the world nearly two years ago, employees all over the world welcomed work from home as a great relief since they do not have to be physically present in their offices nor commute between home and office, thereby endangering themselves while wasting a lot of time and money on the way, but could, instead, work in the comfort of their homes. They could enjoy the closeness of their family members even while working and have lunch and tea as the working hours became flexible. The employers also saw benefits in the new system as the establishment costs for operating offices teeming with employees got reduced in virtually empty office premises. The need for large real estate physical office space also became redundant.

But, soon the uncomfortable side of the new system began to manifest itself. Work from home is now being seen as a major health issue and source of mental stress. There have been complaints galore from employees that they are too much tied up with their work as their bosses can call them any time of the day, pester them with queries about the progress of their work and bully them for any delay on the plea that they have the luxury of not going to office and as such they need to cooperate with the management being at the beck and call of the boss any time of the day. In other words, what was thought to be a blessing in disguise has eventually turned out contrary, something worse than the pre-pandemic order when one could be answerable to the boss only during specified working hours. Now, for all practical purposes, there is no fixed work schedule.

Portugal is a small country, but it is showing to the world how best to tackle COVID-19 with record coverage of vaccination and also now handling the distress of employees who have been implementing the work from home pandemic time policy. Its parliament approved November 12 new labour laws on working from home providing additional protection for employees who do their job away from company premises. The new rules, as Portugal's socialist government explains, are a response to the trend of more staff working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has conceded there are benefits in working from home, but wanted to adapt labour legislation to it. The regulations bring new penalties for companies that disturb the privacy of staff or their families and compel employers to compensate staff for work-related expenses incurred at home. Under the new legal regime, companies should avoid contacting workers outside office hours, except under exceptional circumstances. Moreover, at least every two months, staff should meet with their superiors to prevent worker isolation. Also, companies should pay workers for additional personal expenses incurred at home, such as electricity or internet bills.

There were some other proposals disproportionately in favour of the workers but those were shot down. For example, a measure was mooted that would have granted workers the right to turn off professional communication systems when off work. Companies not complying with the rules will be liable for fines. Justifying the new legislation, Ana Mendes Godinho, Portugal's Minister of Labour and Social Security, said the pandemic has accelerated the need to regulate "what needs to be regulated." The exercise may have been prompted by an electoral consideration as the legislation has been made by the parliament before it is dissolved ahead of a snap election in January. Workers' rights are likely to be one of the major issues in the battle of ballots. But, it addresses a prickly issue that is fast snowballing into a major socio-economic-family crisis.

There is no gainsaying that work-life balance has gone for a toss due to the pandemic as employees have been working non-stop all over the world. Since operations have turned remote, people are confined to their homes all day to complete their work. To add to their misery, many are required to work extra hours. This has caused a lot of inconvenience and distress leading to mental and physical health issues at an alarming rate. As nations think of ways to decrease the extreme work pressure, the step taken by Portugal is a welcome development. It is a laudable attempt to ensure employees do not feel the workload to be too heavy by making it illegal for managers and bosses to contact their employees after working hours. India and other countries should take a cue from it and address the problem before it takes too heavy a toll on the lives of workers and their families.

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

The bitter harvest of hatred

Many governments in free India have reached their low point as a result of communal violence. Riots begin small but explode in no time to take on proportions that can be unimaginable. A citizenry that is otherwise mindful of law-and-order boundaries suddenly crosses all limits and it is not uncommon to see mobs attacking police, burning vehicles and taking to streets on the slightest rumour. That has been the history of many riots. The administrative lesson is simple: do not play with this kind of fire.

It is a sad picture of India of the 21st century that communal fires have erupted in states as far apart as Tripura and Maharashtra, one triggering the other and fed mostly on some half-truths and a lot of hatred that has been suffused into the political system. Tripura's response has been shocking. By booking over 100 journalists and lawyers under the stringent provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the BJP-ruled state is covering its failure to control majoritarian violence with action to control reporting of the violence, as the Editors' Guild of India has correctly pointed out.

In Maharashtra, the situation is different. The communal disturbances in Amravati and some other

districts began with protests against reported incidents in Tripura. The violence that followed poses a new challenge to the state government, which has been running an experiment in a unique confluence of non-BJP forces glued together to contain an increasingly successful and arrogant BJP. Reports over the weekend indicated continued tension, protests and stray violence, which is not good news at all in a volatile atmosphere made worse by sectarian forces to foment trouble and present the picture, as the BJP has been trying to, of a coalition that is unable to govern.

Yet, it is the government of the day, led in this case by Uddhav Thackeray, that is in charge. He is responsible for outcomes, irrespective of the political forces ranged against him. It is the duty and responsibility of the government to not take this rioting lightly and to put down disturbances with a single-minded devotion before the fire spreads. Any delay in responding with all the resources at its command will be suicidal as violence can spiral out of control, particularly with the Opposition working overtime to discredit the government. Already, a four-day curfew has been imposed and internet services have been restricted

-- a good response in these times.

The state government will do well further to take some lessons from the late former Maharashtra CM AR Antuly, much discredited for alleged scams but a well-informed barrister who knew how to keep his administration in check. He was once at a meeting with the Chief Secretary when news came in of some violence in Bhiwandi. He asked the Chief Secretary to go straight from the meeting to the spot, vesting in him all powers of the CM, and ordering him not to come back till the violence was stopped and the situation normalised. That violence was not heard of beyond that day.

Maharashtra is right now going through some challenging times. A former state home minister is behind bars. A former police commissioner of Mumbai is absconding. All this amid the fact that the alliance that has taken power in the state has put up a stiff political challenge to the BJP. With the three-decade long Shiv Sena-BJP partnership broken, the Shiv Sena has come up as one of the fiercest critics of the BJP. This is a political development of some significance. Two parties which have risen on Hindutva politics are now at loggerheads, presenting interesting

insights into what friends-turned-foes can do to expose each other.

The Maharashtra communal differences have to be seen in the light of this tension. The communal divide has sought to be pushed in the state again and again since the BJP lost out on sitting in government in the financial capital of India. Consider the communal commentary from some sections when two sadhus and their driver were killed in a place called Palghar, when what had happened was a case of mob reaction to saffron-clad travellers who were rumoured to be child lifters. Over 270 were arrested in the case and seven chargesheets were filed eventually. Or consider the divide sought to be created in one of the most harmonious of workplaces -- the film industry. A communal divide has no place here but there have been attempts to create one. The case of Aryan Khan plays into a game to demonise the industry.

The result on the ground is a tinderbox. More fuel is being added to it, and we know not when it may explode, taking with it dreams of a strong, vibrant, plural India that grows to become a developed nation and makes its mark on global stage.

The writer is a journalist and a faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.

THE BILLION PRESS

WISDOM CORNER

You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.

MAHATMA GANDHI

If we wish our nature to be free and joyous, we should bring our activities into same order.

VINOBA BHAVE

Crises and deadlocks when they occur have at least this advantage, that they force us to think.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

WORDSWORTH

Poppysmic

Poppysmic refers to the noise produced by smacking the lips together. It comes from the Latin poppsyma, via the defunct French popisme. Romans used the original for a kind of lip-smacking, clucking noise that signified satisfaction and approval, especially during lovemaking. In French, it referred to the tongue-clicking tsk-tsk sound that riders use to encourage their mounts. Its only occurrence in the public prints is this: She has a passion for interesting words -- quidnunc, poppsymic -- and an assistant (Greer) at her shop who despairs at her poor taste in men (Belfast Telegraph, 9 Oct. 2009). And this is a rare appearance in a book: The room beyond the locked stairwell door was eerily silent. No screams, no sounds of fighting or even the sound of a struggle. Just the dull sounds of the Undead; shuffling, poppsymic, and muffled banging (Days with the Undead, by Julianne Snow, 2012). Its source is appropriate, since the only previous writer in English known to have used our word was the Irishman James Joyce, in a stage direction in Ulysses: "Florry whispers to her. Whispering lovewords murmur, lipplapping loudly, poppsymic plopslop."

LOL

Please describe him

A cop was interrogating a very intoxicated Irishman, who was also severely bleeding. The officer asked, "Can you describe



the person who did this to you?"

The Irishman replied, "That's what I was doing when he hit me."



Jagdish Rattananani

RIOTS BEGIN SMALL BUT EXPLODE IN NO TIME TO TAKE ON PROPORTIONS THAT CAN BE UNIMAGINABLE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rissalgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Hooch kills

Sir, Illicit liquor related deaths are quite common in India. A few are highlighted and the rest go unreported. Last week, nearly 20 people lost their lives in Bihar's Mujaffarpur, Gopalganj and West Champaran districts after consuming spurious liquor. No state is spared of hooch deaths. What is special about the twin hooch tragedies in Bihar is that there is prohibition in the state. According to an estimate, hooch has claimed more than 60 lives in the 'dry' state in 2021. In liquor-related deaths, bootleggers are routinely rounded up, and materials used in preparing hooch seized and destroyed. But before a liquor-related tragedy strikes, authorities are mere onlookers despite being fully aware of the illegal preparation and sale. Those from the lower socioeconomic sections are easy targets for illicit liquor vendors. The spurious hooch dealers lure and con the poor by offering employment opportunities, among others. Dangerous spirits mixed with methanol give rise to morbidity and mortality of a severe nature. Nationalisation of liquor sale to eliminate unlawful operators through a national liquor policy and taking stringent measures to control the easy availability of rectified spirits are some steps that can arrest hooch deaths. There is also an urgent need to scrupulously regulate the manufacture, transport and sale of illicit liquor. Smuggling of rectified spirits across the borders should become a thing of the past because districts that have banned alcohol in all forms may otherwise be hit. The importance of breaking the bootlegger-politician-police-criminal mafia nexus in keeping hooch at bay cannot be stressed more.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

'Wizards of Oz'

Sir, This refers to the report 'Wizards of Oz' (Orissa POST, November 15, 2021). Kudos to the Australian cricket team for emerging victorious in the seventh edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Having won the 50-over World Cup five times and the Champions Trophy two times, this was their only unclaimed title. The victory is also a gentle reminder of how the team quickly shifted from the legendary era of Ricky Ponting and Glenn McGrath to Aaron Finch's and Mitchell Starc's without losing even a bit of lustre. It seems that the legacy and the glory are going to be carried for a long time. For India, which faced a pathetic setback in the tournament, there are lessons to learn. A well composed squad with a fearless approach plays a decisive role in T20 cricket.

Tushar Anand, PATNA

of the day quote

My humble tributes to the legendary tribal freedom fighter, Birsu Munda on his birth anniversary today

M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

If we can talk with China, then why not with Pakistan. China is in our territory and advancing everyday

FAROOQ ABDULLAH | FORMER JAMMU AND KASHMIR CHIEF MINISTER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'vocal for local' mantra has proved to be an effective mechanism for strengthening the economy and the vision of self-reliance

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | MINORITY AFFAIRS MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

CISF gets new DG

New Delhi: IPS officer Sheel Vardhan Singh Monday took charge as the new director general of the CISF, a central paramilitary force that guards major civil airports and vital installations of the country. He was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour by the troops before he took charge of the force at its headquarters located in the CGOs Complex on Lodhi Road here. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had approved the order for appointing Singh as the new CISF DG last week.

₹600 crore black income unearthed

New Delhi: Unaccounted income of Rs 600 crore was detected after the Income Tax Department recently raided two business groups based in Gurugram in Haryana, the CBI said Monday. The searches were carried out on November 10 on the groups, one engaged in real estate and hospitality and the other a tools and equipment manufacturing group, it said.

Three dead in Kerala rain havoc

Kochi: Heavy rains lashed parts of south India Monday, resulting in the death of three people and widespread property damage in Kerala. Rainfall or thundershowers were also witnessed at many places over Gangetic West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, coastal Karnataka, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Minor kidnapped, gangraped

Patna: Three youths kidnapped a minor girl from Bihar's West Champaran district, took her to Gorakhpur and gang raped her for one month, an official said Monday. As per the complaint lodged by her father at Gauhana police station, the victim had left her house October 7 to defecate in the open.

PM inaugurates Rani Kamalapati rly station

Bhopal: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday inaugurated the most modern Rani Kamalapati railway station, earlier known as Habibganj, in the Madhya Pradesh capital and said the creation of such facilities heralds the beginning of transformation from the VIP culture to the "EPI" (Every Person is Important) model. He accused the previous governments of being sluggish on implementing railway projects and said the work of ambitious eastern and western dedicated freight corridors expedited only in the last six-seven years.



People can die if they consume liquor. It is a bad substance. I don't understand why people drink liquor

NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CHIEF MINISTER

BOOSTER DOSE FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

The Indian Medical Association has called for a booster dose for the healthcare workers across the nation. The IMA said that after the union government's clarification pertaining to the fact that a policy document on booster dose is underway, IMA has also consolidated its stand on the booster dose for healthcare workers and other high-risk citizens across the country



AIR EMERGENCY IN NATIONAL CAPITAL

SC orders 'work from home'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 15: India's Supreme Court told authorities Monday to shut offices in the capital and nearby cities, allowing millions to work from home as officials seek ways to reduce hazardous air pollution that led to the closure of schools.

Its action came after city authorities in New Delhi, which has been battling a toxic haze since early November, took emergency measures Saturday, ordering the closure of schools and building work for four days.

"We direct the centre and states of the national capital region to impose work from home for the meantime," said Chief Justice NV Ramana, head of a panel of three judges considering a petition by a city resident. The court also sought urgent steps to rein in crop waste fires in the neighbouring states of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, set by hundreds of thousands of farmers looking to clear fields for a new sowing season.

"We want action on the issue," said Justice Surya Kant. Although the court did not set a deadline for the action by authorities, it will next take up the pollution issue Wednesday. The Supreme Court also ordered measures to halt vehicle traffic that is not essential, cut industrial pollution and limit dust. Contributors to

HARD TO BREATHE

India's efforts to reduce the burning of crop waste, a major source of air pollution during winter, have had little benefit, despite its expenditure of billions of rupees over the past four years

An index of air quality stood at 343 on a scale of 500 in Delhi Monday, a sign of "very poor" conditions that can cause respiratory illness on prolonged exposure



A view of the President House shrouded in smog

EU envoy to India meets Kejriwal

European Union Ambassador to India, Ugo Astuto, Monday met Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and took note of the national capital's fight against Covid-19 and its efforts to curb air pollution. While discussing the impact of air pollution, Kejriwal told Astuto, "About 5,000 to 6,000 industrial units of Delhi were made to switch to green fuel in the form of PNG by the Delhi government. Earlier, these industries relied on heavily polluting industrial fuels, so it was our top priority to make them switch over to healthier practices. Beyond this, we also gave a huge push to tree plantation in Delhi."

vocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing the Delhi government: "Have you started implementing the scheme (doorstep delivery of ration)?" Singhvi submitted that 90 per cent of the citizens have applied for this scheme - 69 lakh people out of 72 lakh have been registered.

Singhvi added that these days Amazon is making home deliveries, food is being delivered at home, and also liquor; therefore there is nothing wrong in delivery of food grains at the doors of poor people under public distribution system (PDS).

the poor air quality in Delhi, often ranked the world's most polluted capital, include coal-fired plants outside the city as well as the burning of garbage in the open. More number of people might be visiting hospitals for air pollution-related ailments in Delhi-NCR, but residents in the region are split on whether there is a need to have a lockdown for three days to curb the pollution, according to a survey

The Supreme Court Monday refused to interfere with Delhi High Court's interim order on door-to-door supply of food grains by the Delhi government.

The Delhi High Court had September 27 cleared the way for the implementation of the doorstep delivery of ration scheme, against which the Centre moved the Supreme Court.

The Delhi government brought on record that its scheme is "fully compatible with one nation one ration card (ONORC) scheme". A bench headed by justice L. Nageswara Rao and comprising justice BR Gavai queried Senior ad-

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The capital experienced severe conditions late last week as temperatures dropped and the index reached 499

HEARTBREAKING TRIBUTE



Juri Swargiary pays tribute to her husband rifleman Suman Swargiary, who was killed in a terrorist attack on a convoy of Assam Rifles in Churachandpur, during his last rites at Thailarakuchi in Baksa district

Anil Deshmukh sent to 14 days judicial custody

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 15: A Special PMLA Court Monday sent Maharashtra ex-home minister Anil Deshmukh to 14 days' judicial custody, two weeks after his remand with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) ended.

Special PMLA Court Judge HS Sathbai also permitted a bed and prescribed medicines to Deshmukh, 72, given his advanced age and health conditions, though

the ED's Special Public Prosecutor Hiten Venegaonkar opposed the demand.

The senior Nationalist Congress Party leader was arrested early November 2 in connection with a money-laundering case filed by the ED and has since been in the agency's custody.

The ED's case followed a corruption FIR registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) after former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh

currently 'missing' - wrote a letter in March accusing Deshmukh of allegedly asking a sacked cop Sachin Vaze to collect Rs 100 crore from Mumbai hoteliers between December 2020 and February 2021.

The Special Judge Sathbai heard Special Public Prosecutor Hiten Venegaonkar and Deshmukh lawyers Inderpal Singh and Aniket Nikam, and after the ED did not seek further remand, ordered judicial custody for the NCP leader.

BOOK ROW

Khurshid's Nainital house set on fire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun/New Delhi, Nov 15: Congress leader Salman Khurshid's house in Uttarakhand's Nainital was vandalised Monday amid the row over his recent book in which he draws a comparison between Hindutva and terror outfits like the ISIS.

According to initial reports, some people damaged windowpanes and set fire to a door at the house in Bowali police station area, Nainital (City) Superintendent of Police Jagdish Chandra said. Nobody was hurt in the house where only caretakers stay, the SP said.

Khurshid posted video clips on social media in which some people appear to be burning his effigy and shouting derogatory slogans against him and the Muslim community.

One slogan said "the traitors" should be shot. Another said the country did not belong to the "mullahs" but to "Veer Shivaji". The

mob was also heard shouting, "Jai Jai Veer Bajrangji Jai, Jai Shri Ram."

The attack came days after the former Union minister launched his new book, "Sunrise over Ajothya: Nationalism in Our Times", drawing much criticism from the BJP and right-wing organisations. "I hoped to open these doors to my friends who have left this calling card. Am I still wrong to say this cannot be Hinduism," he asked on Facebook while posting pictures of arson at his Nainital home. "So such is debate now. Shame is too ineffective a word. Besides I still hope that we can reason together one day and agree to disagree if not more," he said in another post. Congress leader Shashi Tharoor called the attack "disgraceful".

Apart from the BJP, Khurshid faced criticism from his own party leader and former Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad for comparing Hindutva with terror groups.



INDIANS STUDYING IN US DROPPED BY 13%: REPORT

The US remains a 'top destination' for international students, and Indian students still constitute the second largest group of international students in the US after those from China, according to the 2021 Open Doors Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: The number of Indians studying in the United States decreased by nearly 13 per cent in 2020-21 as compared to the previous academic year, according to an annual report re-



Representational image

leased by the Institute of International Education Monday, with US officials attributing the drop in numbers to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Senior officials of the US Embassy in New Delhi Monday shared some of the details from the report at a press conference

held at the Fulbright House here, and also told reporters that "over 62,000 student visas were issued this summer alone, more than in any previous year".

The figures on student visas indicate that the "downturn" in number of Indians studying in the US, was a "Covid blip", and that

the "overall trendline has been generally positive", said Anthony Miranda, Counselor for Cultural and Educational Affairs at the US Embassy.

He spoke about the global impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on education and student mobility, and that the US too suffered its impact with a drop in the number of international students studying in the US. The number of Indians studying in the US decreased by about 13 per cent in 2020-21 vis-a-vis the previous academic year, while in reference to the same period, the overall decrease in number of international students in the US was about 15 per cent, Miranda said, citing the report.

He asserted that notwithstanding the impact of the pandemic, "the US remains a top destination for international students, welcoming over 914,000 interna-

tional students from over 200 places of origin," citing the report.

Indian students comprised nearly 20 per cent of this number, with 1,67,582 students in the 2020-2021 academic year, according to the 2021 Open Doors Report, the US Embassy said in a statement.

The annual report is published by the Institute of International Education (IIE), in partnership with the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It is the comprehensive information resource on international students and scholars in the US, and American students abroad.

Minister Counsellor for Consular Affairs at the embassy Donald Heflin said, the pandemic and the ensuing lockdown posed major challenges, and raised safety concerns in the minds of parents whose children were to fly to the US for higher education, but efforts

Two locals, who were abducted by the militants, were rescued during the operation

2 militants, 1 civilian killed in J&K encounter

Srinagar: Two unidentified militants and a civilian were killed in an encounter between the ultras and security forces in Hyderpora area of the city Monday, police said. The encounter broke out near Classic Hospital here when security forces launched an anti-militancy operation, a police official said. He said two militants were killed in the gunbattle, while a civilian also lost his life. The deceased civilian has been identified as a 44-year-old businessman, Mohammad Altaf Bhat, a resident of Old Barzulla locality. Bhat owned a hardware store and a cement dealership near the scene of the encounter, he said.

sommel, injuring one jawan. The soldiers and police personnel then retaliated, killing three members of the NSCN(K) Yung Aung faction on spot," the SP explained.

Three automatic assault rifles and other ammunition were recovered during the raid, Meena said, further stating that a search for the insurgents who fled during the operation is underway.

PM to hand over helicopters, drones to armed forces

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 15: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hand over Light Combat Helicopters, indigenously designed drones, advanced electronic warfare suits and other military equipment to armed forces in Jhansi November 19.

The Prime Minister will also unveil the first project that starts at Jhansi in the UP defence corridor: A unit for manufacturing of Bharat Dynamics Ltd for developing propulsion system for anti guided missiles worth Rs 400 will be set up over there.

Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) would be handed over to the Air Force, drones to the Army and advanced electronic warfare suits to the Navy. The Defence Acquisition Council had approved 40 such helicopters to be manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). LCH is a new addition to HAL's helicopter division. This twin-engine helicopter is a dedicated combat helicopter of 5-8 tonne class.



LCH incorporates advanced technologies and stealth features for effective combat roles and is designed to carry out roles such as destruction of enemy air defence, counter insurgency, search and rescue, anti-tank, Counter Surface Force Operations etc.

CJ transfer out of Madras HC snowballs into controversy

THE SUPREME COURT COLLEGIUM HAD EARLIER RECOMMENDED FOR THE TRANSFER OF CHIEF JUSTICE SANJIB BANERJEE TO THE MEGHALAYA HIGH COURT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 15: The Supreme Court Collegium's proposal transferring Madras High Court Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee to Meghalaya has snowballed into a controversy with voices for and against the shifting of the senior judge.

The Collegium had earlier recommended for the transfer of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee to the Meghalaya High Court.

The Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, in its meeting held September 16, had also recommended for the transfer of Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari of the Allahabad High Court to the Madras High Court.

Two major lawyers' bodies here - the Madras High Court Advocates Association (MHAA), the largest one with a membership of over 20,000 advocates and the Madras Bar Association, an elite group of advocates - have joined the chorus and

passed resolutions protesting against the proposal to shift the CJ. Over 30 senior advocates of the High Court have also joined those protesting against the transfer.

This follows over 200 advocates writing to the CJI and the Collegium last week, protesting against Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee's transfer to Meghalaya High Court and seeking to reconsider the proposal.

While so, there were voices in support of the transfer as well. Advocate RC Paul Kanakaraj, former president of the MHAA and the chief of BJP Legal Wing, alleged the issue was being politicised.

He questioned the logic behind protesting against the transfer without ascertaining the reasons behind the same. There might be some strong reasons for the shifting, he claimed. The resolutions cannot be taken as the ones passed with the majority of the advocates, when there were several thousand lawyers. The transfers might



be with good intentions, which would ultimately pave way for seniority and their elevation to the Supreme Court, he added.

Raising his voice against the resolution against the transfer at the extraordinary emergency meeting of the MBA at its premises on Sunday, advocate G Karthikeyan, who is also the Assistant Solicitor

General of the Madras High Court, questioned the logic behind protesting against the CJ alone. Many judges including Chief Justices were shifted to other High Courts in the recent past. Why was the resolution singled out in respect of CJ Banerjee alone, he asked.

Another senior most judge TS Sivagnanam was transferred to

the High Court in Kolkata recently. The resolution passed by the MBA included his case too.

MHAA president G Mohanakrishnan said the association was distressed to note that the present Chief Justice was recommended for transfer from Chennai to Meghalaya. He had assumed office only in January 2021 and was a senior Judge. He has been effectively conducting the judicial administration in Tamil Nadu, he said and fervently requested the CJI and the Supreme Court Collegium judges to consider the views of the legal fraternity and take a good decision in the interest of all the stakeholders.

In its resolution, the MBA stated that a Chief Justice of a large chartered High Court like the one in Chennai, must be given at least two years term to study the situation prevailing in the institution and to take measures to improve the same.

As Pak pumps drugs, experts warn of losing a generation to narcotics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 15: The narcotics menace, especially heroin, is scaling new heights in Kashmir with experts warning that a majority of the young people may fall prey to drug abuse and Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Dilbag Singh blaming Pakistan for targeting youngsters by making them habitual to drugs.

Taking a holistic view of the strife-torn Kashmir valley, police as well as social workers and medical doctors are of the opinion that while the violence caused by three decades of terrorism has consumed a generation, the drug menace will negatively affect the present generation.

Singh pins the blame on Pakistan, saying "they are repeating the same dirty game that they played in Punjab" - first giving arms training and later spoiling the youth with drugs.

Asked about the observations made by experts that Kashmir has lost a generation to conflict and may lose the next to drug abuse, Singh replied, "Definitely, yes and I have no two opinions about it".

Talking to PTI, Singh said the drug menace has shown a considerable increase in the last two years and the narcotics are smuggled from Punjab and Jammu borders.



Earlier, we used to see boys aged 18 and above (addicted to drugs) but now there are cases of 12 and 13-year-olds and the nature of drug abuse has changed as well. Earlier, it was charas or medicinal opioids but now heroin is replacing them

DR MOHAMMED MUZZAFAR KHAN I
HEAD, DE-ADDICTION CENTRE, SRINAGAR

Khan said the situation on the ground is worse as more and more young boys are getting addicted to narcotics.

"Earlier, we used to see boys aged 18 and above (addicted to drugs) but now there are cases of 12 and 13-year-olds and the nature of drug abuse has changed as well. Earlier, it was charas or medicinal opioids but now heroin is replacing them," Khan told PTI.

He said youths get addicted to heroin quickly and within days become dependent on injections to inject drugs intravenously and the menace is spread across Kashmir in its urban and rural areas and among the rich and poor population.

FIGHTING DISEASE



Jammu Municipal Corporation workers carry out fumigation to prevent the spread of dengue in Jammu, Monday.

PTI PHOTO

Kashmir reels under sub-zero temperatures

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 15: Kashmir continued to reel under sub-zero night temperatures as the mercury settled on the freezing point in Srinagar late Sunday, officials said.

Several areas in Kashmir were engulfed by a layer of fog Monday morning as the mercury went below the freezing point, they added.

Srinagar recorded a low of zero degree Celsius - up from minus 0.9 degrees Celsius the previous night. The officials said Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a low of minus 4 degrees Celsius, the coldest in Kashmir.

Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.6 degrees Celsius. The mercury at Kupwara in north Kashmir too settled at a low of minus 1.6 degrees Celsius. Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.2 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag town in the south recorded a low of 0.4 degrees Celsius.



"We had some good seizures too. We know that sale proceeds of the drugs are pumped into funding terrorism and, therefore, we have been extra vigilant about it and taking efforts to curb it," he said.

The main areas affected by the drug menace are Karnah in North Kashmir, Anantnag in South Kashmir and some areas of Jammu, the police chief said.

Police have taken a leading role in setting up drug de-addiction centres in Srinagar and Jammu while some more are coming up in North Kashmir, he added.

"I guess it is time for socio-religious leaders to step in on an urgent basis to wean away youth from the menace. Today, we have time and tomorrow we may not have it. So, it is better to act now and act fast," the police chief said in his appeal.

Echoing similar views, Dr Mohammed Muzaffar Khan, who heads the de-addiction centre of police in Srinagar, feels that the number of such centres in the valley is minuscule compared to the magnitude of people affected by narcotics.

Khan said the Youth Development and Rehabilitation Centre headed by him is a 50-bed hospital.

"It is a minuscule facility compared to the number of people affected. I would go on to say that the facility is non-existent... Around 10 years ago, we required de-addiction centres, but today we require a medical emergency facility because sometimes, an addict requires a ventilator immediately due to the overdose of heroine," he said.

Pointing out to a survey by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre of the AIIMS, New Delhi on the "Magnitude of Substance Use in India" in which Jammu and Kashmir was placed at the fifth spot with over 6 lakh people affected by drug abuse, Khan said, "I would now say that this is again a conservative estimate."

"People do not confess to use of narcotics because of social stigma. Seeing the number of patients coming in every month, which ranges anywhere between 10 and 15 per day, I think more people are affected by it," he added.

Stalin calls for solidarity among southern states in resource usage

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 15: Pointing out the common culture, cuisine, weather and others amongst the southern states, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has called for solidarity in utilising the limited resources in a judicious manner.

In his speech Sunday that was read out at the Southern Zonal Council meeting held in Tirupati, Stalin told the participants from the neighbouring state: "Our culture has a lot of similarities. We have grown by our policy of inclusiveness. We have common cuisine, weather and shared values."

"Solidarity among us is crucial



in utilising the limited resources

Solidarity among us is crucial in utilising the limited resources available with us in a judicious manner. Unnecessary litigations and needless conflicts will result in unwanted animosity that may hinder our progress. The universal language of love can dissolve all problems and make us march in the path of progress unitedly

MK STALIN | TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER

available with us in a judicious

manner. Unnecessary litigations and needless conflicts will result in unwanted animosity that may hinder our progress. The universal language of love can dissolve all problems and make us march in the path of progress unitedly," he said.

Stalin also urged the Central government to declare the classical language Tamil as an official language of the country as it is one of the world's oldest languages.

He pointed out Tamil is already a national language in Sri Lanka and Singapore, and a minority language in Malaysia and South Africa, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi never misses to quote verses from Tamil literature in his speeches

in order to embellish an argument.

"We also request the Union Government to declare Thirukkural as a National Book, that signifies its secular couplets with capsules of wisdom," Stalin said.

Tamil Nadu always trusts in co-operative federalism with strong patriotic fervour with equal emphasis on the rights of the State and their autonomy. It is second to none in contributing towards National integration and upholding the principles of unity, he said.

It strongly believes that the beauty of India lies in its multiculturalism and its inclusiveness that has been nurtured from time immemorial, Stalin remarked.

Admin inertia compounding farmers' woes: Mehbooba

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 15: Jammu and Kashmir PDP president Mehbooba Mufti Monday lambasted the "calculus attitude" of the administration towards farmers who have suffered massive losses due to recent adverse weather conditions.

The former chief minister said rice cultivators of border belts of Jammu and those growing apple and dry fruits in Kashmir contribute a major portion towards the economy of Jammu and Kashmir; and in both the regions, the losses suffered by them due to rain and snowfall run into crores of rupees. "It seems that the administration, instead of assessing the damage on ground, has fixed the compensation sitting behind the four walls of their offices," Mehbooba told reporters.

She addressed a series of party interaction programmes in the border belt of RS Pura and Bishnah on the outskirts of the city. The Jammu and Kashmir administration has

declared a heavy spell of rainfall and snowfall October 23 and 24 as state specific natural disaster under SDRF norms for the purpose of providing relief to the affected farmers.

Jammu, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Reasi, Samba and Kathua in Jammu division and Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian in south Kashmir are the districts covered under the declaration. RS Pura, also known as the rice bowl of Jammu region and the major grower of internationally acclaimed Basmati rice, was the worst hit due to massive damage to the standing Basmati crop.

"I am told that the government has assured peanuts to the farmers of RS Pura, Bishnah, Samba and other plains of Jammu as compensation, where farmers have suffered extensive damage to their standing crops," the PDP leader, who is currently on a five-day tour of Jammu, said. She said the sudden change in weather has damaged the crop of farmers and brought them to the verge of starvation.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thanjavur (TN), Nov 15: Union Minister for Commerce, Industry, Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal Monday virtually launched India's first Food Museum here and said measures were on to make the country go up the ladder from currently being the fifth largest agricultural exporter in the world.

Highlighting the importance of focussing on quality and productivity in taking the farmers' produce to the world to become a global supplier, the Minister said "we are already the 5th largest agricultural exporter in the world and we are aspiring for more."

"By adopting global best practices, we will improve our processes, bring about system changes, reduce our unnecessary expenditure and benefit our farmers and consumers," Goyal said after launching the museum virtually from Delhi.

The world today looks upon the country as a trusted partner, he



said and added, "we will continue to work towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat. In this mission, the government is working towards realising the image of strong and self-reliant farmers."

Turning to the Food Museum, Goyal said it is the first such one in India to depict India's food security story from "ship to mouth" existence to becoming one of the largest food grain

exporters nations.

"Tamil Nadu will now be home to the agricultural history of India. Thanjavur is the cultural capital of Tamil Nadu. Now it will be home to the agricultural history of India," he said.

The Food Security Museum showcases India's agri revolution from dependency to self-sufficiency. "There was a time when we used to import wheat, today we are one

By adopting global best practices, we will improve our processes, bring about system changes, reduce our unnecessary expenditure and benefit our farmers and consumers

UNION MINISTER FOR COMMERCE I
INDUSTRY, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
PIYUSH GOYAL

of the largest exporters of agri products," the Minister said and congratulated the Food Corporation of India (FCI) team for the inauguration of the new divisional office building at Hubballi, Karnataka. This is a step towards realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of resilient infrastructure for food security.

During the pandemic, the farmers and FCI were able to provide food to all. From food security, the nation has progressed to farmer security and consumer security. "We are all working on a mission for a

strong India and strong and self-reliant farmers. I am sure with our collective efforts, our contribution to doubling farmers' income and ensuring agricultural progress will bear fruit," he said.

The Prime Minister is working towards doubling the farmers' income and feed not only India but also the deprived sections of the world, Goyal said and complimented all those who played a role in providing free food grains to the needy through the PMGKAY during COVID-19.

Recalling the numerous achievements of the Modi-government, the Minister said the Centre has strengthened the Prevention of Atrocities Act and it is establishing 10 tribal freedom fighters museums to acknowledge their contribution.

"Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee formed a separate ministry for tribal affairs while Modiji strengthened the legal protection for our tribal brothers and sisters," he said.

national

of the day quote

Our party has decided to launch its Rajasthan unit within the next two months
ASADUDDIN OWAIIS | AIMIM CHIEF

In a bid to make it cheap, there has been a compromise on its quality. To take credit ahead of the polls, the BJP is going to inaugurate the half-baked ('aadha-adhura') Purvanchal Expressway. There has been a compromise with the quality with which it should have been built
AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

Under the leadership of Modi, the country has bought 36 Rafale fighter aircraft, 28 Apache helicopters, 15 Chinook helicopters, 145 ultra-light howitzers, 1.86 crore bulletproof jackets and five lakh AK-203 rifles
JP NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Bullock cart race: Maha awaits SC nod

New Delhi: The Maharashtra government is awaiting a nod from the Supreme Court for an almost 400-year-old tradition of bullock cart race that was banned by the Bombay High Court. Called 'Shankarpat', the bullock cart race is a traditional attraction at the fairs in villages across Maharashtra. It starts soon after the Ganesh festival and continues right through the remaining Kharif, the entire rabi season and ends around April, ahead of summer.

Babasaheb Purandare no more

Pune: Noted historian and Padma Vibhushan awardee Balwant Moreswar Purandare, popularly known as Babasaheb Purandare, died at a Pune hospital Monday after a brief illness, a doctor said. Purandare, 99, an authority on the Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, was admitted to the Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital here in Maharashtra three days ago and was being treated for pneumonia. He breathed his last shortly after 5 am Monday, a statement from the hospital said.

Girl gangraped for eight days

Patna: A college girl was allegedly gang-raped by two persons, including her boyfriend for eight days in Delhi, an official said. The victim, who hails from Traiya village in Chapra town, was in a relationship with a youth named Rajiv Kumar employed in Delhi. His friend Sanjiv Kumar, a resident of Chapra town, also knew about their affair. "On October 28, when the victim was on the way to Traiya for taking an examination, Sanjiv met her at Khadara bridge and convinced her to go to Delhi to meet her boyfriend," an officer of Traiya police station said. "The girl finally agreed and went to Delhi with Sanjiv. There they met Rajiv and stayed with him in his rented accommodation. During their stay, Rajiv and Sanjiv assaulted her sexually for next eight days," the officer said.

Mask mistake

Thiruvananthapuram: In a case of mistaken identity due to wearing a face mask, a woman got slashed with a knife by a man, who thought she was his former wife. The incident occurred at a cooperative bank in Kozhikode district Monday when a man named Biju barged into the bank, took out a knife and slashed the woman thinking she was his former wife. However, she was another staff member of the bank. According to the police who have detained Biju, the incident occurred around 2 p.m.



Rising inflation is the result of the Centre's wrong policies
ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

AMBULANCE FOR COWS

The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh will soon start an ambulance service for cows suffering from serious diseases. According to Chaudhary Laxmi Narain, the Minister for Dairy Development, Animal Husbandry & Fisheries, nearly 515 ambulances are ready for the scheme which is probably the first in the country



Clashes between JNUSU, ABVP on varsity campus

Press Trust of India
New Delhi, Nov 15: Members of the JNU students' union and the RSS-affiliated ABVP got into an argument inside the university campus Sunday evening over the occupation of the students' union hall, leaving students from both sides injured. According to police, cross-FIRs have been registered in the matter under sections 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt) and 341 (punishment for wrongful restraint) of the Indian Penal Code. No one has been detained or arrested in connection with the incident and a probe is underway, police said. The JNU Monday said the students' activity centre, over which the row erupted, is a common facility for all the students, while underlining that violence has no place in an academic institution and the administration condemns it. In a statement, the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) alleged that the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) unleashed a well thought-out, pre-planned, vociferous attack on the students of the university. It shared videos that purportedly showed ABVP members hurling chairs on students. The ABVP, on the other hand, claimed that the Left-affiliated student bodies assaulted students for holding a meeting at the student activities centre, also known as the "Teflas".

Delhi records highest dengue cases since 2015

Press Trust of India
New Delhi, Nov 15: The number of dengue cases in Delhi this season has crossed 5,270, the highest in the national capital in a year since 2015, according to a civic report released Monday. Nearly 2,570 fresh cases of the vector-borne disease were logged in the city in the last one week. However, no fresh fatality was reported. According to the report on vector-borne diseases, a total of 5,277 dengue cases were recorded this year till November 13. In the previous years, the total count of dengue cases was - 4,431 (2016), 4,726 (2017), 2,798 (2018), 2,036 (2019) and 1,072 (2020), according to the report. In 2015, the city had witnessed a massive outbreak of dengue, during which the number of reported



LAKHIMPUR VIOLENCE

UP agrees to SIT probe by ex-judge

FOUR FARMERS WERE MOWED DOWN BY AN SUV IN LAKHIMPUR KHERI WHEN A GROUP AGITATING AGAINST THE FARM LAWS WAS HOLDING A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE VISIT OF KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA OCTOBER 3

AGENCIES
New Delhi, Nov 15: The Uttar Pradesh government Monday agreed to the Supreme Court suggestion that a former judge of its choice may be appointed to supervise the state SIT's probe on day-to-day basis into the Lakhimpur Kheri violence in which eight people including four farmers were killed October 3.



The top court, while taking note of the state's consent, red flagged the issue of involvement of mostly low-ranking police officers in the ongoing SIT probe in the case and sought names of IPS officers, who are of UP cadre but not the native of the state, for being included in the investigation team. "The other concern is about the task force (SIT). The police officers of this task force have to be little higher grade officers and not from Lakhimpur area... Most of the members are SI (sub-inspector). "Why

don't you give some names of some IPS officers. We mean directly recruited IPS officers who are in UP cadre, but do not belong to the state of Uttar Pradesh. Give the names by tomorrow evening," said the bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana. At the outset, senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the state government, made a statement to the suggestion made by the bench earlier saying, "I have

Wednesday and find out the judge who is willing to take up the job," the bench said. While consenting, Salve said the state has no issues with the apex court appointing a former judge of its choice to monitor the probe, but the point that he should not be a native of Uttar Pradesh should not bear in mind as the person concerned is a relevant factor. "Whoever, your lordships may consider appropriate, be appointed. Not inside or outside the state. It is not that the judge from the state cannot be appointed. Somebody, who the Lordships feel appropriate can be appointed. It is the person which is important and not the state," Salve said. Earlier, the apex court had granted time till November 15 to the Uttar Pradesh government for apprising its stand on the suggestion that a former judge of a "different high court" should monitor the state SIT probe. Prior to this, the bench had ex-

Court rejects bail pleas of Ashish, two others

A court here rejected the bail pleas of Union minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish and two others in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case. Eight people, including four farmers, were killed in the violence October 3 during a protest over Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit there. District and Sessions Judge Mukesh Mishra rejected the bail application of Ashish Mishra, alias Monu; Ashish Pandey; and Lavkush Rana, District Government Counsel Arvind Tripathi said.

pressed dissatisfaction over the probe and suggested that to infuse "independence, impartiality and fairness" in the ongoing investigation, a former judge of a "different high court" should monitor it on a day-to-day basis.

OPPN STEPS UP ATTACK ON CBI, ED ORDINANCES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: Opposition parties Monday vowed to counter the government's move of extending the tenures to the CBI and ED chiefs in Parliament, alleging it was bypassing the House, distorting the Constitution and resorting to "Ordinance Raj" to "misuse" the agencies.



The opposition also accused the government of trying to bypass the Top Court's direction that any extension of tenure has to be for a short period and "only in rare and exceptional circumstances" to facilitate an ongoing probe

Introducing the ordinances just two weeks ahead of the Parliament session is an attempt at sabotaging and skirting the institution of Parliament, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi alleged. The opposition parties also accused the government of trying to bypass the Supreme Court's direction that any extension of tenure has to be for a short period and "only in rare and exceptional circumstances" to facilitate an ongoing investigation. Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien said the opposition parties will do all it takes to stop India from "turning into an elected autocracy". The party has given two notices in Rajya Sabha for statutory resolutions opposing the two or-

dinances promulgated on Sunday which state that after the fixed two-year term of an Enforcement of Directorates (ED) or Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) chief ends, the Union government may extend the tenure by a year for three consecutive years. The BJP govern-

ment was sidestepping Parliament and violating the Supreme Court's orders only to "misuse" the investigative agencies for protecting itself and its friends while targeting the opposition, Singhvi alleged at a press conference. Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, however, hit back at the Congress for its criticism, saying those who do such "negative and destructive politics" only harm themselves. The Left parties demanded that the ordinances be rescinded immediately. "The Polit Bureau of the CPI(M) denounces the promulgation of two ordinances allowing the central government to extend the tenures of the directors of CBI and ED from two to five years. "It is reprehensible that these ordinances have been promulgated on the eve of the winter session of parliament that is to commence from November 29. The BJP's regular resort to the route of "ordinance raj" is anti-democratic," the CPIM said Monday. The party further alleged that both the CBI and ED have been "functioning as the political arm of the ruling party to advance its agenda."

BRAVING THE ODDS



A woman walks on a road amid heavy rain in Thiruvananthapuram. UNI PHOTO

India allows foreign tourists as Covid cases decline

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 15: India Monday decided to reopen the entry of all foreign tourists following a sharp and sustained decline in Covid-19 cases.

Israel, Brazil, Canada, Greece, Kuwait, Colombia, Russia and Germany, who have already recognized the Indian vaccination certificates or WHO-recognised vaccinated Indian travelers in their countries.



The government only requires that such tourists monitor their health for 14 days after their arrival in India. In case of a foreigner who has taken only one shot, will have to go for RT-PCR test at the airports or any entry points in India and will have to go for seven days self home quarantine stay in case of a positive report and on the 8th day, the RT-PCR test will be done again and then they can walk free in the country. In case a person is found positive in the second RT-PCR test, he will have to stay in home quarantine for another eight days. Earlier, the Indian authorities had

According to the officials, now the foreign travellers will be allowed to visit India without a mandatory quarantine

tionals as the Covid-19 pandemic was on a steep hike. In December 2020, the government launched an 'air bubble' or 'air corridor' scheme with 19 countries such as USA, UK, France, Germany, Canada, the Maldives, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Nigeria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Japan so that the stranded passengers in India can leave to their countries and the Indians who were stuck in these countries might return to India.

allowed foreign tourists through chartered flights and they had to go for 14 days home mandatory quarantine but now that restrictions have been eased off. In March 2020 the government suspended visas of all foreign na-

The Indian authorities allowed the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and OCI (Overseas Citizens of India) cardholders to visit here.

cases crossed 10,600 in October alone, making it the worst outbreak of the vector-borne disease in the national capital since 1996. Of the dengue cases in Delhi this year, 3,740 were reported in the first 13 days of November. In October, 1,196 cases were reported. The total number of cases this year till November 6 stood at 2,708 and the official death toll due to dengue was nine.

Thousands of online players lose income in K'taka

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 15: As the gaming ban in Karnataka continues in its second month, thousands of online players have lost their livelihood and supplemental income.



High Court for relief as they have lost their livelihood. Pramod Kumar K., Pratab Rajagopal and Ravikiran E., all residents of Bengaluru have jointly filed a Public Interest Litigation in the Karnataka High

Court for overturning the ban. Pramod Kumar, who has been professionally playing and competing at online Fantasy Games since 2016 said, "I have spent a considerable time and money honing

my skills in fantasy sports. Having practiced diligently over the last five years, I now earn a major part of my income from fantasy sports."

Pratab Rajgopal, a collection executive, had started playing since May 2021 and since then used his knowledge of sports and team picking skill to supplement his meagre income. Ravikiran, who works in a bank, had also become quite adept in fantasy sports after months of practice. Both were looking forward to playing fantasy sports when the sudden ban was introduced in Karnataka. According to the PIL, "The legislation has effectively put a complete halt on the conduct of 'games of skill' in the State of Karnataka thereby depriving the Petitioners

Shocking news for gamers

As online gaming becomes mainstream in India, here comes bad news as four in five Indian gamers have been impacted financially by hacking while playing, losing ₹7,894 on an average to cyber criminals, a new report showed Monday. Three quarters of Indian gamers (75 per cent) among those surveyed experienced cyber attack to their gaming account, most commonly detecting malicious software on a gaming device (35 per cent) and detecting unauthorised access to an online gaming account (29 per cent).

and other similarly placed individuals from earning their money through application of their skills and expertise." The petition further enumerated: "The said amendment thus introduces a complete prohibition on 'games of skill' which have been held to be a legitimate business activity protected under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution

and therefore deprives the petitioners and other similarly placed individuals from exercising their choice to express themselves through online skill gaming and also deprives them of their means of earning and livelihood. The above said amendment also contrary to judicial pronouncements of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and various High Courts.

international



The Cuban government's decision to revoke the press credentials of journalists working for the Spanish state news agency in Havana is "unacceptable"
JOSÉ MANUEL ALBARE | SPANISH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

STUDY FINDING

Mothers who contract Covid infection and those who get vaccinated against the disease produce breast milk with active SARS-CoV-2 antibodies, according to a study



of the day quote

To optimize energy structure and reduce the proportion of coal consumption is an incremental process

ZHAO LIJIAN | CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

Poland, Lithuania and Latvia are considering asking NATO to hold emergency talks as they struggle to manage a tense migration standoff on their borders with Belarus

MATEUSZ MORAWIECKI | POLISH PM

President Ram Nath Kovind will visit Dhaka on December 16 to attend the Victory Day celebrations

A K ABDUL MOMEN | BANGLADESH FOREIGN MINISTER

AUTUMN BEAUTY



People enjoy autumn scenery at Central Park in New York

UNI PHOTO

Xi to hold virtual summit with Biden

With the party's leadership mandate behind him, Xi will hold the video summit with Biden to highlight China's redlines on Taiwan, Hong Kong, Xinjiang, Tibet besides the continuing trade war launched by former US President Donald Trump



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Nov 15: Days after cementing his power base within the ruling Communist Party, Chinese President Xi Jinping will hold a virtual meeting with his US counterpart Joe Biden Tuesday amid mounting tensions in bilateral ties over a host of issues, especially Taiwan.

Ahead of the summit, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing on Monday that China would ask the US to bring the relations on to the right track of stable development.

Xi-Biden will exchange views on strategic issues regarding the future of China-US relations and major issues of common concern, Zhao said. In Washington, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said the two leaders will discuss ways to responsibly manage the competition between the United States and China, as well as ways to work together where their interests align.

Through the Biden administration, President Biden will make clear US intentions and priorities and be clear and candid about our concerns with China, she said on Friday, apparently referring to Washington's concerns on human rights, trade, technology issues as well as the Chinese military's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region.

Considering the Biden administration has not taken any concrete action to correct its wrong words and actions on the Taiwan question, China will continue exerting pressure on the US government, Wu Xinbo, dean of the Institute of International Studies at Fudan University, told state-run Global Times.

"It's hard to say whether China and the US will reach any consensus on this question, but the US has to make some concrete promises in accordance with the one-China principle and in response to China's concerns, otherwise it would affect the outcome of the meeting between the top leaders as well as the future China-US relationship," Wu said.

New outbreak prompts China to close varsity

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, Nov 15: China has confined nearly 1,500 university students to their dormitories and hotels following an outbreak of COVID-19 in the northeastern city of Dalian.

The order was issued Sunday after several dozen cases were reported at Zhuanghe University City and hundreds of students were transferred to hotels for observation. Students were attending class remotely and having their meals delivered to their rooms.

The lockdown is the latest example of China's zero-tolerance approach to the outbreak, which has brought considerable disruption to people's lives and livelihoods.

Quarantines, obligatory testing and travel restrictions have become the new normal for those even remotely caught up in outbreaks. The country's vaccination rate is among the world's highest and authorities have begun administering booster shots as winter descends.

While those measures have met



The order was issued Sunday after several dozen cases were reported at Zhuanghe University City and hundreds of students were transferred to hotels for observation

Small Animal Protection Association called for a quarantine system to care for pets caught in such situations.

"Pets are people's spiritual partners and should not be harmed under the pretext of fighting the pandemic," it said in a statement. "If you bring the hand of doom down on an innocent life without the slightest ability to defend itself, then how can you even talk about humanitarianism?"

Among other new measures, Beijing starting Wednesday will require all people arriving from other parts of the country by plane, train, bus or car to produce a negative virus test taken over the previous 48 hours.

Despite isolated cases in various parts of the country, China has been able to suppress major outbreaks over the past year, with its total number of reported cases standing at 98,315 with 4,636 deaths. On Monday the National Health Commission announced 32 new cases of local transmission over the previous 24 hours, 25 of them in Dalian.

little open resistance, the recent killing of a quarantined person's pet dog by health workers brought a wave of complaints online. The incident in the central city of

Shangrao prompted local authorities to issue a statement saying the pet owner and health workers had "reached an understanding." Following the incident, the China

SHORT TAKES

Quake jolts Iran

Tehran: A massive earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale followed by an almost as intense aftershock and more than 17 other tremors, jolted Iran, killing at least one person and injuring 47 others, according to official media. The 6.4 quake originated near the small inland town of Fin at 3.37 p.m. on Sunday, Xinhua news agency quoted the Iranian Seismological Centre (ISC) as saying in a monitoring report. Less than two minutes later, there was a 6.3-magnitude aftershock, very close to the same location in the southern province of Hormozgan.

Statue of Gandhi vandalised in Oz

Melbourne: A life-sized bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi, gifted by the Indian government, has been vandalised here in an act Prime Minister Scott Morrison strongly condemned as "disgraceful", triggering shock and disappointment among the Indian-Australian community. The incident happened hours after Prime Minister Morrison unveiled the statue at the Australian Indian Community Centre in Rowville on Friday along with the Consul General of India Raj Kumar and other Australian leaders as part of a celebration of 75 years of India's Independence, The Age newspaper reported.

US journalist freed from Myanmar jail

Bangkok: American journalist Danny Fenster, sentenced only days ago to 11 years hard labour in Myanmar, has been freed and is on his way home, former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Bill Richardson said Monday. Richardson said in a statement that Fenster had been handed over to him in Myanmar and would return to the U.S. via Qatar over the next day and a half. "This is the day that you hope will come when you do this work," Richardson said in a statement emailed from his office. "We are so grateful that Danny will finally be able to reconnect with his loved ones, who have been advocating for him all this time, against immense odds."

Japan, US launch talks

Tokyo: US and Japanese officials agreed Monday to launch talks aimed at settling a dispute over American tariffs on imports of Japanese steel and aluminum. The agreement came in a meeting between visiting US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and Japan's minister of economy, trade and industry, Koichi Hagiuda, Japanese officials said. Japan hopes to convince Washington to lift tariffs imposed during President Donald Trump's administration.

Trump selling prized Washington hotel: Report

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Nov 15: Donald Trump's opulent hotel near the White House that drew lobbyists and diplomats seeking favour with the ex-president as well as criticism as a symbol of his ethics conflicts is being sold to a Miami investment group, according to published reports citing anonymous sources.

CGI Merchant Group agreed to pay the Trump Organisation \$375 million for the rights to the 263-room hotel and has plans to rebrand it as a Waldorf Astoria, according to The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times, citing sources with knowledge of the matter.

Neither the Trump Organization nor CGI responded to numerous requests for comment. The deal is expected to close early next year after which the hotel will be managed by the Waldorf Astoria under a separate deal struck by CGI, according to the Journal. The Waldorf Astoria business is owned by Hilton Worldwide Holdings.

UK taxi blast declared a terror incident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 15: An explosion outside Liverpool Women's Hospital on Remembrance Sunday has been declared a terror incident by British police Monday.

The motive behind the attack, which ended in one fatality, remains unclear as Britain's Counter Terrorism Police lead an investigation into the case involving a taxi explosion, alongside MI5 intelligence agency.

A fourth suspect has been arrested as part of the ongoing investigation as the Head of Counter Terrorism Policing North West, Russ Jackson, said the taxi passenger appeared to have made an "improvised explosive device" which caused the blast.

"The fare—a man—had asked to be taken to Liverpool Women's Hospital, which was about 10 minutes away," Jackson told reporters. "As the taxi approached the drop-off point at the hospital an explosion occurred from within the car. This quickly engulfed it in



flames. Remarkably the taxi driver escaped from the cab," he said.

Earlier, three male suspects aged between 21 and 29 were arrested under the Terrorism Act following the car explosion outside the women's hospital. A male passenger of the car was declared dead at the scene outside the hospital and is yet to be formally identified. The

local Merseyside Police said the driver of the taxi was taken to hospital where he was treated for his injuries, which are not seen as life threatening, and has since been discharged.

"Detectives from Counter Terrorism Police North West continue to keep an open mind about the cause of the explosion and are

working closely with colleagues at Merseyside Police as the investigation continues at pace," the force said in a statement.

"So far we understand that the car involved was a taxi which pulled up at the hospital shortly before the explosion occurred," the police statement said. The incident took place around the time the UK fell silent for two minutes to mark Remembrance Sunday—marked annually on the second Sunday of November, to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Home Secretary Priti Patel issued statements on Twitter in the wake of the explosion. "My thoughts are with all those affected by the awful incident in Liverpool today. I want to thank the emergency services for their quick response and professionalism, and the police for their ongoing work on the investigation," Johnson said.

Austrian unvaccinated lockdown starts amid Covid resurgence

THE RESTRICTIONS ARE INITIALLY BEING IMPOSED UNTIL NOVEMBER 24 IN THE ALPINE COUNTRY OF 8.9 MILLION

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, Nov 15: Austria took what its leader called the "dramatic" step Monday of implementing a nationwide lockdown for unvaccinated people who haven't recently had COVID-19, perhaps the most drastic of a string of measures being taken by European governments to get a massive regional resurgence of the coronavirus under control.

The move, which took effect at midnight, prohibits people 12 years old and older who haven't been vaccinated or recently recovered from leaving their homes except for basic activities such as working, grocery shopping, going for a walk —

or getting vaccinated.

The lockdown is initially being imposed until November 24 in the Alpine country of 8.9 million. It doesn't apply to children under 12 because they cannot yet officially get vaccinated — though the capital, Vienna, on Monday opened up vaccinations for under-12s as part of a pilot, and reported high demand.

Officials have said that police patrols will be stepped up and unvaccinated people can be fined up to 1,450 euros (\$1,660) if they violate the lockdown. "We really didn't take this step lightly and I don't think it should be talked down," Chancellor Alexander Schallenberg told Oe1 radio. "This is a dramatic

step—about 2 million people in this country are affected...What we are trying is precisely to reduce contact between the unvaccinated and vaccinated to a minimum, and also contact between the unvaccinated."

"My aim is very clearly to get the unvaccinated to get themselves vaccinated and not to lock down the vaccinated," Schallenberg added. "In the long term, the way out of this vicious circle we are in—and it is a vicious circle, we are stumbling from wave to lockdown, and that can't carry on ad infinitum — is only vaccination."

About 65% of the population is fully vaccinated, a rate that Schallenberg has described as "shamefully low". Authorities are



concerned about rising infections and increasing pressure on hospitals. Austria on Sunday recorded

849.2 new cases per 100,000 residents over the previous seven days. Its situation is far worse than that

of neighbouring Germany, where case rates on Monday hit the latest in a string of records, with 303 new cases per 100,000 residents over seven days.

Berlin Monday became the latest of several German states to limit access to restaurants, cinemas, museums and concerts to people who have been vaccinated or recently recovered - shutting out unvaccinated people who have tested negative. Under-18s are exempted.

On Thursday, the German parliament is due to vote on a new legal framework for coronavirus restrictions drawn up by the parties that are expected to form the country's next government.

of the day quote

We will combine our deep industry domain expertise with world-class skills and diversity of talent of Telangana, as we witness significant growth in our Business Process Operations portfolio globally

Digitalization offers customers unparalleled convenience and access to banking services. With these conveniences come a lot of risks of cyber frauds as well. The fraudsters are constantly on the prowl looking out for gullible customers

Electric vehicles are here to stay and they would be opted for future mobility which is why we have said Ashok Leyland will have a separate arm called Switch Mobility

SHORT TAKES

Policybazaar rises 27% in mkt debut

Bangalore: PB Fintech Ltd, the SoftBank-backed parent of online insurance aggregator Policybazaar, rose as much as 27% in its market debut Monday, with investors betting on an under-penetrated insurance market in the country. Shares of the company opened 17% higher than the IPO (initial public offering) price of ₹980 apiece, with about 28 million shares changing hands in morning trade. The IPO, which included a fresh issue of ₹3,750 crore (\$504.44 million), was oversubscribed nearly 17 times in early-November.

HCC-KEC bags ₹1,309cr order

Chennai: Hindustan Construction Company Ltd, in consortium with KEC International Ltd, Monday said it has bagged ₹1,309 crore contract from the Chennai Metro Rail Ltd for construction of 11.61 km elevated viaduct section and 11 elevated stations on Corridor 5 of phase II of the Chennai metro. The latest contract was the second order secured by the HCC-KEC Consortium for Chennai Metro. HCC Share in the joint venture was at 51 per cent (Rs 668 crore), a company statement said here.

Apollo Tyres to hike rates by 3-5%

New Delhi: Apollo Tyres is taking a price hike of 3-5 per cent in the domestic market in the third quarter of this fiscal to offset the impact of rising commodity prices, which if continue to remain high, may compel it to take a similar increase in the fourth quarter, according to top company officials. Up until September, the company had taken an average increase of around 9 per cent in tyre prices, Apollo Tyres Vice Chairman and Managing Director Neeraj Kanwar told analysts.

Nykaa shares fall

Bangalore: Indian cosmetics-to-fashion retailer Nykaa said it was seeing demand for make-up and office wear return to pre-pandemic levels, a day after reporting a 96% slump in quarterly profit which drove its shares down as much as 7.4% Monday. Nykaa's shares pared some losses to trade 3% lower at ₹2,287.90. The company's marketing and advertisement expenses rose nearly four times to ₹1.21 billion for the quarter.



The entire reduction of ₹10 and ₹5 is a revenue loss to the central Government. And there is no loss of devolution to the states due to this reduction

T V SOMANATHAN | FINANCE SECRETARY

Regulations on cryptocurrency soon

THE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS WERE OF THE OPINION THAT THE ADVENT OF DIGITAL CURRENCY IS INEVITABLE BUT IT CANNOT GO AHEAD WITHOUT REGULATION, SOURCES SAID

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: A parliamentary panel, chaired by BJP leader Jayant Sinha, Monday discussed the pros and cons of crypto finance with various stakeholders, and several members were in favour of regulating crypto currency exchanges rather than imposing an outright ban on crypto currencies, according to sources.

The meeting took place against the backdrop of rising concerns in various quarters about crypto currencies and the possible risks emanating from trading in them, especially since there is a growing interest in such assets worldwide.

Representatives of crypto exchanges, Block chain and Crypto Assets Council (BACC), industry bodies as well as academicians and other stakeholders submitted their views before the panel, whose meeting also happened days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held discussions with senior officials from various ministries and RBI on the



Currency is a domain of the sovereign whereby its value is fixed in assured manner and crypto currency is a computer programme managed in distributed format on internet. Its value is only discovered by a buyer and user on an exchange which itself is illegal, the panel noted

The broad view of the panel was that a Chinese wall should be put in place on crypto currencies' fungibility in the real world and its interface with the real world should be regulated

Currently, there are neither specific regulations nor an outright ban on use of crypto currencies in the country

issue of crypto currencies. This is the first meeting on the subject that was convened by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance. The panel is chaired by Sinha, who is also a former Minister of State for Finance. Some Congress members in the panel told PTI that there are significant challenges in banning crypto currencies.

One of the members even wondered how crypto currencies are going to be regulated when even regulating the internet remains difficult. Members also expressed concerns about the possibility of crypto currencies being used for financing terror activities. In the morning, panel Chairman Sinha said the meeting on crypto

TESLA SHARES SLIP POST HEAVY LOSSES

Tesla Inc's shares slipped in premarket trading Monday, adding to a heavy week of losses after CEO Elon Musk offloaded a combined \$6.9 billion worth of shares in the electric-car maker. Shares in the company, which lost some \$187 billion in market value over the past week, were down 2.7% at \$1,005.42 in early New York trading



5-MONTH HIGH

Wholesale inflation crosses 12% in Oct



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: The wholesale price-based inflation spiked to 5-month high of 12.54 per cent in October, mainly due to rise in prices of manufactured products and crude petroleum.

WPI inflation has remained in double digit for the seventh consecutive month beginning April. Inflation in September this year was at 10.66 per cent, while in October 2020 it was at 1.31 per cent. The October WPI is the highest in five months since May, when it was at 13.11 per cent.

"The high rate of inflation in October 2021 is primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, chemicals and chemical products etc as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

Inflation in manufactured items was higher at 12.04 per cent in October, as against 11.41 per cent in the previous month. In the fuel and power basket, the rate of price rise was 37.18 per cent in October, as against 24.81 per cent in September.

Inflation in food articles too witnessed some uptick on a month-on-month basis at (-) 1.69 per cent in October, against (-) 4.69 per cent in September. Vegetable prices were lower at (-) 18.49 per cent, while in onions it was (-) 25.01 per cent.

ICRA Chief Economist Aditi

Crude petroleum inflation was 80.57 per cent during the month under review, as against 71.86 per cent in September

Nayar said the core index recorded a month-on-month jump of 1 per cent with a widespread uptick across the sub-groups reflecting the pervasive commodity price pressures.

"With demand reviving, we expect producers to start passing through higher input and freight costs, even as the tax cuts on fuels will offer them a breather. Led by the base effect, we expect WPI inflation to moderate in the months ahead, and print at 7.5-8.5 per cent in March 2021," Nayar added.

India Ratings and Research Principal Economist Sunil K Sinha said core and manufacturing inflation surged to a fresh high of 11.8 per cent and 12 per cent respectively in October 2021. This was the fourth successive month in which they have remained in excess of 11 per cent.

"As supply disruption has yet to normalize in many areas and manufacturers are becoming more confident about the demand recovery they are increasingly passing on the higher input costs to their output prices. Since fuel is a major input into transportation cost, higher fuel prices push up the distribution cost further," he said.

BOOST TO CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Nov tax devolution doubled for states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 15: The Centre will release ₹95,082 crore as tax devolution to the states this month after including one advance instalment to help them push their capital expenditure, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Monday.

After a meeting with all chief ministers and state finance ministers, Sitharaman said states had said that it would be helpful for them if the tax devolution is front loaded. "I have suggested the Finance Secretary that on November 22 instead of normal ₹47,541 crore, the states be given one more instalment. So ₹95,082 crore will be given to states on November 22," said Sitharaman.

So, with this, states will have more money in their hands so that they can consider spending it for



infrastructure creation, she added. Currently, 41 per cent of tax collected is devolved in 14 instalments and states have a predictability of their cash flows, Finance Secretary TV Somanathan said.

This meeting was essentially to seek ideas from states because in most of the issues related to investment development, and also for manufacturing and business activities, come in states domain, she added. Sitharaman suggested that there is a significant potentially monetizable asset base in states which could be leveraged to enhance the capital available for new infrastructure creation an official

The context of the meeting was after second Covid wave we are seeing a robust growth. However it's also the time we are looking at ways to sustain growth and take it to double digits

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

statement said. As many as 15 chief ministers, J&K LG and Deputy chief ministers of three states participated in the meeting. Rest of the states were represented by finance ministers.

During the meeting, states also gave certain recommendations to facilitate investment. These include Transparent Mechanism for Investment Facilitation that involves sharing with states, leads of prospective investors who are in touch with the Centre.

BANK BROKERAGES' PROFIT GROWTH TO FALL IN FY22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 15: Bank brokerages will continue showing strong performance on retail investors' interest in markets, but profit growth will decline to 20 per cent in FY22, a report said Monday.

The market shares of the bank brokerages, have, however, been moderating as a result of the discount broking companies' play, the report by rating agency Ica said. The net profit growth for such bank brokerages is expected to decline to 17-20 per cent in FY22, after clocking an 80% jump in FY21.

The bank brokerages' net operating income is expected to grow 20-25 per cent YOY in FY22 sup-

ported by steady broking income along with an uptick in the margin funding, Ica said.

"Bank brokerages are expected to continue to enjoy better brand recall, trust, higher credibility and financial flexibility by virtue of being a part of banking groups and would, therefore, remain a prominent part of the industry value chain," it's sector head for financial sector ratings Samriddhi Chowdhary said.

Leadership awards conferred

BHUBANESWAR: Individual icons of different fields and corporate houses of the state are conferred with 'Think CSR' and 'Think Odisha Leadership Awards' in an event organised at DN Vivant. Hindi film actress Sangita Bijani handed over awards to the recipients. Think CSR Innovation Award has been given to JK Paper Ltd, Gupta Power Infrastructure Limited, Paradeep Phosphates, Vedanta Ltd, IFFCO, Tata Steel and Serajuddin & Co. Think Odisha Leadership Award for Business Innovation was given to Lalchnd; Think Odisha Leadership Award for Entertainment handed over to Rituraj Mohanty and Susmita Das. Think Odisha Leadership Award in Media Sector for Eastern Media Group; Think Odisha Leadership in Education Sector to Chintamani Mahapatra; Think Odisha Leadership Award in Financial Management to Sarat Chandra Bhadra; Think Odisha Leadership Award for Visionary Leadership in Healthcare Innovations to Dr Sreejyoti Patnaik and Think Odisha Leadership Award for Sustained Excellence in the Field of Gynaecology & Obstetrics was given to Dr Saudamini Mohapatra.

HMSI launches Grazia125 Repsol Edition

NEW DELHI: Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) Monday said it has launched a special edition of its 125 cc scooter Grazia in the country priced at ₹87,138 (ex-showroom, Gurgaon). The Grazia125 Repsol Honda Team Edition is inspired by the Repsol Honda racing team design theme, graphics and other elements. The scooter comes with a programmed fuel injection (PGM-FI) engine coupled with features like idling stop system and enhanced smart power (eSP). It also features a multi-function switch, side stand indicator with engine-cut off, three-step adjustable rear suspension and front telescopic suspension.



In race for EVs, Toyota chases hydrogen dream

BY 2025, TOYOTA PLANS TO HAVE 15 EV MODELS AVAILABLE AND IS INVESTING \$13.5 BILLION OVER A DECADE TO EXPAND BATTERY PRODUCTION

AGENCIES

Tokyo, Nov 15: As UN climate conference delegates considered how to save the planet over the weekend in Glasgow, Toyota Motor's chief executive was in Japan racing an experimental hydrogen car - a vehicle he says could preserve millions of auto jobs.

The colourful Toyota Corolla Sport that Akio Toyota steered around the Okayama International Circuit in western Japan was powered by a converted GR Yaris engine running on hydrogen. Making such a powerplant commercially viable could keep internal combustion engines running in a carbon-free world.

Toyota's latest push into hydrogen tech comes as the world's biggest carmaker joins the rush to win a share of the growing mar-

ket for battery electric vehicles (BEV) as the world tightens emission regulations to meet carbon-cutting pledges.

Not Only Electric At the gathering in Glasgow, six major carmakers, including General Motors, Ford Motor, Sweden's Volvo and Daimler AG's Mercedes-Benz signed declaration to phase out fossil-fuel cars by 2040.

Toyota declined to join that group, arguing that much of the world is not ready for a shift to EVs. Another notable absence was Germany's Volkswagen.

"We don't want to be seen as an EV maker, but as a carbon-neutral company," Toyota Vice Chairman Shigeru Hayakawa told Reuters in an interview.

"If the adoption of carbon-free fuels happens quickly, that could bring the first battery EV boom to



an end," said Takeshi Miyao, an analyst at auto industry research company Carnorama.

Challenging Technology One problem is that the engine is not completely carbon-free and

cannot therefore be classed as zero-emission. Although the byproduct of hydrogen and oxygen combustion is water, a small amount of engine metal burns as well, resulting in about 2% of the emissions



The enemy is carbon, not internal combustion engines. We shouldn't just focus on one technology but make use of the technologies we already possess. Carbon neutrality is not about one having a single choice, but about keeping options open

AKIO TOYODA | CEO, TOYOTA MOTOR

of a gasoline engine. The exhaust also contains traces of nitrogen oxide.

There is a carbon cost to building electric car batteries, but EVs do not pollute when operated.

Hydrogen cars also need bulky pressurized tanks for their fuel. Much of the rear seat and trunk in Toyota's hydrogen car was taken up by fuel tanks that blocked the rear window.

Such concerns have also slowed the construction of hydrogen fuelling stations in Japan, despite Japanese government backing for the fuel, which it sees as a key component in the country's future carbon-neutral energy mix. At the end of August, there were 154 hydrogen stations in Japan - six short of what the government wanted by the end of March.

"Hydrogen has long been known as a potential low-carbon transport fuel, but establishing it in the transport fuel mix has been difficult," the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in a progress report this month.

NEWS IN BRIEF

SINDHU TARGETS PODIUM FINISH

Bali: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu will continue her quest for a podium finish when she spearheads India's challenge at the Indonesia Masters Super 750 badminton tournament which begins Tuesday. However, compatriots Saina Nehwal and Sameer Verma will be missing in action after deciding to pull out of the event due to injuries. Sindhu is seeded third in the tourney and has good memories of Indonesia. She reached the final two years back and will certainly want to go a step further when she faces Thailand's Supanida Katethong in the event opener.

NEW ASSIGNMENT

New Delhi: Former India head coach Ravi Shastri has been roped in as the Commissioner of the Legends League Cricket (LLC), a professional event for retired players that is set to take off next year. The first season of LLC is scheduled to be held in January next year in the Gulf. "It feels great to remain connected with cricket in the thick of action, especially with the 'Legends' of the game who have been champions in their own rights," Shastri said in a release issued by the event's organisers. "It is going to be a lot of fun with some serious cricket going," he added.

THAPA TO LEAD

Chennai: India international Anirudh Thapa was Monday named captain of Chennaiyin FC (CFC) for the forthcoming season of Indian Super League (ISL) beginning Friday. The 23-year old midfielder, who has been with CFC since 2016, takes over from Brazilian Rafael Crivellaro. Thapa said as a captain there's an added responsibility and he would always protect his team and players. "I think not much has changed for me after being appointed captain. I know what the club want. I want to win. And so do I. But as captain, there is an added responsibility to look after the players," Thapa was quoted as saying in a release.

AUSTRALIAN SKIPPER SAYS THAT PROMOTING MARSH TO NO.3 IN THE BATTING ORDER WORKED WONDERS

Finch lauds Warner, Marsh

AGENCIES

Dubai, Nov 14: Victorious Australia captain Aaron Finch was all praise for both David Warner and Mitchell Marsh after their maiden T20 title triumph here Sunday. Finch said that writing Warner off at the start of the tournament was like 'poking the bear'. Warner hit back at his critics as he was chosen 'Player of the Tournament' with big knocks in the semifinal and final. The attacking left-hander scored 289 runs in the tournament after being unceremoniously dumped by his IPL side Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH).

Warner's 53 in addition to Marsh's unbeaten innings of 77 helped Australia beat New Zealand by an emphatic margin of eight wickets.

"I can't believe people wrote him off a couple of weeks ago. It was almost like poking the bear," Finch said after the match. The Australian skipper also informed that he had called up JL (coach Justin Langer) and stated that he would want Warner in his team at any cost.

"This is huge, to be the first Australia team to do it (win the T20 title). So proud of how the guys went about the campaign. There can be no doubt Warner played a very important role," pointed out Finch.

Finch said he is amazed at Marsh's resilience. "To be able to put up with the critics for so long, when his performance hasn't been bad by any stretch of the imagination and any format of the game is commendable. If you look at



OVER THE MOON: Australian skipper Aaron Finch celebrates with the T20 WC winners' trophy after Australia's triumph, Sunday

his ODI numbers they are very good," added the Australian skipper. "Off the field, he is the nicest person you will ever meet in your

I just love playing my role for this team. It has been an amazing six weeks with this group of men. I absolutely love them to death and we're world champions

MITCHELL MARSH

life. He's obviously a special player," Finch added.

Promoting Marsh up the order turned out to be a master-stroke, something the Australians had put a lot of thought to during their tour of the West Indies.

"Mitch's move to No. 3 was a really important one in the West Indies. We felt as though he's someone who could play - he obviously plays fast bowling very well," Finch pointed out. "So we backed him from the start. We committed to him batting at No.3 for a long time. This decision probably gave him a lot of confidence," added the skipper.

In fact Finch lauded the efforts of each and every teammate. "To me (Adam) Zampa is 'Player of the Tournament'. He controlled the game, got big wickets and was always ready for a battle with the opposition," Finch said.

Former skipper Steve Smith also echoed his current captain's sentiment about Warner: "His (Warner's) last two weeks have been amazing. A lot of people were writing him off. He came in with exceptional intent and took the game away at the start in the final," Smith stated.

STEAD PREDICTS TOUGH SERIES

Kiwi coach worried about players' mental fitness



New Zealand coach Gary Stead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Nov 15: New Zealand coach Gary Stead has said his team are bracing up for a 'tough and challenging' schedule as they head to India for a three-match T20 series. The Kiwis face India in the first match of the series Wednesday at Jaipur. New Zealand will certainly find it hard to regroup within three days of the loss to Australia in the final of the T20 World Cup here.

The second and third T20 games will be played November 19 and November 21 respectively. Then New Zealand will kick off their World Test Championship defence with two matches in Kanpur and Mumbai.

"It's the first time that I can remember that we're so quickly into another series immediately at the back-end of the T20 World Cup," Stead was quoted as saying by 'ESP'Ncricinfo'. "It's definitely tough and challenging but it is what is in front of us," Stead added.

The members of the Test side, who are not part of the T20 squad, are already in India.

"We've got nine-10 guys in India already, who are preparing for those Test matches. Hopefully we can get up and have a really great performance against India," Stead said.

New Zealand cricketers have been in the bio-bubble for varying time period with 10 members of

LOT AT STAKE FOR RAHANE

Mumbai: He knows that his place in the Indian Test team is at stake. So Ajinkya Rahane is scouring the missing runs. He is batting at the nets in shorts spans, against a variety of bowlers, and by doing everything else that is in his control. Besides carrying the additional burden of leading the team in the opening Test in Virat Kohli's absence, Rahane will also need to score runs to ensure questions are not raised about his place in the coming weeks. In the last 15 Tests, Rahane has scored just 644 runs at an average of 24.76. Since that magnificent match-winning hundred at the MCG last December, Rahane has been struggling to live up to the expectations.

The T20 squad also competing at the IPL in the UAE which preceded the ICC event. Others like Glenn Phillips and Jimmy Neesham played at the 'Hundred'.

In some good news for New Zealand, pace spearhead Lockie Ferguson, who missed the T20 World Cup due to a calf injury, is likely to return to action. "In terms of Lockie, I think he is pretty close to fitness," Stead said. "I'd expect that he's going to be available for selection, which will be fantastic," Stead added.

No Indian in ICC's team of tournament

AGENCIES

Dubai, Nov 15: No Indian cricketer figured in the ICC's T20 World Cup 'Team of the Tournament' that is made up of players from six different countries. Pakistan's Babar Azam has been named captain of the side. It was expected that at least Rohit Sharma or a KL Rahul would get a look in, but it did not happen.

The jury members did not think any of the Indian players deserved

THE TEAM

David Warner, Adam Zampa, Josh Hazlewood (all Australia), Jos Buttler (w/k), Moeen Ali (both England), Babar Azam (captain, Pakistan), Charith Asalanka, Wanindu Hasaranga (both Sri Lanka), Aiden Markram, Anrich Nortje (both South Africa), Trent Boult (New Zealand), Twelfth man: Shaheen Shah Afridi (Pakistan).

to be picked as they failed to qualify from the group. However, South Africa's Aiden Markram and Anrich Nortje and Sri Lanka's Charith Asalanka and Wanindu Hasaranga were selected even though their teams did not qualify for the semifinals.

Opening batter and 'Player of the Tournament' David Warner, leg-spinner Adam Zampa and seamer Josh Hazlewood all made the cut for Australia after helping steer their side to their first

ever T20 World Cup title. There were also spots for England's Jos Buttler as wicket-keeper and New Zealand left-arm seamer Trent Boult.

One of the jury members, former West Indies pacer Ian Bishop, said: "As with any team selection there will be varying opinions, and robust discussion on the final composition of the squad. This team was incredibly difficult to select over such a highly competitive tournament."

NO STOPPING HAMILTON

British driver scripts amazing comeback after starting 10th on the grid



Lewis Hamilton is all smiles as he poses with the Brazilian flag after his triumph, Sunday at the Interlagos tracks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sao Paulo, Nov 15: Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton ended 'the hardest weekend I've had' with a stunning victory at the Brazilian Grand Prix, and gained momentum in his Formula One title fight with Red Bull driver Max Verstappen. Hamilton, a seven-time World Champion, beat Verstappen despite starting from 10th position on the grid due to a penalty - the second Hamilton faced this weekend here.

Verstappen, the winner of the race's previous edition in 2019, finished second and saw his lead in the driver's championship shrink to 14 points, with three races left. The winner of a race gets 25 points.

"Let's keep pushing," Hamilton said on team radio after his sixth victory of the season. He took a Brazil flag to celebrate his win in the car and on the podium, just as his idol Ayrton Senna did. Hamilton's teammate, Valtteri Bottas, finished third and Red Bull's Sergio Perez was fourth with the

Mexican clocking the fastest lap of the race. The Ferraris of Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz were fifth and sixth, respectively. Verstappen led most of the race after the first turn, when he overtook pole-sitter Bottas. But Hamilton, who rose from 10th to third position in just six laps, went ahead of Verstappen on lap 59, putting a raucous crowd on their feet at the Interlagos circuit.

Hamilton finished the race with a 10-second advantage over Verstappen and said he felt like he had won his first race before a joyous crowd at Interlagos. "I was pushing as hard as I could," an emotional Hamilton said after his 101st victory. "From last on the grid (for Saturday's

sprint race), and then another five-place penalty - I think that's the hardest weekend I've had. Things kept going against us, but it just shows, never give up, keep fighting. Never, ever stop fighting," he added. Mercedes are now 11 points ahead of Red Bull in the constructors' standings.

You should never stop believing, never stop fighting and never give up. That's what I did and that's what gave me victory

LEWIS HAMILTON

Serbia put Ronaldo's dream on hold

SPAIN, CROATIA QUALIFY FOR QATAR WORLD CUP AS PORTUGAL STUTTER

AGENCIES

Lisbon, Nov 15: Cristiano Ronaldo's hopes of playing in a record-equalling fifth World Cup hangs in the balance after Serbia stunned Portugal 2-1 here to qualify for the event in Qatar in 2022. Joining them were Spain and Croatia who secured Sunday their places in Qatar thanks to 1-0 wins over Sweden and Russia respectively.

Ronaldo already holds the record of playing in five European Championships and looked well on course for another milestone as Portugal came out of the blocks to open the scoring after just two minutes through Renato Sanches.

However, Serbia bounced back to dominate the remainder of the first half and deservedly levelled when Dusan Tadic's strike squeezed in off the post after Dusan Vlahovic had hit the woodwork.

Ronaldo was kept quiet as another chance to score his 800th career goal came and went. Instead it was Aleksandar Mitrovic who grabbed the vital goal during added on time.

Just over a year ago, Mitrovic was the villain for his country as he was the only player to fail to score



HEADY FEELING: Serbian players and support staff celebrate after their dramatic win over Portugal

in a penalty shootout against Scotland that saw Serbia miss out on Euro 2020. However, the Fulham striker made amends in dramatic fashion when he steered in Tadic's header at the back post.

"It was an amazing game," said Mitrovic. "We were the better team today (Sunday) in every aspect of the game," he added.

Portugal must now navigate two tricky one-off playoff matches in

March to maintain their record of qualifying for every major tournament since the 1998 World Cup.

Spain made sure they avoided the playoffs as Alvaro Morata's goal four minutes from time ended Sweden's resistance in Seville. The Swedes' shock 0-2 defeat Thursday to Kazakhstan had handed Spain pole position in Group B, meaning the La Roja just needed a point to qualify.

"To be honest, it is a huge weight off my shoulders," said Spanish manager Luis Enrique. "I felt much more pressure in these games when people think it is easy to get a result than in the Euro or the Nations League," he added.

Croatia also needed a late winner as an own goal from Fedor Kudryashov snatched qualification from Russia in a battle in boggy conditions in Split.

Djokovic starts in style with convincing triumph

Serbian in quest of 6th ATP Finals title

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turin, Nov 15: World No.1 Novak Djokovic began his quest for a sixth ATP Finals title with a 7-6(7-4), 6-2 victory over Casper Ruud in his opening group clash here Monday. With this win, Djokovic has equalled legend Ivan Lendl's record of winning 39 matches at the ATP Finals.

Djokovic has won the ATP Finals title in 2008, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. Besides, he was the runner-up in 2016 (lost to Andy Murray) and 2018 (lost to

Alexander Zverev). If he wins the title this time, he will equal the record of Roger Federer who has won the championship six times.

Earlier strong serving and consistent baseline play propelled US Open champion Daniil Medvedev to a 6-7(5-7), 6-3, 6-4 win over first-time qualifier Hubert Hurkacz in a match played late Sunday evening. In another match played on the day, 2018 champion Alexander Zverev won when local favourite Matteo Berrettini of Italy retired early in the second set with an apparent abdominal injury.

Zverev won the first set 7-6(9-7) and was leading 1-0 in the second when Berrettini dropped his racket to the ground, covered his face

AT A GLANCE
Novak Djokovic bt Casper Ruud 7-6(7-4), 6-2
Daniil Medvedev bt Hubert Hurkacz 6-7(5-7), 6-3, 6-4
Alexander Zverev bt Matteo Berrettini 7-6(9-7), 1-0 (ret'd)



and bent over in apparent pain. Medvedev, the defending champion

at the year-end tournament for the top eight players, served 15

aces and didn't face a single breakpoint against the seventh-seeded Hurkacz, who beat him in five sets at Wimbledon this year.

Medvedev attributed his strong serving performance to conditions he called the fastest he's ever experienced on tour.

"I don't think it's the surface itself because (the) surface probably is exactly the same as in London," the Russian said, referring to the previous tournament host. "I think it's a combination of air, which is really dry here, and I think the ball goes very fast through the air. So I was barely under pressure on my serve against a great returner," Medvedev added.