



EXPLORING NEW SPACE

Actor Nidhi Agerwal who recently launched her YouTube channel says it is the best way to reach out to fans

LEISURE

P2



CASTEIST ATTACK

A Jadavpur University prof has been subjected to casteist attacks on social media for a post about final semester exams

TWO STATES

P7



PRESSURE MOUNTS ON RUSSIA

Germany has increased pressure on Russia over the poisoning of Russian Opposition politician Alexei Navalny

INTERNATIONAL

P10

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL



All suspects want to be put behind bars. They don't dread mafia but media.

SHORT TAKES

IPL 2020 schedule announced

New Delhi: Defending champions Mumbai Indians will face three-time winners Chennai Super Kings in Abu Dhabi in the opening match of the 2020 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL), the revamped schedule of which was finally revealed Sunday. The tournament starts September 19 and will be entirely in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) behind closed doors amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

P12

Two poachers killed while making bombs

Deogarh: Two poachers died when the bomb that they were making accidentally exploded in Kalantichilandiakhol village of Deogarh district, Sunday. The deceased have been identified as Ranjit Bhoi and Santosh Patta of Riamala area in the district. Sources said that the two poachers were making bombs in a closed room to kill animals in the jungles. However, due to a glitch while mixing chemicals, an explosion took place in the room. Though the two were taken to a local hospital for treatment, they succumbed to the injury in the wee hours of Sunday.

1 killed, 7 injured in UK stabbings

London: UK police said a murder inquiry has been launched Sunday after one man was killed and seven people injured in multiple stabbings overnight in the city of Birmingham. According to reports, West Midlands Police believe the victims were picked at random and do not believe the incident was terror or gang related. While a man and a woman are battling serious injuries, the injuries of five others are not thought to be life-threatening, the force said.

P10

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP		
MAX	35.2°C	35.0°C
MIN	26.4°C	25.0°C
Humidity	81%	73%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light rain likely	

'Lack of congruence' in business reform rankings

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 6: The Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL), a state government agency, has said that there seem to be a "lack of congruence" in the results, as the state recorded a dismal performance in the Centre's Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) rankings with its performance worsening as per the data.

In a statement, IPICOL has said that it will seek further details and clarification on the evaluation methodology from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). "There seems to be incongruity in the results as states/UTs which have implemented much lower number of reforms have been ranked higher than states which have implemented significant reforms. Further details and clarifications on the evaluation methodology will be sought from DPIIT, Government of India, on the results announced," it said.

As per the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) rankings for 2019 released



Saturday, Odisha dropped 15 positions to the 29th spot.

The statement also said that these are dated rankings for reforms implemented by various states in 2018 and over the past two years, a significant number of reforms have been implemented by various government departments of Odisha.

"The conducive business environment in the state is also reflected in the investments received by the state during the past two years. During the period of April-September 2019, Odisha

As per the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) rankings for 2019 released Saturday, Odisha dropped 15 positions to the 29th spot

IPICOL said that these are dated rankings for reforms implemented by various states in 2018 and over the past two years

became the top investment destination in the country by attracting the highest amount of investment (18 per cent of total investment in India)," it said.

The state had implemented 180 out of 187 reform action points recommended by DPIIT, it said, adding that the evidence of implementation was submitted by the state and the evidence for all 180 reforms was also approved by DPIIT.

The statement contended that the survey agency appointed by DPIIT could not complete the feedback survey with the industries and MSMEs in the

state and therefore, the reforms implemented by the state could not be accounted for.

As per IPICOL, even during the ongoing pandemic, the state received more than 200 investment proposals.

"Thus, these rankings do not reflect the current business environment in the state and do not incorporate the recent reform initiatives implemented by the state," it said.

The Centre Saturday conferred Andhra Pradesh the title of the best performing state in terms of implementing business reforms.

The 'State Business Reform Action Plan 2019' is aimed at improving the business environment by streamlining regulatory structures and simplifying procedures, digitisation of information and easing the compliance burden. It aspires to create an investor-friendly business climate by cutting down red tape.

As per the latest ranking, Uttar Pradesh stood second and Telangana was the third-best state in implementing business reforms in 2019.

Bangalore reports 'first' Covid re-infection case

MANY HEALTH EXPERTS CLAIM THIS COULD BE INDIA'S FIRST nCoV RE-INFECTION CASE AS WELL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 6: In what may be described as a scarring development, Fortis Hospital here has reported that a 27-year-old woman from the city tested positive again nearly a month after she was treated and discharged from the hospital.

Doctors at the hospital claim that this could be the first reported case of re-infection in the city. Many, however, say that this could well be the first Covid re-infection case in the country.

"The patient was symptomatic July 6 and reported with fever, cough and sore throat. She had tested positive and subsequently admitted at the hospital and recovered well. On July 24, a repeat test was conducted on her and it turned out to be negative, after which she was discharged," Pratik Patil, consultant, Infectious Diseases, at the hospital, told the media.

"However, in the last week of August, the patient developed mild symptoms again and tested positive again. Both the times she did not have severe disease. This is possibly the first reported case of Covid-19 re-infection in Bangalore. She has recovered well this time too and is being discharged, Dr Patil said.

"We have not done a repeat Covid-

19 test before discharge this time as per the new discharge policy," he added.

In August, University of Hong Kong scientists had claimed to have the first evidence of someone being re-infected with the virus that causes Covid-19 after genetic tests showed that a 33-year-old man returning from a trip to Spain in mid-August had a different strain of the coronavirus than the one he was found infected with in March.

The same month, at a press briefing, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director-General Balram Bhargava said the Hong Kong case is a stray example and the re-infection can depend upon various factors.

"We have read with interest the reports of re-infection in one case in Hong Kong. We are learning more and more about the disease as we go ahead. It can depend on several factors, one can be related to the patient itself, how is his immunity, how was his immune status, was it compromised. It can also depend upon the virus, whether the virus has mutated or turned virulent," he said.

However, only one case of re-infection has been reported and it is very rare for viral infections, he said.



Dolly the Chihuahua dog dressed as Alice in Wonderland is photographed during an Alice in Wonderland and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory themed Furbabies Dog Pageant at Jodhpur's Riding School in Tockwith, North Yorkshire, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

SCW seeks ATR, to move for DGP's intervention

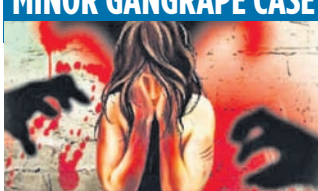
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The State Commission for Women (SCW) has asked the Commissionerate Police to submit the Action Taken Report (ATR) in the minor gang rape incident involving cops and media personnel. SCW chairperson, Minati Behra sought details of progress made in the probe into the matter.

The SCW has also announced it will seek the DGP's intervention in case if it finds the investigations into the case are unsatisfactory.

Notably, a 13-year-old was repeatedly raped at her residence here by her mother's colleagues and a policeman among others during the March-April lockdown and the po-

MINOR GANGRAPE CASE



lice have launched a manhunt to trace the accused. The victim's mother, who is an employee of a private TV channel here, filed the complaint on the sordid incident with Mahila police station August 30.

At least seven persons were involved in this heinous act and the mother's colleagues are absconding, Bhubaneswar Deputy Commissioner of police US Dash

said Sunday. In her complaint, the woman alleged that two of her colleagues, two private security personnel, a policeman and his two associates raped her daughter in her rented accommodation when she was in office.

While the girl stays with her mother in a rented house at the Info-city, her father and other members of the family stay at their native place at Kendrapara, over 85 km from here, it said.

However, the case was later handed over to Investigating Integrative Units for Crime Against Women (IUCAW). Earlier, the DCP had said Saturday through a video message that a special team has been constituted to identify the accused.

RAINS IN SOME PARTS OF STATE LIKELY TODAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The Meteorological department here has predicted rainfall in different parts of the state Monday.

The latest forecast by the department says thunderstorms and lightning are expected at several places. It has issued a yellow warning has been released accordingly for the same asking the authorities to be updated on the developments.

"Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places over Malkangiri, Koraput, Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal and Balasore districts," the department's evening bulletin read.

The forecast further said, "Light to moderate rain or thundershower very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of North Interior Odisha, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Gajapati, Nabarangpur and at one or two places over rest the districts of Odisha."

The department, however, did not issue any warning for the next two days, but has forecasted rains in different parts of the state Tuesday and Wednesday too.

The department said that light to moderate rain may occur Tuesday at a few places over coastal Odisha, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal and others. It could be accompanied by thunderstorms too.

Similarly Wednesday the department has forecasted light to moderate rains at northern interior parts of Odisha at one or two places and other districts from the state.

Seer who inspired 'basic structure' doctrine no more

Kesavananda Bharati, the sole petitioner in the historic Fundamental Rights case that prevented the India from slipping into a totalitarian regime, dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kasaragod, Sept 6: Kesavananda Bharati, on whose petition the Supreme Court delivered the landmark judgement on the celebrated doctrine of basic structure of the Constitution, died here Sunday.

Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were among a host of leaders who condoled the demise of the 79-year old Kerala-based seer, saying he will be remembered for his service to the people.

Police said Kesavananda Bharati Sripadagalvaru died at the Edaneer Mutt here due to age related ailments.

"As per the information with us, he passed away at around 3.30 AM Sunday," police told PTI.

People from all walks of life paid homage to the departed seer at the Edneer Mutt of which he became the head over five decades ago.

The case in which Bharati had challenged Kerala Land Reform laws nearly four decades ago set the principle that the Supreme Court is the guardian of the basic structure of the Constitution and the verdict involved 13 judges, the largest bench ever to sit in the apex court.

While the seer did not get the relief he wanted, the case became significant for its landmark judg-

ment which clipped the widest power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and simultaneously gave judiciary the authority to review any amendment.

Former Judge of Madras High Court Justice K Chandru told PTI: "The Kesavananda Bharati case is significant for its ruling that the Constitution can be amended but not the basic structure."

Senior Advocate Arvind P Datar said when some parcels of land of the Edaneer Mutt were acquired under the land reform laws of Kerala, Bharati moved the Kerala High Court against it and partially succeeded.

However, when the 29th

Constitutional Amendment was adopted by Parliament giving protection to Kerala laws, the seer moved the Supreme Court challenging it.

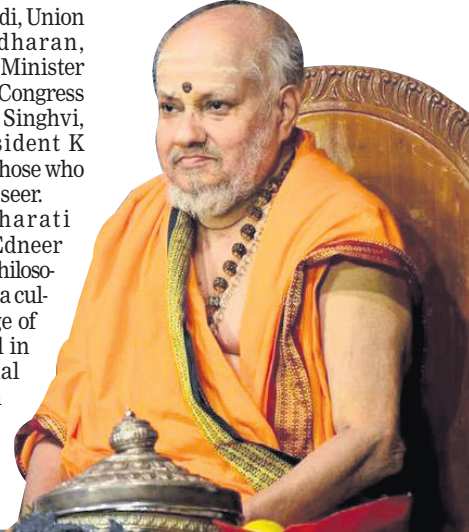
The apex court ruled that the 29th Amendment is valid and held that the two Kerala land Acts that were included in the Ninth Schedule are entitled to the protection of Article 31B of the (validation of certain acts and regulations) Constitution.

The verdict had held that though Parliament has power to amend under Article 368 of the Constitution, it did not have the power to emasculate its basic features.

Besides Naidu and Modi, Union Minister V Muraleedharan, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi, BJP Kerala unit president K Surendran were among those who paid rich tributes to the seer.

"Kesavananda Bharati Swamiji, the seer of Edneer Mutt was a rare blend of philosopher, classical singer and a cultural icon. His patronage of Yakshagana was crucial in reviving this traditional theatre form in Karnataka."

#KesavanandaBharati," Naidu tweeted.





'DON'T WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN RACE OF STAYING RELEVANT'

Hollywood star Eva Longoria says her efforts are motivated by her love for work, not by the need to stay relevant. Though her film and philanthropic work keep her in the news, that's not her goal, added the 45-year-old.

SKARSGARD DROPS OUT OF THE NORTHMAN

Actor Bill Skarsgard has confirmed that he is no longer attached to star in Robert Eggers' next directorial, *The Northman*. The *It star* said he pulled out of the project due to scheduling conflicts amid the coronavirus pandemic.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Think positive today and watch the world around you changing. Regardless of how difficult things may seem, Ganesha advises you to take it without getting upset. If you set your mind to something, you can do it.

TAURUS

You will be feeling listless, lazy and out of sorts today, and will tend to ignore and neglect important tasks scheduled for the day. Ganesha urges you to guard against this tendency as you could miss out on opportunities that others could then benefit from.

GEMINI

Ganesha advises that while today will be a day filled with a lot of festivity, you still need to guard against getting carried away. You will spend the day socialising with friends and family. You might end up neglecting your household duties in organizing some function or picnic, says Ganesha.

CANCER

A hectic day, combined with domestic pressure will make you exhausted. You feel a heavy burden on mind and heart. Don't be too emotional, says Ganesha. Take care not to pass domestic burdens on to your career or business, and thereby mar your capacity and efficiency.

LEO

You will pay more attention to the younger members in the family. You will guide the children in improving their daily schedule. An occasion to celebrate will present itself.

VIRGO

Foreign contacts will in all likelihood be a source of monetary profits. Ganesha says you will perform wonderfully in anything you might choose to undertake today. Even your ambition of setting up an offshore business enterprise will take root today.

LIBRA

Ganesha says today will be the start of a new love story for you and you will be able to spend time with someone very dear to you. You will be more conscious today about your appearance and may even go to the beauty parlor. Do remember the saying - beauty lies in the eye of the beholder.

SCORPIO

Today, there are chances that you would be disturbed by continuous flow of negative thoughts in your mind. Try to divert your mind and look for positive people or friends who would cheer you up.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha foresees business expansion on your cards. Your friends, relatives and other contacts across seven seas will lend a helping hand to develop your business. And thanks to your super communication skills that make the task easier.

CAPRICORN

Some people do back-breaking work throughout their life, and still don't taste the sweet taste of success. While in your case, success will be as easy as pie. You are already loaded with work and some new projects - assignments will be added to that, today.

AQUARIUS

You blessed with a very high level of patience and practicality, and you can easily untangle any problem. But, it gives an excuse to the people around you to wash their hands of any responsibility. It may put you in a tight spot at times leaving you frustrated.

PISCES

You need to tread cautiously today when it comes to matters related to business. Do not make any decisions in haste, or it could come back to haunt you at a later date. All financial dealings will need to be carefully monitored.



Netizens love Priyanka's latest post

Los Angeles: Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas has shared a new picture with her pet dog Gino, and netizens are loving it. The actress posted a selfie with her German Shepherd dog on Instagram. In the pool-side photograph, Priyanka is seen with Gino resting his head over her arm. Both the actor and pet have droplets of water on them. "My lil big boy! @ginothegerman," Priyanka wrote along the image, in which she is seen in a white-rimmed sunglasses and a bikini. Priyanka's singer-husband Nick Jonas also liked the post, her fans also reacted to it by calling it "adorable". Earlier, Priyanka shared that she is in the mood to soak in the last few days of summer.



Nidhi happy to explore new space

Mumbai: Actress Nidhi Agerwal has recently launched her YouTube channel, and she is extremely happy to explore new space. "I'm really excited about this new venture. My fans have been requesting me to come up with a YouTube channel for the longest time. I am happy to share my journey with my audience. I think this is the best way to reach out to them. They will get a close peek into my professional and personal life. I'm sure that my relationship with my fans will definitely grow further," Nidhi said. "The videos so far have garnered a lot of attention. My latest video that captures my process of making a biodegradable Ganesh idol is an attempt to spread the awareness with regard to taking care of Mother Nature. I have received a really positive response and a lot of love on the video," she added. On the work front, Nidhi, who was last seen in *iSmart Shankar*, will next be seen in *Bhoomi*.

SRK's daughter turns into 'island girl'

Mumbai: Suhana Khan, daughter of superstar Shah Rukh Khan, is an island girl, and she has proved it through her latest social media post. Suhana took to Instagram to share two pictures of herself, in which she is sitting on large rocks. "Island girl," she wrote while sharing them. The first is a short motion picture, showing Suhana sitting on rocks. She is

barefoot and is wearing a one-shoulder black top with a black and white flowing skirt. The second one is a selfie, a close-up shot of her face and flaunts her glowing skin with minimal make-up. While it isn't clear where the picture was clicked, it appears that the pictures are from her Alibaug vacation. Suhana is studying filmmaking in New York. Currently, she is in Mumbai and spending time with her family.

Day 2: Praveen Kumar, Dhaneswar's recitals leave viewers in awe



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: A captivating performance by accomplished Bharatanatyam artiste P Praveen Kumar from Bangalore marked the second evening of 26th OMC Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award Sunday. It was followed by a mardala recital by Guru Dhaneswar Swain, eminent percussionist and musician of Odisha. Needless to say, the performances left the netizens spellbound. Praveen Kumar, a renowned choreographer and founder of Chithkala School of Dance in Bangalore began with the *Aditya*

26TH OMC GURU KELUCHARAN MOHAPATRA AWARD FESTIVAL

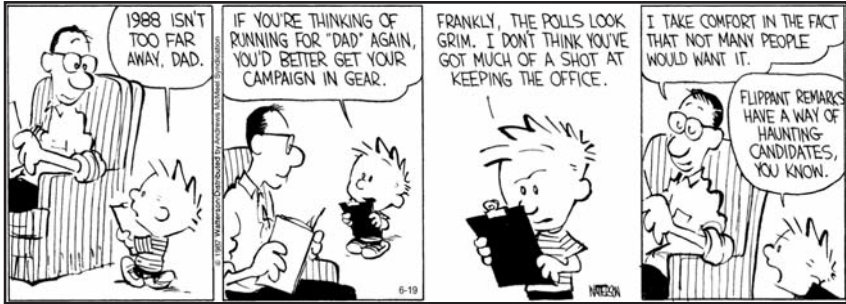
Kameshwaran and choreographed by Guru Narmada. He concluded with *Devaranama*, composed by Saint Purandara Dasa, and set to traditional music. Kumar was ably accompanied by Raghuram, D. S. Srivatsa, and Manasi Prasad on vocals, Lingaraju and S.V. Balakrishna on the *Mridangam*, Mahesh Swamy on the *flute*, Manjula and Chitra Lingam on the *Veena*. This was followed by a mardala recital by one of Odisha's senior-most exponents, Guru Dhaneswar Swain, who



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

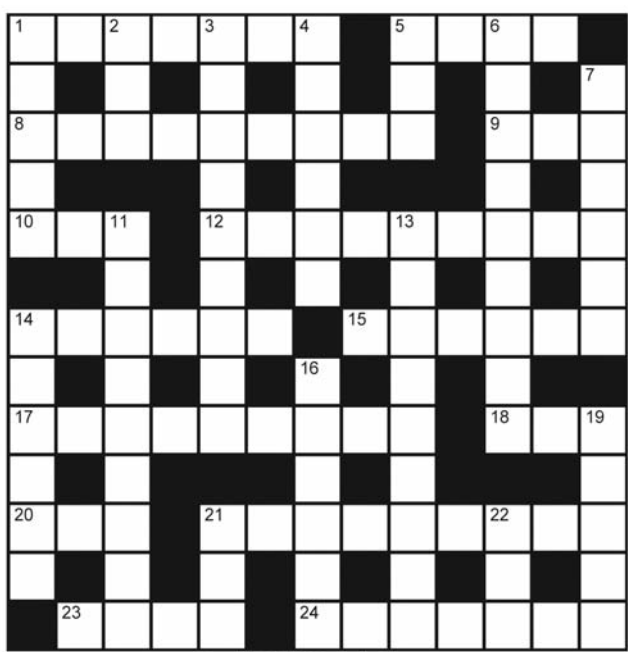


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- Can be worn in one's cap
 - Water holder
 - Lariat
 - Game birds
 - Chubby
 - Actor Wallach
 - Go astray
 - Knock for a loop
 - Plea at sea
 - Ivy holder
 - Complainers
 - Man in a lab
 - Island in the South China Sea
 - Oft-filmed P. C. Wren novel (4,5)
 - Kind of artist
 - Camera setting
 - It precedes touch
 - Timepiece
 - Chewy candy
 - Old World monkey
 - They're rigged
 - Grenade part
 - Valueless
- Down**
- Groove
 - Blocked
 - Magician's word
 - Man in a lab
 - Oft-filmed P. C. Wren novel (4,5)
 - Chewy candy
 - Mum
 - They're rigged
 - Grenade part
 - Valueless

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

			A	3			4	2		E	
1	4	A	D			0		3	7	2	
	9				0	6	B	5			
7	B				1						
6	D	C	4					8		A	3
			9	4	C	5	A			2	
		D						C	6		5
			0			1	2				C
9	0	5		3				A			
	A				B	4	3	7	8	E	6
	5	2	8						3	C	B
	C			9		1	0				
E			D	4	C	8		5	3		6
	1		5	6	E		A	7			D
0			7		D			2		8	

SOLUTIONS

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

4	C	A	8	9	5	1	D	7	2	E	B	0	3	6
1	8	5	3	D	0	E	6	9	7	A	4	C	B	2
9	0	D	A	B	6	4	C	2	8	1	3	E	7	5
7	2	B	E	2	7	1	A	0	8	5	6	C	9	4
3	6	E	C	4	B	3	5	0	D	9	1	A	8	
E	5	7	0	2	C	8	9	3	4	B	6	D	1	A
8	6	0	4	A	E	D	7	B	1	3	5	2	C	9
D	1	4	B	8	3	6	E	A	9	C	2	7	5	0
2	A	C	9	5	7	0	1	4	D	8	E	3	6	B
8	9	3	6	1	0	2	5	G	A	0	7	4	8	E
A	7	8	1	6	8	3	2	0	E	4	0	5	9	6
6	E	2	5	4	B	7	A	D	C	9	1	8	0	3
5	3	8	C	0	2	9	4	E	B	7	A	6	D	1
0	4	1	D	E	9	C	B	6	3	5	8	A	2	7
C	D	9	7	3	A	5	8	1	6	2	0	B	E	4

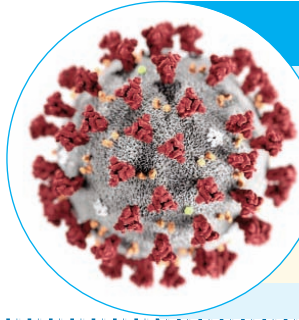
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



POLLUTION THREAT

Garbage dumped on Mahanadi riverbank near Jobra anicut in Cuttack, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	2,71,58,685	1,92,66,146	8,85,129
India	41,13,811	31,80,865	70,626
Odisha	1,24,031	96,364	546

MADHU BABU PENSION YOJANA

TRANSGENDERS STILL DEPRIVED

The SSEPD dept is yet to update their online system to add transgenders as one of the beneficiaries of MBPY

MANISH KUMAR, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Notwithstanding 52 days since the state government allowed transgenders to be eligible for Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY), it has not yet enabled the system for accepting online applications from the community.

The State Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department is the nodal agency for social sector pensions. This department July 16 notified that the transgenders from economically weaker backgrounds would be allowed to apply for the MBPY. The department also amended its rules for their inclusion to the list of eligible beneficiaries for MBPY.

However, close to two months after the announcement, the SSEPD department website has no options for the transgenders to apply for the pension benefits. The department is yet to update their online system to add transgenders as one of the beneficiaries of MBPY where the community members can click and apply. A scrutiny by this cor-

Many of us visited the Puri District Social Security Officer for applying but neither online nor offline applications are entertained by the department

PIYANSHI DAS | PRESIDENT, PURI DISTRICT TRANSGENDER ASSOCIATION

The option for application for transgender pensioners will be made available very shortly

BHASKAR SARMA | SECRETARY, SSEPD DEPARTMENT



HIV/AIDS, unmarried women and divorcee women.

Several transgenders and advocacy groups have raised concerns about the lack of a system for the transgenders to apply for pensions especially during the last two months which was marked by lockdowns and shutdowns amid the COVID outbreak.

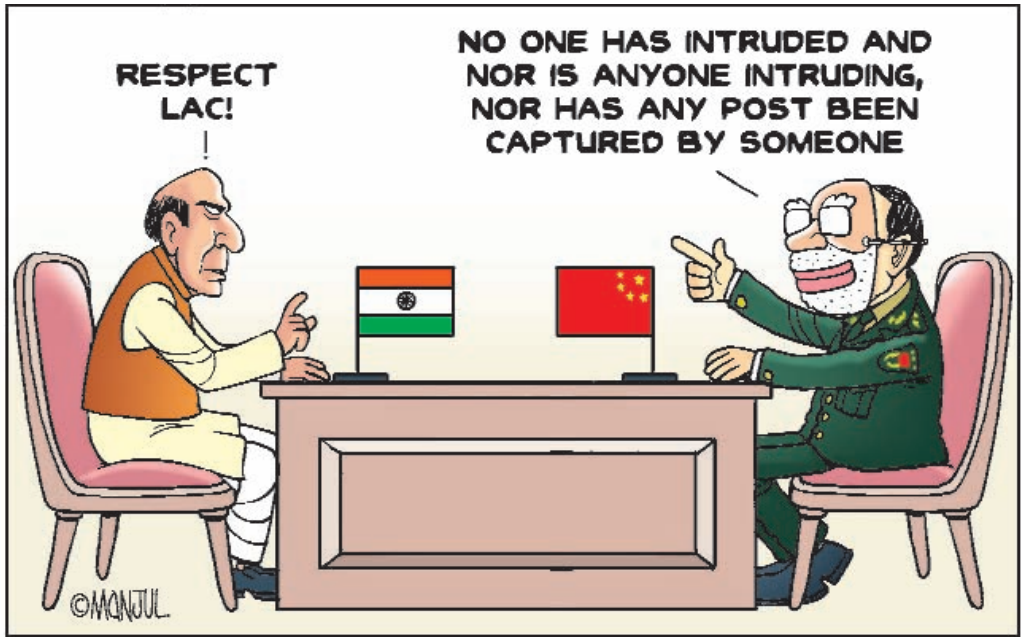
"Many transgender community members are finding it very tough to apply for the pension despite the government notifying it two months back. Many of us have visited the Puri District Social Security Officer (DSSO) for applying but neither

online nor offline applications are entertained by the department," said Piyanshi Das, President of Puri District Transgender Association. Many DSSOs are reported to be telling the applicants that they have not received any notice from the department for getting them registered for the pension.

Several other eligible members from the community from other districts also narrated the same ordeal. The department in their notification dated July 16, 2020 said that those from the community earning less than Rs 40,000 per annum and not having any family member with government job or taxpayers would be eligible for the pensions.

The department, however, said that it would be available shortly. "We have recently announced the pensions for eligible members from the community. We are working on updating the website for online applications. The option for application for transgender pensions will be made available very shortly," Bhaskar Sarma, SSEPD department secretary told **Orissa POST**.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



FIVE MORE SPL TRAINS TO PLY FROM SEPT 12

BOOKING FOR THESE TRAINS WILL START FROM SEPT 10

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The ECoR Sunday decided to run five additional special inter-state trains from its jurisdiction. The Special Trains will run from September 12.

Booking for these trains will start from September 10. The special trains notified Sunday are Bhubaneswar-Durg-Bhubaneswar daily special, Visakhapatnam-Korba-Visakhapatnam via Rayagada daily special, Bhubaneswar-Ahmedabad-Bhubaneswar weekly special, Tiruchchirapalli-Howrah-Tiruchchirapalli bi-weekly special and Guwahati-Bangalore Cantt tri-weekly special.

The tickets will be available on Reservation Counters and also IRCTC website. Other special trains running from New Delhi to Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar to Mumbai, Bhubaneswar to Howrah/Sealdah, among others will continue to run as notified earlier, said ECoR official.

The Bhubaneswar-Durg-Bhubaneswar daily special will start from Bhubaneswar at 1955hrs from September 12 and from Durg at 1610hrs from September 13.

The stoppages are- Cuttack,

Dhenkanal, Talcher, Angul, Sambalpur, Bargarh Road, Bolangir, Titilagarh, Kantabanji, Khariar Road, Bagbahra, Mahasamund, Raipur and Bhilai Power House between Bhubaneswar and Durg from both the directions.

Similarly, Visakhapatnam-Korba-Visakhapatnam via Rayagada daily special will run from Visakhapatnam at 2005hrs from September 12 and from Korba at 1610hrs from September 13.

The stoppages will be at- Vizianagaram, Bobbili, Parvatipuram, Rayagada, Kesinga, Titilagarh, Kantabanji, Khariar Road, Mahasamund, Raipur, Tilda Neora, Bhatapara, Bilaspur, Akaltara, Janjiri Naila and Champa between Visakhapatnam and Korba from both the directions.

Bhubaneswar-Ahmedabad-Bhubaneswar weekly special will start from Bhubaneswar at 1800hrs (Wednesdays) from September 16 and from Ahmedabad at 1840hrs (Fridays) September 18.

The stoppages are Dhenkanal, Talcher, Angul, Sambalpur, Bargarh Road, Bolangir, Titilagarh, Kantabanji, Khariar Road, Mahasamund, Raipur, Durg,

Gondia, Nagpur, Wardha, Badnera, Akola, Malkapur, Bhusaval, Jalgaon, Nandurbar, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodra and Anand between Bhubaneswar and Ahmedabad from both the directions.

Tiruchchirapalli-Howrah-Tiruchchirapalli bi-weekly special will start from Tiruchchirapalli at 1620hrs on every Tuesday and Friday and from Howrah at 1610hrs on every Thursday and Sunday.

The stoppages will be at- Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Bhadrak between Tiruchchirapalli and Howrah from both the directions.

The Guwahati-Bangalore Cantt tri-weekly special will commence from Guwahati at 0620hrs on every Sunday, Monday and Tuesday and from Bangalore Cant at 2340hrs on every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The stoppages will be at - Rangiya, New Jalpaiguri, Malda Town, Howrah, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Khurda Road, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada and other important stations between Guwahati and Bangalore Cant.

BASKING IN THE SUN



A garden lizard perches on a flower plant at Jobra park in Cuttack, Sunday

PIC: RAJ KISHORE MOHANTY

A JOB ASPIRANT'S TALE

DUPED OF ₹1.5 LAKH, ATTACKED, YET COPS CHARGED ₹500 BRIBE

LIKE MILLIONS IN THE COUNTRY, KARTIKA IS ALSO HUNTING FOR A JOB. HE HAS MORTGAGED HIS ANCESTRAL LAND TO GREASE PALMS, BUT WHAT DID HE GET- HE WAS ATTACKED AND DID ROUNDS OF POLICE STATIONS FOR TWO YEARS



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: A youth was attacked by miscreants after he demanded back the money which he had paid for securing a job at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, sources said.

The victim, Kartika Kumar Sahoo of Jankia in Khurda has lodged a complaint with the Khandagiri police in this regard.

As per the complaint, the victim came across the alleged conman, Jayant Kumar Khuntia alias Bapi at the

AIIMS, Bhubaneswar. He had gone there to attend a job related interview in 2018. Khuntia told Sahoo that he could avail him the hospital attendant job through his links with the senior authorities in the AIIMS.

April 10, 2018, Khuntia received Rs 1.50 lakh in cash from Sahoo and promised him to provide the job within eight days. He again asked Sahoo to deposit Rs 5,000 in the account of his 'Personal Assistant' when he met Khuntia at his residence after eight days. Sahoo deposited Rs 2,000 more

in the account of the accused for a surgical apron April 22, 2018. Khuntia also told the victim job aspirant that his joining letter and identity card were ready with him but the senior official in his contact left for New Delhi.

Later, when a frustrated Sahoo asked his money back, the conman along with his aides allegedly attacked the former at AIIMS and threatened with dire consequences. Sahoo had also reportedly lodged a complaint with the Tomando police against the attack but the cops did not take any action against the accused.

After more than a year, Tomando police reportedly asked Sahoo just four days back to file the complaint with Khandagiri as the place of incident falls under the jurisdiction of Khandagiri police station. Notably, Sahoo has taken a loan of Rs 1.50 from a local money-lender by mortgaging his paternal home to pay Khuntia for the job.

Now, Mahaprasad only for Puri residents

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Sept 6: Amid rising cases of Covid-19 in Puri district, the Suar-Mahasuar Niyog of Srimandir has decided not to sell Mahaprasad to people outside the Holy City.

The Suar-Mahasuar Niyog Sunday took a decision to restrict the sale of Mahaprasad after receiving a suggestion in this regard from the district administration, sources said.

It is learnt that the Shree Jagannath

Temple Administration (SJTA) had decided to stop cooking of Mahaprasad for sale purpose due to the rise in the number of Covid-19 positive cases in Puri.

Puri Collector Balwant Singh held discussions with the Suar-Mahasuar Niyog and sought their cooperation on the issue. "We have decided to cook less amount of Mahaprasad for sale purpose as per the direction of the SJTA. The temple delicacies would be sold to the residents of Puri city and the servants' families only. We will not sell

Mahaprasad to people outside the Holy City," said Suar-Mahasuar Niyog secretary Krushna Chandra Pratihari.

Pratihari further revealed that they would cook Mahaprasad for only 1,000-1,500 people. "Now, we require less number of workers to help us in the cooking of the temple delicacies. We have decided to restrict the sale of Mahaprasad to check the spread of novel coronavirus," Pratihari added.

It is worth mentioning here that Srimandir has been shut for devotees

since March 20 this year. However, servitors have been performing the temple rituals amid the shutdown.

Even though the 12th century shrine has been closed for people since March, the Suar and Mahasuar servitors were selling Mahaprasad to the devotees. Many people used to congregate at the various gates of Srimandir to buy the temple delicacies. There were reports that the people did not maintain social distancing while buying Mahaprasad.

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COVID-19 IS WORSENING IN STATE

ODISHA LOGS ITS HIGHEST SINGLE-DAY SPIKE IN COVID CASES SUNDAY WITH 3,810 FRESH INFECTIONS

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The state registered its highest single-day spike in COVID-19 cases Sunday as 3,810 more people tested positive for the infection, while eight fresh fatalities pushed Odisha's coronavirus death toll to 546, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

The fresh infections have taken the state's caseload to 1,24,031, said the official.

As many as 2,286 new cases were detected in quarantine centres, while 1,524 people tested positive for the infection during contact tracing, added the official.

Odisha had reported its previous highest single-day spike of 3,682 COVID-19 cases August 27.

Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, registered the highest number of fresh infections at 797, followed by Bargarh (396), Cuttack (322), Jajpur (252), Jharsuguda (192) and Mayurbhanj (142), said the official.

Ganjam district reported the highest number of fresh fatalities at four, while Khurda, Koraput, Rayagada and Sundargarh districts registered one death each, the official pointed out. Ganjam has till date reg-



3,810 FRESH CASES TAKE TALLY TO 1,24,031

Khurda registered the highest number of fresh infections at 797, followed by Bargarh (396), Cuttack (322), Jajpur (252), Jharsuguda (192) and Mayurbhanj (142)

EIGHT NEW FATALITIES TAKE DEATH TOLL TO 546

Ganjam reports the highest number of fresh fatalities at four, while Khurda, Koraput, Rayagada and Sundargarh register one death each

istered the highest number of COVID-19 deaths at 204, followed by 75 in Khurda, said the official; adding 53 patients have so far died due to other ailments in the state.

Meanwhile, 2,590 persons recovered from the infection Sunday, the H&FW department tweeted.

The recoveries include 431 from

Cuttack, 386 from Khurda, 202 from Mayurbhanj, 142 from Ganjam, 120 from Rayagada, 108 from Koraput and 105 from Puri. With this, the total recovered cases of Odisha stand at 96,364. The state has so far tested 20,98,401 samples for COVID-19, including 50,393 Saturday, the official further said.

Covid care centre soon for Srimandir servitors

Puri: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) would soon open a special Covid care centre at Nilachal Bhakta Niwas on the Grand Road here to treat Srimandir servitors who have been tested positive for novel coronavirus.

"The number of Covid-19 positive cases among Srimandir servitors is rising day-by-day. The shrine administration has decided to open a Covid care centre at Nilachal Bhakta Niwas to treat servitors and their family members who have been tested positive for the deadly virus," said SJTA administrator (development) Ajay Kumar Jena.

It is worth mentioning here that Srimandir, the abode of Lord Jagannath, has been shut for devotees since March 20 this year to check the spread of novel coron-

avirus. The state government has recently extended the temple shutdown till September 30.

However, Srimandir servitors have been performing all the routine and special rituals of the presiding deities during the shutdown, sources said.

The shrine administration has decided to open a Covid care centre at Nilachal Bhakta Niwas to treat servitors and their family members who have tested positive for the deadly virus

AJAY KUMAR JENA | SJTA ADMINISTRATOR (DEVELOPMENT)

Despite the ban on devotees' entry into Srimandir, over a hundred servitors have been tested positive for Covid-19 in the last few weeks. The temple administration has made all arrangements at

a hotel here for the treatment of Covid-19 positive servitors. "Around 40 servitors and their family members are now being treated at the hotel. At least 30 servitors were earlier released from the hotel after their recovery from the Covid-19 infections. A few servitors are in home isolation," Jena said.

CM thanks FM for lauding Odisha's disaster readiness

Taking to Twitter, Patnaik also said that the state strives for "zero casualty" during disasters



Naveen Patnaik @Naveen_Odisha

Thank you @nsitharaman ji for endorsing #Odisha's ability to manage disasters through the unique model of community participation. Instilling local ownership, strive for #ZeroCasualty & addressing needs of most vulnerable form the core of #OdishaModel.



Nirmala Sitharaman @nsitharaman · 22h

"Post Phailin, the UN had recognised Odisha's preparedness as a 'global success story' and made plans to use it as a model for other cities."

Naveen replies to FM Nirmala's tweet

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday thanked Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for endorsing the coastal state's disaster preparedness, and said his government always makes efforts to "address the needs" of vulnerable people.

Taking to Twitter, Patnaik also said that the state strives for "zero casualty" during disasters.

"Thank you @nsitharamanji for endorsing #Odisha's ability to manage disasters through the unique model of community participation. Instilling local ownership, strive for #ZeroCasualty & addressing needs of most vulnerable form the core of #OdishaModel," (sic) the CM tweeted.

Earlier, Sitharaman had shared an article on Odisha's disaster management by Observer Research Foundation (ORF)—an India-based independent think tank—and lauded the state for its efforts to mitigate the impact of calamities.

"Post Phailin, the UN had recognised Odisha's preparedness as a 'global success story' and made plans to use it as a model for other

cities.... Well done Orissa," she said on the micro-blogging site.

The Odisha government had evacuated close to a million people from the coastal areas of the state and moved them to safety, before cyclone Phailin struck in October 2013. Around 25 people lost their lives in the calamity.

The ORF in its report said, "Odisha is an example of being vulnerable yet resilient, and the salient features of its disaster management approach thus offer lessons for the whole country."

It also stated last month, "Two coastal villages in Odisha, Venkatraipur in Ganjam district and Nollasahi in Jagatsinghpur district, earned the recognition of being 'Tsunami Ready' from the UNESCO-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, making India the first country in the Indian Ocean Region to establish such high levels of disaster preparedness at the community level."

PK Jena, Odisha's additional chief secretary-cum-special relief commissioner, said, "Odisha has consistently done well in disaster management. However, a lot more still needs to be done to develop disaster-resilient infrastructure."

MONUMENTS REOPEN



People visit Khandagiri and Udaygiri Caves in Bhubaneswar, Sunday, after the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. An infant monkey clings to its mother seeing visitors after a long gap PHOTOS: BIKASH NAYAK



Capital's outreach programme against COVID

THE WEEKLONG 'INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION' (IEC) CAMPAIGN BEGINS TODAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: In view of the rising cases in the state capital, the civic authority here has planned to launch a one-of-its-kind interactive programme 'Sampark Meeting' to increase awareness and promote active community participation.

The weeklong 'Information, Education and Communication' (IEC) campaign organised by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) will be initiated, Monday. The programme will be conducted in three zones of the BMC where senior officials of the state government will hear the concerns of public regarding the pandemic.

"The primary objective of this weeklong outreach campaign is to reach and take on the spot feedback/queries of every citizen and make them aware about how active community participation and strict adherence of COVID-19 guidelines can help the community or society to keep the coronavirus at bay," said BMC Commissioner, Prem Chandra Chaudhary.

"As per campaign plan, people from different walks of life, eminent citizens, associations like Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), puja committees, market associations, NGOs, voluntary organisations, slum peer leaders, among others will attend the outreach programme across the city from Monday to next Sunday," he added.

A detailed schedule for the dif-



A 'COVID Sachetak' (R) spreads awareness at a slum in Bhubaneswar

ferent zones in this regard has been prepared. As per the schedule, meeting in South-East Zone, will be held at Unit IX Boys' High School (Monday), Ekamra College, Sundarpada (Tuesday), BMC Bhawani Enclave, Saheed Nagar (Wednesday), Central Market Association, Unit-II Market Building (Thursday), Saheed Nagar Kalyan Mandap (Friday), Saheed Nagar Puja Mandap (Saturday) and Esplanade One Mall (Sunday).

Similarly, the 'Sampark Meeting' will be held at Baramunda CHC Conference Hall (Monday), Community Centre, Khandagiri Bari (Tuesday), Day Care Centre, Ward No- 15 (Wednesday),

Cosmopolis (Thursday) and Community Center, Sashtri Nagar (Friday) in South-West Zone of the Civic Body.

In North Zone, the outreach programme is scheduled to be held at Infocity Green Apartment (Monday), Ward Office, Ward No-14 (Tuesday), VSS Nagar Kalyan Mandap (Wednesday), De Habitata (Thursday), Loyola School (Friday) and Club Town (Saturday).

The Ward Officers and Community Organisers under the direct supervision and guidance of respective Zonal Deputy Commissioners will be in-charge of managing the programme as per the schedule.

The objective is to reach and take on the spot feedback/queries of every citizen and make them aware about how active community participation and strict adherence to guidelines can help the community or society to keep the virus at bay

PREM CHANDRA CHAUDHARY | COMMISSIONER, BMC

Tally crosses 13K

The COVID-19 tally in the Capital city breached 13,000-mark Sunday with 483 more people testing positive for the virus in the last 24 hours, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) tweeted.

Of the fresh cases, 205 were detected in quarantine centres, while 278 people tested positive for the infection during contact tracing, the BMC said.

Meanwhile, 345 persons who had earlier tested positive for the viral infection recovered from the disease Sunday, the civic body said, adding that the highest of 34 recoveries were reported from 7th Battalion.

Bhubaneswar caseload touched 13,265 while 48 persons in the Temple City have so far succumbed to the viral infection.

WEBINAR ON 'MINING, DEVELOPMENT & ECOLOGY'

Save the greenfield mineral blocks, virgin forests: Experts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: With the advancement in science and technology, economic and social development processes have been intertwined with the extraction of geological resources from beneath the earth crust. Unfortunately, mining of ores and minerals have been associated with the destruction of above-ground biological resources, viz. forests, biodiversity and their habitats. Mining operations and industrial processing lead to extensive pollution of air, water and soil, thereby deteriorating the environmental quality. It has been realised that exploitation of resources and their unrestrained utilisation should not be at the cost of the ecology and the focus needs to be on a rational mechanism, as has been envisioned in the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN.

Though Odisha has been blessed with diverse mineral reserves and presently the state has been aggressively pushing mining and industrial projects for economic benefit, it is happening at the cost of environmental degradation and loss of ecosystem sustainability. In such a scenario, the present decision of the state to undertake mining operations in virgin forests and put nine green-field mineral blocks of Sundargarh and Keonjhar districts with iron and manganese



Representative pic

The existing mine leases of Odisha have the potential to meet the targeted demand and instead of leasing out virgin mineral blocks in green-fields, mineral production can be enhanced by revamping these mines with the aid of advanced technology

VIRENDRA PRATAP UPADHYAYA | FORMER ADVISOR OF MOEFCC

reserves under auction would certainly not be the best option considering the long-term environmental and ecological sustainability. Environment experts opined this while participating in a webinar on 'Mining, Development and Ecology' organised by the Orissa Environmental Society (OES) Sunday.

In the webinar, Virendra Pratap Upadhyaya, former Advisor of MoEFCC stressed that the existing mine leases of Odisha have the potential to meet the targeted demand and instead of leasing out virgin mineral blocks in green-fields, mineral production can be enhanced by revamping these mines with the aid of advanced technology. This will maximise extraction and help in beneficiation of sub-

grade minerals that create huge waste-dump leading to loss of minerals and pollution. Emphasis needs to be laid on eco-restoration measures, and social security and economic upliftment of the local populace.

President of OES, Sundar Narayan Patro, urged the authorities not to act in haste unless cost benefit analysis is done in terms of ecosystem sustainability. It was resolved to communicate the recommendations of the webinar to the government for corrective action.

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Six workers injured in mishap at power plant



POST NEWS NETWORK

Lakhanpur, Sept 6: As many as six contractual workers of Odisha Power Generation Corporation(OPGC) were injured after a mishap at Banherpali thermal power plant at Ib in Jharsuguda district Saturday.

According to sources, the six were at the ash handling unit last night when the hopper accidentally dropped hot ash on them. Initially, the injured were taken to OPGC Hospital here. Later, three of the injured were shifted to a private hospital in Bhubaneswar as their health condition deteriorated.

The injured workers were identified as P Bhagaban Patra (42) of Jagadalpur village in Ganjam district, Akash Khamari (23) of Telenpali village, Hrusikesh Karta (25) of Jharkata village of Remanda, Prabir Mallo (50) of Megara village in West Bengal, Shaikh Mazarul (21) and Rabindra Kumar Pal (37) of Polam in Jharkhand, official

sources said.

P Bhagaban, Akash and Hrusikesh have been shifted to a hospital at Bhubaneswar.

The power production from the 3rd unit of Banherpali Thermal power station was affected followig the mishap.

Additional inspector of the Factories and Boilers Anil Nanda pointed out technical problem during the visit

per the allegations of some officials and workers, has been developing technical issues on a regular basis as no proper maintenance is being carried out. Owing to frequent shutdowns, the company is losing revenue in crores. They demanded the state government's intervention in this regard.

OPGC plant's public relation officer Himanshu Behera said, "An ESP hopper on the plant premises suddenly collapsed last night. As a result, hot ash got poured on the workers."

Powergrid yet to be used; people reel under darkness

POST NEWS NETWORK

Muniguda, Sept 6: Even as people in scores of villages in Rayagada district have been reeling under darkness, a major power grid station has been left unused.

A year has passed since a grid substation was installed at Hatamuniguda in Rayagada district. It was constructed at a cost of Rs 19 crore. The local residents, however, lamented that they are unable to draw any benefits from this power infrastructure.

After completing the construction of 132/33KV grid substation at Hatamuniguda Square, Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) has been supplying electricity only to the Indian Railways while



locals continue to suffer.

According to several villagers here, they are yet to get power supply from this substation.

Southco is now supplying electricity to Bisamkatak, Muniguda and Chandrapur blocks from the substation at Therubali. But the consumers in those blocks often suffer from power outage or low voltage since the lines come through dense forests, several locals including Krushna Chandra Mallick, Ganesh Prasad Sahu and Bhagaban Behera said.

It is estimated that as many as 50,000 people of the three blocks will benefit if the Hatamuniguda grid substation is made fully functional and power supply is given to domestic consumers, they added.

Fert black marketing hits Bolangir farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Sept 6: At a time when the pandemic-induced restrictions have affected all activities, black-marketing of fertilizer and its short supply have added to the woes of the farming communities in Bolangir.

The problem has cropped up when the farming season is at its peak in the district.

It is alleged that some unscrupulous dealers are pushing the erratic supply of fertilizer with the tacit support of the agriculture officer.

Following allegation of black-marketing, the administration had conducted an investigation and found that 18 retailers in the district have lifted fertilizer in the name of some farmers by making use of their Aadhaar cards and biometrics of their kin.

Like previous years, farmers in many parts of the district have been facing difficulties in availing fertilizer amid allegation of black marketing.

At this time, paddy farmers badly require urea and other fertilizers for growth of plants. "Urea is not available with the dealers and the primary agricultural co-operative



societies (PACS) in the district. Wholesalers and dealers are deliberately creating artificial shortage of fertilizers," a farmer alleged.

These retailers have been suspended, according to district agriculture officer Ashok Kumar Mohanty.

It is alleged that fertilizer dealers, retailers and some agriculture officials have formed a racket to divert subsidized fertilizers into the open market.

The district has 22 fertilizer wholesalers and 825 dealers/retailers.

Amid the irregularities in dis-

tribution, ADM Anantanarayan Laguri and some tehsildars had conducted raids on retailing points and found discrepancies.

Eight retailers in Bolangir subdivision, six in Patnagarh subdivision and four in Titilagarh subdivision have been placed under suspension.

This problem is in sharp contrast to the state and the central governments' stress on smooth fertilizer supply and focus on farming so to tide over the aftereffects of the pandemic.

The government laid stress on extending cooperation in supply of seeds, pesticides, fertilizers and

FARMERS STAGE ROAD BLOCKADE

DEOGAON: Upset over black marketing of fertilizers, hundreds of farmers from Gudbhela, Saintala, Deogaon blocks in Bolangir district staged protests Saturday evening. Reports said some fertilizer retailers have created shortage of fertilizers in Deogaon block. They alleged fertilizers are not

available sufficiently at primary agricultural cooperative societies. Block agriculture officer of Deogaon, Bipin Udgata said that over 60 licensed dealers are in the block. There is shortage of urea. Retailers are not getting right quantities of fertilizers to meet the demand of farmers, he added.



Farmers stage an agitation at Tusura over fertilizer black marketing

agriculture implements. But the ground reality in the district is the reverse.

Zilla Krushak Sangh and some farmers had earlier submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister

about black marketing and short supply of urea.

MLA Narasingh Mishra had expressed concern over the irregularities and sought immediate action against the hoarders.

SCENIC SUNSET



Trees stand silhouetted against the setting sun on the bank of Mahanadi in Sambalpur

OP PHOTO

Count of avian guests goes up in Bhitarkanika

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Sept 6: The count of migratory thronging the mangrove belts of Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara district has increased by 9,252 this year as compared to the last year, park authorities said.

This year, a total of 97,866 birds of 10 species were found in the park. The number of nests spotted this year was 21,185, an increase of 1,959, as compared to last year's count.

Different species of birds such as ganders, wagtails, herons, little cormorant, grey crane usually throng Bhitarkanika National Park during the monsoon, which is considered to be their breeding season.

Altogether 21,185 nests were spotted at Mathadiha which is located inside Bhitarkanika National Park and Laxmiprasad Diha and



Durgaprasad Diha which are located in its close vicinity.

Bhitarkanika is one of the prominent heronries in the state. Besides, warmer mangrove belts, rich food resources, lack of human interference, congenial climatic conditions as well as ideal river system are the favourable factors that contribute to the migration of birds in large numbers.

Ganja smugglers kill home guard

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Sept 6 : A home guard died in Malkangiri Sunday morning after being attacked by ganja smugglers during an operation by the police. The incident took place near Chaulimendi area under Balimela police limits of Malkangiri district. The victim has been identified as Banabasi Maharana from this district. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Balimela police including the home guard conducted a search operation near Chaulimendi area in the wee hours of Sunday. The police were informed that more than 70 smugglers were ferrying hundreds of contraband packets to the border of Chhattisgarh in some vehicles.

When police reached the spot, the smugglers had already loaded the cannabis in more than 20 mini-trucks and had started their journey. However, police intercepted them near Chaulimendi near Chaulimendi.

The smugglers attacked the cops with sharp-edged weapons and the cops retaliated.

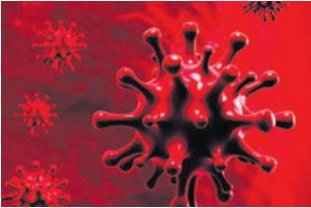
Deceased man tests Covid +ve; body left unattended for hours

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khuntuni, Sept 6: The news of a dead man testing positive for COVID-19 scared his family members, relatives, friends and neighbours as they left the body unattended for over three hours. This incident was reported from a village under Khuntuni police limits Saturday evening.

According to a source, the 65-year-old man had been suffering from cold and fever for the last several days. As his fever continued even after having some medicines, he voluntarily got his swab collected at a government health centre at Bentpada in Athgarh. As his condition deteriorated, family members admitted him to Athgarh sub-divisional hospital Saturday. A few moments later, doctors declared him dead.

Family members brought back the body to the village for the last rites. One hour passed by and



some close family members, relatives and neighbours had already made arrangements for taking the body to the cremation ground.

Meanwhile, the family mem-

bers were informed by a doctor that their patient tested positive for COVID-19 and all hell broke loose.

All those who were present at his residence panicked and began to leave. The body, subsequently, was seen lying unattended for three hours until the arrival of a special COVID van from Cuttack. Eventually, the last rites were performed in presence of the local sarpanch, doctor and health staff at Kaliaboda in Cuttack at about 6 pm, informed the deceased's son.

POSITIVE CASES CROSS 4K MARK IN KORAPUT

KORAPUT: Covid-19 cases are increasing in Koraput while the number of deaths reached four, a report said. The tally of infection has gone up to 4044 Sunday. In the last two days, the district reported 171 positive cases. Sixty-one of them are local infections, which has become a cause of concern. The administration is conducting intensive door-to-door surveillance in Bandhugaon, Borigumma, Sunabeda municipality, Jeypore, Semiligida, Nandapur, Boipariguda blocks. Collector Madhusudan Mishra said that a 70-bed Covid hospital will be set up at Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital, as per the decision of the health department. A plasma bank is already made functional.

BSF saves ailing woman's life in Maoist belt

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Stepping beyond their mandated responsibilities, troops of India's border guarding force BSF saved the life of an ailing woman in Maoist-hit Malkangiri district by facilitating ambulance and other necessary services to get her hospitalised around 75 kms away at the district hospital.

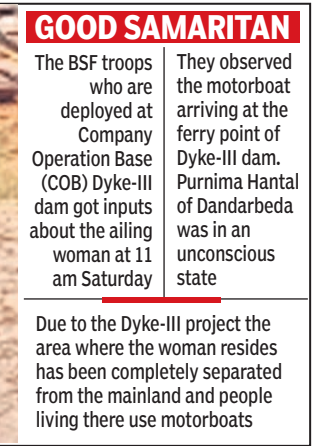
It was 11 am Saturday when the BSF troops deployed at Company Operation Base (COB) Dyke-III dam got inputs about the ailing woman being taken out from a motorboat in unconscious condition. Dyke-III is a construction project for creating a reservoir in Balimela—a power plant and irrigation project.

The personnel of 144 Battalion deputed at the COB Dyke-III observed



the motorboat arriving at the ferry point of Dyke-III dam. One Purnima Hantal, a resident of Dandarbeda in Jodambo area, was in an unconscious state when the BSF per-

sonnel saw her. The woman was accompanied by one ASHA named Tula Khillo and her relatives in the boat. Reacting quickly to the situation, the BSF troops immediately



send out an emergency call for ambulance assistance and the patient was evacuated to a district hospital in Malkangiri around 11.40 am, BSF PRO Krishna Rao told IANS.

The BSF team also provided essential items like mosquito net, bedsheet, hand towel and cotton clothes to the patient, he added. As the patient's family and the ASHA worker had no mobile phone to connect with authorities to get ambulance service, the BSF took the initiative to help them out. Another BSF official told IANS that the woman had a serious health issue as she had given birth to a baby two days ago and she needed urgent medication.

Due to the Dyke-III project the area where the woman resides has been completely separated from the mainland and people living there use motorboats and an under construction bridge to travel to town. A total of 11-12 gram panchayats, with more than 10,000 people, were separated from the mainland during the construction of the project.

Siblings electrocuted in trap laid for boars

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hinjili, Sept 6: Two brothers were electrocuted after accidentally coming in contact with a livewire trap allegedly laid to hunt wild boars. The incident was reported from Singpur village under Hinjili police limits in Ganjam district Saturday evening.

The deceased were identified as Ramesh Muni (55) and Mangulu Muni (50) from Singpur. Police recovered the bodies for postmortem.

Sources said Ramesh and Mangulu had gone to their farmland Friday night to water the plants. The brothers did not return even the next morning. Family members then launched a frantic search for them but failed to find them.




However, their search ended in a bush next to their farmland where the bodies were lying.

Locals alleged that the electric wire was laid by hunters to kill wild boars and it claimed the two lives. They demanded action against the poachers.

Let nothing short of Perfection be your ideal in work and you are sure to become a true instrument of the Divine.

THE MOTHER



Make cooling less polluting

The ironies of climate change are often cruel. In our warming world, for example, the demand for air conditioning (AC) and refrigeration is exploding, especially in developing countries. But more AC units lead to more warming, both from the refrigerant chemicals they contain and the electricity they use. Globally, cooling can account for up to half of peak electricity demand during the hot season, which is getting longer and longer.

A new report by the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), based on data gathered by a team we co-chaired, shows that the transition to energy-efficient, climate-friendly cooling – using refrigerants that pose a lower global-warming threat – is technically and economically feasible. Adopting the best currently available technologies for both refrigerants and energy efficiency could eliminate the equivalent of up to 460 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions by 2060, an amount equal to eight years of global greenhouse-gas emissions. By 2030, emissions equal to those of nearly 1,600 medium-size peak power plants would be avoided.

Eliminating the ‘super pollutant’ refrigerants known as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) is critical, as is increasing the energy efficiency of cooling equipment. Otherwise, emissions from this sector alone could use up the remaining ‘carbon budget’ for capping global warming at the ‘safe’ threshold of 1.5°C relative to pre-industrial times.

Here, the world’s most successful environmental treaty, the Montreal Protocol, is a source of inspiration. The protocol, which was concluded in 1987 and entered into force in 1989, successfully addressed the first great threat to the global atmosphere: that chlorofluorocarbon refrigerants and related gases were destroying Earth’s protective ozone layer.

At the same time, the Montreal Protocol has done more to reduce the climate threat than any other agreement – avoiding warming by an amount equivalent to that caused by all the carbon dioxide emitted in the twentieth century, which is more than half of all warming. These fluorinated gases are also powerful greenhouse gases – or climate super pollutants – with thousands of times more warming power per molecule than CO2. By eliminating them, the Montreal Protocol not only put the ozone layer on the path to recovery, but also significantly slowed the development of the climate crisis.

The Montreal Protocol’s most recent mandatory measure is the 2016 Kigali Amendment, which aims to phase out HFCs, used primarily as refrigerants, and avoid up to 0.5°C of warming by 2100. The amendment’s initial schedule ensures that about 90 per cent of this target will be reached.

With the Kigali Amendment, the nearly 200 parties to the Montreal Protocol (including every UN member) also recognised the importance of improving the energy efficiency of AC units and other cooling equipment during the switch from HFCs to more climate-friendly refrigerants. Efficiency gains can more than double the Kigali Amendment’s climate benefits by mid-century, while reducing energy generation and transmission costs by nearly \$3 trillion. They will also reduce consumers’ monthly electricity bills, create jobs for installation and maintenance staff, and, by reducing air pollution, protect public health and agricultural productivity.

The UNEP-IEA report highlights 10 policies that would help to realise these benefits. They include universal ratification of the Kigali Amendment (the milestone of 100 countries was reached in July), national cooling action plans, proven measures like minimum energy-performance standards and building codes, and aggregating demand for sustainable cooling through buyers’ clubs and bulk procurement. This would help develop sustainable cold chains to reduce food loss and ensure effective vaccine dissemination. Improving service and maintenance is also essential, as is preventing inefficient AC units from being dumped in developing countries.

The enormous growth in cooling demand means we must act quickly. Today, an estimated 3.6 billion air conditioners, refrigerators, and related appliances are used worldwide; to meet the world’s cooling needs, that number will more than triple, to 14 billion cooling units, by 2050.

Access to cooling is already becoming a leading climate and social justice issue around the world – especially in the many Asian, African, and South American countries that are subject to increasingly unlivable temperatures and already suffer from poverty, water shortages, and other related problems. For example, only about 7-9 per cent of Indian households have access to AC today, compared to 60 per cent in China and 90 per cent in the United States. In India alone, demand for AC will grow by more than a billion units over the coming decades. During this time, making cooling less polluting will be critical. Decreasing the cost, as India has done through its innovative bulk procurement program, will also be beneficial.

We should all take courage from the Montreal Protocol’s success in repairing the ozone layer and mitigating more warming from greenhouse gases than any other measure. All countries must now adopt common-sense initiatives to make cooling more efficient, less emissions-intensive, and more affordable for consumers. Most urgently, we must heed the latest understanding of the planet’s sensitivity to continuing emissions and recognise that without rapid action, runaway climate change will be far harder to prevent.

Durwood Zaelke & Mario Molina

In India alone, demand for AC will grow by more than a billion units over the coming decades

Durwood Zaelke is President of the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development. Mario Molina, a 1995 Nobel laureate in Chemistry, is a professor at the University of California.

@PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- No one saves us but ourselves. No one can and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path.

LORD BUDDHA
- The man of wisdom is never of two minds; the man of benevolence never worries; the man of courage is never afraid.

CONFUCIUS
- What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON


WORDSWORTH

■ **Tiffin**

More than any other word, tiffin, meaning lunch or any light meal, evokes British India. It entered the language at the very beginning of the nineteenth century, perhaps because the English fashion for eating dinner mid-afternoon was giving way under the influence of the Indian climate to a main meal taken later in the day, requiring a lighter midday meal and a name for it. Why the much older luncheon wasn’t used isn’t clear. Instead, the English in India borrowed tiffin, an old English dialect or slang word for taking a little drink or sip. (I forbear from suggesting that the habit among some sahibs of drinking their lunch had something to do with the popularity of the term.) The word is still widely used in India for any hot light meal or snack taken at any time during the day. In Mumbai (formerly Bombay), the term tiffin-wallah is sometimes heard, though the more common term is dabbawallah. Lunches are cooked at home by workers’ wives and then transported, often by train, perhaps 20 or 30 miles to their husbands’ workplaces, each three-tiered tiffin-carrier or dabba probably passing through several hands in a sophisticated and efficient cooperative process. Those who deliver the meals by bicycle on the final stage of their journeys are the tiffin-wallahs or dabbawallahs.

FOCUS NATION

UNITY ACROSS FAITHS



The film, *Agraharathil Kazhuthai*, or *Donkey in a Brahmin Village*, was a pleasant shock; not because of the title, but its authorship. The film is listed as one of the masterly satires by the late John Abraham

priceless gift from a friend in Kerala, a Namboodri to boot, is a film to augment my collection which has sustained my personal film festival to beat the unintelligible lockdown. The film, *Agraharathil Kazhuthai*, or *Donkey in a Brahmin Village*, was a pleasant shock; not because of the title, but its authorship. The film is listed as one of the masterly satires by the late John Abraham.

A baby donkey, whose mother has been beaten to death for reasons unknown, strays onto the doorsteps of a tall, lanky professor of Philosophy in a local college. The donkey in the bachelor professor’s house leads to amusement, gossip, graffiti until the principal, a stern looking pastor, informs the professor that his hospitality towards the donkey was affecting the college’s reputation.

The professor carts the donkey by bus and bullock cart to the Agraharam or the Brahmin village where his parents live. A deaf and mute maidservant looks after the donkey.

The maid has an affair with the village washerman, delivers a still-born male child which is left outside the temple. The chief priest declares it the most dreadful omen, unanimously attributed by the elders to the donkey’s presence in the village. The animal is beaten to death, followed by a series of unfortunate events which the Agraharam, on second thoughts, blames on the fact that the donkey was killed in haste. A monument to the beast is planned. A wild fire dance burns much of the village leaving the professor and the maid contemplating the scene for its deeper significance.

The reason for my focus on the film is not “cinema,” but the fact that someone with a name like John Abraham could satirise the Agraharam with such outrageous audacity. In my limited experience – a day’s visit – the Agraharam was quite stately in its austerity. I saw no car in the street nor, in the middle of the day, was there any movement outside, dogs, cats, cattle, nothing. There is a lovely view of river Kalpathy below, like the Agraharam’s private pond for a holy dip. Away from the road, on the stone seat were occasional bare bodied men, sporting the fat-test ‘janeyus’ I have seen. The visitor’s room has a mural size painting of Palghat Mani Iyer, the great mridangam player and a local icon. The centre of the main hall is dominated by a swing; every square inch of the wall space is covered with Gods and Goddesses.

At the end of the passage is a ‘tulasi’ plant in a decorated pot on a pedestal. The master of the house, a man of wit and music, had worn a shirt to appear hospitable. With amusement in his eyes, he showed us where he slept: on a narrow bed in the passage. And his wife? “On the floor right below me.” He puts his head back and guffaws. But it is not quite so unequal. “She qualifies for the bed when she is unwell.”

I found it quaint, as an uncritical bird of passage would. But the Agraharam, like Peyton Place, would expose its darker side to a son of the soil, a few mohallas removed, like Abraham.

It is all so refreshing this informality across faiths, this ability to tolerate irreverence without ill will. The most popular political prisoner in Adoor Gopalakrishnan’s *The Wall is Basheer*; pining for Narayani on the other side of the wall and whom he has not seen. Adoor is quite unselfconscious about the fact that the protagonists belong to different faiths. My romance with “God’s Own Country” goes back to the 70s when I was editor of *The Indian Express* in the south. But a change has come upon me: earlier I admired Kerala, indeed much of the South; now I have begun to envy it.

India was always one country, but the basic affiliation was with Awadh of which Lucknow was the markaz or centre. Mir Taqi Mir talked of Delhi’s destruction: “*Dill jo ek shaher tha alam mein intekhab reh te thay muntakhib hi jahan rozgar ke Usko falak ne loot ke barbaad kar diya Hum rehne waley haen usi ujre dayar ke.*” (Delhi which was once the world’s pride, where only those

There is a certain demoralisation in the anti-Hindutva ranks at the presumed invincibility of Narendra Modi, despite the country crashing on every count. This may well be a function of shrewd tactics: keep the media focus away from regions where the country still breathes easy. It may not be such a good thing, though, for national cohesion if different parts of the country do not fit into the same frame.

The writer is a senior commentator on political and diplomatic issues.

IANS

SPECTRUM ODISHA

A train of natural disasters, miseries

In recent times, Odisha has faced natural disasters like cyclones and floods, coupled with the Covid-19 pandemic. The state tried to curb the spread of Covid-19 and took steps to resume economic activities. Natural disasters such as cyclone Amphan added to the government’s fiscal burden.

According to a report from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), 34 persons have been killed due to floods, 4.3 million people have been affected, and 0.12 million have been evacuated in or from 7,528 villages across 27 districts from June 1 to September 2. Moreover, 12,447 houses were damaged as also around 0.38 million hectares of crop area. This was one of the devastating floods that Odisha experienced after the 1999 Super Cyclone. The heavy rainfall in the Mahanadi river’s upper catchment areas and the breaching of river embankments at various locations led to flooding in different coastal districts.

Odisha is highly vulnerable to various natural disasters due to its unique geo-climatic conditions. A high degree of socioeconomic vulnerability, inadequate mitigation measures, low levels of economic development, higher poverty, and high dependency on the agricultural sector have further accentuated the damage caused due to natural disasters.

According to the Human Development Report (2004) published by the state, Odisha lost around 11 per cent of GDP in 1970, of the order of ₹10.5 billion. In 1980s and 1990s, the economic losses were seven and ten times the loss suffered in 1970s. Statistics show that, over the period, direct economic losses resulting from natural disasters have increased. Between 1900 and 2011, Odisha experienced 59 incidences of high floods, 24 cyclones, and seven tornadoes. Since the 19th Century, the region has experienced 1.3 natural calamities on average per year.

In addition, 21,832 persons died in six major natural disasters during 1980-2017. Cyclone is one of the most lethal disasters in Odisha that led to a loss of around 10,191 human lives, followed by lightning (8,442), heat-wave (2016), landslide (564), floods (374), and cold wave (245) during the same period.

The geo-climatic conditions such as heavy rainfall during monsoon, inadequate drainage facility, lack of river connectivity, soil erosion, deforestation, breaching of embankments, illegal construction activities in urban areas, unplanned population growth, flood-prone area forming 9 per cent of total state area, and the 482 km long coastline, all contribute to this scenario. Moreover, heavy rainfall during the monsoon in the neighbouring states of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand aggravates Odisha’s flooding situation. According to a

Central Water Commission report, around 1,521 persons were killed due to floods, and 116 million affected over the period 1980-2017. During this period, damage due to floods, including crop, houses, and public infrastructure, stood at ₹16,278 crore, damage to crop was ₹1,278 crore, damage to public infrastructure was ₹14,148 crore, and damage to houses was worth ₹851 crore.

In addition, every year, Odisha lost around 0.89 per cent of the GSDP due to floods, while damage to crops was around 0.1 per cent of the GSDP. Flood impact also increases the financial pressure on the state government through increased spending on disaster management activities. The state spends around 1.8 per cent of the GSDP on evacuation, relief distribution, rehabilitation, and flood control measures. Floods also affect agriculture, as also public and private infrastructure, among several other aspects. Moreover, it also adversely affects employment opportunities in the rural labour market that leads to increased poverty.

In the aftermath of the 1999 Super Cyclone, the state government undertook various measures to mitigate the state’s disaster impact. For example, cyclone shelters were constructed in coastal districts along with the setting up of the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA).

Other measures include widespread mangroves plantation and regular conduct of cabinet meetings for disaster preparedness. The district-wise Flood Inundation Mapping (FIM) also helps mitigate disaster impact. All these measures helped to minimise the human death toll from cyclones, such as Fani and Amphan.

However, Odisha’s recent flood impact shows that these measures are not adequate. A 2020 article published in the Environment, Development and Sustainability empirically shows that the contemporary level of economic development in districts is not adequate to mitigate flood fatalities in Odisha.

The government would do well to devise a long-term flood management policy along with building flood-resilient infrastructure such as construction and monitoring of river embankments, construction of canals, and improving river connectivity. Other measures include installing a flood warning system in coastal districts, providing pucca houses to beneficiary households, and creating a massive community awareness campaign.

Parida is a research fellow at the Institute of Rural Management, Anand and Sahoo is a lecturer in Economics at Vikram Deb (Autonomous) College, Jeyapore.

Tribal conservation ethics

Sir, A discussion on tribal conservation ethics to arrest environmental crisis and climate change is ongoing. A point stressed is that 80 per cent of global natural resources are located in tribal areas. However, availability of resources does not suggest tribals benefit from them. The present economy is based on the maximising principle, diversified wants, and accumulation ethics with global mobility of resources. Economic growth and resource size are proportionally related, and so application of tribal conservation ethics would result in a subsistence economy. Do the advocates of the “merit of tribal conservation ethics to arrest environmental crisis resulting from present development model” suggest a small-scale economy? Small-scale economy is the alternative in the Gandhian line of minimisation of wants. Without this, the whole idea of the merit of tribal conservation ethics will mean little.

Maguni Charan Behera, ITANAGAR

SSR and justice

Sir, Sushant Singh Rajput was liked by thousands of people. For whatever reason, his death has generated a lot of suspicion. The media being a tool in maintaining democracy must play its positive role in the SSR death case too. It should not attempt to hide matters for whatever reason. The Hindi film industry coterie should be broken. There might be past cases like the deaths of Praveen Babi and Sridevi still shrouded in mystery. The case of SSR will surely change the way we look at the film industry.

Sunil Pradhan, KHARIAR, NUAPADA

Untouchables all

Sir, The guidelines on maintaining cleanliness being bestowed wide publicity by the media couldn’t have been simpler than what they are. Residents in urban slums and the rustics deserve more attention than urban residents, considering the handicap that the unlettered sections face in absorbing the guidelines. For a change, the columns of dailies don’t seem to have space for printing matters relating to other happenings such as corruption, crime, fraudulent deals of top corporate executives, horse-trading aimed at toppling governments, road mishaps and so on. People at large may scoff at the dictat not to touch one’s nose, eyes and lips with unclean hands. Maybe, avoiding acts like hand-shake and hugging, both commonly witnessed in the West, as different from greeting others with folded hands (namaste) have to be viewed objectively, without mistaking the measure as practise of untouchability here. In sum, thanks to the virus, everybody is now an untouchable.

K Ravi, GGP Colony, BHUBANESWAR

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

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BJP's 'Save Democracy' campaign to oust TMC in Assembly elections

THE STATE UNIT OF THE BJP EARLIER THIS WEEK TOOK OUT DEMONSTRATIONS ACROSS THE STATE IN PROTEST AGAINST THE 'POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND MURDER OF DEMOCRACY'

Kolkata, Sept 6: With the crucial Assembly elections barely a year away, the Bharatiya Janata Party is on a war-footing to strategise their move to topple the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal.

The state unit of the BJP earlier this week took out demonstrations across the state in protest against the "political violence and murder of democracy", requesting people to "defeat the jungle raj" of the ruling TMC in next year's assembly polls.

Senior BJP leaders such as state party president and MP Dilip Ghosh, national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya and Mukul Roy took part in the sit-in protest on Mayo Road in Kolkata as part of the BJP's 'Ganatantra Bachao, Bangla Bachao' (Save democracy, Save Bengal) campaign amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"No one is safe in Bengal, be it the activists of an opposition party or the common men. The people of the state are fed up with the misrule of the TMC and are yearning for a change. The corrupt and the undemocratic TMC government would be ousted from power in the next elections," Ghosh told the gathering.

Stressing that it was time to free West Bengal of TMC's "jungle raj", Ghosh said that law and order in the state has totally collapsed and police officers have become "activists of the ruling party".

"Over the last five years, political violence in Bengal has crossed all limits. Goons of the TMC have even attacked MLAs, leaders and ac-

tivists of opposition political parties. Democracy cannot be stifled in this manner. The TMC is well aware that it will be defeated in the next elections. The party has been crying foul over the use of EVMs, since Lok Sabha polls. Let me make this clear, be it EVMs or ballots, we will defeat the party in assembly polls as well as civic polls," he said.

Meanwhile, West Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee said the number of universities in the state has jumped to 42 from 12 since the Trinamool Congress government assumed power. Addressing a Teachers' Day programme over video conference, Chatterjee said during the TMC regime, there has also been a significant rise in the count of higher educational institutions.

"During our tenure, 50 new col-

leges have come up, while the number of universities increased from 12 to 42. Around 21 lakh students are now enrolled in higher educational institutions, a steady rise from 12.4 lakh," the minister said.

He said 6,500 assistant professors have been appointed in higher educational institutions and 1.25 lakh school teachers were recruited.

Chatterjee also claimed that the number of school dropouts has gone down. Meanwhile, a total of 61 teachers received the 'Siksha Ratna' from the state government on Saturday. Thirteen schools were also honoured on the occasion.

"In recognition of the contribution of teachers in schools, colleges and universities, our government felicitates outstanding teachers with 'Siksha Ratna Samman' on Teachers' Day," Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Twitter.

Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, too, greeted teachers, "working persistently in shaping the future of our country".

Toy industry eyes WB for production

Kolkata, Sept 6: In an attempt to develop indigenous manufacturing capacity of toy industry in the state, West Bengal Exim Association has sought land from the government for setting up a toy park.

This has assumed significance since the industry is heavily dependent on import and the main exporter of toys to India is China. Following restrictions in import from China, toy industry in India is facing major supply challenges.

PM Narendra Modi had recently stressed the need for indigenous manufacturing base of toys. The industry would welcome whatever help that comes from the state government.

Akshay Binjrajka, secretary, West Bengal Exim Association, and vice president, All India Toy & Baby Products Association, said many importers want to shift to manufacturing considering huge scope here.



We have a major port also. We need some incentive from state here," he added.

According to Binjrajka, UP and Karnataka have already identified land for toy manufacturing clusters. Worsening Indo-China trade relations have already led to a short-

age of sophisticated toys like battery operated toys, soft toys, remote control toys and ride on bikes or cars in the market, feel toy ex-

porters and retailers.

Over 80% of toys in India is imported, most of which are from China. Other countries from where toy import takes place are Malaysia, Hong Kong, UK and Germany. Anirban Gupta, CEO of Dr Mady's Innovation (P) Ltd, a toy manufac-

turer in the state, believes that it is possible to replace Chinese toys. Gupta has toy manufacturing unit at Vidyasagar Industrial Park in Kharagpur. "It is possible to match Chinese toys but we have to manufacture chips and ICs as well as some other key components," he added.

Toy market in India is worth Rs 10,000-12,000 crore and out of that 70% is import from China. Kolkata accounts for 25% import of toys via Haldia and Kolkata port. Apart from Bengal, it (Kolkata) caters to north-east, other eastern region states and some parts of eastern UP as well. The value of import routed through Kolkata would be over Rs 2,000 crore annually. Incidentally, West Bengal alone is Rs 1,000 crore market for toys while Kolkata alone accounts for Rs 700-750 crore. Souvik Ghosh, a toy retailer in Fariapukur, said: "Currently, the market is in very bad shape."

caste men cutting hair in separate salons has been there in Vattavada for nearly a century now. However as per the request of some Dalit youngsters, we convened a meeting with the community representatives recently to take a decision on the issue. But the barbers were

Casteist slur on JU prof sparks outrage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 6: A professor of Jadavpur University has been subjected to casteist attacks on social media for a post about conducting final semester exams during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jadavpur University Teachers Association (JUTA) and All Bengal University Teachers Association (ABUTA) Sunday condemned the "vicious casteist trolling" of Maroona Murmu, an associate professor of history of JU for an innocuous post on Facebook.

September 2, Murmu was subjected to a volley of casteist abuse on social media when she wrote in a Facebook post about the need to postpone the final semester exams as "one year cannot be more precious than someone's entire life."

This triggered a comment by a

third year student of Bethune College on her wall that "such thinking stems from quota-centric state of mind" implying that Murmu had academically benefitted being a tribal. A hurt Murmu, who did her undergraduate studies at Presidency College before doing research at

JNU, expressed anguish in her reply how her opinion as an individual was ignored by a female student and wondered if someone can be called incompetent and undeserving if he/she carries a tribal surname.

This invited more trolling as

many others supported the young third year student of Bethune College while support also poured in for the professor.

The Bethune College Students' Committee posted a statement on social media saying, "it is extremely disheartening and condemnable that a student of our college is still unaware of the caste dynamics in India and the need of reservations for the underprivileged. The incident in question is extremely shameful and has brought the institution into disrepute."

"Therefore on behalf of the students of Bethune College, the students committee unequivocally condemns, the comment by the third year student of the institution and resolves to stand by Dr Murmu and the struggle of all Dalits in our campus, state and country," the statement said.



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PREPPED FOR SESSION



A view of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly in Kolkata, Sunday. A two-day session of the state assembly will commence from September 9 with certain restrictions

PTI PHOTO

Ambulance driver rapes Covid patient

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pathanamthitta, Sept 6: A 19-year-old woman COVID-19 patient was allegedly raped by an ambulance driver while shifting her to a first line treatment centre near here, police said Sunday.

Taking note of it, the State Women's Commission registered a case on its own into the incident, which drew wide condemnation from the opposition Congress and BJP, even as health minister K K Shailaja said strict instructions had been given to take strong action against the culprit.

"This is an unfortunate incident. We have given strict directions to take strong action against the culprit," she said in Thiruvananthapuram.

The ambulance driver Noufal (29) was taken into custody on Sunday based on a complaint by the victim's mother to the hospital authorities and the police.

He was dismissed from service, the Kanivu 108 Ambulance Services said in a release.

According to police, the incident occurred at Aranmula on Saturday. "We were informed by the hospital

patients need separate security measures. Besides taking strict action against the culprit, his driving license must also be cancelled. Strict background checks should be done before appointing drivers for ambulances," she said in a press release.

Pathanamthitta Superintendent of Police P K G Simon told reporters that they nabbed the culprit soon after being informed about the incident.

"He is from Kayamkulam and is an accused in an earlier murder case. We are looking into the details. The incident was very unfortunate," Simon said.



authorities after the victim told them about the incident and we took him into custody. We will take the statement of the girl later as she is not a position to explain her ordeal," the Investigating Officer told PTI. The girl was admitted to a hospital at Adoor on Saturday after she and her mother tested positive for coronavirus.

While she was being shifted to the First Line Treatment Centre (CFLTC) later, the driver took her to an empty plot and raped her.

The Commission Chairperson MC Josephine they have offered all help to the woman.

"This issueshows that women

In this village, Dalits aren't allowed to get a haircut

To curb the discrimination, progressive community leaders said they would soon open a public salon, where men from all communities can get their hair cut

AGENCIES

Idukki, Sept 6: Raman (name changed) has a postgraduate degree and a job at a reputed private company to boot. But that's not enough for him to get his hair cut at any of the barber shops in his village. Reason: The salons are frequented by upper caste people and Raman belongs to the Chakkliya community.

In Vattavada, a village located in the rainshadow area of the Western Ghats in Idukki, higher caste people have announced a blanket ban on Dalits accessing services at salons visited by them.

"Barbers in the village have been pressured by the upper caste," sources said. This practice has been common in Vattavada, an area dominated by Tamil settlers. The ancient customs practised in neigh-

boring Tamil Nadu are followed more here. Even the Dalits hardly raise any voice against it.

It was only recently that some Dalit youths from the village decided to complain to the panchayat authorities about such discrimination. But the barbers continued to refuse and said they preferred shutting their shops to cutting the hair of Dalits. Eventually, two barber shops in Vattavada were closed by the panchayat authorities five months ago. Dalit men from the village continue to get their hair cut at salons in Munnar or Ellappetty, both nearby towns.

Earlier, bizarre practices like serving food in coconut shells or keeping separate tumblers for dalits in tea shops existed in Vattavada. Thanks to the joint efforts of local politicians and social workers, those



practices were put to an end by 1990. Vattavada has a population of 270 families from the Chakkliya community and the rest belong to the Mannadiyar, Maravar, Thevar and Chettiyar communities.

Vattavada panchayat president Ramaraj said, "The practice of lower

caste men cutting hair in separate salons has been there in Vattavada for nearly a century now. However as per the request of some Dalit youngsters, we convened a meeting with the community representatives recently to take a decision on the issue. But the barbers were

adamant that they would not cut the hair of people from the Chakkliya community. The shops were closed following this," he said.

To curb the discrimination

of the day quote

Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks on all issues, but refuses to touch the issue of failing economy and related issues



SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA MP

It is shameful that Punjab has become a laggard state under the Congress rule as it has been placed in the Business Reform Action Plan (2019) rankings



SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL | SHIROMANI AKALI DAL CHIEF

The Aam Aadmi Party was spreading senseless fear in the minds of the villagers, thus deterring them from getting themselves tested for coronavirus and endangering their lives



AMARINDER SINGH | PUNJAB CM

SHORT TAKES

Girl found dead

Lakhimpur Khiri (UP): A 14-year-old girl was found dead in mysterious circumstances in a village here Sunday, police said. They said the body was found hanging from the thatched roof of a house with a scarf. Lakhimpur Khiri SP Satendra Kumar Singh, Additional SP Arun Kumar Singh and Mitali Circle Officer Shitanshu Kumar rushed to the spot after receiving information about the incident and carried out initial investigations. The officials talked to the parents and other family members of the girl, police said. The reason behind the girl's death is yet to be ascertained. Police said the body has been sent for an autopsy and appropriate action would be taken after the report comes.

Man booked

Nagpur: A 21-year-old man has been booked for allegedly driving his former girlfriend to commit suicide here in Maharashtra, police said Sunday. The woman died in a hospital September 3, a day after she allegedly drank poison at her residence, an official said. The accused, Suraj Gupta, has been upset since the woman ended her relationship with him, and started harassing her, he said. Gupta had allegedly also threatened to harm family members of the deceased earlier, the official said.

Two arrested

Surat: Two persons were arrested here in Gujarat after mephedrone, a banned drug, worth Rs 5 lakh was seized from them, a police official said Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, police caught the two persons, identified as Imtiaz Malek and Mustafa Vana, near Sardar market in Surat's Puna locality on Saturday and recovered 100 gm of the drug from them, he said. A two-wheeler and three mobile phones were also seized from their possession. Search was on for four more persons in this connection, he said.

Man ends life

Kota (Raj): A 40-year-old man allegedly hanged himself from a tree after a fight with his wife in Rajasthan's Baran district, police said Sunday. The incident took place in Goverdhanpura village Saturday night, they said. The body of Gyanchand Sahariya, a resident of Ranibarode village, was found hanging from a tree at an agricultural field near his in-laws' house, police said. Sahariya was living with another woman. He, however, had been staying with his wife for the last one month at his in-laws' house, said Station House Officer (SHO), Bhanwargarh, Vijendra Singh.

Rhea grilled for six hours by NCB



Rhea Chakraborty outside the NCB office after being summoned for questioning in Mumbai, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 6: Bollywood actor Rhea Chakraborty, who was steeling herself for possible arrest by the NCB Sunday, was allowed to leave the anti-narcotics agency's office here after a gruelling six-hour-long session of questioning.

She is likely to be summoned again Monday as the National Control Bureau (NCB), which has arrested her brother Showik Friday, continues its investigations in the drugs angle emerging in the Sushant Singh Rajput case.

As per preliminary information, Rhea was mostly questioned by the NCB sleuths on the narcotics angle now shrouding Sushant's death. Rhea, who did not appear to be flustered as she stepped out, underwent interrogation by several teams of NCB sleuths at the agency's Zonal Office on the third floor of the Exchange Building in Ballard Estate, before they finally permitted her to go home after 6 p.m. in her own vehicle.

Earlier on Sunday, a NCB team including Sameer Wankhede, who is heading the investigation, and a woman official had gone to pick up Rhea at her home in PrimRose Apartments in Santacruz but she opted to go in her own car along with a Mumbai Police escort, amid speculation that she would be arrested.

The 28-year old actress, who has already been questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement Directorate, reached the NCB office for questioning, a day after her brother was sent to NCB custody till September 9.

Besides Showik, Sushant's house manager Samuel Miranda, domestic help Dipesh Sawant, and drug peddlers Abdel Basit Parihar and Zaid Vilatra are also in NCB custody. In a statement, released through her lawyer Satish Maneshinde, Rhea said she was "innocent" and would fully cooperate with the investigations.

"Rhea Chakraborty is ready for arrest as this is a witch-hunt and if loving someone is a crime, she will face the consequences of her love," Maneshinde said. He added that being innocent, she has not approached any court seeking anticipatory bail in all the cases foisted by Bihar Police, now with the CBI, the ED and the NCB.

In a statement late Saturday, Rhea and Showik's father, Lt Col Indrajit Chakraborty (ret'd) condemned his son's arrest by the NCB.

"Congratulations India, you have arrested my son, I'm sure next on the line is my daughter (Rhea) and I don't know who is next thereafter," he said.

NTA gears up for NEET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: After JEE Main, the National Testing Agency (NTA) is now gearing up for conducting medical entrance exam NEET scheduled to be held September 13 for which over 15 lakh candidates have registered.

The Joint Entrance Exam (JEE Main), which began September 1 for admission to engineering colleges, will conclude Sunday. The crucial exams are being conducted in September after being postponed twice in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to NTA officials, 15.97 lakh candidates from across the country have registered for NEET, which is a pen-paper based test unlike JEE. In order to maintain social distancing, the NTA has increased the number of centres from 2,546 to 3,843 for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) while the number of candidates per room has been reduced from earlier 24 to 12.

"For ensuring social distancing outside the examination hall, the entry and exit of candidates has been staggered. Adequate arrangements have also been made out-

side the examination centres to enable candidates stand with adequate social distancing while waiting," a senior NTA official said.

"Candidates have also been issued an advisory guiding them about the 'dos and don'ts' for proper social distancing. We have also written to states governments to extend support in local movement of the candidates so that they are able to reach their examination centres on time," the official added.

Making hand sanitiser available at the entrance of the examination centre and inside the exam hall at all times, replacing the process of checking the admit cards of candidates with barcode

The NDA's Goods and Services Tax is not a tax system but an "attack" on India's poor and on its small and medium businesses

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

ANTI-DENGUE CAMPAIGN

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Sunday launched the '10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute campaign' - a mass awareness campaign against dengue



'WORST-EVER' PHASE

ANOTHER LETTER 'BOMB' FROM UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Sept 6: The Congress is all set to be bombarded with another 'letter bomb', this time it comes from Uttar Pradesh.

Nine senior Congress leaders, expelled from the party last year, have sent a letter to Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi asking her to save the party before its slips into "history". In a veiled attack on Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is the party general secretary in charge of UP, the four-page letter urges Sonia Gandhi to rise above family and restore the democratic traditions of the party.

The letter, signed by former MP Santosh Singh, former minister Satyadev Tripathi, former MLAs Vinod Chaudhary, Bhodhar Narain Mishra, Nekchand Pandey, Swayam Prakash Goswami and Sanjeev Singh, says that the Congress is passing through its 'worst ever' phase in Uttar Pradesh.

"There is an apprehension that you are not being apprised of the pre-



vailing situation by those in charge of state affairs. We have been seeking an appointment with you for almost a year but have been denied the same. We had appealed against our expulsion which was illegal but even the central disciplinary committee has not found time to consider our appeal," the letter says.

The senior Congress leaders further claim that the party posts are being occupied by those who are

working on a salary basis and are not even primary members of the party. "These 'leaders' are not familiar with the party's ideology but are tasked to give direction to the party in UP," the letter says.

It further says, "These people are the one who are assessing the performances of those leaders who stood like a rock in the Congress during the 1977-80 crisis. Democratic norms are being thrown to the

winds and senior leaders are being targeted, insulted and expelled. In fact, we were informed of our expulsion from the media which speaks of the new work culture in the state unit."

The signatories to the letter have alleged that there is a total lack of communication between the leaders and the party cadres. They further pointed out that frontal organisations like NSUI and Youth Congress have become defunct in UP.

The leaders have urged the Congress high command to open channels of communication with senior leaders. They have warned that if it continues to turn a blind eye to the prevailing state of affairs, the Congress would hit rock bottom in UP which was once the party's stronghold. The letter comes at a time when the party is already facing its worst factional divide in Uttar Pradesh. While the senior leaders have withdrawn from party activities, the younger leaders have accused the UPCC leadership of promoting caste interests.

BACK ON TRACK



PTI PHOTO

People enjoying a boat ride as tourism and boating activities resumed during Unlock 4 in Vijayawada, Sunday

To curb depression, MP hosp sets up patient-kin meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jabalpur (MP), Sept 6: The Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Medical College and Hospital (NSCBMCH) in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh has established live interaction with families to curb depression and suicidal tendencies among COVID-19 patients.

The experiment began after two coronavirus positive patients tried to kill themselves at the state-run facility. "Since September 1, we are allowing the patients to meet their family members to do away or minimize depression which they undergo during treatment," NSCBMCH Dean Dr PK Kasar said Sunday.

"A glass partition with a hole that separates patients from kin is in place for the interaction. Already, more than ten patients have talked to their families. We are studying patient behaviour and pros and cons of the interaction," the dean added.

September 4, a 65-year-old patient had committed suicide,

The experiment began after two coronavirus positive patients tried to kill themselves at the state-run facility

though he had met with his family before he took the extreme step, said Kasar. "Our staffers have also averted two suicide bids in August. This made us sit up and give serious thought to this issue. We roped in psychiatrists to talk and comfort these patients. We then started arranging such interactions following all protocols in place to stem the outbreak," he said.

Currently, 260 people are undergoing treatment for the infection at NSCBMCH, Kasar informed. As on Saturday, the district has 1,139 active cases, while 96 people have died of the infection.

BOY DIES OF SUFFOCATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Sept 6: A 6-year-old boy suffocated to death after accidentally getting trapped inside a car parked by the roadside for a few hours in Ahmedabad Sunday, police said.

The boy's mother, a domestic helper, was taking him along to her place of work around 10 am, when he entered the car parked on Airport Road without her knowledge, police said.

The minor, identified as Ajay Saraniya, entered the vehicle out of fun, but accidentally got himself locked inside, an official of the Airport police station said. "His body was found inside the car around 1 pm. Prima facie, he appeared to have died of suffocation as he remained locked inside the car for a few hours," police inspector R R Desai said. "After the boy got into the car, the boy's mother went ahead thinking that he was following her. But after she failed to spot him behind after going some distance, she started looking for him all the way back to her home, but failed to trace him," he added.



Sushant case: Hopes rest on NCB

Corridors of power in Delhi monitoring the Sushant Singh Rajput's death case are disappointed with the way CBI and ED are probing it. The problem with CBI is that it has its own track record of handling cases. The ED may have been hogging more limelight, but it has a very poor track

record in prosecution. Finally, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has stepped in which is directly under the Union Home Ministry. The Sushant Singh Rajput's case has all the ingredients of a "potboiler". Now, the NCB has already swung into action and made a few arrests. Alternatively, the NCB can transfer its drug case to the CBI which can arrest all the players and soothe the "hurt Nation."

Centre may buy 200 mn doses of vaccine

The world is after the Covid vaccine and spending billions of dollars in research and creating facilities for the killer virus. But the Indian government is still in the process of making up its mind. But one thing is clear that India will buy 200-300 million doses of Covid vaccine being developed world-over. The figure emerged during a close-door

meeting that the Indian Vaccine Association members had with the top government officials. Four vaccines are in the trial-3 stage and will go into mass production and mass consumption will be permitted only after it is cleared by various regulatory authorities world-over. The PM's Task Force on vaccine had given clear indications that India may need anywhere between 200-300 million doses. India has not made any advance purchase commitments while the US, UK, European Union, Switzerland and Japan have paid and committed \$5 billion to global drug companies.

Govt clueless

With the rise in the number of Covid-19 cases in India, experts are keeping their fingers crossed as to when India will touch its peak. All government estimates including that of the one by Dr V K Paul,

head of PM's Task Force on Covid, has gone for a toss. As the festive season is fast approaching, the government is fumbling over giving any future prediction. Privately, officials admit tally could cross one lakh cases a day. In fact, Massachusetts Institute of Technology had said in its June, 2020 study that India could see up to 2.87 lakh cases a day by 2021 on the basis of mathematical models, if a cure or vaccine was not found. But the Union Health ministry debunked it saying, "mathematical models do not take into account the efforts and interventions taken by governments."

Dissidents angry

The group of 23 dissident leaders of the Congress is upset as issues raised by them have not been addressed by Sonia Gandhi. Instead, the Gandhis put salt on

their wounds when a 10-member committee was constituted, comprising 5 members each from both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha respectively. In Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi loyalists have been filled in the committee and in Rajya Sabha three out of five belong to Sonia loyalists. If sources close to the top dissident leaders are to be believed, they will soon devise new strategies to mount the pressure on the leadership to take immediate steps. The ensuing Parliament Session beginning September 14 to October 1 will give the dissidents an opportunity to galvanize them. The dissidents have formed a core group comprising Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Kapil Sibal and Manish Tewari who will interact on a daily basis on how to take their mission to "reform and revive" the Congress. They will meet early next week over dinner to chalk out the next course of action.

of the day quote

The RJD and Congress leaders are used to lying to create confusion in society. They will frequently use this policy in the next two months in the run-up to the Assembly elections. They are past masters in this game. Hence, we have to counter their lies by telling voters about genuine work we have done over the years

MANGAL PANDEY | BIHAR HEALTH MINISTER

Passing away of a great philosopher and revered seer, Swami Kesavananda Bharathi ji is an irreplaceable loss for the nation. He will always be remembered as an icon of Indian culture for his rich contribution to safeguard our tradition & ethos. My condolences with his followers

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

The people of the country displayed restraint, caution, sensibility, and celebrated all the festivals taking all precautions and followed the guidelines of social distancing to help to curb the coronavirus infection

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | UNION MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

SHORT TAKES

7 houses damaged in J&K landslide

Jammu: At least nine families were rendered homeless after seven houses got damaged in a landslide in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior government official said on Sunday. However, no one was hurt in the incident. The landslide, triggered by rains, struck Gandtop in the hilly Basantgarh sub-division late Saturday, damaging seven residential houses so far, District Development Commissioner, Udhampur, Piyush Singla said.

Deepender Hooda tests Covid+ve

Chandigarh: Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Deepender Hooda Sunday said he had tested positive for coronavirus. He asked those who had come in contact with him to get themselves tested. "The doctors are conducting more tests. With your blessings, I will recover soon," he said in a tweet.

Man beaten for 'fun', dies in hosp

Bareilly (UP): A 32-year-old man was tied him to a tree and allegedly lynched by a mob on suspicion of theft in Uttar Pradesh's Aonla town. According to reports, some of the attackers joined the crowd for the sheer 'fun' of it and posed for mobile cameras while the victim, Basid Khan, was being thrashed in the background Friday. Basid, it later turned out, was an alcoholic but not a thief. Basid was handed over to police who set him free as no one came forward to file a complaint against him. His family, on seeing his condition, took him to hospital where he died of internal bleeding the next day.

Central teams to assist Pb, C'garh

New Delhi: The Union Health Ministry has decided to deploy central teams in Punjab and Chandigarh to assist them in strengthening public health measures for containment, surveillance, testing and efficient clinical management of COVID patients with an aim to reduce the mortality rate. Punjab's COVID-19 tally is 61,527, while it has 15,870 active cases as on date. The state has registered 1,808 deaths.

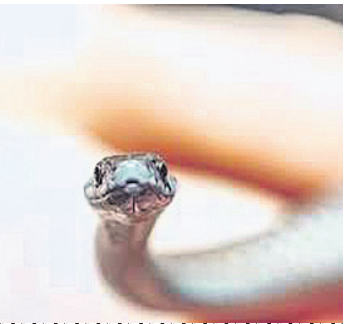


It is now time to turn Bundelkhand into a developmental hub

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CHIEF MINISTER

INFANT SWALLOWS SNAKELET

In a shocking incident, a one-year-old boy accidentally swallowed a snakelet while playing in the courtyard of his house in Bholapur village of Fatehganj area in Bareilly district Saturday evening



KOZHIKODE AIR CRASH

Wife of late co-pilot gives birth to boy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mathura (UP), Sept 6: There is finally something to smile about in the family of late Captain Akhilesh Kumar, the co-pilot of the Air India Express flight which crashed at Kozhikode International airport last month.

The pilot's wife Megha Shukla has given birth to a baby boy at Nayati Medicity, Mathura.

Dr Preeti Bhadauria, who led the team that was taking care of Megha during her pregnancy, said: "The baby boy weighing 2.75 kilos was born to Megha Shukla at our hospital September 5. Both the baby and mother are doing fine and are likely to be discharged in the next two days. It is a full-term delivery. She has been under our care throughout." The doctor said that the past month had been extremely difficult for Megha and also her family. In a statement the family said: "For us, the baby's birth rekindles the happiness and joy that Akhilesh radiated in our lives. We are extremely happy and we know that he is overjoyed wherever he is today."

Delhi Metro set to resume from today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: After being closed for over five months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Delhi Metro is all set to resume services in three stages from Monday, even as it appealed to people to use the rapid transport only if urgently needed.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) authorities on Sunday reiterated that stations located in containment zones, as per the status on the day of journey, will remain closed.

Officials of the urban transporter had earlier cautioned that "trains may not stop at some of the stations" if social distancing norms are not adhered to by passengers.



The Delhi Metro services will be resumed in a staggered manner in three stages from September 7-12, with the Yellow Line or Line 2 connecting Samyapur Bali in Delhi to HUDA City Centre in Gurgaon and the Rapid Metro to be the first ones to be made operational September 7.

Trains will operate in batches of four-hour each from 7-11 am in the morning and 4-8 pm in the evening in the first stage, officials said.

Metro services in Delhi-NCR have been closed since March 22 due to the pandemic. The services will be resumed after a gap of 169 days, the DMRC said in a statement Sunday.

Oppn planning joint offensive against govt in Parl

Leaders of various opposition parties are expected to meet later this week to formulate a joint floor strategy in both the houses of Parl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: Opposition parties are planning a joint offensive against the government to corner it in Parliament on issues of national security like the border situation with China, handling of the COVID pandemic, economy and GST compensation to states, sources said.

Leaders of various opposition parties are expected to meet later this week to formulate a joint floor strategy in both the houses of Parliament, they said.

Congress President Sonia Gandhi has convened a meeting of the party's strategy group September 8, the sources said. Opposition leaders are keen that various like-minded parties should work closely with each other to take on the government in Parliament. This was expressed

by Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee, Shiv Sena leader Uddhav Thackeray and JMM's Hemant Soren at a recent meeting of non-NDA Chief Ministers with Congress president Sonia Gandhi on JEE/NEET and GST issues.

The Congress strategy group has already met once and discussed the issues to be raised during the session. Senior Congress leaders have also been asked to contact UPA allies and other like-minded parties to put up a united fight against the government, both inside and outside Parliament. TMC leader Derek O'Brien had earlier said that like-minded opposition parties will work together in Parliament and find common ground on public issues. There will be a lot of teamwork among such parties in Parliament, he had said.



CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said Sunday that consultations are underway for a joint opposition strategy. CPI leader D Raja also said that meetings of opposition leaders will be soon held in this regard. With tensions escalating in eastern Ladakh along the

Line of Actual Control with China, the opposition will demand answers from the government on the issue.

The rapid rise in the number of COVID 19 cases will also come up for discussion. The opposition will also raise the heat in Parliament on the row over social media giant

Over 90K nCoV cases recorded in single day



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: India's COVID-19 tally of cases went past 41 lakh with a record 90,632 people being infected in a day, while 31,80,865 people have recuperated so far pushing the national recovery rate to 77.32 per cent Sunday, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The total coronavirus cases mounted to 41,13,811, while the death toll climbed to 70,626 with the novel coronavirus virus claiming 1,065 lives in a span of 24 hours in the country, the data updated at 8 am showed. The COVID-19 case fatality rate due to the coronavirus infection has further declined to 1.72 per cent. There are 8,62,320 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 20.96 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark August 7, 30 lakh August 23 and it went past 40 lakh September 5.

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 4,88,31,145 samples have been tested up to September 5 with 10,92,654 samples being tested Saturday.

'Work from home hits productivity'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 6: The COVID-19 pandemic has popularised the concept of work from home, but Mumbai professionals say space crunch in apartments and lack of robust internet connectivity has hampered their work, though saving on travel time has been an advantage for some.

Many people also complain of lack of professional environment and privacy at home, but say this is the new normal which they have to accept. Vijay Singh, a city-based journalist, told PTI that while working from home, he has been facing issues like poor internet and mobile phone connectivity. "Work from home has become a compulsion with the COVID-19 numbers going up," he says. Varun Singh, founder of SquarefeatinIndia, a real estate news portal, says lack of proper working space and privacy are a big hindrance as most of the homes in Mumbai are small. Majority of homes in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region are one-bedroom-hall-kitchen (BHK) apart-



ments measuring 325 to 425 square feet, he says.

Shweta Kulkarni, a public relations professional, says she misses the office environment while working from home while the positive side is that commuting time is saved.

Nilesh Shinde, who works in a private firm, says there no office-like settings at home. "You have to feel like working in the office to boost your productivity," he says. For some like Prajakta Seth, who works in an investment firm, work from home means longer working hours. Akhilesh Singh, a software professional, says he

bought an office chair and desk since he needs to increase his work productivity. Sunil Banerjee, a media professional, says working from home is a tricky situation as he has to find a proper place to work and also dress up properly for formal meetings held online.

"I have created my office in my balcony from where I can also watch TV to keep a tab on the news. But as a journalist, I miss going to press rooms of the state secretariat, police, civic body and the Press Club where a lot of information is shared. Nowadays, people avoid speaking over telephone," he says.

'Dawood aide' calls 'Matoshri', seeks to speak with Uddhav

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 6: A man claiming to be an aide of absconding mafia don Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar called up 'Matoshri' and demanded to speak to Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, of-

ficials said here Sunday. The caller, whose identity is not clear, reportedly called up at least twice on the landlines of 'Matoshri' - the CM's private residence in

Bandra east - on Saturday and said he wanted to speak to Thackeray, said Transport Minister Anil Parab. "We have immediately informed the Mumbai Police to do whatever is necessary in the matter. The police will verify the antecedents of the caller and take whatever measures necessary for the safety and security of the CM," he told media persons this evening.

However, Parab categorically refuted reports in some sections that the caller allegedly issued threats

to blow up the CM's residence, saying that there was no such thing. Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said that the government has taken strong note of the development and the CID has been directed to look into the matter which has come up on the eve of the Monsoon

Session of Maharashtra Legislature starting here Monday. Meanwhile, leaders of the ruling coalition - the Shiv Sena, the Nationalist

Congress Party and the Congress - including Eknath Shinde, Parab, Balasaheb Thorat and Ashok Chavan, besides Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar and others have reacted strongly to the incident and said the government will not be cowed down by any such threats to the CM. All leaders have expressed full support to Thackeray while Pednekar said Shiv Sainiks will be ready to deploy their own ring of security around "Matoshri" if needed.



TWO YEARS AFTER SECTION 377 VERDICT

LGBTQ COMMUNITY STILL BATTLING PREJUDICE

THE JUDGEMENT WAS WIDELY WELCOMED BY MOST SECTIONS OF SOCIETY, ESPECIALLY THE YOUTH WHO CALLED IT A VICTORY OF LOVE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: The Supreme Court, in a landmark judgement September 6, 2018, unanimously struck down part of the Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) which criminalised gay sex, saying that it violated the constitutional right to equality and dignity.

Section 377 declared "carnal intercourse against the order of nature" punishable by imprisonment for life. The judgement was widely welcomed by most sections of society, especially the youth who called it a victory of love.

Shubhankar Chakravorty, a Bengaluru-based writer, says the next move should be to extend the same civil rights to the LGBTQ population that the straight popula-

tion enjoys. "LGBT people are too taxpaying, law-abiding citizens, they have every right to the same privileges," he said.

"Things have surely changed. LGBT people are now more confident to express themselves, grow personally, and own their relationships without the fear of discrimination and harassment. However, this change has primarily been for the urban, privileged few. Also, the lives of transgender people have not really improved much," Chakravorty said. Bittu Kondaiah, a trans-man, agrees with Chakravorty that the SC verdict did not do much for the transgender community.

Anjali Gopalan, a member of Naz Foundation, an NGO that has been at the forefront of the battle against Section 377, said the community



has become a lot stronger since the verdict but there are more rights that it needs to be given.

"The LGBTQ community does not have any rights per say which society takes for granted like the

right to marriage, inheritance so these are rights that should be there for everyone in society. Unfortunately the LGBTQ community has been left out of it and that is something that needs to happen," she said.

Tripti Tandon, lawyer and deputy director of Lawyers Collective, said it has been seen that the judgement gave many from the LGBTQ community the confidence to live their lives on their own terms.

Divya Dureja, a counselling psychologist and LGBTQIA+ wellness advocate, said there are still inadequacies in the "free and fair rights" of the LGBTQ community members.

"When will the state begin to recognise non-heterosexual unions? How do we address the homelessness, bullying, violence, workplace dis-

crimination still being faced by the members of the LGBTQ community and how can you give support to queer population drowning in mental health conditions," she asked. She said even though the gay community has found some respite from being targeted now that Section 377 has been struck down, crimes and harassment against trans folks and lesbians still continue under the present laws.

Akhila Sivadas, the managing trustee and executive director of the Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR), a non-profit organisation said while the significance of this ruling to decriminalise homosexuality cannot be reduced, the process of social inclusion and acceptance now assumes even greater importance.

international

of the day quote

My goal is to keep my head down, feet moving, keep working and doing what I love. Relevance is a by-product of that, but definitely not a goal



EVA LONGORIA | HOLLYWOOD ACTOR

We hope the project of salvaging the P-40 (American plane) can be a warm current in the cold wave and ease people's worries about Chinese-US ties



HAN BO, CHAIRMAN, CHINA | ADVENTURE ASSOCIATION

Fateful times require a government in which there is no monopoly of portfolios, no sharing out of benefits, no dominance by one group, and no landmines that disrupt its work and decisions



PATRIARCH BECHARA BOUTROS AL-RAI | LEADER, MARONITE CHURCH, LEBANON

SHORT TAKES

Typhoon wreaks havoc in Japan

Tokyo: The second powerful typhoon to slam Japan in a week unleashed fierce winds and rain on southern islands on Sunday, blowing off rooftops and leaving homes without power as it edged northward into an area vulnerable to flooding and mudslides. Weather officials warned that the rainfall from what could be a record storm would be fierce. Warnings were issued days in advance for people to be ready to take shelter and stock up on food and water.

Silvio responding to virus drugs

Rome: Former Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi is responding "optimally" to COVID-19 treatment but is the most vulnerable type of patient and is in "the most delicate phase" of the virus, his personal doctor said Sunday. Dr Alberto Zangrillo repeated Sunday that he nevertheless remained "cautiously optimistic" about Berlusconi's recovery. The three-time premier turns 84 in a few weeks and has had a history of heart problems that required being fitted with a pacemaker several years ago.

'Gossiping worse than COVID-19'

Vatican City: Pope Francis said Sunday that gossiping is a "plague worse than COVID" that is seeking to divide the Catholic Church. Francis strayed from his prepared text to double down on his frequent complaint about gossiping within church communities and even within the Vatican bureaucracy. Francis didn't give specifics during his weekly blessing, but went on at some length to say the devil is the "biggest gossip" who is seeking to divide the church with his lies.

B'desh death toll rises to 24

Dhaka: The death toll from an explosion of AC in a mosque on the outskirts of Bangladesh's capital Dhaka rose to 24, with three more victims succumbing to their injuries Sunday, doctors said. Another 13 people are battling for their lives at the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, doctors at the hospital said. A gas leak in an underground pipeline caused six ACs to explode almost simultaneously during Friday evening prayers at the Baitul Salat mosque in the central district of Narayanganj.

NAVALNY POISONING PROBE

Germany ups pressure on Russia

Navalny, a Kremlin critic and corruption investigator, fell ill on a flight to Moscow last month and was taken to a hospital in the Siberian city of Omsk

AGENCIES

Berlin, Sept 6: Germany Sunday increased pressure on Russia over the poisoning of Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny, warning that a lack of support by Moscow in the investigation could "force" Germany to rethink the fate of a German-Russian gas pipeline project.

"I hope the Russians won't force us to change our position regarding the Nord Stream 2" pipeline being built under the Baltic Sea, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told weekly Bild am Sonntag. Maas also said that "if there won't be an contributions from the Russian side regarding the investigation in the coming days, we will have to consult with our partners."

He did not exclude possible pun-



ishments against Russia, telling the newspaper that "if we think about sanctions, they should be pinpointed effectively."

However, Maas also admitted that halting the building of the nearly completed gas pipeline would harm German and European companies.

"Whoever demands this has to be aware of the consequences," he said. "More than 100 companies from 12 European countries are involved (in the construction), about half of them from Germany."

The German government has come under growing pressure to use the joint German-Russian pipeline project as leverage in getting Russia to provide answers on Navalny.

The Nord Stream 2 project would deliver Russian gas directly to Germany under the Baltic Sea when completed, bypassing Ukraine.

Navalny, a Kremlin critic and corruption investigator, fell ill on a flight to Moscow last month and was taken to a hospital in the Siberian city of Omsk.

He has been in an induced coma in a Berlin hospital since he was flown to Germany for treatment August 22.

German authorities have said that tests showed that he had been poisoned with a chemical nerve agent from the Novichok group.

British authorities previously identified the nerve agent, developed during the Soviet era, as the poison used on former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in England in 2018.

"We have high expectations from the Russians to bring light into this severe crime," Maas said.

"If they have nothing to do with this attack then it's in their own interest to put the facts on the table," President Vladimir Putin's spokesman has brushed off allegations that the Kremlin was involved in poisoning Navalny and said last week that Germany hadn't provided Moscow with any evidence about the politician's condition.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel called Navalny's poisoning an attempted murder that aimed to silence one of Putin's fiercest critics and called for a full investigation.

1 killed, 7 injured in Birmingham stabbings



AGENCIES

London, Sept 6: UK police said a murder inquiry has been launched Sunday after one man was killed and seven people injured in multiple stabbings overnight in Birmingham. According to reports, West Midlands Police believe the victims were picked at random and do not believe the incident was terror or gang related. While a man and a woman are battling serious injuries, the injuries of five others are not thought to be life-threatening, the force said.

A hunt has been initiated for a male suspect, who is believed to have gone on a stabbing spree, starting at Constitution Hill in Birmingham. "The events during the early hours of this morning are tragic, shocking and understandably frightening," said Chief

Superintendent Steve Graham, responsible for policing in Birmingham.

"Please be assured that we are doing absolutely everything we can to find whoever was responsible and try to understand what exactly happened. We have well-rehearsed plans for dealing with major incidents," he said, calling on the public to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious.

The force is also calling for anyone with CCTV or mobile footage to contact the police. The police believe the incidents, which took place between 12:30 am and 2:20 am local time, are linked and are following a number of lines of enquiry. An increased uniformed and armed response has been put in place across the city.

The events during the early hours of this morning are tragic, shocking and understandably frightening

STEVE GRAHAM | CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

800 mourn death of 5 kids allegedly killed by mom

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, Sept 6: More than 800 people came together for a memorial for the five children who were allegedly killed by their mother at their home in the western city of Solingen, the German news agency dpa reported Sunday.

Neighbours, friends and others mourning the deaths of the five young children lit candles Saturday night in front of the building where they had lived. They brought flowers, toys and balloons with the names of the dead children them: Melina, Leonie, Sophie, Timo and Luca, dpa reported.



"It's hard to mourn on your own, to express your sadness," Hans-Peter Harbecke, a neighbourhood organiser, told public broadcaster WDR. "It's easier when you're together, it's more intensive as a community."

Prosecutors have charged the 27-year-old mother of the five children, who were found dead at their home on Thursday, with murder. The killings have caused widespread shock in Germany.

DELAYED ELECTION

Hong Kong police arrest 90 at protests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hong Kong, Sept 6: At least 90 people were arrested Sunday at protests against the government's decision to postpone elections for Hong Kong's legislature, police and a news report said.

The elections were to have taken place Sunday but Chief Executive Carrie Lam July 31 postponed them for one year. Lam blamed an upsurge in coronavirus cases, but critics said her government worried the opposition would gain seats if voting went ahead on schedule.

Anti-government protests have been held in Hong Kong almost every weekend since June 2019.

They erupted over a proposed extradition law and spread to include demands for greater democracy and criticism of Beijing's efforts to tighten control over the former British colony.

On Sunday, one woman was ar-

rested in the Kowloon district of Yau Ma Tei on charges of assault and spreading pro-independence slogans, the police department said on its Facebook page.

It said such slogans are illegal under the newly enacted National Security Act.

The ruling Communist Party's decision to impose the law in May prompted complaints it was violating the autonomy promised to the territory when it was returned to China in 1997.

Washington withdrew trading privileges granted to Hong Kong and other governments' suspended extradition and other agreements on the grounds that the territory of 7 million people is no longer autonomous.

Also Sunday, police fired pepper balls at protesters in Kowloon's Mong Kok neighborhood, the South China Morning Post newspaper reported.



PARTYING TOGETHER



Birds forage at the beach in Kuwait City, Kuwait, Sunday

REUTERS

WikiLeaks' Assange to fight US extradition bid in UK court

AGENCIES

London, Sept 6: WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is set to fight for his freedom in a British court after a decade of legal drama, as he challenges American authorities' attempt to extradite him on spying charges over the site's publication of secret US Military documents.

Lawyers for Assange and the US Government are scheduled to face off in London Monday at an extradition hearing that was delayed

by the coronavirus pandemic.

American prosecutors have indicted the 49-year-old Australian on 18 espionage and computer misuse charges adding up to a maximum sentence of 175 years. His lawyers say the prosecution is a politically motivated abuse of power that will stifle press freedom and put journalists at risk.

Assange attorney Jennifer Robinson said the case "is fundamentally about basic human rights and freedom of speech."

"Journalists and whistle-blowers who reveal illegal activity by companies or governments and war crimes - such as the publications Julian has been charged for - should be protected from prosecution," she said. American prosecutors say Assange is a criminal, not a free-speech hero.

They allege that Assange conspired with US Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to hack into a Pentagon computer and release thousands of secret military files.

nCoV turns summer into European tourism's leanest season

Six months later, as Europe's meanest tourist summer season in history is starting to draw to a close, COVID-19 is yet to loosen its suffocating grip on the continent

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bruges (Belgium), Sept 6: Bruges mayor Dirk De fauw first realised something was desperately wrong with European tourism when on a brisk March morning he crossed the Burg square in front of the Gothic city hall and there was nothing but silence. "There are always people. Always," De fauw said. That morning? "Nothing. Nobody is on that large square" at the heart of one of Europe's most picturesque cities, he said.

Six months later, as Europe's meanest tourist summer season in history is starting to draw to a close, COVID-19 is yet to loosen its suffocating grip on the continent.

If anything the pandemic might

tighten it over the coming months, with losses piling up in the tens of billions of euros across the 27-nation European Union, and the continent's vaunted government support and social security system under increasing strain to prop up the sector.

The upheaval so far, the bloc's executive European Commission said, shows that "revenue losses during the first half of 2020 for hotels, restaurants, tour operators, long distance train operators and airlines were roughly 85-90%."

No country has been exempt in an area spanning from Greece's beaches to the trattorias in Rome and the museums of Paris.

And even now, the European Commission told The Associated



Press, "bookings for September and October remain abnormally low," as dire as 10% of capacity in Bruges. It dents hopes that a brief uptick in business in July would be a harbinger of some-

thing more permanent.

Over the summer, though, came fresh spikes in COVID-19 contamination, new restrictive measures and regional color codes that spelled disaster for local tourism

when they turn red.

It left the European tourism industry relying on hope more than anything else. It was all evident on a late summer's day in Bruges, when usually throngs of American and Asian tourists should have been mixing with Europeans along the cobblestone streets below gabled houses to help boost the annual visit numbers to over 8 million in the city of 110,000.

"The swans have it all to themselves," muttered Michiel Michielsens as he slowed his boat behind a bank of swans who gracefully obstructed a quick passage on the canals. On a normal day - not like the one when he had 114 customers instead of 1,200 - tourists instead of birds would rule the wa-

ters. Now a boat could be seen showing a single couple around while normally 40 people fit in one.

For tourists who can live with wearing masks for hours, there are some advantages. In Bruges, it extends to the city's famed museums where the medieval Flemish Primitives take centrestage.

Instead of craning over other tourists flashing smartphones, any visitor could now be alone for minutes on end to study in detail one of Jan Van Eyck's most famous pictures "Our Lady with the Child Jesus, St George, St. Donas and canon van der Paele." All this is bitter-sweet to museum officials though. Across Europe, just about all have had to close for months early this year, and the outlook is bleak.

of the day quote

We will witness the recovery of the market in India as well. Maruti Suzuki, Suzuki Motor Gujarat and Suzuki Motorcycle India, will make best efforts to recover the production and sales to the normal level that was before the pandemic

OSAMU SUZUKI | CHAIRMAN, SUZUKI MOTOR CORPORATION



India's auto sector retail off-take might gather steam by October, as festive season along with restoration of supply chains augment demand

VINKESH GULATI | PRESIDENT, FADA



NotOnMart in essence is a small scale community-led initiative that aims to scale up the coordination of micro-sized businesses. Our work will focus around identifying agriculturists and craftsmen from various rural parts of India

KUMAR ANUBHAV | FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, NOTONMAP



SHORT TAKES

Amul's big investments

New Delhi: GCMMF, which markets dairy products under the Amul brand, will invest around Rs 1,000 crore over the next two years to set up milk processing plants, and another Rs 500 crore on facilities for new products like edible oil, its MD R S Sodhi said. In an interview with PTI, Sodhi said the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF) expects 12-15 per cent growth in revenue in current fiscal year from Rs 38,550 crore during the last fiscal year despite COVID-19 pandemic, as demand for branded food products has increased.

Airtel's new plans

New Delhi: Telecom operator Bharti Airtel on Sunday launched 'unlimited' category broadband plans starting at Rs 499 per month which will come bundled with subscription to video entertainment apps and high definition set-top box (STB) against refundable deposit. Airtel has enhanced high speed data usage limit (fair usage policy) by up to 23 times in the revised plans to 3,500 gigabytes.

ITC gets new CFO

New Delhi: FMCG-to-hospitality major ITC has appointed Supratim Dutta as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO). The appointment comes into effect from September 5, the company said in a regulatory filing. "Supratim Dutta has been appointed as the Chief Financial Officer of the Company with effect from 5th September, 2020, in place of R. Tandon," the filing said on Saturday evening. Dutta, joined ITC November 1, 1990, soon after qualifying as a Chartered Accountant and Cost Accountant.

New rules for Metro cards

Bangalore: Bangalore Metro rail has made it compulsory for passengers to use their recharged smart cards loaded with money at least one in the initial seven days or the amount will relapse, an official said Sunday. However, after meeting the requirement of using at least once in the first seven days, the recharged money will be saved for a period of 10 years to be used anytime. In the old system, passengers were allowed to use their smart cards within a span of 60 days after topping it up online.



There is opportunity in adversity. Many companies in China are relocating or putting plants in other countries to cover geopolitical risk. We should bring those investments to India or tie up with them to produce in India

KENICHI AYUKAWA | PRESIDENT, SIAM

T-SERIES SERVES LEGAL NOTICE

Music company T-Series has issued notices to many social video platforms, including Bolo Indya, Mitron, MX Player's Takatak, Triller and Josh, for copyright violations and warned them against using the work of the company on their platforms in any form



'More than ₹10L cr loans may avail restructuring benefit'

THE FM LAST WEEK ASKED BANKS AND NBFCs TO ROLL OUT ONE-TIME LOAN RESTRUCTURING SCHEME FOR COVID-19 RELATED STRESS BY SEPTEMBER 15

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: Banks may restructure loans of more than Rs 10 lakh crore largely attributed to 5-6 critical sectors, including aviation, commercial real estate and hospitality that have been severely hit by the COVID-19 outbreak, according to bankers.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last week asked banks and NBFCs to roll out one-time loan restructuring scheme for COVID-19 related stress by September 15.

According to a top official of a public sector bank, it is win-win for both lenders and borrowers.

Explaining the rationale, the banker said, corporates will try to save their business from turning non-performing asset (NPA) and buy crucial time for getting cash flow back for servicing the debt.

Secondly, banks have to make only 10 per cent provision against restructured account as compared to 15 per cent if the same account turns into NPA, the official said, adding that the lure of 5 per cent conservation of capital will also push banks for recast.

Given the benefit, the official said, it is estimated that 12-15 per cent of total loan book would avail one-time restructuring. Micro, small



and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are already covered under the on-

going restructuring scheme which was tweaked recently to cover those impacted by COVID-19 crisis.

It is to be noted that a total Rs 100 lakh crore worth of loan is outstanding in the banking system.

Another banking official said that nearly half of the 30% of the total loan book which sought moratorium, that ended August 31, may avail restructuring.

Companies in about half-a-dozen vulnerable sectors - hospitality, aviation, entertainment, commercial real estate and travel & tourism - whose businesses have been impacted severely due to the COVID-19 crisis will make a beeline for the

scheme. KV Kamath committee report is expected to give financial parameters like hair cut, debt service coverage ratio, debt-equity ratio post-resolution and interest coverage ratio for recasting corporate loans for over half a dozen vulnerable sectors, the official added.

Last month, Punjab National Bank managing director S S Mallikarjuna Rao said about 5-6% of loan book would go for restructuring as per RBI-approved guidelines.

"This 5-6% comes to about Rs 40,000 crore. Major composition of this, of about 50%, would be corporate books," he had said.

Echoing similar views, Resurgent

India managing director Jyoti Prakash Gadia said about 5% of the loan book would go for restructuring on the conservative side.

With tighter debt recast norms announced by the RBI, the likely restructuring by banks will be around 5-8% of their overall loan book, said a report by rating agency ICRA.

The RBI last month permitted one-time restructuring of both corporate and retail loans without getting classified as a non-performing asset (NPA). Restructuring benefit can be availed by those whose account was standard on March 1 and defaults should not be over 30 days.

SBI plans VRS scheme for 30,000 employees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: In a bid to optimise its costs, the State Bank of India (SBI) has planned a voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) under which about 30,190 employees are eligible. The total employee strength of country's largest lender stood at 249,000 at the end of March 2020 as compared to 257,000 a year ago.

According to sources, a draft scheme for VRS has been prepared and board approval is awaited. The proposed scheme - 'Second Innings Tap VRS-2020' - is aimed at optimising human resources and costs of the bank.

Besides, the draft scheme, seen by PTI, said it will provide an option and a respectable exit route to employees who have reached a level of saturation in their career; may not be at the peak of their performance, have some personal issue or want to pursue their professional or personal life outside the bank.

The scheme will be opened to all permanent officers and staff who have put in 25 years of service or have completed 55 years of age on the cut-off date.

The scheme will open December 1 and will remain open till the end of February, it said, adding that applications for VRS will be accepted during this period only.

As per the proposed eligibility criteria, a total of 11,565 officers and 18,625 staff members will be eligi-



According to sources, a draft scheme for VRS has been prepared and board approval is awaited. The proposed scheme 'Second Innings Tap VRS-2020', is aimed at optimising human resources and costs of the bank

ble for the scheme.

The total net savings for the bank would be Rs 1,662.86 crore if 30 per cent of eligible employees opt for retirement under the scheme, as per estimates based on July 2020 salary, it said.

"The staff member whose request for retirement under VRS is accepted will be paid an ex-gratia amounting 50 per cent of salary for the residual period of service (up to the date of superannuation), subject to a maximum of 18 months' last drawn salary," it said.

Other benefits like gratuity, pension, provident and medical bene-

fits will be given to employees seeking VRS.

A staff member retired under the scheme will be eligible for engagement or re-employment in the bank after a cooling-off period of two years from the date of retirement.

Ahead of amalgamation of SBI's five associates with it in 2017, the merging subsidiaries had announced VRS for their employees.

In 2001 also the bank had announced VRS with the objective to optimise human resources. However, the proposed VRS scheme is not finding favour with bank unions.

Recovery of rural economy a relief to tyre industry: MRF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Sept 6: The onset of a normal monsoon has boosted the expectation of crop output and it augurs well for the rural economy as it would lead to a spurt in demand for two-wheelers and tractors, MRF Ltd chairman K M Mammen has said.

"The crop output will strengthen rural income and demand. A recovery in the rural economy will be a relief to the tyre industry," he said.

With the automobile industry seeing an unprecedented low in demand for four and two-wheelers, the segment moved to adopt BSVI norms and vehicles were slowly getting absorbed into the market, he said.

"We are expecting a fair growth in demand for vehicles and I am sure the automobile industry will come out of the slump with reasonable growth in the near future," he said while addressing the shareholders.

On the group financials, he said, MRF Ltd registered a total income of Rs 16,322 crore for year ending March 31, 2020.

"MRF is focused on strengthening its position through this period of uncertainty with uncompromising emphasis on quality, as it has been one of the major factors helping us take a leadership position," he said.

On the impact of COVID-19, he said no country was free from the pandemic, and economic crisis has aggravated the world community's hardship.

Tata-backed Repos Energy registers 150 startups

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 6: Pune-based energy distribution company Repos Energy has registered over 150 fuel startups in less than a month. These startups would carry on door-to-door delivery of diesel through mobile petrol pumps.

"With the goal to reboot the economy and making India Atmanirbhar, Repos Energy has been working extensively to create a startup ecosystem of its own in the energy sector," a company statement said.

As per the co-founders Chetan Walunj and Aditi Bhosale Walunj empowering startups through the dynamic model of doorstep diesel delivery through mobile petrol pumps will change the game of fuel distribution in India.

"According to industry experts, this move is expected to garner around Rs 9,000 crore of investment," the statement said.

Repos Energy will call them 'fuel startups', and will provide them with the entire support system. Repos will provide these new startups with end-to-end solutions for buying the mobile petrol pumps along with sharing the know-how.

"These fuel startups will be registered with us and featured on our app. We will also provide them with the necessary infrastructure. This will include a back-end team



These fuel startups will be registered with us and featured on our app. We will also provide them with the necessary infrastructure

CHETAN WALUNJ | CO-FOUNDER, REPOS ENERGY

to build their entire brand identity. We will make sure that they become successful startups," Chetan Walunj said. Aditi Bhosale Walunj said: "We have built an entire ecosystem of fuel distribution that consists of IoT and AI-driven Repos Mobile Petrol Pumps (RMPP). These RMPPs are being designed at our IoT facility in Chakan, Pune, and comply with PESO norms."

Some of the fuel startups which have registered with Repos are, Easy Diesel from Pune, Nuvera Energy from Mumbai, Auro Fuels from Bengaluru, AMA Fuels from Kolkata, Echological Fuels from Guwahati, Future Fuel Services from Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh.

Government extends support to artisans

New Delhi: The government has expanded the support to artisans involved in agarbatti making as part of a programme aimed at making India self-reliant in the production incense sticks, an official release said Sunday. The MSME Ministry had recently approved the 'Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission' towards creating employment for the unemployed and migrant workers in different parts of the country, hand-holding artisans and supporting the local agarbatti industry.

"Further to its launching the support programme July 30, 2020, the Ministry has looked at all aspects of the industry, beyond just supply of machines for making agarbatti.

AGARBATTI PRODUCTION

Renault India posts 41% growth in August

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: With sales of 8,060 units in August 2020, Renault India recorded a growth of 41% over the same period last year. Talking about the key actions that have helped Renault's growth strategy, Thomas Dubrue, VP, Sales & Marketing, Renault India commented, "We are seeing a strong demand for TRIBER, good response to the newly launched versions in the KWID range and an encouraging response to the recently introduced



Petrol Turbo 1.3 MT and CVT versions in the Duster.

We have also expanded our dealership reach by adding 17 new sales and service touchpoints across the country recently to grow the brand among existing and emerging markets. With the inauguration of the new dealerships, Renault's network has expanded to more than 390 sales and 470+ service touchpoints in India."

TRIBER completed 1 year in August 2020, and is seeing a great response to both the manual and newly launched AMT versions, which makes the range even more appealing.

MEDIMIX LAUNCHES AYURVEDIC HAND WASH AND SANITISERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Ayurvedic skin care brand Medimix introduced their new range of Ayurvedic Hand Wash and Hand Sanitisers. The range of Hand Wash provides 99.9% germ protection through natural ingredients.

The Medimix hand wash and hand sanitizers range uses innovative combinations of natural ingredients like Lemon, Tulsi, Aloe Vera, Neem and Turmeric to create invigorating blends that provide 99.9% germ protection and also ensures that they are gentle and soft



on the skin, leaving the hand smelling fresh, soft and clean.

The new Medimix Ayurvedic Hand Wash includes three vari-

ants Nature Fresh, Nature Soft and Nature Care. They are priced at Rs. 85 for 190 ml, Rs. 90 for 175 ml pack of two refills and Rs.110 for 750 ml mega pack.

The new Medimix Ayurveda Hand Sanitizer includes two variants: Neem, Tulsi, Aloe Vera and Lemon, Tulsi, Aloe Vera. They are priced at Rs. 50 for 100 ml, Rs. 100 for 200 ml, Rs. 250 for 500 ml and Rs 2500 for 5 litres. In line with recommendations from the World Health Organization, it helps in reducing the spread of the virus by killing 99.9% of germs and bacteria without water.

Below 20% plan to travel during festive season: Survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 6: The much-awaited festive season is unlikely to bring any cheers to the travel industry, including the airline sector, as less than 20% of people polled plan to travel during October-November amid the pandemic, a survey said.

The festive season in India falls between October and November every year during which festivals such as Dussehra, Durga Puja and Diwali are celebrated. Moreover, the majority of those having travel plans said that they do not want to make their booking till they get closer to their travel date, according to the survey conducted by on-line platform LocalCircles.

The survey was conducted to get citizen pulse on how people in India are planning to travel in the up-



THE COVID FACTOR

The festive season in India falls between October and November every year during which festivals such as Durga Puja and Diwali are celebrated

The survey was conducted to get citizen pulse on how people in India are planning to travel in the upcoming festive season

According to the health ministry data, the total COVID-19 cases mounted to 41,13,811, while the death toll climbed to 70,626

coming festive season, given the current situation with COVID-19. The survey received over 25,000 responses from people located in 239

districts of India, according to the online platform.

According to the health ministry data, the total coronavirus cases

mounted to 41,13,811, while the death toll climbed to 70,626.

"Only 19% citizens (respondents of the survey) say they will un-

dertake festive travel this year due to COVID-19. Of those who plan to travel, only 23% say they will travel by a flight and another 38 per cent plan to travel by car or a cab," LocalCircles survey revealed.

In the first question, citizens were asked about the kind of travel they plan to undertake in the upcoming festive season, that is between October-December; it said adding, "as many as 69% respondents said that they will not be travelling this year and would stay at home."

Three per cent of the respondents said they will travel to a holiday destination, while 13% said they will visit family and friends, and while another 3% said they will do both, as per the survey. However, 12% respondents were unsure about what they would do, it said.

According to LocalCircles August

and September each year are the travel booking months for citizens in India with Durga Puja, Dussehra, Diwali and Chhath festival all typically falling in October-November.

People in many parts of India plan their travel back home or vacations during this time, it said adding, this year, however, looks drastically different due to the fast spreading COVID-19 pandemic, lockdowns, unlocks and just a lot of caution amongst people, it said.

Though India opened domestic air and train travel in June the daily caseload has grown by 10 times during this period, the survey said.

The Unlock 4.0 came into effect September 1 with quarantine restrictions now removed by most states, many continue to be cautious and unwilling to travel, it added.

SHORT TAKES

Punia discharged

New Delhi: World Championships silver medalist wrestler Deepak Punia (86kg), who tested positive for COVID-19 upon his arrival at the national camp, has been discharged from hospital. He has been advised home isolation. Two others had also tested positive with him. They are Navin (65kg) and Krishan (125kg). All three are part of a national camp at the SAI Centre in Sonapat ahead of which the wrestlers are in quarantine. "Wrestler Deepak Punia tested COVID-19 positive upon arrival at the national camp in Sonapat and was in hospital. Now he's been advised home quarantine by doctors. He is stable and asymptomatic," SAI said in a tweet. With his silver at the Worlds, Punia had secured a place for himself at the Tokyo Olympics.

Best-ever show

Flumserberg (Switzerland): Indian golfer Tvesa Malik finished an impressive tied-fourth at the Flumserberg Ladies Open at the Gams-Werdenberg Golf Club here, to record her career-best result in an international pro event. The 24-year-old Tvesa's previous best was tied-sixth at the Hero Women's Indian Open in 2019. She shot a final round of two-under 70 to finish on an impressive note. The event was won by Findaln's Sanna Nuutinen who beat overnight leader Stina Resen in a play-off after the pair was tied at 12-under par. The other Indian in the event, Diksha Dagar shot 77 in the final round to finish tied-47th. Tvesa had rounds of 69-69 on the first two days.

New signing

New Delhi: Jamshedpur FC continued their string of recruitment under Owen Coyle. They announced Sunday the signing of defender Peter Hartley from England for the upcoming edition of the Indian Super League (ISL). The robust defender comes at the back of a highly successful season with Motherwell FC in the Scottish Premiership where he captained them to a third place finish. Thus Motherwell FC qualified for the first time for the Europa League. Hartley has played 418 matches in his stellar career since his senior team debut in 2007. "I'm honoured to be given an opportunity to sign for Jamshedpur, a club with ambition to win," Hartley said in a release.

Bowler suspended

London: Australian-born English first-class cricketer Mitch Claydon has been suspended by his county side Sussex for allegedly applying hand sanitiser on the ball. The 37-year-old right-arm medium pacer has been accused of doing so in the game against Middlesex last month in which he took three wickets. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has opened an investigation into the case. "Mitch Claydon is suspended pending the outcome of an ECB allegation of placing hand sanitiser on the ball in our match against Middlesex. There will be no further comment at this stage," Sussex said in a statement on their website.

AITA elections

New Delhi: The All India Tennis Association (AITA) elected Sunday BJP Rajya Sabha member Anil Jain as its new president while Anil Dhupar was chosen as secretary-general during the national federation's AGM here. India's Davis Cup non-playing captain Rohit Rajpal was elected as the treasurer for a four-year term till 2024. All the office-bearers as well as the new executive committee members were elected unopposed. Immediately after his election as AITA president, Jain announced setting up of a Centre of Excellence (CoE) at the Delhi Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA). He however, did not mention when the centre will start functioning. Dhupar, who is secretary of Madhya Pradesh Tennis Association (MPTA), has replaced Hironmoy Chatterjee who finished his four-year term.

WILLIAMS TRIUMPHS IN CLASH OF FORMER CHAMPIONS

Serena on song

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 6: In danger of her earliest exit at the US Open since her debut 22 years ago, Serena Williams turned things around and did so in style against Sloane Stephens here Saturday.

Serena emerged from the third-round matchup between two Americans who are past champions at Flushing Meadows. Serena has won six of her 23 Grand Slam titles at Flushing Meadows while Stephens won in 2017. However, the senior pro reigned supreme with a 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 win over Stephens.

Afterward, Serena's three-year-old daughter, Olympia,

who wore a mask waved at mom while sitting on her father's lap in a front-row seat. On her way to the locker room, Serena waved back. "I hope that she saw her mama fighting," Serena said after the match. Serena did it, as she so often does, with her best-in-the-game serve, hitting 12 aces at up to 122 mph

ter," said Stephens, now 1-6 against Serena, although they hadn't played each other since 2015. "Obviously she has one of the greatest serves in the game. It's really difficult to read and hit back." Serena collected 10 of the last 12 games by lifting her level, to be sure. But

it helped that Stephens went from playing nearly perfectly to missing more and more.

"In that first set, I don't think she (Stephens) made any errors, honestly. She was playing so clean. I said, 'I don't want to lose in straight sets' and willed myself on," said Serena, whose only career US Open loss before the fourth round came in the third against Irina Spirlea in 1998 at age 16.

There were some other players on hand to watch, including 15th-seeded Maria Sakkari, who sipped orange juice and ate lunch while on her player suite's balcony. Sakkari had a vested interest: She faces Williams for a berth in the quarterfinals.

Other women into the fourth round were No. 16 Elise Mertens, No. 20 Karolina Muchova and Tsvetana Pironkova, who defeated No. 18 Donna Vekic 6-4, 6-1.

From two-all in the second set, Serena finally made inroads. She saved a breakpoint, then broke for the first time when Stephens missed a forehand, part of a stretch in which Serena grabbed 12 of 15 points.

Mladenovic quarantined out

New York: The top-seeded women's doubles team was dropped from the US Open because one of the players, Kristina Mladenovic of France, was issued a quarantine notice by public health officials from the county where her tournament hotel is. Mladenovic was one of seven players placed under extra restrictions during the tournament after contact tracing determined she potentially could have been exposed to COVID-19 by Benoit Paire, the only entrant to test positive. The USTA announced Saturday that it was removing Mladenovic and her partner, Timea Babos of Hungary. It said it was 'obligated to adhere to government guidance'. Mladenovic had been allowed to compete until Saturday, playing two matches in singles — she lost in the second round after blowing a 6-1, 5-1 lead — and winning one in doubles.

PHYSICAL WORKOUTS DURING LOCKDOWN

Kohli fitter than ever before: Basu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: Basu Shanker, the man responsible for the fitness transformation of the national cricket team, feels India and RCB skipper Virat Kohli has returned from the long break an even fitter athlete after working on 'specific physical pointers' that needed attention. Kohli was stuck in Mumbai for five months due to the coronavirus-enforced lockdown.

However, Kohli ensured during the break that his supreme fitness level was not impacted and, in fact, it helped him skill-wise on his return to action even though he was 'scared' to hit the nets.

"He (Kohli) has come back in much better shape. He is at his best weight at the moment and his movement patterns are pretty much in sync with his best self in the past," former India trainer Basu, who is now the strength and conditioning coach of Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), told this agency Sunday from Dubai. "He has taken this break as an

Lockdown gave Virat Kohli the chance to work on certain fitness points which needed attention. He is now fitter than ever before

BASU SHANKER | PHYSICAL TRAINER

opportunity to work on all the pointers which needed attention from a physical point. I guess his motto to life is 'Bear the cross and wear the crown'," added Basu.

The physical trainer has worked extensively with Kohli, both at RCB and during his time with the Indian team. Basu said Kohli was able to work on things which an international cricketer finds it difficult to do in a packed calendar.

"He had the time to be very specific with his meal plans and running intervals at home. He did not have much of a choice during the lockdown. He invested on a treadmill and worked on his endurance which is otherwise not possible during a packed calendar," Basu informed.

Sterling strike saves 3 Lions



DECISIVE STRIKE: England forward Raheem Sterling celebrates after scoring from the spot against Iceland, Saturday

AGENCIES

Reykjavik, Sept 6: England's Raheem Sterling converted a 90th minute penalty to snatch a 1-0 win away to Iceland in their opening Nations League match here Saturday after the home side missed a spot-kick in added on time that would have salvaged a draw.

Sterling got the decisive goal from the spot, after a disappointingly drab game, when Sverrir Ingi Ingason was harshly ruled to have handled the England striker's shot which was also not on target.

Ingason, who had thrown his body at the close-range strike, was also sent off for the handball, leaving both teams reduced to 10 men after England full-back Kyle Walker picked up a second yellow card in the 70th minute.

But Iceland, who famously beat England at Euro 2016, had their opportunity to get a draw from the League A Group 2 match when Joe Gomez

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 6: Ending days of anxious wait, the BCCI released Sunday the schedule for the upcoming IPL, and in keeping with tradition, defending champions Mumbai Indians (MI) will take on runners-up Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the opener in Abu Dhabi, September 19.



The IPL has been moved out of India due to a surge in COVID-19 cases. The matches of the 13th edition of the IPL will be played in the three venues of Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah in the UAE.

After the tournament-opener at Abu Dhabi, this city will host its first game the next day when Delhi Capitals (DC) take on Kings XI Punjab (KXIP)

AGENCIES

Southampton, Sept 6: Jos Buttler (77 n o, 54b, 8x4, 2x6) led the charge from the front as England defeated Australia by six wickets to win the second T20I here Sunday. The hosts thus wrapped up the three-game series by building an unbeatable 2-0 lead.

Giving Buttler company was David Malan (42, 32b, 7x4) as England chased down the 158-run target with seven balls to spare. Left-arm spinner Ashton Agar (2/27) was the best bowler for the visitors.

Earlier Australia scored 157 for the loss of seven wickets here opting to bat winning the toss. They started disastrously losing David Warner (0) and Alex Carey (2) within the first two overs. They suffered another jolt when Steve Smith (10) was run out. However, Australia recovered through Aaron Finch (40, 33b, 3x4, 2x6).

Brief scores: Australia 157 for 5 (Aaron Finch 40, Marcus Stoinis 35) lost to England 158 for 4 in 18.5 overs (Jos Buttler 77 n o, Ashton Agar 2/27) by six wickets.

Austrian in search of 1st Grand Slam title

THIEM MUSIC FLOORS CILIC

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 6: Second seed Dominic Thiem staved off a spirited fightback from Marin Cilic to beat the former champion 6-2, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 here Saturday and reach the fourth round of the US Open tennis tournament.

Thiem had won both his previous meetings with the 31st seeded Croat and quickly stamped his authority in the evening's final match on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court with two service breaks in each of the first two sets.

"I think the quick start was more because of him," the Austrian said of Cilic, who was taken to five sets in his opener and four in the last round. "He had two very tough opening rounds, long matches. So probably he was looking for a quick finish," added Thiem.

Cilic regrouped in the third set, however, and once the former World No. 3 found his range the winners started to flow. Thiem, who has reached three Grand Slam finals without success, began to struggle with his second serve and Cilic broke for the first time in the match

to go up 4-2 and then forced a fourth set.

Thiem had to save five break-points during

the fourth set and converted his only opportunity

in the sixth game to nose ahead before sealing the match with a big first serve when Cilic's return found the net. "He (Cilic) was returning well and sets three and four he raised his level a lot," Thiem said in his on-court interview.

"I didn't really play worse these sets but he showed what he's capable of and that's why it was really tough... in these matches you need a little bit of luck, from time to

Bopanna, Denis in quarterfinals

New York: India veteran Rohan Bopanna and his Canadian partner Denis Shapovalov stunned sixth seeds Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies in a hard-fought three-setter to advance to the quarterfinals of the US Open men's doubles event here Saturday. The unseeded Indo-Canadian pair overcame a set deficit to beat the German duo 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in a second round encounter that lasted 107 minutes. Bopanna and Shapovalov will take on Dutch-Romanian combination of Jeal-Julien Rojer and Horia Tecau in the quarterfinals. Bopanna is the lone surviving Indian in the tournament after the exit of Sumit Nagal and Divij Sharan.

BCCI FINALLY ANNOUNCES FIXTURE FOR CASH-RICH TOURNAMENT

MI take on CSK in IPL-2020 opener

MATCH SCHEDULE	ALL TIMES IST	MATCH SCHEDULE	ALL TIMES IST
September 19: DC vs KXIP, Dubai (7.30pm)	MI vs CSK, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)	October 13: SRH vs CSK, Dubai (7.30pm)	DC vs RR, Dubai (7.30pm)
September 20: SRH vs RCB, Dubai (7.30pm)	RR vs CSK, Sharjah (7.30pm)	October 14: RCB vs KXIP, Sharjah (7.30)	MI vs KKR, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)
September 21: RR vs CSK, Sharjah (7.30pm)	KKR vs MI, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)	October 15: RR vs RCB, Dubai (3.30pm)	DC vs CSK, Sharjah (7.30pm)
September 22: KXIP vs RCB, Dubai (7.30pm)	CSK vs DC, Dubai (7.30pm)	October 16: SRH vs KKR, Abu Dhabi (3.30pm)	MI vs KXIP, Dubai (7.30pm)
September 23: RR vs KKR, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)	RR vs KXIP, Sharjah (7.30pm)	October 17: KXIP vs DC, Dubai (7.30pm)	CSK vs RR, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)
September 24: RCB vs MI, Dubai (7.30pm)	RCB vs RR, Dubai (7.30pm)	October 18: KKE vs RCB, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm).	RR vs SRH, Dubai (7.30pm)
September 25: DC vs SRH, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)	RR vs KKR, Dubai (7.30pm)	October 19: CSK vs MI, Sharjah (7.30pm)	KKR vs DC, Abu Dhabi (3.30pm IST)
September 26: RR vs KXIP, Sharjah (7.30pm)	RCB vs RR, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)	October 20: KXIP vs SRH, Dubai (7.30pm)	RCB vs CSK, Dubai (3.30pm)
September 27: RCB vs MI, Dubai (7.30pm)	MI vs SRH, Sharjah (3.30pm)	October 21: KKR vs MI, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)	KKR vs KXIP, Sharjah (7.30pm)
September 28: DC vs SRH, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)	KKR vs CSK, Dubai (7.30pm)	October 22: SRH vs DC, Dubai (7.30pm)	MI vs RCB, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)
September 29: RR vs KKR, Dubai (7.30pm)	MI vs RR, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)	October 23: CSK vs KKR, Dubai (7.30pm)	KXIP vs RR, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)
September 30: RR vs DC, Sharjah (7.30pm)	SRH vs RR, Dubai (7.30pm)	October 24: DC vs MI, Dubai (3.30pm)	RCB vs SRH, Sharjah (7.30pm)
October 1: KXIP vs MI, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)	CSK vs KKR, Dubai (7.30pm)	November 1: CSK vs KXIP, Abu Dhabi (3.30pm)	KKR vs RR, Dubai (7.30pm)
October 2: CSK vs SRH, Dubai (7.30pm)	MI vs DC, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)	November 2: DC vs RCB, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)	SRH vs MI, Sharjah (7.30pm)
October 3: RCB vs RR, Abu Dhabi (3.30PM)	RCB vs DC, Dubai (7.30pm)		
October 4: DC vs KKR, Sharjah (7.30pm)	MI vs RR, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)		
October 5: MI vs SRH, Sharjah (3.30pm)	KKR vs CSK, Dubai (7.30pm)		
October 6: KXIP vs CSK, Dubai (7.30pm)	RR vs RR, Dubai (7.30pm)		
October 7: RCB vs DC, Dubai (7.30pm)	MI vs RR, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)		
October 8: MI vs RR, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)	KKR vs CSK, Dubai (7.30pm)		
October 9: SRH vs RR, Dubai (3.30pm)	RR vs DC, Sharjah (7.30pm)		
October 10: KXIP vs KKR, Abu Dhabi (3.30pm)	CSK vs RCB, Dubai (7.30pm)		
October 11: SRH vs RR, Dubai (3.30pm)	MI vs DC, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)		
October 12: MI vs DC, Abu Dhabi (7.30pm)	RCB vs KKR, Sharjah (7.30pm)		

followed by the third match Monday between Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB). The action shifts September

22 to Sharjah when Rajasthan Royals (RR) will host CSK. In all, 24 matches will be played here, 20 in Abu Dhabi and 12 in

Sharjah. Venues for the play-offs and the IPL 2020 final will be announced later: The final is slated for November 10.

HAMILTON PENALISED FOR WRONG PIT STOP

Gasly stuns all, wins Italian GP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Monza, Sept 6: AlphaTauri driver Pierre Gasly claimed an unlikely victory at the Italian Grand Prix after a thrilling race which saw World Champion Lewis Hamilton given a 10-second penalty and both



Ferraris fail to finish at their home circuit Sunday.

It was Gasly's first-ever win in Formula One. The 24-year-old Frenchman finished 0.415 seconds ahead of McLaren driver Carlos Sainz

and 3.358 ahead of Racing Point's Lance Stroll on a surreal-looking podium. All the three drivers had never won a race and each had only one top-three finish to their name.

Hamilton appeared on course for a comfortable victory from pole position but he was given the stop-go penalty for entering the pit lane when closed. The Mercedes driver finished seventh, 17.245 seconds behind Gasly.

Ferrari's abysmal weekend continued as Sebastian Vettel had a brake failure on lap seven and he limped into the pits with his right-rear brake disc in flames. It was the four-time champion's first did not finish (DNF) at Monza in his 14th start. His teammate Charles Leclerc had made it into fourth but lost the rear of the car under acceleration through Parabolica on lap 25 and crashed into the barriers, causing the race to be red flagged.