

**OPINION 6**  
EDUCATING A  
GLOBAL CITIZEN

**WORLD 8**  
UK SC TO DECIDE IF ISIS BRIDE  
CAN BE BACK TO LONDON

**SPORT 12**  
AT 34, MY DAYS ARE  
NUMBERED: WARNER

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BAFTA COMES  
TO INDIA:  
TIM HUNTER  
11 VIVACITY

# SC raises concerns over Covid relapse

Apex court asks Centre, States to file status report in 2 days on steps taken to deal with situation; Maha told to be prepared for worst in Dec

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said that the Covid-19 situation has worsened in Delhi and gone out of control in Gujarat even as it warned Maharashtra to be prepared for the worst in December. Expressing concern over the surge in number of Covid-19 cases across the country, the court asked the Centre and all States to file within two days status reports detailing the steps taken to deal with the situation.

"Things have worsened in Delhi especially in November. You file a status report on what steps have been taken," a Bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan told Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, who was appearing for the Delhi Government.

"In Gujarat, the situation is going out of control," said the Bench, also comprising Justices RS Reddy and MR Shah. "There is spike in cases and this is only November. Prepare for the worst in December. You have to take steps," the Bench told the lawyer appearing for Maharashtra.

The Bench was hearing a matter regarding the need for proper treatment of Covid-19 patients and dignified handling of dead bodies in the hospitals. It has posted the matter for further hearing on November 27. The court pointed out that Covid-19 cases have risen across the country especially in Delhi, Maharashtra and Gujarat and noted the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta who said steps are being taken to deal with the situation in Delhi. Jain told the Bench that as

per earlier order of the SC, an expert committee has been constituted and other directions have also been complied with by the Delhi Government. He said that a separate space has been earmarked for the cremation of 385 bodies. "We have no difficulty that you have complied with orders of this court."

But looking at the present situation, what else are you doing," the Bench observed and asked Jain to file a status report.

The apex court also questioned the Gujarat Government over its policy of marriage celebration during the pandemic time, saying cases are rising there and the situation has worsened in the State after Delhi and Maharashtra.

"After Delhi and Maharashtra situation in Gujarat has also worsened. What is that you are allowing marriage celebration during day time? You file an affidavit on the status report on steps taken as on date," the SC said.



A health worker collects samples from a passenger for the Covid-19 test, as coronavirus cases surge across Delhi, at ISBT Kashmere Gate in New Delhi on Monday

## HC DECLINES 'HALF-BAKED' PLEA FOR IMMEDIATE LOCKDOWN IN DELHI

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Monday declined to entertain a plea seeking directions to the AAP Government to immediately place the city under lockdown in view of the rising Covid-19 cases and air pollution levels, saying the petition was "half-baked" and "unnecessary".

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY VACCINE 'EFFECTIVE' AT PREVENTING COVID-19; SHOWS 70% PROTECTION

London: The vaccine candidate being trialled by Oxford University on Monday presented crucial Phase 3 interim results which show that it is "effective" at preventing Covid-19 and offers a high level of protection from the deadly virus.

## Covid-19 IN INDIA

**TOTAL**  
CASES: 91,75,627  
DEATHS: 1,34,213  
RECOVERED: 86,00,057  
ACTIVE: 4,39,280



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	17,84,361	46,653	16,54,793
Karnataka	8,74,555	11,678	8,38,150
Andhra Pradesh	8,62,758	6,948	8,42,416
Tamil Nadu	7,71,619	11,622	7,47,752
Kerala	5,67,204	2,072	4,99,338
Delhi	5,34,317	8,512	4,88,476
Uttar Pradesh	5,28,833	7,582	4,97,475
West Bengal	4,59,918	8,072	4,26,816
Odisha	3,14,629	1,710	3,06,726
Telangana	2,64,128	1,433	2,51,468
Rajasthan	2,47,168	2,181	2,20,871
Bihar	2,31,044	1,227	2,24,701
Chhattisgarh	2,23,436	2,732	1,98,311
Haryana	2,19,963	2,216	1,97,335
Assam	2,11,682	975	2,07,525
Gujarat	1,98,899	3,876	1,81,287

## At least 5 die of Covid an hour in Delhi in 24 hours

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 fatalities have increased in the National Capital with at least five people dying of the deadly virus every hour on an average in Delhi in the last 24 hours. While a total of 511 Covid-19 deaths were recorded across the country in the past 24 hours, Delhi accounted for the largest chunk of such fatalities with 121 fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

This was accounted for the largest chunk of such fatalities across the country, which recorded an average of 21 deaths in this period.

The analysis was based on the data from the Union Health Ministry which gave the total number of deaths recorded in the country and all States and UTs due to Covid-19 in the past 24 hours.

## MBBS, students, dentists to assist in Covid-19 care

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday ordered the fourth-five-year MBBS students and dentists to be allowed to assist in hospitals and Covid-19 ICU units to meet the manpower shortage.

His decision came after a surge in the coronavirus cases and fatalities reported since last week in the national capital. According to an official order, the fourth- and fifth-year MBBS students and dental doctors will assist duty doctors at the honorarium of ₹1,000 for an eight-hour shift and ₹2,000 for a 12-hour shift per day.

The Delhi Government, in its order, had also said in the case of interns, the honorarium would be over and above the stipend. According to Government database, Delhi has reported 40,212 active cases, 4,81,260 recoveries, and 8,391 deaths.

## Covid -ve report must for entering Maha

Those from NCR, Guj, Raj, Goa must carry RT-PCR test report with them

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a safety precaution taken in view of increasing Covid-19 cases in the national Capital and three other States, the Maharashtra Government on Monday made it mandatory

for all domestic passengers travelling to Maharashtra by air, trains and roads from the National Capital Region and the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Goa to carry RT-PCR negative test report with them. Amid a fear of a second Covid-19 wave gripping Maharashtra in the wake of increasing incidence of Covid-19 in New Delhi, Ahmedabad and Surat, the Maharashtra Government put in place a mechanism to prevent the passengers carrying Covid-19

virus from entering Maharashtra from Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Goa. Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had, in his address to the people of the State, said on Sunday that his Government was on a "high alert" in view of increasing pandemic cases in cities like New Delhi, Ahmedabad and Surat. "Though there is no wave in the State, we cannot lower our guard. The State health authorities are well-equipped to tack-

le the second pandemic wave if it hits the State. My request to people is to take all health precautions," he had said. Amid speculation that started brewing a few days ago that Maharashtra may suspend train and air transport services between Mumbai and Delhi, Uddhav Thackeray made the first move when the State made compulsory for those arriving in Maharashtra by air, train and road to carry RT-PCR negative test report with them.

## China's mad infra push along LAC alarms India

Bunkers, roads, dwelling units in eastern sector of LAC besides Ladakh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

While efforts are on to resolve the seven-month-old stand-off through sustained dialogue, China continues with infrastructure development all along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Military ammunition bunkers, roads and prefabricated dwelling units have come up in eastern sector of the LAC besides Ladakh.

These developments come at a time when the two sides are preparing for the ninth round of Corps Commander-level talks soon. While both the commanders reiterated their commitment to continue talks, China's aggressive infrastructure push has alarmed the



Indian security establishment. Earlier, rapid construction was only confined to Ladakh sector of the LAC in the backdrop of the face-offs. However, the furious pitch of work in the East in Doklam near Sikkim is a cause of serious concern, sources said here on Monday.

The Doklam region saw more than 70-day long face-off in 2017 after India objected to construction of a road by China there. The issue was resolved after intense negotia-

tions at the diplomatic and military levels. In the latest developments, satellite images show construction of hardened ammunition bunkers, two kilometers from Sinche-La (pass) on the eastern periphery of the Doklam plateau near the border between Bhutan and China. The new structures will enable the Chinese troops to withstand intense cold there and face any challenge with sufficient logistical support, sources said here. High-resolution images from Maxar Technologies indicate road access from the site of the bunkers to the Sinche-La pass, which is then connected to an all-weather road constructed by Chinese workers that stretches across the 5 kilometre-wide Doklam plateau.

The new bunkers and construction of the road on the Doklam plateau after the stand-off in 2017, the construction of a "village" and 9-kilometre track adjacent to the plateau are strong indications that China has no hesitation in construction activity in territory which Bhutan claims to be its own. A September 2020 study by STRATFOR, the world's leading geopolitical intelligence platform, said the 2017 Doklam crisis "appears to have shifted China's strategic objectives, with China more than doubling its total number of air bases, air defence positions and headquarters near Indian border over past three years."

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## 17 more die; State Covid toll now 1,657

■ 668 NEW +VE: TOTAL 3,14,629  
■ 913 RECOVER: TOTAL RECOVERIES 3,06,726

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Seventeen more persons died in the State on Monday, with which the Covid-19 toll jumped to 1,657, the Health and Family Welfare Department said.

Four persons each succumbed to the disease in Khordha and Sundargarh districts, three in Sambalpur, two each in Jharsuguda and Bargarh and one each in Balangir and Kendrapada.

Meanwhile, 668 positive cases were reported on the day, with which the total tally

rose to 3,14,629. Of the new cases, 385 were from quarantine and 283 were local contacts. Nuapada district recorded the day's highest 68 cases, followed by Khordha 56, Sundargarh 55 Mayurbhanj 50, Angul 46, Baleswar and Keonjhar 38 each, Cuttack 37, Balangir 28, Jagatsinghpur and Sambalpur 25 each, Kendrapada 21, Bargarh and Jajpur 18 each, Bhadrak 15, Kalahandi 11, Nabarangpur nine, Nayagarh and Malkangiri eight each, Boudh seven, Dhenkanal six, Gajapati four, Kandhamal three and Rayagada and Deogarh two. Besides, 12 positives were reported from the State pool. However, 913 patients recovered on the day, taking the total recoveries to 3,06,726.

## Row over private schools fee waiver lingers

HC adjourns hearing to Dec 2

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The stalemate over collection of tuition fees by the private schools in the State for the lockdown period from March to June is likely to continue as the matter remained unresolved in the Orissa High Court on Monday and the court adjourned the case's hearing again to December 2.

Seeking a direction to the State Government to pass necessary order asking both private unaided and aided schools not to collect tuition fees for the lockdown period and not to increase any fee in the academic session 2020-21, multiple PILs are filed in the court by parents' associations.

Adjudicating one of the petitions, the court had asked the Government to resolve the issue by convening a meeting of all the stakeholders, includ-

ing the school managements. The Government had submitted a report in the court stating that an MoU has been signed by all stakeholders proposing a fee waiver of different slabs.

Stating that bereft of any statutory provision to deal with the fee fixations in private schools and the Odisha Education Act lacking any provision for the same, the Government had requested the court to accept the MoU, which mentions about seven slabs of fee waiver for different schools. Although the Government claimed that 'near unanimity' had been reached among the stakeholders, a Bench of Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq and Justice Biswanath Rath received several pleas questioning the modalities of the MoU.

When Advocate General requested court for some more time to get instructions from Government over new development, court adjourned cases hearing to next month.

## 37 new +ve in BBSR

Four more die, 53 recover; 15 infected in Cuttack city

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Capital city Bhubaneswar on Monday registered 37 new Covid-19 positive cases, taking the total tally to 30,498, including 556 active cases. The new cases included 21 local contacts and 16 quarantine cases.

Meanwhile, four more persons succumbed to the disease on the day, pushing the total toll to 208. However, 53 patients recovered on the day, taking the total recoveries to 29,713. In Cuttack, 15 more positives were reported, increasing the city's total to 15,703.

## Assembly passes 3 Bills

Strike by State staffers now punishable

⇒ 1-YR JAIL, ₹5,000 FINE OR BOTH

⇒ OPPOSITION DECRIES THE MEASURE

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Amid strong protests from Opposition BJP and Congress, the State Assembly Monday passed three Bills, including the controversial Odisha Essential Services (Maintenance) Act Amendment Bill, 2020.

The Odisha Essential Services (Maintenance) Act Amendment Bill, moved by Minister of State for Home Divya Shankar Mishra on behalf of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, was opposed by the BJP and Congress members as it has provision of imprisonment and penalty for Government employees for

resorting to any strike that 'threatens' the safety of people. The Bill says any person found instigating and funding illegal strikes henceforth would be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year and/or imposed a fine up to Rs 5,000. This apart, the Bill also has the provision to prohibit strike by the citizens, the Government service like fire services, excise, forest, prison, reforms and electronics.

However, Minister Mishra defended the Bill saying that keeping in view the interests of the citizens, the Government introduced this so that they are not deprived of essential services.

Opposition members disagreed with the Government alleging that it was an attempt to suppress voice of the workers, who would not be able to put forth their demands even

in a democratic manner. Leader of Opposition Pradipta Naik (BJP) said it is shocking to see the Government bringing such a measure just to shut the voices of people.

Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati criticised the Government saying the Bill aims to suppress the people's voice on burning issues. He said the situation in Odisha is worse than what is being witnessed in Pakistan. Outside the Assembly, different trade unions also strongly opposed the amended ESMA Bill and vowed to oppose it across the State.

The House also passed the Odisha Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2020 and Odisha Local Fund Audit (Amendment) Bill, 2020 moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Bikram Aruka and Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari, respectively.

## School norm applicable for KBK too

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government Monday informed the Assembly that the norms fixed for closure or merger of schools in the scheduled areas would also be applicable for such institutions located in the KBK region.

Minister Samir Ranjan Dash stated this after Opposition BJP and Congress again raised the issue in the House. He said the primary and upper primary schools having less than 15 students would be identified for closure or merger in the scheduled area and also in the KBK region. The earlier notification in this regard would soon be revised.

Earlier, it had been decided to close or merge schools having less than 20 student strength. After the modification, the student strength in the scheduled area and KBK region would be 15 instead of 20, he clarified.

## 6 universities get new Vice-Chancellors

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Governor and Chancellor of universities Prof Ganeshi Lal on Monday appointed Vice-Chancellors of six universities of the State.

Prof Aparajita Chowdhury, Prof Sabita Acharya, Prof Dinabandhu Sahoo, Prof N Nagaraju, Prof Kishore Kumar Basa and Prof Prafulla Kumar Mohanty were appointed as Vice-Chancellor of Rama Devi Women's University, Utkal University, Fakir Mohan University, Gangadhar Meher University, North Odisha University and Khallikote University, respectively. In exercise of the powers conferred by the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Act, 2020, Lal appointed the Vice-Chancellors for a period of four years with effect from the date they assume office or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Prof Chowdhury is a former Director, College of Development Council and Professor of Home Science, Berhampur University having more than 37 years of teaching experience. Prof Acharya, formerly Chairman, Post Graduate Council and Professor of Anthropology, Utkal University, has more than 31 years of teaching experience. With more than 26 years of teaching experience, Prof Sahoo is present-

ly serving as Professor, University of Delhi. Prof Nagaraju is presently Professor in English, Central University of Karnataka, with 34 years of teaching experience. Prof Basa has 38 years of teaching experience and he is former Professor, Tagore National Fellow, University of Culture, Government of India.

Prof Mohanty, a former Professor of Zoology, Utkal University, has 35 years teaching experience. The new Vice-Chancellors get at least seven days to join their new assignments as the tenure of the present Vice-Chancellors come to an end this month.



**PPE purchase scam**

# Industry Secy, OSMCL MD appear before Lokayukta

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Two senior IAS officers, Industries Secretary Hemant Sharma and Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL) Managing Director Yamin Sarangi appeared before the Lokayukta for hearing in connection with the alleged corruption in the purchase of PPE kits, notified, presenting some facts through a letter. On November 5, the

Lokayukta had served a notice to the Chief Secretary to furnish a reply over the allegations by November 23. The Lokayukta scheduled next hearing on the matter for December 7, sources said.

It was for the third time that Sharma and Sarangi appeared before the Lokayukta in connection with alleged irregularities in the procurement of PPE kits.

The two officers had initially failed to respond to the notice by the Lokayukta on August 11 to submit their replies. Later, the anti-corruption officer had warned that it would proceed with the investigation if they did not

appear during the next hearing on September 14. Subsequently, both had appeared before the Lokayukta on September 14. Again, they appeared for the second time on November 4.

Notably, the Government had removed Sharma from the supervision of procurement of masks and PPE kits required in the treatment of Covid-19 patients following allegations of corruption made by the State Congress.

Apart from the Congress, social organisation Odisha Bikash Parishad (OBPP) had also alleged that many IAS officers were involved in the scam and demanded a fair probe into the matter.

# CBI investigation sought in Puri custodial death

## Rights outfit submits memo to OHRC

PNS ■ PURI

The Biswa Manabika Adhikar Sangathan (BMAS), a rights outfit, submitted a memorandum to the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) in Bhubaneswar on Saturday against role of police in the alleged custodial death of K. Ramesh in Baselish police station on Wednesday last.

The BMAS demanded a probe by the CBI on role of police in death of Ramesh in custody. A team led by BMAS national president Avirama Hota, district advisor, Manas Mohapatra and district president Gaurisankar Songhai (Sukuta) in a letter raised the laxity of police behind the cruel death of the youth and in particular the role of Baselish, PS IIC Ibanabada Jena, who was already on a leave by then.

They raised suspicions over the leave letter of IIC Jena, who according to them, was known present on that day in the PS. They wanted that the CCTV footages in the PS on the day be made public, said Singhari.

# Interview of the week

## PR is an art; one gets skilled on the job over the time



## I derive bliss from my poetry

Rakshak Nayak, a senior member of the Odisha Information Service, has elevated the PR (public relations) profession to a new high by his innovation and dedication.

He managed the India International Trade Fair fairly on behalf of the Odisha Government. He has effectively coordinated the PR works of the Assembly Speaker and a dozen Ministers in a career spanning 25 years.

Besides his professional excellence, he has carved a niche for himself in the world of words as a remarkable poet and author. His ensemble includes a kaleidoscope of ten published books. He has won awards, accolades including the prestigious State Youth Award (Poetry) in 1997 and Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award in 2013.

Currently, he is working as PRO to the State's Governor. He strains his every nerve to build an ideal bridge of communication between the cloistered walls of the Raj Bhavan and the outside world. In an interview to The Pioneer, Nayak spoke to Sugyan Choudhury about the varied aspects of PR communication, besides narrating about his creative journey.

## How do you feel as the PRO to the Governor?

As a PR professional, I do my work as per the requirements of the situation and demand of the time. The Hon'ble Governor is the State's first citizen.

The Constitution has given him enormous powers and privileges. The Raj Bhavan is generally not easily accessible. My role is to build a bridge between the Raj Bhavan and the public.

This is being done in various ways using traditional as well as modern communication tools. The present Governor is highly popular among the public for his erudition and humility. He has declared the Raj Bhavan to be a Jan Bhavan. My job is to articulate two-way positive communications. Indeed, it's a prestigious assignment.

## What's the role of a PR professional in present times?

Properties worth over Rs 2 crore have so far been detected in the name of Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the College of Engineering and Technology (CET) here Dr Prasanna Kumar Mishra during a raid conducted by the Vigilance police on Monday. Mishra's wife Supriya Mishra works as a Biotechnology Lecturer at the CET and has many properties

PR works include diverse and varied fields. PR is an art. One gets skilled on the job over the time. One needs excellent communication skill and creativity. Spreading information and managing relationship; through persuasion and articulation in clean and concise way is all about PR work. The focus is to show the best side of the concern you deal with and create positive vibes in a congenial atmosphere.

## How do you cope with the media at a time of digital revolution?

A PRO always needs to update himself both with tools and skills. Alertness, agility and ready response are his assets. We have observed the growth of new media which have got high speed and instant effect. PR can be made a leveraging tradition as well as new modes of communication.

## What would you advise the new entrants to this field?

Listen more, speak less and write right; communicate correct and concise. Be knowledgeable and know the art of converting knowledge to your benefit. Learn from experience and expand friendship across.

## You have ten published books of poetry. What are the themes you deal with?

My response to the time I live in; my reactions to the happenings around me; my interpretation of lights and shadows that make the world, come out in form of poetry.

I am there very much in all of my poems; poems are fragments of my existence. As I grow with time, the themes evolve, delve into varied areas. In my world of words; some themes may be recurrent that is not intentional; it is quite natural.

## How poetry comes to you? What are your inspirations?

I was born in a quintessential Odia village, where life was a continuous celebration. The people had spiritual approach to life. Disasters, be it natural or manmade; poverty, deprivations, etc., never perturbed the natural gaiety of life. All these have great influences on me.

In my childhood and adolescence, I was an introvert but a keen observer. Poetry came naturally to me. I read all that comes my way.

I love to swim, not dive in the ocean of knowledge. This has certainly influenced my craft and voice over the years. I cannot specify the influences on me, but I know I am growing with my poetry. I derive bliss from my poetry.



## How do you combine your arduous PR assignment with your creative writings?

I do give justice to both my passion and profession. Both complement each other. My profession takes me to different places, persons, events and situations. My engagement with time and society enriches me in various ways.

Not only ideas, seeds of poems, I get words from other lips. Rather, writing skill comes handy to handle the profession which demands agility and effective communication structure. I write poems in complete solitude which I manage in between.

## Have you ever tried your hand in other languages for wider reach?

I do not think it is possible to write poetry in any other language than mother tongue. Story, essay may be possible but not poetry. Poetry is the purest form of creativity; it is there in the DNA of the poet. Yes, many people have found success writing in English; but in reality, I think these are poems in translation.

Some of my poems have been translated into English and Hindi. Still, I believe poems cannot be translated; only a part of it could be made available in other languages. The poems are not just structure of words; it is imbued in the psychic residue of the poet's unconscious.

## What's the position of Odia poetry in the world poetry arena?

I have inadequate knowledge to make any judgement. But what I know from some sample reading, Odia poetry is way above other Indian language poetry. It has got its own identity, idiom and narratives.

## Are you working on any new book?

I keep writing without any plan. In one day, I may write five poems; and sometimes, I go without a line for weeks. But I always live in poetry. I have written around 15 short stories and they will come out in a book form in January next. I wish to write a novel, for which I am doing research on it. Poems keep coming and my last breadth will be a poem.

# Governor's wife passes away

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Governor Prof Ganesh Lal's wife Sushila Devi passed away at a private hospital here late on Sunday night. Her last rites were performed at the Swargadwar in Puri on Monday.

The First Lady of the State along with Governor Lal and four of their family members had tested positive for Covid-19 on November 1 and were undergoing treatment at the private hospital.

Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, PCC



president Niranjan Pattnaik, among many other leaders, expressed deep grief over Sushila Devi's demise.

# MONNA holds Nabakrushna birth anniv

## Pleds for prohibition

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Milita Odisha Nisha Nibaran Abhijan (MONNA) observed the 120th birth anniversary of former legendary Chief Minister late Nabakrushna Choudhury here.

MONNA president Padma Charan Nayak said, "Throughout his life he (Choudhury) opposed injustice and worked for benefit of the poor. He was a true crusader against liquor and passed 'The Orissa Prohibition Act, 1956' in the State Assembly during his



tenure. But after his sudden resignation, no other CM after him has implemented it." He said, "In the recently-held Bihar elections, it is the silent votes of women who played a major role."

In Odisha also, let the women come forward in large numbers and oppose

liquor." Among others present were noted Gandhian Prahallad Sinha, Prof Dr Bhagawan Prakash, Adwaita Patra, Kahanu Charan Behura, Kabita Rani Parida, Malay Tripathy, Ranjan Mohanty, Aparna Nayak and Ramakant Mandal.

## 'State farmers got ₹60,837 cr from Centre'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The farmers of Odisha have been provided Rs 60,836.97 crore in last six years from the Central Government by way of different agricultural schemes, MSP and insurance payment, said Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Pradhan said that Modi Government directly transferred to the farmers' accounts Rs 53,680.25 crore as minimum support price (MSP) by procuring their produce. He said the Government increased the MSP of their produce in the last six years which have benefited the farmers immensely. While the MSP for paddy was Rs 1,310 in 2013-14, it was hiked in 2014-15, to Rs 1,360, in 2015-16 to Rs 1,410, in 2016-17 to Rs 1,470, in 2017-18 to Rs 1,550, in 2018-19 to Rs 1,750, in 2019-20 to Rs 1,815 and in 2020-21 to Rs 1,868.

Under the PM Kisan Yojana, the farmers have been given Rs 2,731.87 crore from 2018-19 by DBT. In 2018-19, Rs 194.75 crore, in 2019-20, Rs 1,686.58 crore and by November 2020-21, Rs 850.35 crore have been transferred to the accounts of the farmers, told Pradhan.

He further said since 2016-17, Rs 4,24.85 crore had been provided to 20,94 lakh farmers under the PM Fasal Bima Yojana. The Modi Government is committed to strengthening the economy of the country by ensuring welfare of the farmers of Odisha and other States, said Pradhan.

# Eight places record temperature below 15 deg

## Sonepur coldest at 11.2 deg

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The cold wave returned to the State with the minimum temperature plummeting below 15 degrees Celsius in many places in the last 24 hours.

As many as eight places recorded minimum temperature below 15 degree Celsius on Sunday night. While Sonepur continues to be the coldest place in the State with 11.2 degree, Phulbani and Daringibadi recorded 12.5 degree.

The mercury dipped in Jharsuguda, Baripada, Bhawanipatna, Keonjhar and Angul to 12.6 degree, 13.2 degree, 13.2 degree, 13.4 degree and 13.6 degree respectively. The minimum temperature in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack were recorded at 18.1 degree and 16 degree respectively. While Talcher stood at 15 degree, Koraput recorded the minimum temperature 15.6 degree and Hirakud 15.7 degree.

# PPT gets go-ahead for Mahanadi port

## MoPSW finds PPT most suitable for riverine port

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has given go-ahead to the Paradip Port Trust (PPT) for setting up a riverine port on the Mahanadi.

The proposed port would come up at Akhadasi village under Mahakulpada Block in Kendrapada district. Sources said the PPT had evinced interest to develop the riverine port as the Odisha Government had decided to set up such a port on PPP mode.

Accordingly, the MoPSW has green signalled the PPT to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Odisha Government in this regard, said sources.

This will be an all-weather and multi-user port at the river mouth of the Mahanadi, which will be built and maintained by the PPT, official sources said.

In 2018, the Odisha Government had decided to go ahead with the first river-

ine port. The port was to be developed in two phases. The PPT took interest in the project and Chairman Paradip Port, Rinkesh Roy took a lot of efforts in this regard to convince the Union Government about the bright future of the proposed port on the Mahanadi.

In the first phase, two berths will be established for transportation of 18.43 Million Tons of cargo per annum (MTPA) for which expenditure is estimated to be to the tune of Rs 2,110 crore.

The requirement of land for the initial phase development of the port has been estimated at 175 hectares. The proposed port will be connected to the National Highways-53 and Haridaspur-Paradip Railway Line for transportation of cargo.

The capacity of transportation of cargo will increase from 18.43 MTPA to 45.88 MTPA, and an additional 125 hectares of land will be required, an official said.

On commissioning, the port will provide about 4,300 direct and indirect employment in the first phase, and about 10,700 in the second phase, they said.

The Paradip Port has already been assessing the port cargo from the riverine port and accordingly is planning to develop the port to meet the requirement for the next 50 years, said sources.

# In Nayagarh Young woman found dead in house

## Honour killing suspected

PNS ■ NAYAGARH

Mystery shrouded the death of a 26-year-old woman in her house at Bijaynagar village under the Gania police station in Nayagarh district on Monday morning. The dead was identified as Mamata Rout.

As per reports, Mamata had her dinner and went to sleep as usual on Sunday night. This morning, she was found dead with multiple injuries on her head.

Her father Prahlad Rout later lodged a complaint with the Gania police alleging that some miscreants have hacked her to death. Though the exact reason behind the woman's death was yet to be ascertained, involvement of her family members is suspected in the incident.

Preliminary investigation reveals that Mamata was in a love relationship with a youth but her family members were opposing it.

Hence, it is suspected that the family members might have killed the woman with sharp weapons. On receiving information, a police team led by Gania police station OIC Jayprakash Parida reached the spot and began a probe.

# XIMB holds Hult Prize campus round

## Team Annapurna emerges winner

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar (XIMB), in association with the MyCaptain concluded the campus round of the Hult Prize on November 22.

Team Annapurna emerged as the winners of the campus round after competing with the

best from the campus. The final on-campus round was judged by an esteemed panel of four judges including, AVP Marketing of Taj Hotels Sushmita Sarangi, co-founder and executive director of Mills Mantra Rashmi Misra, Chief People Officer of PhonePe Manmeet Sandhu and director-marketing (Beverages, India), TATA Consumer Products Krishnadass Nandakumar.

The winning team is now looking forward to the regional finals which will be an exhilarating ride. Notably, the HULT Prize is a worldwide stu-



dent competition in partnership with the United Nations that challenges university teams to solve the most pressing global issues with viable business ideas. It transforms how young people envision their possibilities as leaders of change in the world around them.

# BJP felicitates Pravari Purandeswari

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha BJP unit felicitated newly-appointed State Pravari D Purandeswari in a virtual mode on Monday.

In a meeting presided over by party State president Samir Mohanty, general secretary Pruthviraj Harichandan, MPs Jugal Oram and Basanta Panda, BJP national vice-president Baijayant Panda, national spokesperson Sanjay Patra, Union Minister Pratap Sarangi, KV Singh Deo congratulated Pravari and the Saha Prasad as well. Purandeswari



maintained that she was grateful to national president JP Nadda for assigning her the new task and assured that she would do her best to strengthen the unit. She also called upon party leaders and workers to observe November 26 as

the Constitution Day in the State, district and Mandal levels and expressed her respect for the father of the Indian Constitution Dr BR Ambedkar. She exhorted the party workers to work together for the party's success in the coming ULB, panchayat and general elections.

MPs Aparajita Sarangi and Suresh Pujari, former Minister Manmohan Samal, party State general secretary Rabi Naik, SC Morcha president Bibhu Prasad Tarai, State executive members, district presidents and Zilla Pravaris were present.

# 152 Baleswar schools may be closed

For less student strength

UBACHAK MOHANTY  
■ BALESWAR

As many as 152 Government-run primary schools which have students less than 40 will be abolished after the Government issued guidelines regarding closure of schools for not having adequate strengths.

According to reports while 81 schools have strength less than 40, 71 schools have less than 20. They have been identified by the department. The students of the schools having less than 40 will be accommodated in the schools with-

in 1 km of radius, for the students less than 20 strength there is no such provision and they could take admission anywhere.

Among the identified schools in different blocks which will be closed while Bahanaga has highest number with 31, followed by Balipal 22 schools, the number of schools identified in Soro, Basti, Baleswar Municipality, Nilgiri, Simulia, Khairabhogai, Jaleswar, Oupada and Remuna are 19,14,15,2,12,6,10,10,3 and 8 respectively.

The teachers of the closed schools would be accommodated in the nearby schools or wherever required. The vacant school buildings and establishments, following the merger, will be handed over to the Panchayati Raj Department. The Government's decision has evoked mixed reactions from the teacher community as well as parent bodies.

OSTTA (Orissa Secondary School Teachers' Association) district president Badal Patra said, "There are two reasons for not having adequate strength in these schools."

One, not having adequate infrastructure; two, permission to private English medium schools which stand as keen competitors. Hence, the Government should address these issues."

Santanu Das, a member of parents' body, welcomed the decision and said it would ensure qualitative education.

## Bharat Ratna demanded for Harekrushna Mahtab



PNS ■ BHADRAK

The 121st birth anniversary celebration of former Chief Minister Dr Harekrushna Mahtab was held at Bhadrak on November 21.

Local MP Manjulata Mandal, Bhadrak MLA Sanjeev Mallik, Sahitya Akademi awardee Dr Pabitra Mohan Panigrahi and Member of

Odisha Sahitya Akademi Abhyas Kumar were present. The speakers unanimously demanded Bharat Ratna for Dr Mahtab.

Rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy was honoured with the 'Best Corona Warrior' award on the occasion. Project Director Madhusudan Dash and Sangram Acharya among others spoke.

## Rich tributes paid to Mahtab on 121st Jayanti

Event held by Jayanti Committee

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Dr Harekrushna Mahtab Jayanti Committee organised the 121st birth anniversary of former Chief Minister, Union Minister and architect of modern Odisha Dr Harekrushna Mahtab here at PMG Square and Ekamra Niwas.

Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan who is the permanent president of the committee paid his tribute and reflected on the contribution of Mahtab for the development of Odisha through video conferencing. Union Petroleum Minister



Dharmendra Pradhan recounted the role played by Mahtab in the merger of Gadajats in Odisha. Chief guest Assembly Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro said the dream of Bhubaneswar as a developed city of Dr Mahtab had been fulfilled.

Among others, Higher Education Minister Arun Kumar Sahu, scribe Prasanna Mohanty and social activist Captain Prafulla Ghosh spoke. On the occasion, jour-

nalists, social workers and medical professionals were felicitated for their work during Covid time. The Paikas from different parts of the State showed their traditional martial art. Later, a motor cycle rally was taken out from the Lower PMG to the house of Mahtab.

There PCC president Niranjan Pattnaik, State BJP president Sameer Mohanty, former PCC president Prasad Harichandan and former Captain Prafulla Ghosh spoke. Paikas were felicitated.

## Unwed motherhood Sundargarh minor yet to get justice

Accused at large

MALAY RAY ■ SUNDARGARH

A tribal minor girl of Sundargarh district, who was also an excellent athlete during her schooling days, is now a mother of six months' old girl child. The victim girl is now living with her daughter in her parents' house. The poor parents have not lodged any complaint with police out of public shame and the victim girl is yet to get justice.

The 16-year-old victim is a native of Sabdega area and has passed 10th exam. She was a very good athlete during her school days.

Last year, she had met with one Arman Minz, a resident of Karamdih Dungaon of Sadar police station, who had come to her village to work there in electrification of the village under the Biju Gramin Yojna scheme. Later Arman had

shown his love for her and after promising her to marry, he used to keep physical relationship with her. However, when she told Arman about her pregnancy, he had not accepted it and fled the area.

The parents of the girl had taken her to Sabdega hospital in January for abortion but they could not do it as the doctor of the hospital allegedly demanded Rs 20,000 for terminating the pregnancy. Finding no other alternative, they took her to a relative's house near Raigangpur.

The girl delivered a child in May there. Meanwhile the girl has now turned a wage earner to sustain herself and her baby. "We will soon get the couple's selling of the minor girl and her parents and will tell them to lodge a complaint in police station," said District Child Protection Officer S Jena. "The accused will be arrested and the victim girl will be provided justice," he assured.

## Dead croc recovered in Satkosia



Illegal fishing by explosives cause of reptile's death

PNS ■ ANGUL

The Wildlife Department recovered a big dead mugger at the Satkosia gorge of the Mahanadi river at Angul. Getting information from the local people, the Wildlife officials rescued the dead crocodile from the gorge in a motor boat.

"The crocodile died around three days ago due to explosives used for illegal fishing," told Satkosia Wildlife Division DFO Ramaswami P, adding that patrolling had been intensified in the gorge after the incident.

Notably, Satkosia gorge is presently habitat of 105 muggers and eight Gharials. Fishing is prohibited in the gorge.

## Sundargarh: 353 die due to snakebite in 5 years

Thanks to belief in black magic, snakebite-related deaths rise

PNS ■ ROURKELA

Belief in black magic is a snakebite cases in the tribal dominated Sundargarh district.

As the district is covered with dense forests, various types of poisonous snakes are found in the different parts of the district. Similarly, most of the people of the district are dependant in forest products and many have their hamlets near or inside jungle area. So, it is but natural that there would be frequent cases of snake bite. However, due to lack of education and unavailability of adequate medical

facilities in their surroundings they are forced to depend on black magic to recover from snake bite and finally lose lives. A bright example is an incident that occurred on October 24 in Kalunga area under Brahmani Taranga police limits.

On the fatal night Chhiki Kissan of Junabahal village was bitten by a snake while he was sleeping. Instead of taking him to hospital, his family members preferred to undertake treatment through black magic. When his health condition deteriorated, he was shifted to the Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) where he succumbed.

According to RGH sources in last five years, 353 persons have died due to snake bite. While in the current year 52 have already died, it was 90 in 2019, 91 in 2018, 67 in 2017 and 53 in 2016. Besides, many more deaths could have occurred which went unrecorded. The sources

informed that in Sundargarh district around 80 varieties of snakes are found out of which 17 are poisonous. It is said that the death figures in snake bite is much more than that of deaths in natural calamities. Even it is more than that of death in lightning and drowning.

According to them as the hot is high in the district, the snakes prefer to roam out side during summer. Similarly, in dense water areas to their holes forcing them to come out and roam. So, during these days the cases of snake bite are more.

If adequate medical services with ambulance facilities are not provided and a rapid response team programme is not undertaken throughout the district, basically in rural pocket, the death rate in snake bite can jump further, say the experts

## Man sets daughter ablaze in Balangir

Victim battling for life in hosp

PNS ■ BALANGIR

A man allegedly set his daughter on fire at Debripali village under the Belpada police station in Balangir district on Monday. The victim is a girl sustained critical burn injuries and was rescued by villagers as she screamed for help and rushed towards a neighbour's house. Later, she was rushed to the Biju Maharaja Medical College Hospital here. Her condition was stated to be critical.

The girl's uncle has lodged a complaint with police alleging that his father Arakitha Nag took the extreme step in an attempt to kill her. Notably, the victim is the daughter of first wife of Arakitha, who has two wives. She was staying at her uncle's place since childhood but shifted to her father's house recently.

## In Brahmapur

Four bike lifters held; 9 vehicles recovered

14 gamblers arrested; lakhs seized in raid



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Chhatrapur police in Ganjam district busted an inter-State bike lifter gang by arresting four persons in this connection on Sunday. The cops have also recovered nine stolen bikes from their possession. Later, the accused including Aji Behera were forwarded to court.

Further investigations are on and the involvement of others in the racket are being probed. The accused are involved in bike lifting incidents in the Purushottampur and Chhatrapur police station areas and in others districts including Rayagada district, said Chhatrapur PS IIC Priyas Ranjan Chhtray.

The modus operandi of the gang was they used to steal the bikes, change their registration number plates and sell the motorcycles to their parents. Also, said IIC. In another incident, Brahmapur Town police conducted a raid on a gambling den at Dharma Nagar and arrested 14 gamblers. The cops also seized Rs 1.29 lakh cash.

## M'giri Medical Officer held for corruption

PNS ■ MALKANGIRI

Medical Officer of Padi Community Health Centre (CHC) in Malkangiri District Dr Panu Charan Mandal was arrested by the Vigilance for alleged taking bribe on Monday.

On October 20, Block Programme Manager Sriram Atibudhi had landed in Vigilance net for "taking" Rs 20,000 bribe from a person for making a bill of a vehicle engaged at CHC.

## INBRIEF

### 1 DIES AS TRUCK OVERTURNS IN GANJAM

Brahmapur: A truck overturned at Tapapani Ghat under the Patapur police station in Ganjam district on Sunday night killing the helper and leaving the driver critically injured. The maza-laden truck was on its way to Brahmapur from Chhatrapur area. The driver lost control over the wheels, following which the truck hit an electric pole and turned turtle. While the helper died on the spot, the driver was rescued by police and shifted to hospital.

### AILING ELEPHANT DIES UNDER TREATMENT IN ANGUL

Angul: An ailing female elephant found unconscious in a paddy field in the Khamer Forest Range under Pallahara block in Angul district died on Monday. The jumbo was undergoing treatment at the farm land, but the veterinarians failed to save her life. The body of the elephant will be sent for postmortem to ascertain the cause of the death.

### ₹1 L LOOTED FROM BIKE SIDE-BOX AT BARIPADA

Baripada: Miscraents allegedly looted Rs 1 lakh from the side-box of a contractor's motorcycle at Badabazar here on Monday. The contractor Jeevan Kumar Dandapat of Ward-17 had withdrawn the amount from Bank of India and kept it in the side-box of the motorcycle. Dandapat parked the vehicle and went to a shop, during which a person wearing a mask broke open the side-box and decamped with the cash with the help of his associate by a motorcycle. Dandapat lodged a complaint with police. Efforts were on by cops to apprehend the looters.

### COWS WORSHIPPED, FED IN B'PUR

Brahmapur: On the eve of the auspicious festival of the Gopalashmi festival, members of the Mahila Samiti in association with the Subho Bahini here served the injured cows at veterinary hospital and provided them food. They worshipped cows at the Pataleshwar temple and Aka Sai Krishna Gosala and fed them. Then they planted trees at the Swarg Dwar cremation ground near the Meekantheshwar temple.

### FIRE BREAKS OUT AT BARGARH PAEDIATRIC WARD

Bargarh: A major fire broke out at the paediatric ward of the old building of Bargarh District Headquarters Hospital late on Sunday night in which properties worth lakhs were gutted. Fire Services personnel rushed to the spot and doused the flames after an effort of about three hours. The reason behind the outbreak of fire was yet to be ascertained. The ward was only being used for storage of IV fluids and medicines, which were reduced to ashes.

## In Gajapati

## Illegal ganja plantation in 52 acres destroyed

Ganja mafia escapes from custody; Four police personnel axed

PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

Excises Department and police personnel on Sunday raided Hathipanka village under the Adapa police station in Gajapati and destroyed illegal ganja plantations in 52.4 acres of land. The drive was carried out on the instructions of District Collector Anupam Saha and Excise Superintendent Pradeep

Kumar Panigrahi. As many as 10 lakhs trees were destroyed and set on fire in presence of Mohana Teshildar Kalyani Sanghamitra Devi, who was in-charge of Magistrate duty. Adapa PS IIC Anand Charan Patra was also present during the drive.

In another development, Gajapati SP Tapan Kumar Pattnaik has suspended four police officials in connection with an accused ganja mafia escaping from the premises of the Mohana police station on November 13.

The suspended cops were Constables Biswajit Sabar, Rama Shankar Sabar and Home Guards Duryodhan Karji and Sekhar Prasad Nayak.

## Rare dolphin's carcass found in Kendrapada

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

Residents of Bhedisahi village under the Pattamundi police limits in Kendrapada district were taken aback when a carcass of a rare giant dolphin was spotted in the locality late on Sunday night.

As per forest officials, the rare Gangetic dolphin had strayed into the Gobari river from the Mahanadi delta and got trapped in a fishing net of Bhedisahi fishermen.

However, the aquatic mammal died since it was kept out of water for a while. Later, the farmers threw the carcass on the road and went away.



Receiving information, forest officials reached the village, recovered the carcass and kept it in the Central Nursery at Sansarpala.

Rajnagar Additional Veterinary Officer Debi Prasad Kundara reached the spot and initiated postmortem of the carcass.

## BBP demands patta for Brahmapur homeless

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Bharatiya Bikash Parishad (BBP) led by its State president Surendra Panigrahi submitted a memorandum to the district Collector on Friday demanding delivery of Patta (mutation/ownership) to 172 poor homeless families who have been residing in Uttarandkhee Street under Haradakhandi Revenue Mouza of Brahmapur Tehsil for last 60 years.

The parishad mentioned that, the land on which the poor families are staying belongs to Anabadi Pattik Kisan covering an area of 1200 acre.

These families have been demanding Patta in their



favour over a long time but in vain. As per the State Government decision, several families settled on similar lands in every revenue village of Ganjam district were identified/treated as "Grama Kantik" and accordingly were distributed Patta. However, the Government ignored the case

of the 172 families who are tribals and Dalits, Panigrahi alleged. If the district administration fails to distribute Patta to these 172 poor families within 30 days from the date of receipt of the memorandum, the families will be forced to launch agitation, the memorandum cautioned.

## Bangriposi-G'mahasani rly link likely

PNS ■ BARIIPADA

A long-pending proposal for connecting Bangriposi railway line with the Tata-Badampahar line may become a reality. The demand for connecting Badampahar with Keonjhar is also likely to be fulfilled.

This has been evident from the briefings of the senior railway authorities who recently completed their visits to Raipur railway station and some other smaller stations of western Mayurbhanj.

Chakradharpur Railway Division DRM Vijay Kumar Sahu recently had take stock of the conditions of different railway stations like Bahalda Road,

Gorumahisani, Anlajodi, Kuldiha etc besides the Raipur railway station. He, accompanied other administrative and engineering staff members, also monitored the pace of progress of electrification along the railway routes.

During this itinerary, Sahu indicated that the idea of linking Bangriposi railway line with the Tata-Badampahar line by connecting Bangriposi with Gorumahisani (Anlajodi) of Tata-Badampahar line was under active consideration of Ministry of Railways. Similarly, the proposal for Raipur-Keonjhar railway linking is also being seriously considered by higher authorities, he said.

## In Nabarangpur 2 die, 4 hurt as van crashes into house

PNS ■ ABARANGPUR

Two children were killed while four others were critically injured when a goods-laden pickup van lost control and crashed into a house at Jharabahal village under Chandabahal block in Nabarangpur district on Monday.

The van after being loaded at the village was on its way to a nearby market. However, the driver lost control over the vehicle and ploughed into a house on the roadside.



Satikanta (9), Nandini (7) and Ashok (9) and the Damurdhar Hati (60), who were standing near a bonfire outside the house, suffered

critical injuries. All the injured, were rushed to a nearby hospital. However, two kids succumbed to the injuries.

COVID-19

# Solution to virus elimination lies in rapid testing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Testing half the population weekly with inexpensive, rapid-turnaround Covid-19 tests would drive the virus toward elimination within weeks — even if those tests are significantly less sensitive than gold-standard clinical tests, claim researchers.

The observation holds importance in the context of India where while RT-PCR is considered the gold standard for Covid-19 testing because of the high sensitivity of the test, Rapid antigen testing (RAT) is preferred in areas where mass-scale testing needs to be deployed for it gives results in minutes and is cheaper. The test is highly specific, which means it can accurately detect true positive cases.

However, because of the limitations of the test in terms of not being that accurate in detecting true negatives, the Indian Government has advised states to mandatorily test through RT-PCR all RAT negative samples of individuals having Covid-19 like symptoms. RAT is also quicker and gives results in minutes rather than hours taken to get RT-PCR test results.

The rapid antigen test is also cheaper to perform as compared to the RT-PCR, which is a complicated test requiring a specialised laboratory.

Study lead author Daniel Larremore from the University of Colorado Boulder in the US



supports RAT test as he said, "Our big picture finding is that, when it comes to public health, it's better to have a less sensitive test with results today than a more sensitive one with results tomorrow."

"Rather than telling everyone to stay home so you can be sure that one person who is sick doesn't spread it, we could give only the contagious people stay-at-home orders so everyone else can go about their lives," Larremore added.

For the study, published in the journal *Science Advances*, the research team teamed up with the Harvard University to explore whether test sensitivity, frequency, or turnaround time is most important to curb the spread of Covid-19.

The researchers scoured available literature on how viral load climbs and falls inside the body during infection, when

people tend to experience symptoms, and when they become contagious.

They then used mathematical modeling to forecast the impact of screening with different kinds of tests on three hypothetical scenarios in 10,000 individuals in a university-type setting of 20,000 people; and in a city of 8.4 million.

When it came to curbing spread, they found that frequency and turnaround time are much more important than test sensitivity. For instance, in one scenario in a large city, widespread twice-weekly testing with a rapid but less sensitive test reduced the degree of infectiousness of the virus by 80 per cent.

But twice-weekly testing with a more sensitive PCR

(polymerase chain reaction) test, which takes up to 48 hours to return results, reduced infectiousness by only 58 per cent. When the amount of testing was the same, the rapid test always reduced infectiousness better than the slower, more sensitive PCR test. That's because about two-thirds of infected people have no symptoms and as they await their results, they continue to spread the virus.

This paper is one of the first to show we should worry less about test sensitivity and, when it comes to public health, prioritize frequency and turnaround," said senior co-author Roy Parker.

The study also demonstrated the power of frequent testing in shortening the pandemic and saving lives.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah launches a mobile laboratory that will conduct free RT-PCR tests for Covid-19 here and the results will be available in six to eight hours. SpicHealth, an initiative of the promoters of SpicLab, and led by Anil Singh, CEO, SpicHealth, will be setting up a number of portable testing facilities across the country to make the highly sensitive RT-PCR testing readily accessible. PTI

## AstraZeneca: We will have 200 million doses by end of 2020

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stating that its Covid-19 vaccine could be around 90 per cent effective, and potentially cheaper to make, British drug-maker AstraZeneca on Monday said it will have as many as 200 million doses by the end of 2020 — around four times as many as US competitor Pfizer.

Seven hundred million doses could be ready globally as soon as the end of the first quarter of 2021. The combined analysis from both dosing regimens showed an average efficacy of 70 per cent.

The vaccine was 90 per cent effective in preventing Covid-19 when it was administered as a half dose followed by a full dose at least a month later, according to data from late-stage trials in Britain and Brazil. No serious safety events were confirmed, the company said.

"This means we have a vaccine for the world," said Andrew Pollard, director of the Oxford University vaccine group that developed the drug. The vaccine's cost works out at just a few dollars a shot,

a fraction of the price of drugs from Pfizer and Moderna, which use a more unconventional technology.

And it can be transported and stored at normal fridge temperatures, which proponents say would make it easier to distribute, especially in poor countries, than Pfizer's, which needs to be shipped and stored at -70C, the sort of temperature typical of an Antarctic winter.

The effectiveness of AstraZeneca's vaccine depended on the dosing, and fell to just 62 per cent when given as two full doses rather than a half-dose first. But scientists cautioned against seeing this as evidence that it would be less useful than rivals. Vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna each prevented about 95 per cent of cases according to interim data from their late-stage trials.

"I think it is a real fool's errand to start trying to pick these three (Pfizer/Moderna/Astra) apart on the basis of snippets of phase 3 data from press releases," said Danny Altmann, professor of immunology at Imperial College London.

## India Covid-19 caseload breaches 91-lakh mark

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 caseload breached the 91-lakh mark on Monday as India registered

less than 50,000 infections daily since November 8, while the death toll climbed to 1,33,738 with 511 new fatalities. The Union Health Ministry said that less than 50,000 cases trend assumes significance as several countries in the Western Hemisphere are witnessing a surge in cases at the onset of winter. The number of people who have recovered from the disease has

surged to 85,62,641 which exceeds active cases by 81,19,155.

A total of 44,059 people were found infected with Covid-19 in a span of 24 hours with 45 states and UTs contributing to 78.74 per cent of the new infections.

Delhi reported 6,746 cases in a day followed by Maharashtra recording 5,753 new cases while Kerala reported 5,254 new cases.

Of the 511 case fatalities reported in a span of 24 hours,

74.95 per cent are concentrated in ten states and UTs. Delhi, with 121 reported deaths, contributes 23.68 per cent to the new fatalities, the ministry said.

Maharashtra saw a fatality count of 50 while West Bengal followed closely with 49 new fatalities.

India's present active caseload (4,43,486) comprises 4.85 per cent of the total cases, and has been sustained below the 5 per cent mark. The national Covid-19 recovery rate continues to be above 93 per cent as 93.68 per cent of all cases

have recovered as of date with 41,024 new recoveries being registered in a day.

"The gap between recovered cases and active cases is steadily increasing and presently stands at 81,19,155," the Ministry said.

Ten States and UTs are contributing to 77.44 per cent of the new recoveries. Kerala saw 6,227 people recovering from Covid-19. Delhi reported 6,154 recoveries. Maharashtra reported another 4,060 new recoveries in the last 24 hours.

## PM: Constructed key buildings within time

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said his Government initiated the construction of many major buildings in the Capital which were in limbo and were only on file for the past two decades and finished the work well before the targeted time.

Inaugurating the new three towers with 76 apartments for MPs, Modi cited that many important buildings like National War Memorial, Ambedkar International Centre, National Police Memorial and CIC building constructions were started from mid 2014.

Modi said delay in construction of major buildings leads to economic burden. "It also leads to economic burden. But serious efforts to overcome this problem began especially after 2014."

The decades-old problems can be resolved by finding solutions to them and not by avoiding.

Not only the accommodation for MPs, there were several projects in Delhi which had been lying incomplete for many years, and were in limbo. The construction of several buildings began during this Government itself and was completed in the stipulated time, even before the scheduled time. When there was the Government of Atal Bihari



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses at the inauguration of multi-storied flats for Members of Parliament, through video conferencing, in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

Vajpayee ji, discussion began on the Ambedkar National Memorial. It took several years for its construction and it was completed only after the formation of this Government.

"The Doctor Associates International Centre was built by this government after a long wait of 23 years. The new building of the Central Information Commission was completed by this Government. The Doctor Associates International Centre was built by this government after a long wait of 23 years. The new building of the Central Information Commission was completed by this Government. The Doctor Associates International Centre was built by this government after a long wait of 23 years. The new building of the Central Information Commission was completed by this Government.

memory of the country's martyrs. Thousands of policemen in our country have sacrificed their lives to maintain law and order. Thousands of policemen have been martyred. The National Police Memorial in their memory was also built by this Government," said Modi, narrating several projects completed by his Government on time.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union Minister Prahlad Joshi and Hardeep Puri were present in the function.

The 76 new residences for MPs have been built within 27 months at a cost of Rs 188 crore. In three towers named after Rivers Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati.

## CBI books UP resident for impersonating agency official

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case against a UP resident, who impersonated an official of Jwal Khera, Bulandshahr and Shivpur Chohra, Tehsil Koi, Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh) on the allegations that he has been impersonating himself as RR Singh, DIG, CBI, Delhi for his personal gain.

The agency also conducted searches on Monday at the premises of the accused which led to recovery of two country made firearms and some incriminating documents in connection with the alleged crime.

The accused Rajiv Singh was impersonating as the CBI DIG for personal gains, officials said, adding investigation is continuing in the case.

Meanwhile, the agency on Monday arrested an absconding accused in an ongoing investigation of a case against a Kolkata-based Ponzi company.

A case was registered

against the Ponzi company) and others.

It was alleged that the Managing Director of the (accused Ponzi company) in pursuance to a conspiracy with other Directors of said Group of Companies (a Ponzi Company) had illegally collected Rs 454.54 crore (approximately) from the investors under various fraudulent schemes on assurance of paying high returns on such investments on maturity, the CBI said in a statement.

It was further alleged that the accused fled away after cheating the said investors and misappropriated the invested money.

The arrested accused SK Nazubulla, Managing Director of Angel AgriTech Group of Companies (a Ponzi Company), was produced before the Court of ACJM, Barurip (West Bengal) and remanded to 10 days police custody, officials added.

## Foreign Secy briefs envoys of key nations on attempts by JeM to carry out terror attack in J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Monday briefed top envoys of key nations, including the US, Russia, France and Japan on the planned terror attack by Pakistan-based terrorist group JeM in Nagrota in Jammu which was foiled by security forces on November 19, sources said.

The heads of missions were provided with a comprehensive "information docket" giving the details of the incident, and also list of items and munition recovered from terrorists, clearly indicating their Pakistani origins. The envoys were sensitised about India's concerns regarding Pakistan's sustained efforts to "destabilise" the situation in Jammu & Kashmir and to "subvert" upcoming local elections and democracy in the union territory, sources said.

"In terms of the bigger picture, it was clear that the terrorists were planning the biggest terror attack in India since Pulwama in February 2019 and the implications can be guessed," said a source, adding that details of JeM's involvement in previous such incidents were also shared with the envoys.

Four suspected JeM terrorists, who were hiding in a truck, were killed by security forces near Nagrota in an encounter on Thursday morning after which the government asserted that the planned terror attack was foiled by the Indian security forces.

It was the first of several briefings to be conducted by the MEA in small groups in view of the Covid-19 situation, the sources said adding other secretaries will also be holding similar sessions with heads of missions of other countries. PTI

## CPWD using PEB technology at Africa Avenue in national Capital to cut pollution, water consumption in construction

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To reduce pollution caused by construction activities, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) is using pre-engineered building (PEB) technology to build 44,000 sqm built up area in three blocks of G+8 storey at KG Marg, and 49,000 sqm built up area in four blocks of G+7 storey at Africa Avenue in the national Capital. The technology being used will also help to reduce water consumption during the construction.

PEB is the one which is engineered in a factory and assembled on site.

CPWD is using advanced Modelling Techniques of BIM (Building Information System). Fabricated at Shop and Brought to Site in completely knock-down (CKD) condition, assembled and Erected at Site with Nut-bolts reducing Time of construction.

According to the CPWD, the foundation consists of reinforced cement concrete with crystalline admixture and zinc cathodic protection system to reduce porosity of concrete and corrosion of reinforcement bars, thus increasing its durability.

## Nivar likely to make landfall along TN coast tomorrow

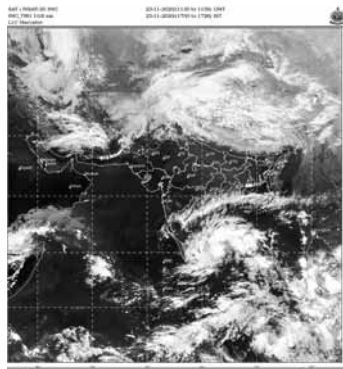
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cyclone Nivar is brewing in the Bay of Bengal and might make landfall along the Tamil Nadu coast between Karaikal and Mahabalipuram on the afternoon of November 25. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has upgraded the tropical threat to Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry coasts to a severe cyclone and issued an advisory to this effect.

This will be the first cyclone to make landfall on the Indian coast in 2020 and the second to form in the North Indian Ocean region after severe cyclone Gati in the Arabian Sea in 2020. The months from October to December are the most intense in the region and see several originate in the Bay of Bengal.

According to the IMD, Nivar currently lies as a depression some 600 km south south east of Puducherry in the Bay of Bengal. The system is in a deep depression by the evening of November 23 and a cyclone by the morning of November 24. The wind speeds at the time of landfall are likely to be in the range of 100-110 kilometres per hour with gusts of up to 120 km/h making the storm a severe cyclone. It might bring heavy rainfall to the southern states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana from November 24-26.

The IMD warned that the severe cyclone may inflict damage to thatched houses/ huts with the possibility of rooftops being blown off and unattached



IMD satellite image captured on Monday shows a depression over the Bay of Bengal. PTI

metal sheets flying away. Damage to power and communication lines could be expected. Kutch roads may suffer major damage while it would be less severe to pucca roads. Escape routes could get flooded after breaking down of tree branches and large avenue trees getting uprooted. The severe cyclone can also cause major damage to banana and papaya trees, horticulture and crops, orchards and coastal crops.

The sea condition was 'rough to very rough' (wave heights of 8-20 ft) over South-West and adjoining West-Central and South-East Bay along and off Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and south Andhra Pradesh coasts and over the Gulf of Mannar on Monday afternoon. Fishermen are advised not to venture into South-West and adjoining West-Central and South-East Bay along and off the Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and south Andhra Pradesh coasts from Monday to Wednesday. Those out into the sea already are advised to return to the coast

## Union Cabinet Secy chairs meet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba on Monday chaired a meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) to review the status of impending Cyclone through video conferencing with the Chief Secretaries of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

The Chief Secretaries of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry briefed the NCMC about their preparedness and mentioned that the authorities are fully prepared to meet any eventuality. They also informed about the coordination with the NDRF and other agencies to meet this challenge.

"Director General, India Meteorological Department made a presentation on the present situation and mentioned that the status is being shared with the concerned State Governments. He men-

tioned that the impending Cyclone is going to affect coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry between 24th to 26th November, 2020.

"The Cabinet Secretary mentioned that we all are advised to remain alert and early restoration of normalcy in the affected areas. He mentioned that the advisories to fishermen not to go into the sea should be strictly implemented. People living in 'katcha' houses may be advised suitably according to the situation, he added," said Cabinet Secretariat in a statement.

Secretaries from Home, Power, Telecommunication, Information and Public Relations, Health Ministry, Chairman Railway Board, Member Secretary, NDMA, DG, NDRF and representative of Ministry of Defence also informed the NCMC about the arrangements and assistance to the concerned States.

and avoid the above sea areas. Throughout August, the Arabian Sea was warmer than usual by two-three degrees Celsius. While the normal sea surface temperatures here are about 28-29°C, the temperatures this August reached up to 29-31°C. The sea surface tem-

peratures in the Bay of Bengal are also in the range of 29-30°C, according to IMD's latest cyclone update. A deep depression in October had also carried much more rainfall than normal, causing extremely heavy rainfall in many parts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

## Riots case: SC rejects plea of Delhi Police challenging bail granted to man

New Delhi: The Supreme Court dismissed the plea of the Delhi Police challenging the bail granted to a man, who has been accused of selling a SIM card on a fake ID to a Jamia Millia Islamia University student, which was allegedly used for inciting violence during the protests here in February. The police had sought the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan rejected the appeal of the police against the October 23 order of the Delhi High Court granting bail to the accused, observing that the police have not shown that he was party to a conspiracy to organise protests against the CAA.

## Palghar lynching case: SC adjourns to next week plea seeking CBI probe

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday adjourned to next week hearing on the pleas seeking a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or a court-monitored SIT into the Palghar mob lynching incident. A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan adjourned the matter after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta requested for adjournment of the case to the next week.

Maharashtra Government had earlier informed the apex court that all guilty police officials have been punished or suspended from services. "Departmental enquiry was ordered against police personnel, who have been prima-facie found negligent and derelict in the performance of their duties in handling the incident and preventing the commission of crime at and around the time of the incident," the Maharashtra Government had submitted in a status report. PTI

## SC extends parole of Rajiv Gandhi assassination convict for medical check up

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday extended by a week the parole of AG Ravivarman, serving life sentence in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, for undergoing medical check-up.

A bench comprising Justices L. Nageswara Rao, Hemant Gupta and Ajay Rastogi also directed the Tamil Nadu Government to provide police escort to Perarivalan during his visit to the hospital. The parole, granted to the convict by the Madras High Court, was ending on Monday and was extended by one more week. "As prayed for, further extend the parole of the petitioner by one week from today and direct the respondent — State of Tamil Nadu to provide the necessary police escort to the petitioner to enable him to visit the hospital for treatment. List the matter on January 19, 2021, for final disposal," the bench said. PTI









FIRST COLUMN

# Shape the future at cyber speed

Being prepared to weather any storm is possible with the right digital strategy and continuous, concerted effort



ALOK OHRIE

The need for businesses to digitally transform themselves is something that has been discussed for years. However, as we saw in the 2018 Digital Transformation Index that serves as a benchmark for computerisation technology adoption among organisations, many enterprises' digital transformation programmes did not keep up with the advancements in computing power and the influx of emerging technologies. Coupled with the imperative to adapt to today's unprecedented business disruption, the need to digitally transform has never been more urgent and challenging.

It is encouraging to see that many enterprises are rising to the occasion. In the 2020 Digital Transformation Index, it was found that 95 per cent of respondents in India have successfully accelerated at least some of their transformation programmes this year. This shows immense progress in computerisation. However, there is still a lot of work to be done. As it is, continuous digital transformation is not easy, with 97 per cent of Indian businesses facing entrenched barriers to cyber networked business processes as they navigate their future.

By committing to continual transformation — even amid uncertainty such as the kind the world is facing right now — businesses can help shape their ideal future. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated that organisations can be nimble and transform quickly. A third have already extended their business domain; however, what companies do next will be telling. Ongoing transformation is vital, and there is plenty of room for advancement.

As of now, just 12 per cent of Indian firms surveyed are defined as "Digital Leaders", meaning these are companies with digital transformation ingrained in the DNA of their business, end-to-end. And even though they are leaders in cyber networked business processes, they recognise that change requires continuous effort — with more "Digital Leaders" accelerating their transformation programmes this year compared to "Digital Laggards", meaning those that don't even have a computerisation plan or their investments in such technology are few and far between. Here is some inspiration from more mature digital businesses as they consider how to implement an ongoing advancement plan for their firm:

**Data privacy and cybersecurity.** These are constant and evolving concerns that should not be overlooked. Mature digital businesses recognise more often than others that data privacy and cybersecurity warrant proper consideration. In fact, 47 per cent Indian businesses are of the opinion that data privacy and cybersecurity are the major barriers in their digital transformation journey.

**Budget and resources.** Financial constraints — both budget pressures and lack of economic growth — have not slowed down transformation for the more mature digital businesses. They position Information Technology investments as strategic drivers for innovation instead of thinking of them as a cost. However, a whopping 32 per cent Indian respondents said that lack of budget and resources is a barrier to digital progress in their organisation.

**Data is the lifeblood of a company.** As we move towards a Zettabyte era, the ability to extract insights from data will become a major stumbling block if it is left unresolved. There is hope that the recent disruption will ignite a new wave of data-first, data-anywhere businesses. We found that 94 per cent of Indian organisations agree that extracting valuable insights from data will be more important for their business than ever before as one of the great benefits of this is the ability to track metrics and analyse them. Using these insights allows firms to optimise their strategies and processes for better results. In businesses, two things matter more than most — costs and revenue. It's possible to make massive changes to both by integrating data-based insights into the company culture. However, working towards this change sooner rather than later is imperative.

Overall, businesses should be applauded for adapting so quickly to the extreme and sudden onset of disruption from recent events. Some companies were poised to respond better than others, based on where they were on their digital journey. However, being prepared to weather any storm is possible with the right digital strategy and continuous, concerted effort.

In this hyper-connected data decade, every business needs to be a cyber business to survive and thrive. With digital disruptors snapping at the heels of many sectors, success will come to the organisations that ensure their workforce is skilled in the best practices of the digital age. Moreover, this change must be woven into the DNA of the firm and championed by its leadership to have a maximum impact. With a strong ally by your side, businesses of varying sizes, industries and digital maturities can find ways to adapt to new routines and push the frontiers of what's possible.

(The writer is president and MD, Dell Technologies, India)

WITH THE AMENDMENT TO THE POLICE ACT, THE KERALA GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO SILENCE THE VOICE OF THOSE WHO CRITICISE IT.  
—LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN THE ASSEMBLY  
RAMESH CHENNITHALA

POINT COUNTERPOINT



MANY HAVE VOICED CONCERN OVER THE ACT'S AMENDMENT. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT TO IMPLEMENT IT.  
—KERALA CHIEF MINISTER  
PINARAYI VIJAYAN

# Fertiliser DBT an illusion

Despite tall claims made by the UPA and the NDA dispensations since 2012, a gradual transition to direct cash or benefit transfer of subsidy to the farmers has not been done



UTTAM GUPTA

The additional provision of ₹65,000 crore towards fertiliser subsidy (or ₹71,000 crore allocated in the Budget for 2020-21), that was announced by the Finance Minister under "Stimulus-III" on November 12, will help in clearing all pending dues to the industry. This has led the latter to believe that this is a precursor to a gradual transition to direct cash or benefit transfer (DBT) of subsidy to the farmers. This is illusory, as despite tall claims made by the UPA and the NDA dispensations since 2012, this has not been done. The dominant stumbling blocks are a threat to the viability of high cost units in the public sector, including revival projects viz Sindri, Gorakhpur, Barauni and so on. Plus there is the risk of inviting the farmers' wrath if subsidy does not reach them in time. Bureaucratic red tape is a third major factor. Till these are addressed, DBT to farmers won't see the light of the day.

In the Budget for 2012-13, the then UPA Government had announced tracking the movement of fertilisers from retailers to farmers, and linking part of the subsidy payment to manufacturers for sale to farmers by retailers. In the mid-year economic analysis of 2012-13, the Finance Ministry came out with a blueprint on modalities for implementing the Budget announcement. Pilot projects in 10 districts spread over nine States were to be launched, which were to be followed by DBT in these districts from April 1, 2013. Concurrently, the Government planned to track fertiliser movement in the whole country. A pan-India launch was contemplated from April 2014.

Even as the Department of Fertilisers developed the technology platform called e-Fertiliser Monitoring System (e-FMS) to execute the blueprint, the DBT remained on paper. Meanwhile, the NDA Government under Narendra Modi recognised that there was rampant misuse of subsidy. According to the *Economic Survey 2015-16*, as much as 24 per cent of the subsidy was spent on inefficient producers, 41 per cent was diverted to non-agricultural uses, including smuggling to neighbouring countries, and 24 per cent was consumed by unscrupulous retailers. The latter left a gap of 11 per cent for small and marginal farmers, who alone, according to Modi, should have been the sole beneficiaries of the subsidy. The survey advocated DBT using the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) platform. In the Budget for 2016-17, the then Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley, made an announcement to this effect followed by the launch of pilot projects for linking subsidy payments to producers with the sale of fertilisers to farmers by retailers in 18 districts spread over 12 States. In March 2018, the scheme was launched across the country.

Under it, the Government has made disbursement of 100 per cent of the subsidy to producers conditional upon actual sales to farmers, getting registered on point-of-sale (POS) machines at the dealer's shop (prior to this, they were getting 95 per cent of subsidy on receipt of material at a district's railhead point or approved godown and the balance five per cent on confirmation of sales to farmers by States). But this is not DBT as subsidy continues to be routed through the retailers, not just because the Government has cleared all subsidy dues to manufacturers, it gives no clue that this will happen soon. In fact, there are major roadblocks on the way — some explicit and others not so. To understand these, let us look at how the extant sys-

THE SUBSIDY MAY BE COMPUTED ON A PER HECTARE BASIS AND GIVEN ANNUALLY AS MOOTED BY THE COMMISSION FOR AGRICULTURE COSTS AND PRICES. IN ITS RABI REPORT FOR THE 2021-22 MARKETING YEAR, IT HAS PROPOSED A SUBSIDY OF ₹5,000 PER YEAR TO BE GIVEN IN TWO TRANCHES OF ₹2,500 EACH IN THE KHARIF AND RABI SEASONS. THIS SHOULD BE GIVEN ONLY TO THE SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS OR THOSE WITH LAND HOLDINGS OF LESS THAN TWO HECTARES



tem works. The Centre controls the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of urea at a low level, unrelated to the cost of production and distribution, which is higher. It reimburses the manufacturers for the shortfall as subsidy on a "unit-specific" basis under the New Pricing Scheme (NPS). The current MRP of urea is ridiculously low at ₹5,360 per tonne even as the cost can vary from about ₹15,000 per tonne to ₹25,000 per tonne. Even as all units (31) sell urea at the same price, each one of them gets paid on the basis of its own production cost. Thus, an efficient unit producing at, say ₹15,000 per tonne, gets a subsidy of ₹9,640 per tonne whereas another producing at ₹25,000 per tonne, gets a subsidy of ₹19,640 per tonne.

In the case of P and K fertilisers, the Government gives "uniform" subsidy on per nutrient basis to all manufacturers under the Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme. For arriving at the MRP, they are expected to deduct the subsidy amount from the cost. For instance, if a unit produces DAP (dian-ammonium phosphate) at a cost of say ₹34,000 per tonne and subsidy is ₹10,000 per tonne, then it will have to fix the MRP at ₹24,000 per tonne.

Now, if instead of routing through the manufacturers, the subsidy is to be given directly to farmers, the transition in case of P and K fertilisers may not face much of a hurdle. The subsidy of ₹10,000 per tonne or ₹500 per bag (50 kg) of DAP can be credited to a farmers' account even as the manufacturer will sell at the market-based price, say ₹34,000 per tonne or ₹1,700 per bag, this being the cost of the most efficient producer (this could also be an average of all units depending on how market dynamics evolve). However, the farmer will have to spend ₹500 per bag

extra at the time of purchase, though he will get back this amount from the Government as subsidy later.

In the urea segment, however, the transition will be tough for manufacturers as well as farmers. For producers, since each one of them will have to sell at the market-based price, all those whose production cost is higher than that of the most efficient producer or the industry average, will either have to perform or wind up. As for the farmer, he will have to spend, at the time of purchase, at least thrice (based on the market price of ₹15,000 per tonne or ₹750 per bag) of what he is spending now.

The Government has fears on both counts. On the production front, there are several public sector plants, which fall in the high cost zone and hence risk being chopped under the DBT. Even the revival projects, like Sindri, Gorakhpur and Barauni, on completion (2021) will have a production cost of over ₹30,000 per tonne. Hence it won't be viable under the new regime. As for farmers, it risks inviting their wrath if subsidy money does not reach them in time, which is inevitable if the budgetary allocation is inadequate.

There are other roadblocks which are not so explicit. Under the present system all directly to farmers, the transition in case of P and K fertilisers may not face much of a hurdle. The subsidy of ₹10,000 per tonne or ₹500 per bag (50 kg) of DAP can be credited to a farmers' account even as the manufacturer will sell at the market-based price, say ₹34,000 per tonne or ₹1,700 per bag, this being the cost of the most efficient producer (this could also be an average of all units depending on how market dynamics evolve). However, the farmer will have to spend ₹500 per bag

extra at the time of purchase, though he will get back this amount from the Government as subsidy later.

Unless the above roadblocks are cleared, the transition to DBT will be next to impossible. But this is doable provided Modi sheds his plan of linking development of eastern India with the revival of Sindri, Gorakhpur, Barauni (alternatively, their production cost needs to be cut drastically), pledges to fully fund subsidy requirement (if it can be done for 2020-21, why not every year then); ruthlessly applies his dictum of "naa khaonga, naa khane doonga (neither will I take bribe nor will I let anyone else take it)"; and does away with bureaucratic red tape by removing all land tilled by her/him. The Government should garner data on all 140 million farm households and put it on a web portal. This is an absolute must to ensure that no one is left out. At present, there is a void as even under PM Kisan, just about 80 million farmers are receiving the eligible amount of ₹6,000. Under a business as usual scenario, leaving out 60 million from subsidy payments could be catastrophic.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

# BJP yet to consolidate Hindu votes down South

Success has been eluding the saffron party so far as its penetration has been restricted to Karnataka. It has failed in TN, Puducherry and Kerala



KALYANI SHANKAR

After the big win in the Bihar Assembly elections this month, the BJP is now focussing on the South, where Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry are going to the polls early next year. Elections are scheduled for West Bengal and Assam, too. Will the BJP achieve its goal of gaining a foothold in the South? Success has been eluding the saffron party so far, as its penetration has been restricted to Karnataka. It has failed in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala because of historic, religious, social and ideological reasons.

In Tamil Nadu, the BJP firmed up its poll alliance with the ruling AIADMK during the weekend. Eyebrows were raised at this early pact when the State's Deputy Chief

Minister and party coordinator O Panneerselvam announced it at a party event attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Though the late AIADMK chief J Jayalithaa had a good equation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she did not go for a tie-up with the BJP in the 2016 polls. After her demise, in 2019, the UPA made it in 37 of the 40 seats won. The BJP went with the AIADMK.

The BJP now wants to make a mark in the South, riding piggyback on the AIADMK. The Congress is in alliance with the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) while smaller parties like actor Vijayakanth's Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), S Ramadoss' Paattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), Thiruvalluvar's Vithuthalaithal Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) and others choose the DMK or AIADMK coalition according to the situation.

The BJP has strengthened its Tamil Nadu unit by appointing Murugan, a lawyer, as its chief and has also activated its workers. There has been a recruitment spree in the State since 2014. It has brought to its fold celebrities, bureaucrats and politicians from other parties. Recently, the

actor-turned-politician and Congress spokesperson Khushbu joining of the party was a significant event. So the big question is why was the BJP unable to make inroads in Tamil Nadu till now?

First of all, the saffron party had no tall leaders to catch the iconic Dravidian leaders like MK Karunanidhi, J Jayalithaa and MG Ramachandran. It is likely to be Modi versus DMK chief MK Stalin now. Second, the BJP is perceived to be a North Indian Brahminical party and the word Brahmin is anathema to Dravidian parties. Third, Tamil Nadu saw a huge anti-Hindi agitation in the 60s. The Dravidian parties are against any imposition of Hindi and the Modi Government is in favour of it. Fourth, influenced by the anti-Brahmin movement of the 50s and the 60s, many caste-based parties like the Vanniyars (dominant in north-west parts of Tamil Nadu), Thevars (dominant in southern part of the State in the Madurai belt) and Gounders (in the Kongu belt in the west), have sprung up in the last three decades, resulting in the splintering of votes. Fifth, the BJP's stand on conversions to Christianity and its hostility to Islam

and other religions has no takers in the South. The BJP's polarising tactics won't work in the South. Sixth, new parties have sprung up with two untested superstars — Kamal Haasan and Rajinikanth — on the horizon.

Preparations for some months now and MK Stalin has already announced an alliance with the Congress. In the 2019 Lok Sabha, the Congress-DMK combination swept the polls. The State has been alternating between the DMK and the AIADMK and now it is the turn of the DMK. It was only in 2016 that the AIADMK got a second term.

The neighbouring Puducherry often reflects Tamil Nadu politics. In any case, it is a small Union Territory and has just one seat in the Lok Sabha. Currently, the Congress is ruling in the State.

Kerala is a different story. The Left-Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) alternate in power. It is the UDF's turn now. The BJP has not been able to penetrate much in the State despite the groundwork done by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Further, the Kerala electorate consists of a sizeable number of Christians and Muslims and they remain non-BJP voters.

In 2019, the LDF posted a landslide victory, winning 19 of the 20 seats in the Kerala Legislative Assembly and the BJP got zero seats. The RSS tried to mobilise support on the contentious Sabarimala issue but the counter-mobilisation presented an effective alternative control.

With more literate voters, Kerala alternates between the Communist or anti-Communists. The BJP is seeing slow growth in the State because of it. While the minority communities in the State have successfully ensured the protection of their respective cultures, the Hindu community has relentlessly coded its own social space. The BJP is taking advantage of it, but it is taking time to translate into votes.

Also, the BJP is facing factionalism in Kerala. The RSS has cautioned the central leadership that the friction in the State could just impact the performance in the polls.

Kerala won kudos in containing the COVID-19 pandemic. A few months ago it looked as if the LDF could return to power but that came to a screeching halt in July after the Chief Minister's Office was found to be allegedly involved in a gold smuggling scam. Several protests broke out across Kerala after the smuggling of 30 kg gold worth ₹14.82 crore through diplomatic channels came to light on July 5. The case is currently being probed by the ED, the National Investigation Agency and the Customs Department. Another nail in the coffin was the recent promulgation of The Kerala Police (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020. Under this Ordinance, a new Section 118A was introduced in the Kerala Police Act, 2011. This was widely viewed as a brazen assault on freedom of speech.

Though the Chief Minister insisted that "no action would be taken against the media or critics who stay within the limits of the Constitution" and in the end decided not to implement the amended Act, the damage has been done to the Government's reputation and credibility in a fiercely independent State.

Now, it remains to be seen whether the BJP can consolidate its Hindu votes in the South.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



## THE TIME TO THINK IS NOW

Plans for mass immunisation against COVID-19 are developing fast. The last year has exacerbated anti-vaccination emotions, and they will not disappear when lockdowns end. Restoring confidence in immunisation may require the much more fundamental rethink that many hoped this pandemic might produce. A reappraisal of who and what is valued, and how we should be living and relating to each other. (The Guardian editorial)

# 'Biden to pick Antony Blinken as State Secy'

**Washington:** Joe Biden intends to pick his trusted foreign policy advisor Antony Blinken as the US Secretary of State and Jake Sullivan as National Security Adviser, media reports said on Monday, as the President-elect is poised to make his first round of Cabinet announcements on Tuesday.

Blinken, 58, has served as the Deputy Secretary of State in the second term of the Obama administration and National Security Advisor to Biden when he was the vice president.

A strong India-hand, Blinken was the top foreign policy advisor to the Biden campaign.

President-elect Joe Biden intends to nominate Antony Blinken to serve as secretary of State, turning to a trusted diplomat and foreign-policy advisor to oversee the rebuilding of US relationships around the globe, according to people familiar with the deci-

sion," The Wall Street Journal reported.

"President-elect Joe Biden is planning to announce that he has selected Antony Blinken, one of his closest and longest-serving foreign policy advisers, as secretary of state," The Washington Post said.

"Jake Sullivan, another top Biden adviser, is expected to be named as national security adviser, according to two people familiar with the announcement," the daily said.

Last week, Biden said he had decided on his name for the Treasury Secretary. **PTI**

## New Zealand's Ardern offers virus know-how to Joe Biden

**Wellington:** New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Monday became the latest world leader to congratulate President-elect Joe Biden on his election victory, saying she offered to share her nation's expertise on dealing with the coronavirus.

Ardern said the tone of the 20-minute phone call was expected to be "very, very favorable about how New Zealand was handling the pandemic."

"What has been really at the center of our response has been some fundamentals around testing, contact tracing, isolating and protecting. Only that's over and above what we've done at our borders." New Zealand has been largely successful in eliminating the virus after imposing a strict lockdown in March and closing borders. Only 25 people in the nation of 5 million have died from COVID-19. **AP**

## US TROOP WITHDRAWAL

# China worried Afghan may become hotbed for Uighur militants

**Beijing:** A wary China on Monday urged the US to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan in an "orderly and responsible manner" amidst increasing concern here that the war-torn country, which shares borders with the volatile Xinjiang province, could become a breeding ground for Uighur Muslim militants.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian's remarks came after acting US Defence Secretary Christopher Miller last week said that the US would cut its military presence in Afghanistan to 2,500 troops by January 15.

"China calls on foreign troops to leave Afghanistan in an orderly and responsible manner, give terrorist forces no breathing space and contribute to Afghanistan peace and reconciliation," Zhao told a media briefing here.

He also condemned the recent Islamic State attack on

Kabul, saying "China will continue to firmly support the Afghan government and people in their efforts to combat terrorism and safeguard the national stability and their own security."

Observers say that America's latest plan to speed up the withdrawal of more troops from Afghanistan may have troubling consequences for China as Washington's withdrawal also coincides with its move to lift the ban on the Uighur militant group - the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM).

Earlier this month, the Trump administration, in a sudden move, lifted the ban on the separatist ETIM, which has been designated as a terrorist organisation by the UN's 1267 counter-terrorism committee in 2002 for its association with al-Qaida, Osama bin Laden and the Taliban. **PTI**

## China lashes out at US withdrawal from Open Skies Treaty with Russia



**Beijing:** China on Monday lashed out at Washington over its withdrawal from the "Open Skies Treaty" with Russia, saying the move undermined military trust and transparency and invited future attempts at arms control.

The treaty, to which China is not a signatory, had allowed each country oversight rights to inspect military facilities.

That leaves only one arms-control pact still in force between the former Cold War foes, the New START treaty, which limits the number of nuclear warheads each may have. That treaty will expire in February and the Trump administration had said it was not interested in extending it unless China also joined, something Beijing says it will not do. **AP**

# UK SC to decide if ISIS bride can be back to London

**London:** Britain's Supreme Court is set to decide whether a woman who ran away from her London home as a teenager to join the Islamic State group in Syria can return to the UK.

The British government is fighting to keep Shamima Begum from coming back to the country where she was born.

At a hearing beginning on Monday, it is challenging a lower court's ruling that Begum can return to Britain to mount a legal challenge aimed at restoring her UK citizenship, which was revoked on national security grounds.

The Court of Appeal said in July that "the only way in which she can have a fair and effective appeal is to be permitted to come into the United Kingdom."

But James Eadie, a lawyer acting for the UK government, told the Supreme Court justices that Begum "is considered to pose a real and current threat

to national security."

Begum, now 21, was one of three east London schoolgirls who traveled to Syria in 2015 to live under IS rule.

She says she married an Islamic State member from the Netherlands and had three children, all of whom have died.

She resurfaced at a refugee camp in Syria in 2019 and told reporters she wanted to come home, but was denied the chance when then-Home Secretary Sajid Javid revoked her citizenship.

He argued that she was Bangladeshi by descent and could go there.

The ruling has thrown into sharp relief the larger question of how Western societies deal with people who joined IS but want to go back to their home countries.

Begum challenged the decision in 2019, arguing she was a citizen of another country and that Javid's decision left her stateless. **AP**

# First Americans could be vaccinated next month: House vaccine chief

**Washington:** The first Americans to receive a COVID-19 vaccine could be as early as the second week of December, according to the White House vaccine czar.

American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech submitted an application to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on November 20 for emergency use authorization for its COVID-19 vaccine candidate. An FDA vaccine advisory committee is slated to meet December 10.

Dr Moncef Slaoui, the head of the US coronavirus vaccine programme said that it means, if authorised by the FDA, the vaccine could be rolled out the next day

(December 11).

"Our plan is to be able to ship vaccines to the immunisation sites within 24 hours from the approval, so I would expect maybe on day two after approval, on the 11th or on the 12th of December," he told CNN on Sunday.

The vaccine, which requires two doses, has been shown by tests to be 95 per cent effective. Pfizer hopes to produce up to 50 million doses by the end of the year.

US pharmaceutical company Moderna has also reported that its vaccine is nearly 95 per cent effective, according to test data. The company is expected to start approving the vaccine in the coming weeks. **PTI**

# Burkina Faso counts ballots; extremist threats affected vote

**Ouagadougou:** Votes are being counted in Burkina Faso after Sunday's presidential and legislative elections, with threats of extremist violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State prevented parts of the country from casting ballots.

Election workers began the counting after polls closed by holding up the ballots up for observers and marking the votes on a chalkboard beside the candidate's name. Preliminary results are expected within the next two days.

While the vote were, no reported incidents of major attacks, threats of violence prevented people from casting ballots in hard-hit parts of the country, in the North, Sahel and East regions. Nearly 3,000 polling stations out of 335 didn't open, according to a report from CODEL, a local



Election officials count the ballots at a polling station in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, for the presidential and legislative elections late on Sunday.

organization monitoring the elections. CODEL said it was "concerned about the situation in areas weakened by insecurity." Local officials in the Sahel and Center North, the epicenters of the violence, told the AP that people were angry about not being able to vote. **AP**

from voting, said Newton Ahmed Barry, president for the National Independent Electoral Commission, on local television.

In Tapoa province in the east, 224 polling stations out of 335 didn't open, according to a report from CODEL, a local

# HK's Joshua Wong to plead guilty to protest charges

**Hong Kong:** Prominent Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong said on Monday that he plans to plead guilty to charges related to a demonstration outside police headquarters during anti-government protests last year.

Ahead of a court hearing Monday, Wong said he and fellow activist Ivan Lam would both plead guilty to organizing, taking part in and inciting protesters to join an unauthorized protest outside police headquarters in Wan Chai last June.

Wong and Lam were members of the now-disbanded Demosisto political party. "I am persuaded that neither prison bars, nor election ban, nor any other arbitrary powers would stop us from acting," Wong said.

"What we are doing now is to explain the value of freedom

# French ex-Prez Sarkozy stands trial for corruption

**Paris:** Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy goes on trial Monday on charges of corruption and influence peddling in a phone-tapping scandal, a first for the 65-year-old politician who has faced several other judicial investigations since leaving office in 2012.

Sarkozy is being accused of having tried to illegally obtain information from a magistrate about an investigation involving him in 2014.

He stands trial in a Paris court along with his lawyer Thierry Herzog, 65, and the magistrate, Gilbert Azibert, 73.

They face a prison sentence of up to 10 years and a maximum fine of 1 million euros (\$1.2 million). They deny any wrongdoing.

Hearings are scheduled until Dec. 10. **AP**

# US provides missiles, renews pledge to defend Philippines

**Manila:** President Donald Trump's administration provided precision-guided missiles and other weapons to help the Philippines battle Islamic State group-aligned militants and renewed a pledge to defend its treaty ally if it comes under attack in the disputed South China Sea.

National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien represented Trump in Monday's ceremony

at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, where he announced the delivery of the cache of missiles and bombs to the Philippine military. Trump pledged to provide the \$18 million worth of missiles in a phone conversation with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte in April.

O'Brien expressed condolences to the Philippines after

back-to-back typhoons left a trail of death and devastation in the country and outlined US Help to the country battle the coronavirus pandemic.

The US assistance projects normalcy in Washington's foreign relations as Trump worked to challenge the results of the November 3 presidential election, claiming he was a victim of fraud. Duterte had asked Filipino Americans to vote for Trump but congratulated Joe Biden, through his spokesperson, for winning the election.

O'Brien has represented Trump in a recent online summit between the US and leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and an expanded East Asia summit of heads of state attended by China and Russia that was also held by video and hosted by Vietnam. **AP**

# Yemen rebels claim attack on Saudi oil facility in Jiddah

**Dubai:** Yemen's Houthis rebels said they struck a Saudi oil facility in the port city of Jiddah on Monday with a new cruise missile, just hours after the kingdom finished hosting its virtual Group of 20 leaders summit.

The kingdom did not immediately acknowledge any attack on videos on social media suggested a fire at an Aramco oil facility.

Brig. Gen. Yehia Sarie, a Houthi military spokesman,

tweeted that the rebels fired a new Quds 2 cruise missile at the facility. He posted a live video online that matched Aramco's North Jiddah Bulk Plant, where oil products are stored in tanks.

That facility is just south-east of Jiddah's King Abdulaziz International Airport, a major facility that handles incoming Muslim pilgrims en route to nearby Mecca.

Online videos appeared to

show a tank farm similar to the bulk plant on fire. Details of the video, posted on Monday, matched the general layout of the bulk plant.

Saudi state-run media did not immediately acknowledge the Houthi claim.

Saudi Aramco, the kingdom's oil giant that now has a share of its worth traded publicly on the stock market, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. **AP**

# Officials: 113 bodies found in secret graves in Mexico

**Mexico City:** Mexican authorities have recovered 113 bodies and additional human remains from a secret grave outside the western city of Guadalajara.

Jalisco state Attorney Gerardo Octavio Solis said on Sunday night that 30 of the victims had been identified.

The state is home to Jalisco New Generation Cartel, one of Mexico's most violent and powerful. More bodies have been found in secret graves

there than in any other state in recent years.

According to Mexico's Interior Ministry, from 2006 through September 30 of this year, 897 bodies had been recovered from secret graves in Jalisco, 605 of those during the administration of President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who took office in December 2018.

The burial ground in El Salto, southeast of Guadalajara, was found in October. **AP**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No. 82205012 date : 23.11.2020  
Invitation of Tenders through E-procurement system  
Principal chief materials manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief description	Qty.	Closing date
1.	82205012	Diode Laser	1 Nos	15.12.2020

Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS websites i.e. www.reps.gov.in for details.  
2. No Manual offer will be entertained. 26/12/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**  
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd. 3rd Floor, Plot No-23, Shal Tower, New Rinkia Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned date and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

S. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Ashray Raj Singh & Durg Pat Singh/ LBDE00000232267	Flat No- T- 3/13-05, Valley View Estate, Gurgaon, Haryana/ Nov. 18, 2020	January 31, 2020/ 6,83,107.57/-	Delhi NCR
2.	Dayanand Sharma/ Jaidav Kaushik/ LBFB000001181891	Flat No- 207, 2nd Floor, C-11, Belvedere Tower, Charmingood Village, Suraj Kund Road, Faridabad/ Nov. 18, 2020	October 04, 2019/ 23,74,540/-	Delhi NCR
3.	Hastinder Taneja & Rachna Taneja/ LBGR000002382513	Unit No G- 018, Ground Floor Platinum Tower, Sector- 47, Sohna Road, Gurgaon/ Nov. 18, 2020	February 26, 2020/ 15,58,036/-	Delhi NCR
4.	Prashanth Kumar & Sankar Gera/ LBND00000435898	Flat No CVN- T 10-09/04, 9th Floor, CHD Vann, Tower 10, Sector- 71, Gurgaon/ Nov. 18, 2020	February 22, 2020/ 90,78,208.78/-	Delhi NCR
5.	Chetna Sharan/ Santosh Gupta/ Sanjay Gupta/ LBDE000001867399	402 A, Tower B- 3, Alpha, E&S Inspirations, Sector- 57, Gurgaon/ 12/20/ Nov. 18, 2020	July 23, 2020/ 90,45,995/-	Delhi NCR

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/ guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under Section 13 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Date : November 24, 2020  
Place: Delhi NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

## South Africa judge files criminal complaint against ex-Prez Jacob Zuma

**Johannesburg:** A South African judge said he will file a criminal complaint against former South African president Jacob Zuma after he staged a dramatic walkout while attending a commission of inquiry looking into corruption during his tenure from 2009 to 2018.

Zuma left the commission hearing without permission after Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo dismissed an application asking him to resign as chair of the inquiry. Zuma alleges Zondo is biased against him.

Zuma has been asked to respond to various allegations implicating him from at least 35 affidavits by witnesses who have appeared before the commission.

These include allegations, among others, that he was involved in converting that members of the controversial Gupta family secured lucrative state contracts and influenced his appointments of cabinet ministers.

Zondo announced Monday that he would also file an application to the Constitutional Court, the highest court in the country, to enforce a summons issued against Zuma and compel him to appear before the commission. **AP**

**UJVN LTD (An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)**  
K.O.: "ULJWAL", Mahanadi Bagh, G.M.S. Road Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763508, 2763808 Fax: 0135-2763507  
CIN No. U40119UP2001SC0202866 Website: www.uttarakhandgovt.org

**Ro.No.- 757 NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date- 23.11.2020**

For and on behalf of UJVN Ltd., Executive Engineer (Civil), Pashulok Barrage, Rishikesh, invites sealed & separate tenders from interested contractors for following work:-

1. **Tender Item Reference:** NIT No.-14/2020-21/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage-Annual Horticulture Upkeep & Sweeping Cleaning Work of Civil Power House Premises at Chilla.
2. **Estimated Value of Tender:-** Rs. 24,29,445.51 Only.
3. **Date of availability of bid document on website:-** 23.11.2020 from 17:00 Hrs. (IST)
4. **Last Date for Submission of Tender:-** 14.12.2020 upto 14:00 Hrs. (IST).

For eligibility criteria and full and further details kindly visit our web site. The tenders can be downloaded from our web site i.e. [www.uttarakhandgovt.org](http://www.uttarakhandgovt.org) and tender cost shall be paid at the time of submission of the tender.

Executive Engineer (Civil)

**"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL**

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Anita D/o Pappu R/o House No. CH-4, Gali No. 11, Paras Ram Ka Makar, Sushant Vihar, Delhi.** Age: 15 yrs. Height: 5'0", complexion wheatish, face oval, Build thin. Wearing Blue colour suit and salwar and blue colour hawai chappal in feet is missing since 20.10.2020 from the area of PS Swaroop Nagar, Delhi.

In this regard a FIR No. 512/2020 dated: 20.10.2020 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl, but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: [ccib@delhi.gov.in](mailto:ccib@delhi.gov.in)  
Fax: 011-230111334  
Ph: 011-23014046  
011-23015218

S.H.O.,  
P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi  
Ph: 011-27811415, 7065036327

DP/807/CN/20

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
E-PROCUREMENT  
TENDER NOTICE No. S/28/2020 Date 19.11.2020

S. N.	Short Description of Item	Tender Quantity	T.O.D.
723	Security Plate for Centre Pivot Arrangement	900 Nos	25.11.2020
724	Resistor R P Q O P for Relay	200 Nos	04.12.2020
725	Brake Gear Bush	122000 Nos	11.12.2020
726	Ball Joint Traction Lever	2000 Nos	14.12.2020
727	Lateral Bump Stop	1400 Nos	14.12.2020
728	Angular Contact Spring Complete	525 Nos	17.12.2020
729	Wire Wound Fixed Earthing Resistance	73 Nos	17.12.2020
730	Electroplated Pin ICF Bogie	2429 Nos	18.12.2020
731	Yoke for Upgraded High Tensile CBG	214 Nos	18.12.2020
732	Rubber Spring	1169 Nos	21.12.2020
733	Set of Spares of Valves	1 Set	26.12.2020

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and [www.westernrailways.gov.in](http://www.westernrailways.gov.in)

For Principal Chief Materials Manager 0458

Like us on: Facebook.com/WesternRailway Follow us on: Twitter.com/WesternRailway

**UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY**

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person was found lying dead on the footpath of Mahila Park, Chandni Chowk, Delhi dated 19.11.2020. In this regard a vide DD No. 56A, dated 19.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification at Sabzi Mandi Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hrs. The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Unknown. S/O: Unknown. R/O: Unknown. Age: About 35-40 years. Height: 5'7". Complexion: Wheatish. Build: Thin. Face: Long. Hair: Maximum Black and brown of head and black bearded. Wearing: Black jeans Paint, pink checkd shirt, meeshrom banian and yellow sweater. Bare Footed.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO  
P.S. Kotwali, Delhi  
DP/740/N/2020 Ph: 011-23977100, 8758070121



# Markets march higher on vaccine progress

RIL, IT STOCKS SPARKLE

PTI | MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks made a winning start to the week on Monday as positive results from another COVID-19 vaccine candidate bolstered investor confidence globally.

A recovering rupee and unabated foreign fund inflows added to the momentum, traders said.

After touching a record intra-day high of 44,271.15, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 194.90 points or 0.44 per cent higher at 44,077.15.

Rupee extends gains by 5p to end at over 2-week high against dollar

PTI | MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated by 5 paise to settle at more than two-week high of 74.11 against the US dollar on Monday tracking positive domestic equities and weak American currency.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit traded in a narrow range as rising COVID-19 cases offset positive sentiments surrounding the progress on the vaccine front.

AstraZeneca on Monday said that late-stage trials of its COVID-19 vaccine were "highly effective" in preventing disease.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 67.40 points or 0.52 per cent to close at 12,296.45.

ONGC was the top performer on the Sensex chart, surging 6.84 per cent, followed by Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, Reliance Industries, HCL Tech and TCS.

Index heavyweight Reliance Industries climbed 2.72 per cent, accounting for most of the Sensex's gains, after the Competition Commission on Friday evening said it had approved the conglomerate's proposed acquisition of Future Group's retail assets.

On the other hand, HDFC, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, SBI

and M&M were among the main laggards, slumping up to 3.55 per cent.

Global equities were on the upswing after Oxford University and AstraZeneca announced that their COVID-19 vaccine candidate was found to be around 90 per cent effective in preventing the disease.

This is the third major vaccine to have reported encouraging results, after Moderna and Pfizer came out with positive Phase 3 data.

"While global cues remained favourable, a sharp rebound in IT, pharma, metals and Reliance Industries led domestic equities to register further gains. However, profit booking was witnessed in select heavyweight financials after recommendation of IWG (Internal Working Group) of RBI did not favour them much, which led financials to end in red today."

## Gold futures gain on spot demand

PTI | NEW DELHI

Gold prices rose ₹45 to ₹50,257 per 10 gram in futures trade on Monday as speculators created fresh positions on firm spot demand.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold contracts for December delivery traded higher by ₹45, or 0.09 per cent, at ₹50,257 per 10 gram in a business turnover of 5,544 lots.

Fresh positions built up by participants led to the rise in gold prices, analysts said.

In the international market, gold traded 0.03 per cent higher at \$1,878.80 per ounce in New York.

## Bank licences to corporates a 'bad idea': Raghuram Rajan

PTI | NEW DELHI

Days after an Internal Working Group (IWG) of Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recommended allowing large Indian corporates to enter the banking sector, former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan and Deputy Governor Viral Acharya have hit back at the suggestion and questioned the timing for it.

Termining the recommendation as a "bombshell", in a blogpost, they said that although several recommen-

## Momentum of economic reforms will continue, FM assures industry

PTI | NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday assured the industry that momentum of economic reforms will continue to make India a hotspot of global investment.

India has turned the crisis created by COVID-19 pandemic into an opportunity to push the economic reforms, which remain pending for decades, she said while addressing the National MNC's Conference 2020 organised by the industry chamber CII.

"Even at the time (of) COVID pandemic, the Prime Minister has not lost an opportunity to take deep reforms, to undertake those kinds of reforms which have not seen the light of the day over the decades."

The momentum for reform will continue. Several more active reform-related steps are being taken up,"

Sitharaman said.

The financial sector is being professionalised and the

government will continue with disinvestment agenda, she added.

## Govt's 'unprecedented' reforms to usher in new era of growth: Kant

New Delhi: Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on Monday said that "unprecedented" reforms undertaken on both governance and economic fronts by the government will usher in a new era of growth and prosperity.

Kant also stressed the need to increase expenditure on research and development and strengthen intellectual property rights (IPR) laws.

The economic and governance reforms undertaken by the government have been quite unprecedented and they

will usher in a new era of growth and prosperity," he said. "We are making states compete on ease of doing business parameters. We are ranking states and naming and shaming them," he said while addressing a virtual event organised by industry body CII. Listing out reforms undertaken by the government in recent times, Kant said as the world battles contraction in economic growth, India has initiated reforms in key sectors including agriculture, labour and mining.

## India exports 11mn smartphones in Jan-Sep

Gurgaon: The exports of smartphones from India is expected to cross \$1.5 billion (by value) this year -- constituting 98 per cent of the total mobile phones exported from the country, a new report said on Monday. A total of 12.8 million mobile phones were exported from India from January to September this year and of these, 10.9 million units were smartphones, according to market research firm techARC.



houses can easily get financing, with no questions asked, in case they have an in-house bank.

## No respite from rising onion prices till Dec, potato prices decline

PTI | NEW DELHI

Due to the declining onion imports from abroad, the price of the staple vegetable is once again set to soar even while there is a large supply of onions coming from Rajasthan. The retail price of onions in the national capital is between Rs 50 to Rs 70 per kg while the wholesale price in New Delhi is 15 to Rs 47.5 per kg which had fallen slightly to Rs 42 per kg before the Diwali season.

According to traders, there are slim chances of getting a respite from the rising onion prices before December this year. However, there is a little relief for the common man as

the prices of potatoes sharply declined due to the new potato crop.

The prices of onions in on onion prices is being attributed to the decrease in imports even as the fresh supply of onions from Rajasthan is in full flow to various parts of the country, including north India.

Traders said that in the last few days due to the increasing supply of locally-produced onions, the pace of onion imports has slowed down.

Horticulture Produce Exporters' Association President, Ajit Shah, said the



## Reliance Retail's 'vocal for local' mission expands to 30,000 artisans

PTI | NEW DELHI

Reliance Retail on Monday said it showcased more than 40,000 artisan-crafted products from over 50 GI clusters to its customers this festive season in a strong push to locally-made artisan products.

A direct result of its three-year-old flagship initiatives - 'Indie by AJO' and 'Swadesh' - started to provide avenues for sales and employment to local craftsmen, the programmes now engage with more than 30,000 craftsmen, representing

over 600 art forms across a wide spectrum of clothing, textiles, handicrafts and hand-made natural goods," the company said in a statement. Indie by AJO is an online marketplace for local artisans and handcrafted products. It features this distinctive idiom beautifully in the wide lifestyle products ranging from apparel to home furnishing and accessories such as jewellery and footwear, it said. The craft repertoire includes Ikat, Shibori, Banarasi, Bagh, Ajrak to Jamdani, Tangail, Chanderi and many more.

## HC TO AIR INDIA Consider paying one month's salary to terminated contractual pilots

PTI | NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked Air India to consider paying at least one month's salary to its pilots, engaged on contractual basis, whose services were suspended in April and later terminated in August, saying that employees cannot be left to hang high and dry.

Justice Navin Chawla asked the counsel for national carrier Air India to take instructions on paying one month's salary to the contractual pilots, who

number around 61. The services of the pilots were terminated in August.

The court also asked the airline to hear out the grievances of the pilots, who were engaged on contract after superannuation, and to see whether something, like a "golden handshake", can be done for them.

With the suggestions, the court listed the matter for hearing on December 16. The court was hearing two pleas moved on behalf of the terminated contractual pilots

who have sought quashing of their termination orders suspending their services and the subsequent order of August 7 by which they were all terminated.

The pilots, represented by advocates Lalit Bhardwaj, Krishan Gopal and Jatinder Anand Dwivedi, have sought a direction to AI to restore their contractual engagements or pay them salaries along with flying allowances with effect from April 1 till their licenses are restored to current ratings.

## Google to delay 30% in-app purchase policy amid backlash

PTI | SEOUL/NEW DELHI

Facing backlash from developers, Google said on Monday that it will postpone enforcing a 30 per cent commission on in-app purchases from its Play Store from next January to next September.

Under the new policy set to be adopted in late September, Google plans to take a 30 per cent commission on all digital content purchases by users from app developers.

Like Apple, Google also collects a 30 per cent commission on in-app purchases.

Apple last week announced it will reduce the standard commission on its App Store from 30 per cent to 15 per cent for app developers with yearly proceeds of less than \$1 million from next year.

According to market watchers, Google apparently postponed the policy as it faced strong backlash from South Korean developers, reports Yonhap news agency.

While Google has taken a 30 per cent cut for all in-app purchases on the Play store through its billing system, some apps have circumvented the rule by using other systems, such as direct credit card payments.

**SALE NOTICE**

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details	Reserve Price	EMD Amount (10% of reserve price)	Place of Auction	Date and Time of auction
225/ 2020, ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. VIKASH	Vehicle no- HR38V6041, Manu ry- 2015, Make and Model- HYUNDAI XCENT BASE CRDI	68000/-	6800/-	Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chock, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurugram-122022	Dec 10, 2020, from 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM
CM (M)- 231/ 2020, ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. ANKIT BHADANA	Vehicle no- HR38V7561, Manu ry- 2015, Make and Model- HYUNDAI XCENT	85000/-	8500/-	Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chock, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurugram-122022	Dec 10, 2020, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
FAO 213/ 2015, ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. KULVINDER SINGH	Vehicle no- NR- D132Q64942, Chassis No- MA3E181819169179, Manu ry- 2012, Make and Model- Maruti Ertiga	200000/-	20000/-	Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chock, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurugram-122022	Dec 10, 2020, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
CM (M) 22/ 2020, ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. CHATURVEDI	Vehicle no- UP14FT7814, Manu ry- 2016, Make and Model- CHEVROLET SAIL UVA LT	68000/-	6800/-	Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chock, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurugram-122022	Dec 10, 2020, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
229/ 2020, ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. MUNEEB KHAN	Vehicle no- UP16AH0220, Manu ry- 2016, Make and Model- FORD ENDEAVOR XLT	160000/-	16000/-	JCS Financial Services & Parking Service Plot No. 112, Old Rajpur Road Park, Near Kishan Nagar, Kangur Nagar, Pin 202034, Uttar Pradesh	Dec 10, 2020, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
222/ 2020, ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. RAHUL YADAV	Vehicle no- UP12T0642, Manu ry- 2014, Make and Model- TATA ACE HT	70000/-	7000/-	A.N. Motors 14 KM - Stone, Agra - Mathura Road, Runkata Agra- 282007	Dec 10, 2020, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

EMD: 10% of EMD amount to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited, payable at Delhi.

Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (854874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)/ Avinash Kumar (8953652366)

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested parties are therefore requested, to satisfy themselves in relation to the said asset and with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at site with original DD/P.O of EMD amount along with original KYC proofs to participate in the auction.

Successfully/Unsuccessful bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount) within 5 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount will be forfeited.

The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot no-7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi-110085, for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle.

### SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely Sanjay S/o Nitrotham R/o H.No.A-51-C, DDA Flats, Tagore Garden, Delhi Aged-45 Years has been reported missing since 12.10.2020 at about 09:30 AM from his residence vide DD No.45A Dated 12.11.2020 registered at Police Station Rajouri Garden, New Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

**Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'5", **Face:** Round, **Build:** Normal, **Clothing:** Blue coloured shirt, Blue coloured jeans and White coloured shoes in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Sd/-  
Tel. No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641  
Fax No.: 011-24368639  
DP/274/WD/2020

### SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely Sunil S/o Late Sh. Gahinar R/o Shop Classic Chicken, Gole Market, New Delhi Aged-about 19 Years has been reported missing since 07.11.20 at 09:30 PM from his residence vide DD No.70-A Dated 10.11.2020 registered at Police Station Mandir Marg, New Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

**Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Long, **Build:** Thin, **Clothing:** Cream Coloured shirt and White coloured jeans.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, Mandir Marg, New Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Sd/-  
Tel. No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641  
Fax No.: 011-24368639  
DP/157/ND/2020

### SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one male namely Pankaj, S/o Suresh, R/o Jai Kumar Ka Makana, H.No. 37, Village Sannoth, Delhi, Age: 25 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Build: Medium, wearing White colour Shirt & Blue colour Pant, has been missing from his house since 30.09.2020 at 10:00 AM. In this regard a DD No. 52-A, dated 27.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax: 011-24368639  
P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi  
DP/583/ON/2020 Ph. No.: 011-27787592, 27787593

### Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one male Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 40 Years, Height: 5'5", Sex: Male, Complexion: Wheatish, Injury Marks: Body damaged in different shops, Wearing: Green and White Colour Checkdard Shirt and Black Colour Pant & Plastic Chappal in Feet.

Place of Recovery: Found dead on 17.11.2020 at KM Pole No. 153, 143/1 UP Line Railway Track, Near Under Pass, Mangolpuri Railway Station.


In this regard FIR/DD No. 1A, dated 17.11.2020 has been lodged at Police Station, Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersigned.

SHO  
P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-28714802, 28711697  
DP/14/RLY/2020 87508 71308

**DOCYARD**

DR KUSHAL BANERJEE

Consultant Homeopath



**DR KALYAN BANERJEE'S CLINIC, NEW DELHI**

## Take help from Homeopathy



India is considered as the Diabetes capital of the world. Approximately eight-point seven percent of Indians between the age of twenty to seventy years are Diabetic. The country suffers substantial loss of productivity and thus bears a huge economic burden because of Diabetes.

An exceedingly high number of Diabetics around the world are looking to complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) to act as an adjunct or substitute for the management of their condition. Diabetes affects multiple organ systems resulting in a wide range of serious issues in patients. Many of these complications of Diabetes do not have any specific treatment in conventional medicine.

India is known for its larger than life festivals, and sweets and delicacies is a part and parcel of it. However, during this time, Diabetics should exercise caution and only consume extremely limited quantities of sweets or restrict themselves to food items which will not increase their blood sugar levels if they have very high levels of blood sugar. A temporary but sharp rise in blood sugar can cause irreversible damage to vital organs. Elevated blood sugar may take days to settle to its previous levels. We are also observing the correlation between Diabetes and COVID-19. Although research is still new, it is being postulated that diabetics have a higher chance of severe clinical outcomes and mortality due to COVID-19. Again, experts recommend that patients should strive for good control of their blood sugar levels to prevent severe complications.

**Diabetes affects multiple organs resulting in a wide range of serious issues in patients. Many of these complications do not have any specific treatment in conventional medicine**

earlier.

Doctors usually spend a lot of time explaining the importance of lifestyle changes, including diet, mealtimes, exercise and sleep patterns, in addition to advising homeopathic medicines. Many of these patients can report lasting blood sugar control with these modifications. There are many cases where homeopathic medicines can be completely withdrawn.

Some of the other complications which occur in chronic Diabetics are conditions like peripheral neuropathy (degeneration of the nerves in the periphery of the body), Diabetic retinopathy (degeneration of the retina and related structures) and diabetic nephropathy (degeneration of the structures of the kidney, affecting its functioning). These conditions are known to respond poorly to conventional medicines. However, homeopathy can address these issues in many patients. From providing relief to pain, burning and loss of sensation of limbs, to improving or preventing further loss of vision. There is anecdotal data demonstrating improvement or arrest of degeneration of kidney functioning with homeopathic management in cases of nephropathy. We are also able to see remarkable improvements in cases of Diabetic foot, where the foot of patient begins to degenerate into a gangrenous condition due to poor blood supply. Patients are often able to avoid an amputation!

As the country takes some early steps towards an integrated healthcare system, it is important to consider homeopathy as an essential option for patients in all stages of Diabetes.

## WARMFOODS

**BROWN RICE:** Brown rice is rich in proteins, thiamine, calcium, magnesium, fiber, and potassium. For those trying to lose weight or those suffering from diabetes, it can prove a healthy staple given its low glycemic rating which helps reduce insulin spikes. It is rich in selenium which reduces the risk for developing common illnesses such as cancer, heart disease and arthritis. One cup of it provides 80 per cent of our daily manganese requirements. Manganese helps the body

synthesize fats. It also benefits our nervous and reproductive systems. The naturally occurring oils are beneficial for the body as they help normalise cholesterol levels. The fiber content of brown rice keeps bowel function at its peak since it makes digestion that much easier. It is the perfect addition to the daily diet for those seeking bowel regularity. In addition, it also makes the tummy feel full which translates to smaller meal portions.

## TEST YOUR LUNGEVITY

Pneumonia is common among people of all ages. DR SAMIR GARDE busts myths related to the disease and tells you symptoms to look out for

Pneumonia is an infection of the lungs. It causes the air sacs (alveoli) of the lungs to get inflamed (irritated and swollen). They may fill up with fluid or pus. This causes a variety of symptoms, which range from mild to severe. Pneumonia is usually caused by bacteria or a virus. It also can be caused by fungi or irritants that you breathe into your lungs. How serious pneumonia is depends on many factors. These include what caused the pneumonia, your age, and your overall health.

**SYMPTOMS**  
The symptoms of pneumonia can range from mild to severe. This depends on your risk factors and the type of pneumonia you have. Common symptoms are similar to the symptoms caused by a cold or the flu. They include:  
■Cough  
■Fever  
■Bringing up mucus when you cough  
■Difficulty breathing  
■Chills  
■Chest pain  
You may also sweat, have a headache, and feel very tired. Some people also experience nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

**MYTHS**  
■It can always be treated with antibiotics  
■Elderly people are the only ones required to receive vaccinations  
■Healthy people can't get pneumonia  
■An individual with pneumonia must be hospitalised

**FACTS**  
■With many possible causes for pneumonia, treatment could include

## Turn to breathing exercises

Like people say, prevention is better than cure. So is the case with pneumonia. Here are a few tips that can help.  
■Having good immunity is the single most important factor in prevention of pneumonia.  
■Healthy lifestyle — a good

more than just antibiotics  
■People age 65 and older are at a higher risk, but anyone can catch pneumonia at any age and therefore should consider getting vaccinated  
■People who are considered healthy have a lower risk, but could still catch pneumonia  
■If the condition is less severe, treatment may not include hospitalisation

**CAUSES**  
**Bacterial:** This is the commonest cause of pneumonia. There is a wide range of bacteria that can infect the lungs — in children as well as adults  
**Viral:** Nowadays due to COVID 19; everyone seems to have got alerted about viral pneumonia. Viral infections are rather common in children and there are dozens of viruses that cause infection of the lungs. Influenza related pneumonia are common in adults and various other viruses can cause lung infection in adults where immunity is compromised. COVID-19 related pneumonia is not a pneumonia in true sense; its more of inflammatory condition of the lungs — the discussion of which is beyond the scope of this article.

**Fungal:** Happens in immunocompromised individuals. People who are suffering from Diabetes; chronic kidney disease; those having HIV/AIDS; or those who are on medicines that compromise the immunity; especially after organ transplant etc are immunocompromised people.  
**Tuberculous infections:** Infection caused by Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (popularly known as TB) is the biggest menace in front of our country and needs to be tackled on war footing. There are other

breakfast; two square meals per day, having fresh fruit everyday; regular exercise with deep breathing exercises; adequate sleep are of utmost importance to maintain good immunity.  
■People with Diabetes; renal conditions; those on chemotherapy

**The symptoms of pneumonia can range from mild to severe. This depends on your risk factors and the type of pneumonia you have. Common signs are similar to the ones caused by a cold or flu**

As discussed above; depending on the causative agent (Bacterial/viral/TB etc.) and patient's condition (stable or critical) medicines are prescribed to be taken orally (at home) or Intravenously (in the hospital). Patients also need supportive care in the form of hydration; control of Diabetes; vitamin supplements etc.

apathy should take regular guidance of their treating physician; to keep their conditions under control.

■Avoiding smoking  
■Taking influenza and Pneumococcal vaccines as per the advice of regular doctor/chest physician.

bacteria from the Mycobacterium family that can cause lung infections.

**Aspiration pneumonia:** When one ends up aspirating contents of the stomach into the lungs via; breathing pipe — one gets — chemical pneumonitis.

How is pneumonia diagnosed? When a person reaches a doctor/hospital with above mentioned symptoms and after clinical examination pneumonia is suspected; X-ray of the chest is done to diagnose pneumonia. At times a CT scan of the chest is necessary to see the extent of the infection. Sending sputum for culture test helps in deciding the causative factor of pneumonia.

How is it treated? As discussed above; depending on the causative agent (Bacterial/viral/TB etc.) and patient's condition (stable or critical) medicines are prescribed to be taken orally (at home) or Intravenously (in the hospital). Patients also need supportive care in the form of hydration; control of Diabetes; vitamin supplements etc.

The writer is Consultant Respiratory Medicine, Jaslok Hospital and Research Centre

## DON'T MISS YOUR CHILD'S VACCINATION

Approximately 3.7 lakh children die of pneumonia annually in India. DR SISIR PAUL tells how timely immunisation can reduce the risk

Pneumonia is one of the leading causes of sickness and mortality in children in developing countries especially under the age of 5 years. Pneumonia can be easily prevented by immunization, adequate nutrition, and taking care of some environmental factors.

As per WHO Pneumonia accounts for almost 15% to 18% of all deaths (1.3 million deaths) globally of which 99% cases seen in 15 developing countries, in children under 5 years age. Approximately 3.7 lakh children die of Pneumonia annually in India. Pneumonia can be caused by viruses, bacteria, or fungi.

Pneumonia can spread in several ways like via air-borne droplets from a cough or sneeze from an infected person or the organisms which are normally present in one's nose and throat can become infective if conditions are unfavourable and can infect the lungs if they are inhaled. In addition, in young infants it can spread through blood also. Various factors that may influence the occurrence of pneumonia include, premature and low birth weight child, undernutrition, indoor overcrowding, poor hygiene, previous history of allergies, recent history of Measles and Chicken Pox, Pneumonia or hospitalisation and many more.

The presenting features of viral and bacterial pneumonia are similar. However, the symptoms of viral pneumonia may be more when compared with bacterial pneumonia. In children under five years of age they can present with cough and/or fast and difficult breathing, with or without fever and there may be retraction of lower chest wall. Wheezing is more common in viral pneumonia. Very severely ill infants may be unable to take feed or drink.

Three strategic interventions include-vaccination, breastfeeding/nutrition and access to care and antibiotic treatment along with Parent Education Programs, Pneumonia awareness Program, and Community and health workers. Awareness of practices like hand hygiene-washing hands frequently, avoiding indoor pollution (smoking, usage of firewood, kerosene, incense, deep-sprays etc.) as well as outdoor pollution.

The other precautionary measures already discussed keep your child's vaccination upto date which starts from six weeks of age.

All children should be given vaccines to prevent against bacterial infections like Pneumococcus and Hib. All children six months of age or older should get a flu (Influenza) vaccine yearly at least up to eight years of age (MOH) because the maximum spread in the community is through children in this age group.

Children should also be vaccinated against Measles and Chicken Pox because these illnesses can reduce the immunity and increase the risk of secondary pneumonia. Older children should follow cough and sneeze etiquettes (cover their nose and mouth with facial tissue or a sleeve of their shirt when sneezing and throw away tissues after use).

If the child is showing symptoms suggestive of pneumonia consult your Paediatrician and do not indulge in self medications.

The writer is Clinical Director for Paediatrics, Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital

## DadiKa Kehna

*Winters are here and with it the usual problems of dry skin, dandruff and cracked heels. A few simple ingredients available in your kitchen can help tackle the issue, says ROSHANI DEVI*

While we all look forward to winters sitting in front of the fire, drinking tea and talking about everything under the sun; there are some annoying problems that crop up — dry skin and dandruff. There are many products available in the market but a few home remedies work just as well with long lasting effect. If you have dry skin, one of the best remedies is to mix two parts glycerin, two parts rose water and one part lemon juice. Keep this in a bottle. Apply on the skin. Avoid areas where there is a break in the skin. Leave it overnight. Wash

with warm water the next morning. One can do this on the face — the results are amazing. For cracked heels mix beeswax and mustard oil by heating them together in equal parts. Pour it into a container. Let it cool. Apply over the cracked heels. Wear socks. Wash feet the next morning. Repeat till you get smooth heels. Dandruff is another winter problem that many face. Mix orange peel powder and coconut oil to make a mask. Apply this on the scalp. Leave it overnight or at least for an hour. Wash off with shampoo. Do this thrice a week till dandruff disappears.

## Ultrasound is key

India is severely impacted by the sudden outbreak of highly infectious COVID-19 pandemic which is overwhelming our healthcare system & the number of patients being diagnosed with it is staggering. Amidst these unprecedented times; Point-of-care Ultrasound (POCUS) technology has emerged as a key screening tool for physicians to access the actual clinical conditions in the medically fragile patients.

Nowadays, compact ultrasound machines are increasingly being used to diagnose, monitor and manage patients in ICU, emergency wards and other inpatient services. For patients diagnosed with COVID-19 infection, it is an excellent adjunct tool for performing comprehensive head-to-toe clinical study & is an ideal device for bedside examination of patients in isolation wards. COVID-19 primarily attacks the lung in the initial stages of the disease and it can also have significant

cardiac manifestations in the later stages of the disease.

So, lung ultrasound and focused echocardiography has the potential to aid the diagnosis and management of patients with COVID-19 infection. Moreover, the patients infected with COVID-19 require airway management, or venous access under ultrasound guidance (to administer essential fluids & medications), or some patients in shock or trauma needs a proper shock assessment where ultrasound plays a vital role in clinical evaluation process.

Portable diagnostic ultrasound machine is like a Swiss army knife which has multiple advantages as it is non-invasive, possess no ionising radiations, can be quickly & repeatedly performed at the bedside, cost-effective and is easily sanitised as compared to other imaging modalities in indoor settings.

Hospitals need to

employ proper set of cleaning protocols for machine disinfection prior to use in COVID-19 isolation wards. Because the utility of each application varies by setting, hospitals should consider how they can best use ultrasound within their specific environment.

As per the directive from Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW) and guidelines of National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the portable ultrasound plays a significant role in clinical evaluation of COVID-19 patients and should be considered as an invaluable tool for isolation wards.

Major player in this segment is Fujifilm Sonosite company which has partnered with different medical societies across India and assisting healthcare professionals in their battle against this pandemic by providing them the right technology, disinfection guidelines and ultrasound educational resources.

## INBRIEF

Therapeutic food makers in the country have asked for launching specific programmes at the community level to tackle the problem of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in the country since Covid restrictions are severely impacting the food supply and drop in the nutrition levels in the vulnerable sections of society.

CMAM Association of India, comprising manufacturers of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) globally used in community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM), has urged the Government to expedite to develop new products so as to eradicate SAM under the PoshanAbhiyan.

In a communication to the Ministry of Women & Child Development, CMAM Association of India has offered to support and implement any feeding protocols to be laid down by the Government in the upcoming nutrition guidelines using its R&D and product development prowess to ensure that the children receive adequate nutrition.

Feeding protocols that use a combination of home-based food and high-quality energy dense nutrition supplement, including all micronutrients, which are easy to transport to villages, deliver to families and administer to children need to be urgently explored, CMAM Association has stated.

According to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) have nine times higher risk of dying than well-nourished children. CMAM Association has pointed out the urgent need for collaboration between Government, therapeutic food manufacturers and civil society to meet the challenge of SAM in the country.



## TrendSlazer

### Sanjana to star opposite Aditya

Actress **SANJANA SANGHI**, who starred opposite **Sushant Singh Rajput** in *Dil Bechara*, is set to join actor **ADITYA ROY KAPUR** in the forthcoming action film, *OM: The Battle Within*.

"Getting to delve into the action genre so early on, is something I view as an absolute honour. I have immense gratitude for my producers and my director Kapil (Verma) for the potential they have seen in me being able to pull off such a part in our film," Sanjana said. "After exploring many scripts and possibilities, *OM* felt just right since it was the spectrum jump I was looking for in terms of throwing myself into an entirely uncharted territory," she added.



**'The beauty is Rajkumar (Rao) has never lost his humility and generosity that he always had**

**as an actor. He has remained that same person. What has changed is that Rajkumar has become really popular. I think the success has brought with it some limitations. But his success makes me happy. I feel like a happy parent.'**

—Hansal Mehta

Comedian-actor **VIR DAS** feels celebrities should not post videos on social media that show them undergoing COVID-19 tests.

"Please stop posting videos of your COVID tests. From the collection to the test, you are literally doing none of the work. The fact you tilted your head back and managed not to sneeze is not engaging content," he wrote.

"Hear me out please. There's someone drenched in a full PPE kit one foot away from you who does this 30 times a day, door to door. You're not the one struggling. The test sucks for them more," Vir urged.

### Swift wins 'Artist of the Year' at AMAs

Singer **TAYLOR SWIFT** won Artist of the Year award for the third year in a row at the American Music Awards but had to skip the ceremony.

In 2019, Swift expressed anger over her former record label, Big Machine Label Group, selling her master recordings to Scooter Braun, the manager of singers like Justin Bieber and Ariana Grande. So she was busy re-recording the albums she made with the label.

"Thank you so much for this. This is a fan-voted award, which means so much to me. You guys have been beyond wonderful all the years of my career, but especially this one, when we've been so far apart, we haven't been able to see each other in concert, but I still feel really connected to you through the music," she shared.

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) is taking its first step into India with a talent hunt initiative that lets the Academy identify and nurture up to five talents working in film, games or television in India. The exercise, known as BAFTA Breakthrough initiative, is part of the Academy's year-round effort to support new talent, operating alongside their Awards ceremonies.

The programme has in the past supported artists such as Tom Holland, Letitia Wright, Florence Pugh, Jessie Buckley, Josh O'Connor and Callum Turner. Coming to India is part of BAFTA's global expansion effort of the initiative. BAFTA Breakthrough India aims at facilitating the development of relationships between British and Indian talents.

The chosen participants will be offered a year-long support programme from BAFTA and will be showcased across India and the UK. By showcasing talent global-

# BAFTA comes to India

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts is taking its first step at global inclusiveness with a local talent hunt



ly, BAFTA Breakthrough aims to push their careers ahead by helping them to learn more about the industry, overcome barriers to

progression and network globally with people who can influence their careers. The programme is a new inter-

national iteration of the successful Breakthrough initiative, which has been running in the UK since 2013 and China since 2019. The effort was launched in the United States this year, supporting over 130 emerging talents to date.

Industry supporters of the initiative in recent years include actors Oliva Colman, Naomi Harris, Tom Hiddleston and Tilda Swinton, actor-producer Brad Pitt, directors Tom Harper and Barry Jenkins, game designers Brenda Romero and Tim Schafer and actor-writers Sharon Horgan and Amy Schumer.

"BAFTA is uniquely placed to facilitate creative partnerships

across the moving arts, being one of the only art charities to work across film, games and television and on a global scale," said Tim Hunter, Director of Learning and New Talent, BAFTA.

"India is one of the most prolific and accomplished industries and a fascinating centre for the screen arts with lots of creative diversity, which extends far beyond the world-famous Bollywood. Some of the best practitioners in the world work in Indian film, games and television — and practitioners from around the world have much to learn from them," Hunter added.

The initiative will showcase and support emerging stars of

film, games, and television in India, supported by Netflix. "We share BAFTA's vision and responsibility in providing 'breakthrough' opportunities to emerging talent."

We're thrilled to extend our support to the programme in India and help amplify our country's new voices. This initiative will meaningfully bring together creative communities across borders, support their stories, unearth raw talent and provide them with recognition on the world stage," said Monika Shergill on behalf of the streaming giant.

Under the initiative, BAFTA will work closely with local cultural bodies and industry in India to reach each sub-region and identify excellent individuals. The programme will be supported by a series of craft masterclasses, which will feature British and Indian talent sharing their expertise and insights with the audience across India and the UK.

—IANS

Directed by **RAJAT KAPOOR**, a rendition of the Shakespearean play *As You Like It* comes to screens for Aadyam's debut digital theatre fest

## FROM STAGE TO SCREEN

How many clowns does it take to recreate a Shakespearean classic while doing this? Well, seven clowns across a runtime of 106 minutes, as seen in veteran director Rajat Kapoor's clowning glory. *I Don't Like It As You Like It*, a rendition of Shakespeare's play *As You Like It*, will premiere on the screens with Aadyam's digital edition this December.

A raging hit, this play was first staged during Aadyam's second season in 2016 and will be coming back for its digital edition as the theatre takes the stage to the screen. Maintaining the authenticity of its theatre-going experience, the digital showcase will be a striking affair — to be recorded with a multi camera set up, enveloped for virtual viewing for three limited edition screenings via Insider.in's digital streaming service for audience across the country.

With equal nervous and excitement about their first play, Shernaz Patel, the actress returning artistic director says, "There is great excitement and challenge in reinvention. In taking a show that has been successful on stage and finding a novel way to reinterpret it for the camera. That's what we have set out to do with all three of our plays, the first of which is this hilarious and boisterous Shakespeare adaptation. We are lucky to have a good lineup of actors with impeccable comic timing. They make clowning seem effortless. And a film and theatre director at the helm, who is a master of this genre. As with all our plays, we dream big. We want our viewers to have a theatre experience with high production standards. That's why we are shooting the play professionally in an auditorium and on a set and not in isolation or on Zoom. This is the closest we can come to the magic of live theatre because the actors will be performing together on the stage, feeding off each other. So beat those pandemic blues and make the stage your world for a couple of hours. Laughter is



**'ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES IS THE PROCESS BEHIND RETAINING A PLAY'S IDENTITY AS A THEATRICAL EXPERIENCE. TRADITIONALLY, I HAVE NEVER REALLY AGREED TO THIS IDEA OF RECORDING PLAYS TO BE WATCHED ELSEWHERE BECAUSE I FEEL SOMETHING DIES IN TRANSITION'**



the only medicine right now. Let these lovable and joyous characters prove that to you."

On adapting his play for screen, director Rajat Kapoor adds, "This is one of the biggest challenges — the process behind retaining a play's identity as a theatrical experience. Traditionally, I have never really agreed to this idea of recording plays to be watched elsewhere because I feel something dies in transition. For me, the play exists for the purpose that it was designed for — to be watched live. Ensuring what we present and how we do it, I believe, will elevate its identity from a mere recording to then hold a deeper meaning for the production and the audience alike. With this firmly in mind, we move forward to present this new version of our play."

"This digital edition has been months

in the making. We have been evolving and adapting our efforts to suit the needs of the new viewing format. We are all very excited to see the final product and the audience reaction to it," mentions Brian Tellis, Co-Founder and Group CEO of Fountainhead MGTG that produces and promotes Aadyam in India.

This is the Rajat's fifth Shakespearean adaptation that is retold through clown style theatre as the plot follows a group of clowns who endeavour to put up *As You Like It*. In the play, the troupe director has no faith in the tale itself and believes it to be a comedy that is 'two laughs and a death away from tragedy'. A lack of skill, rehearsal space and fondness for his troupe, creates a comedy of errors that takes the spectators on a hilarious ride, complete with gender role reversal led by the thought, 'Shakespeare made Rosalind Ganymede. What an underachiever. I will make all the men play women, and all the women play men.'

This story explores the highs and lows faced by a circus troupe highlighting the fact that to find yourself, you must become the other. It depicts that behind the smiles and entertainment, these are just ordinary people dealing with stress, angst and the madness that is life.

It has some of the most talented actors — Aadar Malik, Cyrus Sahaykar, Faheez Jalali, Joy Fernandes, Rytasha Rathore, Shruti Vyas and Vinay Pathak.

(The play opens on Insider's streaming platform on December 7. Tickets are available on Paytm Insider.)

## Dhoom 2 turns 14



cuts through and becomes popular because it was important for me at that time. It's always important for a song to become popular but at that time I was just hoping and praying. I remember the day *Dhoom* was releasing, I was going to Shirdi and on the way I

heard in two places — one was a car back horn with the *Dhoom Machale* tune and the other when somebody in Shirdi was singing it. Then I knew, *ganaa toh popular hogaya!* It was a great experience. Recounting his experience of choreographing two of the most

good-looking superstars, Hrithik and Aishwarya (Rai Bachchan), Shiamak says, "I had worked with Aishwarya in *Taal* and before she became Miss World, I'd worked with her already in a Sufi jazz piece, so she was already quite close to understanding my style

and delivering it really well. Hrithik was very new to what I do, but the best part about Hrithik was that he is just so natural with dancing and my kind of style on him worked so well. I think he was also quite excited with the fact that he could do such a different, unusual kind of work from what he was normally doing, which is a very strong Bollywood dance. Suddenly, we were to put a little bit of jazz and contemporary. It was quite a thought process to see him and Aishwarya interpret the song. I was very happy that they both did a good job. I was very proud of them because when they both came in together, it was electrifying."

Vijay Krishna (Viktor) Acharya, the writer of the series, says, "The success of *Dhoom* told us that there was a possibility of a cooler style of an action film in India. However, Adi was very clear that we should never make a film only to satisfy the idea of a franchise. We had to stick to that principle throughout. *Dhoom 2* had everything pushed up a couple of notches, in every department. I think we managed a racy screenplay, one that keeps you wanting to know more and personally, I really enjoyed writing all the characters and their minor quirks."

He adds, "I remember when *Dhoom 2* was announced, every-

one felt that this will have a natural continuation — since the first part had bikes and this one has cars. But the fact is that you don't make a film about inanimate objects. Even if there are bikes and there's action, we are always trying to encapsulate a feeling. You are always trying to convey an emotion, whatever that might be and *Dhoom 2*, with its love story, connected with everyone."

Talking about Hrithik's character, Viktor reveals, "Aryan was in the tradition of what we think is the *Dhoom* anti-hero. And for me, the idea was someone who exists within society and yet on the fringes of it. Yes, he is a criminal, but he is somebody who is also someone for things which are only special. He is someone exceptionally good at his craft. Those things went into the making of the character and that helps the actor embody something. It helps the director visually realise something. He is actually a passionate collector. Curiously enough, his arc is that through his theft, what he finally manages to steal, is somebody else's heart and that ends his life of crime. So, in a very unusual way, there was a kind of redemption to his character. I think both Hrithik and Aishwarya, in that sense, came into the film in a very exciting manner."

—IANS



# At 34, my days are numbered: Warner

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australia's big-hitting opener David Warner on Monday said his "days are numbered" in international cricket and continuing an approach of keeping his aggression in check, he would rather ignore than engage if Indian players attempt to sled him during the upcoming series.

Warner, in a virtual press conference on Monday, touched upon his evolution as a batsman in the past couple of years.

"I've just recently turned 34, so my days are numbered, when you're in the 30s. There's obviously a risk element but there's obviously a cricket smarts element to it as well," the explosive opener said ahead of the limited-overs series against India starting with the first ODI on November 27.

Warner, who has had his share of aggressive on-field showdowns, said he would prefer to look the other way if Indians try to get chatty with him.

"I'll always draw from that mate. To try and get engaged, that's the way they like to play as well," he said.

"We're learning over time, trying not to engage in that. Probably try and reversing the effect by trying and ignoring it,



trying to take it on board and using it against them by using your bat," he added.

"It's probably something I've learnt over time. And you don't know the effect it can have on your teammates as well. You've got to be a bit more humble in that respect."

Warner said at 34, he has become a calculated risk-taker and is focussed on maintaining a strong strike rate.

"For myself, it's about getting off to a good start and taking calculated risks in that middle-overs period if we're talking about 50-over games," he said.

"For me, it's about making sure that I am batting as much as I can and at a good strike-rate as well. I think last year was probably the most disciplined I've batted in Test cricket as well."

"I really took pride in the last 12-24 months, to apply that discipline and you keep learning as you get older... You've got to be on top of your game to be able to adapt to that."

Talking about the Indian team, which will not feature in-form opener Rohit Sharma at least in the ODIs and T20s, Warner said it would be a big hole to fill but Virat Kohli's men do have the wherewithal to manage.

"Obviously he is a big piece of their team, that they are going to be missing, but they have got great in-form guys KL Rahul, Shikhar Dhawan and Mayank (Agarwal), these guys

## 'Don't think Burns did anything wrong last summer'

IANIS ■ MELBOURNE

David Warner on Monday stated that Joe Burns hasn't done "anything wrong last summer" but the left-handed batsman insisted he'll embrace uncapped prodigy Will Pucovski if selected for the much-anticipated first Test against India to be played at the Adelaide Oval from December 17.

Burns, who is Warner's incumbent partner — and Pucovski have been named in the 17-member squad for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Pucovski, who is among the five uncapped players, has made a strong case for selection in the playing XI with back-to-back double centuries for Victoria in the Sheffield Shield.

Right-handed Queensland batsman Burns, however, has had a highest of just 29 in his five innings this season.

"If they go the way of Will, he has batting fantastic and been in and out of the Test squad. He is in the right frame of mind at the moment. It probably is an opportunity for him to come into the team. But as we know it's harder to get out of this team than get in," Warner was

quoted as saying by cricket.com.au.

"At the moment I didn't think Joe did anything wrong last summer. We had some great partnerships and averaged over 60. And that's what you want from your opening partnership. And at the end of the day I have to be happy with it and embrace (whoever they pick)," he added.

"Here in Australia, it's a bit different, in 50-over cricket, you can still play the normal way you do and I think I showed that last year, the way I played against Pakistan and Sri Lanka."

"I played pretty much the same way as I did during the back of that IPL. I won't be changing my game and will go out and tackle it the way I always do," added Warner, who has 5,303 ODI runs.

"Yeah definitely. What do you want to see? 100 of overs or something? In the one-day stuff, I'll still come out and play the way I normally do. There's probably going to be no change to that," he said.

"Here in Australia, it's a bit different, in 50-over cricket, you can still play the normal way you do and I think I showed that last year, the way I played against Pakistan and Sri Lanka."

"I played pretty much the same way as I did during the back of that IPL. I won't be changing my game and will go out and tackle it the way I always do," added Warner, who has 5,303 ODI runs.

## Virat bhai said that tough situation will make me stronger: Siraj

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Away from family while grieving the recent loss of his father, Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj says skipper Virat Kohli's advice to "be strong" has helped him stay afloat as he gears up for a gruelling series against Australia.

Kohli is no stranger to overcoming personal tragedy while carrying on with professional duties. In 2007, Kohli, then a teenager, lost his father in the middle of a Ranji Trophy match but he came back next day to score 97 for Delhi, throwing his mental fortitude.

Siraj's father Mohammed Ghouse, 53, died due to a lung ailment in Hyderabad last week and despite BCCI offering him the option to return home, the fast bowler decided to stay put on national duty.

"Virat bhai said 'Miyaan tension mat le (don't be tense) and be strong. Your dad wanted you to play for India. So, do that and don't stress', the 26-year-old Siraj told bcci.tv."

"The skipper told me, 'If you can be strong in this situation, it will only help you'. So those were positive words from the Indian captain and it felt nice."

Siraj's father drove auto rickshaws during his formative years as a cricketer and has been the single biggest influence on the Hyderabad man as "It's a huge loss for me as



he was the biggest support system of my life. He wanted me to shine for my country and my mindset now is to fulfil his dreams," he said.

Siraj thanked his teammates, who have rallied around him not to abandon the assignment, which starts with the limited-overs leg from November 27.

"Mom said that 'everyone has to go one day. Today, it's your dad, tomorrow it will be me. Just do what your dad wished for you. Play well for India'."

"Maybe he is not physically present but I feel that he is always there with me," Siraj said.

## Stoinis playing five times better than a year ago: Ponting

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Batting legend Ricky Ponting believes all-rounder Marcus Stoinis is playing "five times better" than what he was a year ago and could take up "multiple roles" for Australian cricket, including the job of a finisher.

Stoinis scored 352 runs and snapped 13 wickets to play a big role in Delhi Capitals, coached by Ponting, reaching the final of the recent IPL in the UAE. He is in Australia's ODI and T20 squads for the series against India starting on Friday.

Ponting said he is Alex Carey who had told him about Stoinis' incredible turnaround during the IPL.

"From the moment he turned up at the IPL, having come straight from England... he was pretty keen to show me improvements that he'd made. And his first few net sessions, I could just tell that," Ponting told cricket.com.au.

"Having spent a fair bit of time with him over the past couple of years, what I saw from him at the IPL suggests to me that he's a five times better player than he was 12 months ago."

The 31-year-old Stoinis was dropped from Australia's T20 squad after a disappointing 50-over World Cup last year. But, he made a successful comeback, riding on his incredible performance for the Melbourne Stars in the Big Bash League where he scored 705 runs in a single season and also smashed tournament's highest individual score of 147 not out.

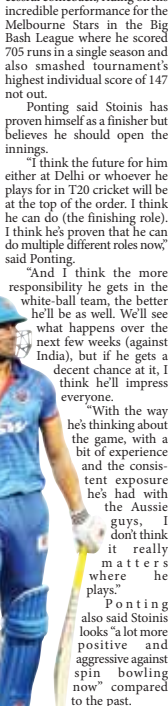
Ponting said Stoinis has proven himself as a finisher but believes he should open the innings.

"I think the future for him either at Delhi or whoever he plays for in T20 cricket will be at the top of the order. I think he can (the finishing role). I can't see him being a T20 player," Ponting said.

"And I think the more responsibility he gets in the white-ball team, he'll be as well. We'll see what happens over the next few weeks (against India), but if he gets a decent chance at it, I think he'll impress everyone."

"With the way he's thinking about the game, with a bit of experience and the consistent exposure he's had with the Aussie guys, I don't think it really matters where he plays."

Ponting also said Stoinis looks "a lot more positive and aggressive against spin bowling now" compared to the past.



## Mitchell Marsh hopeful of comeback in warm-up game

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Re recuperating from an ankle injury, Australia all-rounder Mitchell Marsh says he is "hopeful" of playing next month's warm-up game against India 'A' as he eagerly waits for a clear picture to emerge on Friday.

The 29-year-old Marsh suffered an ankle injury in the opening match of the Indian Premier League in September and has been out of action since then.

He was included in the Australia 'A' squad which will play two three-day tour games against India 'A' on December 6-8 and December 11-13 respectively.

"I'm hopeful, I'll probably find out this week whether I'm

ruled in or out," Marsh was quoted as saying by The West Australian.

"I'll probably know on Friday. I've got a few things to tick off rehab-wise and then go from there."

Marsh said he won't be able to bowl and might play as a batsman.

"I started running last week and I've got a few kilos to shed before I start playing. It's been a pretty slow process but speaking to a few AFL players about how they get pretty good quickly at the end so hopefully that's the case in the next couple of weeks."

"At this stage it will just be batting. I wouldn't imagine I would be bowling until midway through the Big Bash at this point in time."

## Surya should've made cut in Indian team: Lara

PTI ■ MUMBAI

West Indies great Brian Lara feels that a batsman of Suryakumar Yadav's calibre should have been in the Indian white-ball squad for the tour of Australia.

The Mumbai Indians batsman's non-inclusion, despite being seen to be an Indian tour-getters' list with 480 runs at a strike-rate of 145 plus, has become a major talking point.

"I see no reason why, looking at the (Indian) squad, he can't be a part of it," Lara said in an interview with Star Sports show Cricket Connected.

Lara said he is impressed not just by the runs but also the manner in which Yadav has scored them.

"Ye a h, definitely. He's the least class player. I don't just look at players that score runs, I look at their technique, capabilities under pressure, positions that they are batting and for me."

"Suryakumar Yadav has done such a wonderful job for Mumbai."

The only explanation that has come for the 30-year-old's exclusion is the lack of space in the line-up. Lara said he fits the bill for the No 3 slot.

"He comes to bat on the back of Rohit Sharma, and Quinton de Kock and every time, they are under pressure, he comes in at No 3," he said.

"Just remembering the last time, the openers, the No 3 batsman in any cricket team is normally your best player, your most reliable player and for me, he (Surya) has been that for Mumbai Indians," he stated.

## CA confirm full BBL 10 schedule

IANIS ■ MELBOURNE

Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria have been confirmed host matches in the upcoming edition of the Big Bash League (BBL) in January next year "subject to public health situation and associated impacts including border restrictions," Cricket Australia announced on Monday.

Earlier this month, the board had announced the schedule for first T20 BBL matches in December in which it confirmed that bubbles in Hobart and Canberra will host the initial games starting December 10 before venues in Queensland (Dec 23) and Adelaide (Dec 28) join the party.

Five matches will be played at Optus Stadium in Perth, with the first to be played on January 3. Four of these matches will be Perth Scorchers home games.

From January 13, the BBL will travel to Sydney and Melbourne for the rest of the season. Eight matches will be played in Sydney, with the Sydney Cricket Ground and Sydney Showground Stadium to host four each.

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool were not derailed by an injury crisis as Jürgen Klopp's men produced a dominant display to beat Leicester 3-0 and move level on points with Premier League leaders Tottenham.

Klopp was missing seven first-team regulars through injury and top scorer Mohamed Salah due to a positive coronavirus test, but Liverpool still swept aside a Leicester team who had started the weekend on top of the table.

Jonny Evans's own goal was just reward for the Reds' bright start before Diogo Jota set a record-breaking start to life at Anfield.

The Portuguese international became the first Liverpool player to score in his first four home league games when he headed home Andy Robertson's inch-perfect cross.

Kasper Schmeichel in the Leicester goal kept the score down as he made a series of second-half saves, notably from Sadio Mané and Jota, while Evans had a lucky

## Mark of champions

Under-strength Liverpool still too strong for Foxes



escape as the post prevented him from scoring a second goal.

Roberto Firmino thought he had been denied just his third league goal in 24 games when the Brazilian's shot came back off the post and his follow-up was cleared by Marc Albrighton with just 10 minutes of the ball not over the line.

## Inspirational Ibra

AFP ■ NAPLES

Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice to bring his tally to 10 league goals this season before limping off with a muscular strain as AC Milan stayed top in Serie A on Sunday with a 3-1 win at ten-man Napoli.

Milan move back two points ahead of Sassuolo — 2-0 winners earlier at Hellas Verona — with Roma third after Henrik Mkhitaryan scored twice in a dominant 3-0 win over Parma.

Ibrahimovic continued his fine form, heading in a Theo Hernandez cross after 20 minutes, sending in the second with his knee nine minutes after the break.

But the 39-year-old pulled up clutching his left hamstring and was substituted after 79 minutes.

The Swede has scored in all six games he has played this season, having missed two after contracting coronavirus.

## CHANGE OF NAME

By virtue of an affidavit before Notary Public Bhuvaneshwar, I, Binaya Bhuvaneshwar, At/PO- Bhuvaneshwar, Dist- Nayagarh have changed my daughter's name from Ayasakanta Sarangi to Ayasakanta Sarangi on 14.11.2020. Henceforth, she will be known as Ayasakanta Sarangi for all purposes.

District Rural Development Agency, Bargarh

Notice No. 3406/20 Dated 20.11.2020 DRDA Bargarh invites "Tender for Supply of Pictorial tiles printed with BPGT-PMAY(G) Logo under Rural Housing scheme", from reputed/registered suppliers/firms/agencies through two bid system. Last date for download of Tender documents is 03.12.2020 at 5.30 PM, last date for submission of Tender is 03.12.2020 at 5.30 PM and Technical Bid will be opened 04.12.2020 at 11.00 AM & Financial Bid will be opened on same day i.e., 04.12.2020. Detailed Tender documents can be downloaded from district website [www.bargarh.nic.in](http://www.bargarh.nic.in).

Sd/- Project Director, DRDA Bargarh

e-mail ID- [rw\\_sambalpur@yahoo.co.in](mailto:rw_sambalpur@yahoo.co.in) Phone No. 9663-248184

No. 3449 dated, 18.11.2020

Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE SBPE- 02 OF 28-21

1. Name of the work :- Road Works as per DTCN available in the website. [www.odisha.gov.in](http://www.odisha.gov.in)

2. Total No. of Work :- 02 (Two) Nos.

3. Estimated Cost :- Varies from Rs.6.19 lakhs to Rs.10.62 lakhs

4. Period of Completion :- 01 (One) to 02 (Two) Calendar months

5. Period and time of availability of bid document in the portal for bidding :- 23.11.20 at 11:00 AM to 04.12.20 up to 5.00 PM

6. Date and time of opening of Tender :- 05.12.20 at 11:00 AM

7. Name and address of the officer inviting bid :- E.E.R.W.Dive, Sambalpur

(1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders, available in website [www.odisha.gov.in](http://www.odisha.gov.in)

(2) Clarification if any shall only be published in the website: [www.odisha.gov.in](http://www.odisha.gov.in)

OIFR-25976/11/0004/2021 Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sambalpur

B-448 Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. PWDC- 23/2020-21

No. 02176-19 dt. 17.11.2020

e-mail: [sewdukaonjhar@yahoo.com](mailto:sewdukaonjhar@yahoo.com)

1. No. of the work :- 10 Nos. Building works

2. Estimated cost :- From ₹ 14.15 Lakhs to ₹ 78.10 Lakhs

3. Period of completion :- From 4 (Four) to 6 (Six) Calendar Months

4. Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal:- From 10.00 Hr. 27.11.2020 to 17.00 Hr. 11.12.2020

5. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal:- 17.00 Hr. of 11.12.2020

6. Date of opening of bid from Portal:- 11.30 Hr. of 14.12.2020

7. Name and address of the officer inviting Bid :- Executive Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Division, Keonjhar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://tenders.odisha.gov.in>"

OIFR-34004/11/0006/2021 Executive Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Division

B-443 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) DIVISION: BALANGIR e-Procurement Notice

BID IDENTIFICATION No. BGR R&B/ 12 / 2020-21

No. 2126 dt. 18.11.2020

1. The Executive Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Division, Balangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Detailed cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction of works detailed in the table below from B / A Class Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/ Class as registered with Central Government/ M/S/ Railways for the execution of Road/Building/Bridge works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.

2. Nature of Work :- Road work, Building work

3. No. of tender :- Building work: 03 Nos.

4. Tender Cost :- Rs.10, 000/-

5. Class of Contractor :- "B" Class & "A" Class

6. Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids :- From 26.11.2020, 10.00 A.M. to 04.12.2020 up to 05.00 P.M.

7. Date of opening Bid :- 04.12.2020 at 11.00 A.M.

8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <http://tenders.odisha.gov.in>. All future corrigenda will be available on ONLINE MODE only.

OIFR-34028/11/0011/2021 Executive Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Division