



POONAM TIES THE KNOT

Actor Poonam Pandey recently tied the knot with boyfriend Sam Bombay

LEISURE P2



DRACONIAN LAW

More than half the arrests this year under NSA in UP have involved suspects in cases of cow slaughter

TWO STATES P7



DEADLIEST WILDFIRE

A Northern California wildfire has become the state's deadliest blaze of the year

INTERNATIONAL P10

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STATE TO BORROW ₹3,500 CR TO MEET GST SHORTFALL

BISWA BHUSHAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: At a time when nearly all non-BJP-ruled states are opposing the Centre's proposal on GST revenue shortfall, Odisha government has opted to borrow over ₹3,500 crore.

With a huge shortfall of revenue due to Covid-19 pandemic, the Centre has expressed its inability to provide GST compensation to the states this fiscal. The Centre has estimated compensation cess shortfall to be ₹2.35 lakh crore for FY21. According to the Union government, only ₹97,000 crore of this shortfall is on account of GST implementation, while the remaining is due to Covid-19.

To meet this shortfall, the Union Finance Ministry had given two options to the states instead of providing them with due compensation.

The first option was a special window to states, in consultation with the RBI, to borrow the projected GST shortfall of ₹97,000 crore for the entire nation. The amount will be repayable after five years of GST, ending June 2022, from the compensation cess fund. Besides, the Finance Commission will not treat the borrowing as debt burden of the concerned state and 0.5 per cent relaxation will be given to states in Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Had we not followed social distancing and other rules, situation could have been even worse!

2 more state ministers test Covid-19 positive

Bhubaneswar: Two Odisha ministers have tested positive for the novel coronavirus Friday. State Food and Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain and State Women and Child Development Minister Tukuni Sahu both made separate announcements in this connection on their respective social media accounts. Swain said that he was asymptomatic and urged the people who came into his contact to test themselves. The WCD minister, on the other hand, said that she would be in home isolation. She said, "I have tested Covid positive and am in home isolation and stable." Earlier, other ministers like Sushanta Singh, Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi and others have tested positive for the disease.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	38854.55 ↑ 14.23
NIFTY	11464.50 ↑ 15.20
DOLLAR	73.66 ↑ ₹0.09
EURO	87.43 ↑ ₹0.31
GOLD	₹51,615 ↓ ₹159
SILVER	₹68,440 ↓ ₹551

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
TEMP MAX	36.4°C 34.0°C
TEMP MIN	25.8°C 24.5°C
Humidity	85% 87%
Rainfall	Nil Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky

MAKING ENDS MEET

Odisha has decided to opt for the first option given by the Centre whereby the states can borrow the projected GST shortfall in consultation with the RBI

The first option will enable the state go for reduced borrowing for which the Centre will bear the interest and principal amount

If the state selects the second option, it would have to go for larger borrowing from the market



laxation will be given to states in Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act.

The second option says, the entire estimated GST compensation gap of ₹2.35 lakh crore for this fiscal will be met by the states by borrowing from the open market in consultation with RBI. In this case, the states will have to bear the interest amount, while the Centre would provide the principal amount after June 2022.

"The state government has de-

cided to go for option one as it will reduce the loan burden and the Centre will repay the loan amount along with the interest after June 2022," said an official of the state Finance department. The state has informed the Expenditure department of Centre about this decision, he said. With this move, the state government will borrow to cover the shortfall in compensation arising only due to the implementation of the GST, and not factoring in the im-

pect of Covid-19, the official said.

As per an estimation of the Finance department, the state will borrow around ₹3,500 crore this financial year to recoup the GST loss. The Centre will facilitate the borrowing with a fixed interest charge. Later (after June 2022), the Centre will repay the interest and then the principal amount from the compensation cess fund, he said.

With the first option, the state will go for reduced borrowing for which the Centre will bear the interest and principal amount. If the state selects the second option, it would have to go for larger borrowing from the market, the officials explained.

At the time of GST rollout in 2017, the Central government had assured the states of full compensation for any losses arising due to a transition to GST for a period of five years. The compensation would meet the shortfall in revenue to the states assuming a 14 per cent annual growth in GST revenues.

Many states, including Punjab, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Delhi and Pondicherry, have opposed the move and demanded that the Centre should borrow money to compensate states.

China sets up base at Finger 5, moves in more PLA troops

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 11: China has set up a military base near Finger 5, in the north bank of Pangong Lake, completely cutting off the Indian Army.

The north bank of the lake is divided into 8 Fingers (fingers are mountain spurs jutting into a lake in military parlance) that are contested by both sides.

India claims the Line of Actual Control at Finger 8 and had been holding on to area till Finger 4 but in a clear alteration of status quo, the Chinese have been camping at Finger 4 and have set up fortifications between Finger 5 and 8.

Two months ago, Indian intelligence agencies flagged that cranes, concrete mixture trucks, and other

building construction machineries were spotted near Finger 5. They had also flagged that China is making military barracks and offices. Sources said China has stationed hundreds of thousands of troops as well materials at these bases. They have placed tanks, artillery guns and other military armaments at Finger 5.

At Finger 8, troops from China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) have set up barracks and constructed underground tunnels. They have set up huge military infrastructure at Finger 8.

Till last year, there was no military infrastructure work carried out in these disputed areas and Indian Army troops used to carry out patrols. There have been regular face-offs between the two armies



between Finger 4 and Finger 8, a distance of eight kilometres, on the northern bank of the lake. Indian Army Spokesperson Colonel Aman Anand was unavailable for comments. Now, the Indian Army is unable to move ahead of Finger 4 as PLA troops have occupied some heights there.

As a precautionary measure, Indian troops have occupied some heights overlooking the positions occupied by the PLA. The movement of Indian Army troops beyond Finger 4 is completely cut off, sources said, owing to provocative Chinese military movements.

India and China are engaged in a four-month-long standoff at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. Despite several levels of dialogue, there hasn't been any breakthrough and the deadlock continues.

On June 15, as many as 20 Indian soldiers and an unknown number of Chinese troops were killed in a violent clash in the Galwan Valley.

Chinese aggression started increasing along the Line of Actual Control and more particularly in Galwan Valley since May 5. The Chinese side transgressed in the areas of Kugrang Nala, Gogra and north bank of Pangong lake May 17 and May 18.

₹300cr flood relief for farmers

THE CHIEF MINISTER ANNOUNCED AGRICULTURE INPUT SUBSIDY TO SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS WHO HAVE SUSTAINED CROP LOSS OF 33% AND ABOVE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday announced a special package of ₹300 crore for livelihood support for the farmers affected by recent floods.

A statement issued by Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said, agriculture input subsidy will be provided to the small and marginal farmers who have sustained crop loss of 33 per cent and above. The government will provide ₹6,800 per hectare in non-irrigated areas, while ₹13,500 per hectare will be provided in areas under assured irrigation and ₹18,000 per hectare for loss of all perennial crops including mango, cashew, coconut, kewra, betel vine etc. The assistance will be provided to the actual cultivators.

The government will distribute 20,000 pulse seed mini-kits to the flood-affected farmers during Rabi



2020. Similarly, demonstration programmes of different crops will be taken up on 60,000 acres in affected districts during the ensuing Rabi season.

The Chief Minister also announced distribution of 2,000 pump sets with 50 per cent subsidy (maximum of ₹15,000) and 5,000 power sprayers (maximum of ₹3,000) among the flood-hit farmers. Special assistance will be provided to the farmers with higher subsidy of around 75% on certified quality seeds, he said, adding farm mechanisations subsidy of ₹10 crore will be disbursed to the affected districts.

One lakh farmers will be provided with vegetable kits, while 75,000 farmers will be provided with quick growing fruit species like papaya, banana and drumstick.

Moreover, the short term Kharif loans advanced in the food-affected areas having crop loss of 33% and above will be converted into medium term (conversion) loans. The affected farmers will be provided fresh finance for Rabi cultivation this year.

Assistance for replacement of animals will be provided towards loss of animals. The farmers will get ₹30,000 for loss of one milch cow and buffalo, whereas ₹25,000 to be provided for death of draught animal, ₹16,000 per calf, ₹3,000 per goat, ₹50 per poultry bird.

Financial assistance of ₹12,200 per hectare will be provided to fish farmers for repair of damaged fish ponds/dykes. Besides, input subsidy of ₹8200 per hectare will be given for restoration of damaged fish seed farm.

Won't accept Varsha now or in future births: Anubhav

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 11: The marital discord between actor-turned-politician Anubhav Mohanty and his wife Varsha Priyadarshini is worsening with each passing day. The BJD MP Friday took to the Twitter to say that he and his family would never accept Varsha ever.



Anubhav and Varsha in happier times

Mohanty's revelation came in response to Varsha's tweet: "Law believe in evidence."

Lashing out at an activist for allegedly backstabbing him, the Kendrapara MP in a series of tweets wrote, "I and my mother had very clearly said that neither in this birth nor in any births we would accept someone who did her best to kill me as well as my parents. Madam Gitashree Das (so called HRC representative) is deeply connected with Varsha and her family (sic)"

Mohanty said that activist Gitashree Das, who had visited Anubhav's Choudhury Bazar residence Thursday to broker peace between the couple, was a close associate of Varsha.

Sources said soon after visiting Mohanty's residence, Das had told the media about her discussions with Varsha and that she would revisit the place at 11am Friday to discuss the issue with Mohanty.

Although Das reached the place on time, the BJD MP didn't. As soon as Das told the media about Mohanty's absence at the scheduled meeting, the Kendrapara MP took to the micro-blogging site to say that Das had backstabbed him.

Das, on the other hand, said that she was not expecting such response from Mohanty. "We're trying to broker peace between them. However, we're still hopeful," Das said.

Shoot-to-kill orders to prevent Covid-19

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, Sept 11: North Korean authorities have issued shoot-to-kill orders to prevent the coronavirus entering the country from China, according to the commander of US forces in the South.

The impoverished North – whose crumbling health system would struggle to cope with a major virus outbreak – has not confirmed

a single case of the disease that has swept the world since first emerging in China, the North's key ally.

Pyongyang closed its border with China in January to try to prevent contamination, and in July state media said it had raised its state of emergency to the maximum level.

US Forces Korea (USFK) commander Robert Abrams said that the border shutdown had increased demand for smuggled goods, prompting authorities to intervene.

The North introduced a new "buffer zone, one or two kilometers up on the



Chinese border," Abrams told an online conference organized by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington Thursday.

"They've got North Korean SOF (Special Operations Forces) out there. ... Strike forces, they've got shoot-to-kill orders in place."

The border closure had effectively "accelerated the effects" of economic sanctions imposed on the North over its nuclear programs, he added, with imports from China plunging 85 per cent.

The isolated country is also grappling with the aftermath of Typhoon Maysak, with its state media reporting more than 2,000 houses have been destroyed or inundated. As a result, Abrams did not expect to see any major provocations from Pyongyang in the near future.

2 things going to happen if I win Nov elections: Trump

NEXT WEEK, TRUMP WILL HOST DELEGATIONS FROM ISRAEL AND THE UAE FOR A SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE HISTORIC PEACE DEAL BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES THAT ESTABLISHES DIPLOMATIC TIES AMONG THEM

PRESS TRUST INDIA

Washington, Sept 11: US President Donald Trump has said that if he is re-elected in the November elections, Iran will ink a deal with him in the first month and Palestine will get back into the fold as he asserted that his second term will bring in lasting peace in the Middle East.

Next week, Trump will host delegations from Israel and the United Arab Emirates for a signing ceremony of the historic peace deal between the two countries that establishes diplomatic ties among them.

Encouraged by the Israel-UAE peace deal, countries in the region are lining up that want to go into it, he said.

"As you know, UAE is headed by a very, very highly respected gentleman and respected by everybody. And he's a warrior too. He's a great warrior. And Mohammed is very excited about this. And you'll be hearing other countries coming in over a relatively short period of time," he said.

"You could have peace in the Middle East. I think what, ultimately, will happen is you're going to have quite a few countries come



in. The big ones are going to be coming in. I spoke to the King of Saudi Arabia, so we're talking. We're

starting a -- we just started the dialogue. And you'll have them come in," he added.

Trump said that two things are going to happen if he wins the elections in November.

"If we win the election, Iran will come and sign a deal with us very, very rapidly, within the first week, but let's give ourselves a month -- because their GDP went down 25 per cent, which is, like, an unheard-of number, and they'd like to be able to get back to having a successful country again. So, I think, that'll happen," he said.

"And I think, very importantly, the Palestinians will get back into the fold. When they see all of these countries that, frankly, have been

supporters of the Palestinians -- very big supporters and, certainly, financial supporters," Trump said.

The US used to pay the Palestinians \$750 million a year, he said, adding that he ended that some time ago on the basis that they didn't seem to want to make peace. "We will think about it once we have a deal, but I've ended that quite a while ago. I'm frankly surprised they haven't been to the table earlier," he said.

"But this is the best way. This is a way that's going to be great. This can really bring the Middle East together," Trump said.



MAX EHRRICH BOARDS 'SOUTHERN GOSPEL' CAST

"The Young and the Restless" star Max Ehrich has joined the cast of musically-driven motion picture "Southern Gospel". According to *Deadline*, the movie tells the true story of rock 'n' roll star Samuel Allen who must overcome endless obstacles on his path to achieving his childhood dream.

ROBERT DE NIRO, JOHN MALKOVICH TO STAR IN 'WASH ME IN THE RIVER'

Veteran actors Robert De Niro and John Malkovich have teamed up for filmmaker Randall Emmett's second directorial "Wash Me in the River". The movie, which has a script from Adam Taylor Barker, will also star musician Machine Gun Kelly, reported *Deadline*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

A favourable day as any can be, says Ganesha. You are happy and content with what you have, and you've planned and are working towards what you want. A romantic date may prove interesting or throw up a controversy – decide where you want to take it.

TAURUS

There is every possibility that you will enjoy a good rapport with people around you, predicts Ganesha. You will think with your stomach today, craving for delicacies. Such a feeling might be because of repressed hunger.

GEMINI

Your highly competitive nature will push you to perform better and better. You don't even know what being second best means. Getting in touch with like-minded people will only make your resolve stronger. Your desire to be the best will make you take interest in everything that can help you improve.

CANCER

Your business acquaintances will come forward in the manner that may seem nothing short of some divine intervention. This means that they will virtually save your neck from the guillotine, predicts Ganesha. You will grow wiser in your spending ways, as you will know what to buy and what not to buy.

LEO

The travel bug inside you is itching to be let loose, but things are not so simple when it comes to finding new destinations, says Ganesha. With you, holidaying goes hand in hand with delays. So, although you might be excited at the prospect of going to new places, this excitement will be somewhat curtailed thanks to postponements of travel plans.

VIRGO

Motivation will remain high today, says Ganesha. Your talents and skills make you stand out as a superb artist. Words will glow if you let your creativity flow, and should you decide to dance or sing, you'll set the stage on fire today.

LIBRA

There are many kinds of worries that you must equip yourself to deal with. To do this, you may have to learn and follow the basic steps of problem-analysing techniques. The steps involve obtaining facts, analysing them and then arriving at a decision based upon your observations.

SCORPIO

You shall follow all things to the dot today. Your approach will be methodical and robotic. It is likely that you shall symbolise the saying, 'Actions speak louder than words'. Your powers of persuasion will help you amass the confidences of many, predicts Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Look before you leap, says Ganesha. Cupid has strung his bow and aimed an arrow at you. Love's labour will easily aid you to woo a young, tender heart. But don't be swept away by easy prospects and guard your reputation at all costs.

CAPRICORN

You will starve for some free time, but will find it difficult to steal even a minute from your busy schedule, even if it is for unwinding your overworked soul, says Ganesha. In times like these, one can hardly think straight, let alone be innovative. You will, however, work your way out by prioritising matters.

AQUARIUS

You have your head on your shoulders and feet on the ground. Congratulations! You've covered the first step to success. Step two, says Ganesha, involves an inquisitive mind and a questioning attitude. Later, you may resort to shortcuts and compromise a tad in quality.

PISCES

Your fount of creativity spouts everyday like there is no tomorrow. However, you need to be organised and in position to implement all those revolutionary ideas that occur to you in a jiffy, that lesser mortals take aeons to dream up. Your oratory will win you many admirers today, so let go of your inhibitions, says Ganesha.

Poonam Pandey gets married

Mumbai: Actress Poonam Pandey recently tied the knot with boyfriend Sam Bombay.

Poonam has shared a few pictures of her wedding day on Instagram. While she is dressed in traditional embroidered floral lehanga, Sam opted for a colour-coordinated sherwani.

"Here's looking forward to seven lifetimes with you," Poonam captioned the picture. Sam Bombay, too, posted a picture. "The beginning of forever," he wrote. The couple got engaged in July.

Poonam Pandey wore a dark blue lehenga with pink flowers weaved on it and completed the look with a pastel pin dupatta and bridal jewelry. On the other hand, her husband Sam complimented her in the same dark blue color sherwani.

On the professional front, Poonam Pandey made her Hindi film industry debut with the film *Nasha*. In the film, she played the role of a teacher who gets involved with a student. It was said that a sequel of the Amit Saxena directorial film will also be made.

Poonam is highly controversial, and has earned the name of 'Controversial Queen' in Mumbai.

She was also caught in a controversy during the 2011 World Cup. She had posted a semi-nude photo on social media saying that she was inspiring the Indian team with these photos.

AGENCIES



Aftab tests Covid +ve

Mumbai: Actor Aftab Shivdasani Friday revealed he has tested Covid-19 positive.

"Hello everyone, hope you all are fit and fine and are taking care of yourselves. Recently I started showing minor symptoms of a dry cough and mild fever and I got myself tested for Covid-19. Unfortunately the results came out positive and under the medical supervision of doctors and authorities, I have been advised to home quarantine," the actor

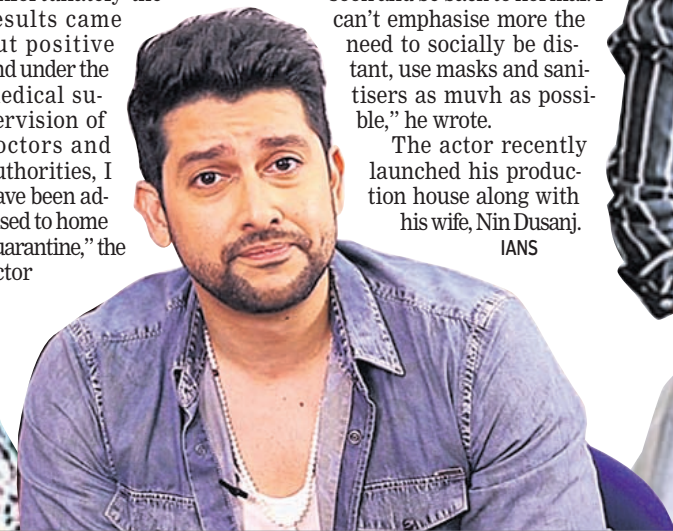
tweeted.

Aftab also requested that those who had come in his proximity in recent days should get themselves tested.

"I request all those who may have come in contact with me recently please get yourself tested just to be safe. With your support and good wishes, I will recover soon and be back to normal. I can't emphasise more the need to socially be distant, use masks and sanitisers as much as possible," he wrote.

The actor recently launched his production house along with his wife, Nin Dusanj.

ANS



UNICEF appoints Ayushmann as celebrity advocate

Mumbai: Hindi film industry actor Ayushmann Khurrana has been roped in by UNICEF India as a celebrity advocate who will work at ending violence against children.

Ayushmann will be promoting rights #ForEveryChild. He says he is concerned about all children who never get to experience a safe childhood.

"I am very pleased to partner with UNICEF as a celebrity advocate. I believe that everyone deserves the best start in life. As I watch my children play in the safety and happiness of our home, I think about all the children who never get to experience a safe childhood and grow up with violence at home or outside," Ayushmann said. Welcoming Ayushmann as a celebrity advocate for children's rights, Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque, UNICEF representative in India, said: "I am delighted to welcome Ayushmann Khurrana as a UNICEF celebrity advocate. He is an actor who challenges the boundary of every role he plays, and will bring sensitivity, passion and a powerful voice for every child. Ayushmann joins us to support efforts towards ending violence against children."

ANS

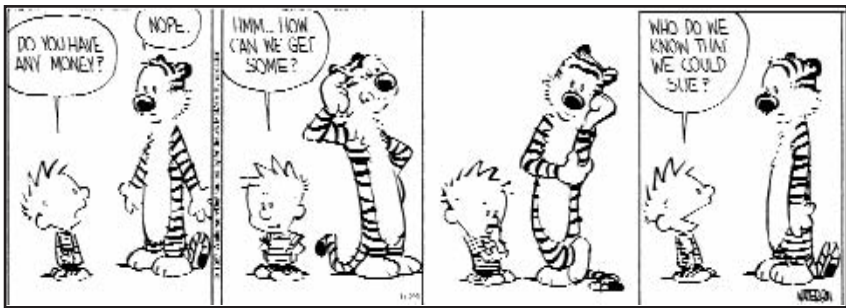


FUN post

PEANUTS



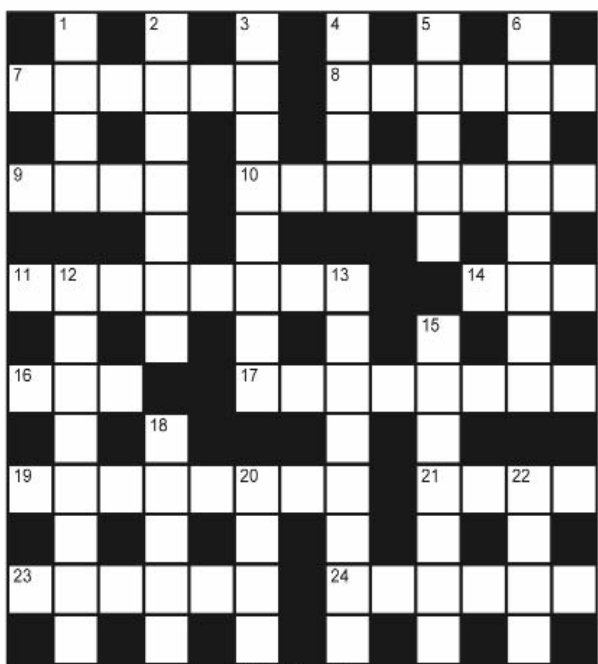
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



Across

- 7 Mountainous
- 8 Seating arrangements
- 9 It's the truth
- 10 Exercise type
- 11 Cézanne's forte
- 14 Luau serving
- 16 Quiz
- 17 Genius
- 19 Sword lily

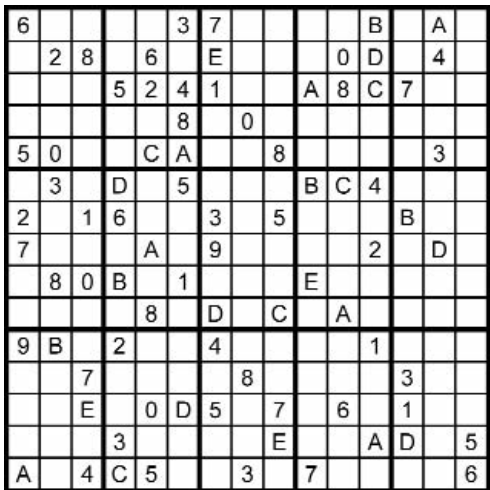
Down

- 1 Urgent request
- 2 Litter members
- 3 Inflict punishment
- 4 Identifying mark
- 21 Opposing
- 23 Coral reefs
- 24 Spanish capital

- 5 Meadow youngsters
- 6 Green vegetable
- 12 Complete
- 13 French policeman
- 15 Maroons
- 18 Befuddle
- 20 Brewer's kiln
- 22 Quick haircut

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

‘Leader’ tag for state in startup rankings

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 11: Odisha was placed in the category of ‘Leader’ along with three other states in the second edition of ranking of states 2019 on Support to Startup Ecosystems released by Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Railways Piyush Goyal Friday.

Odisha has been declared as ‘leader’ in the startup ranking along with Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Bihar. Chandigarh has also been ranked as a ‘leader’ in Category Y. Odisha has been recognised as leader in two reform areas that are institutional leaders and regulatory change champions.

Gujarat has again emerged as the best performer in developing startup ecosystem for budding entrepreneurs and Andaman and Nicobar Islands ranked best performer in Union Territories and north-eastern states. The top performers are Karnataka and Kerala.

In 2018 edition, Odisha was ranked among the top performers.

The second edition of the states’ startup ranking was conducted by the Department for Promotion of

PROMOTING BUSINESS



Gujarat has again emerged as the ‘Best Performer’ in developing startup ecosystem for budding entrepreneurs

The top performers are Karnataka and Kerala

The states’ Startup Ranking Framework 2019 has seven broad reform areas consisting of 30 action points ranging from institutional support, easing compliances, relaxation in public procurement norms, incubation support and others

Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) with the key objective to foster competitiveness and propel states and UTs to work proactively towards uplifting the startup ecosystem.

According to the ministry, the

states’ Startup Ranking Framework 2019 has seven broad reform areas consisting of 30 action points ranging from institutional support, easing compliances, relaxation in public procurement norms, incubation

support, seed funding support, venture funding support and awareness & outreach.

A total of 22 states and 3 UTs participated in the exercise. To establish uniformity and ensure standardisation in the ranking process, states and UTs were divided into two groups.

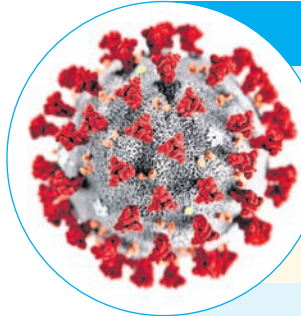
While UTs and all states in north-east except Assam are placed in Category Y, all other states and UT of Delhi are in Category X.

Evaluation committees comprising independent experts carried out a detailed assessment of responses across various parameters. Many parameters were involved in getting beneficiaries’ feedback through more than 60,000 calls made in 11 different languages to ascertain the situation at implementation levels.

For the purposes of ranking, states are classified into five categories: Best Performers, Top Performers, Leaders, Aspiring Leaders and Emerging Startup Ecosystems. Within each category, entities are placed alphabetically. States are also recognised as Leaders in 7 reform areas of support to startups.

SAFETY FIRST

Police personnel inspect compliance of COVID-19 norms at Bapuji Nagar in Bhubaneswar, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	2,84,33,284	2,04,32,051	9,15,345
India	45,62,730	35,42,569	76,322
Odisha	1,43,117	1,12,062	605

BJD issues whip to party’s MPs to attend RS biz Sept 14

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Friday issued a three-line whip to its Rajya Sabha members asking them to remain present in the House September 14, the first day of the monsoon session of Parliament.

The party issued the whip a day after Janata Dal (United) president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar rang BJD supremo and his Odisha counterpart Naveen Patnaik to extend support to NDA nominee Harivansh Narayan Singh for the Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman’s post.

Singh, a JD(U) MP, had filed nomination for the post Wednesday.

All the BJD members in Rajya Sabha are hereby informed that some very important Legislative Business will be taken up for discussion and passing in the Rajya Sabha September 14, 2020.

“All Members of Biju Janata Dal in Rajya Sabha are therefore requested to be positively present in the House throughout the day September

Election to the post of the Deputy Chairman of the Upper House is likely to be held Sept 14

14, 2020, (sic)” said BJD Chief Whip in Rajya Sabha Sasmit Patra.

The election to the post of the Deputy Chairman of the Upper House is likely to be held September 14. Though Nitish Kumar had requested Patnaik to support the NDA nominee, the BJD is yet to reveal its stand.

When asked about the party’s position, BJD MP Subhas Singh said that its president will take the final decision. The BJD had supported Harivansh Narayan Singh in the last election.

The election for the post was necessitated as the incumbent Harivansh Narayan Singh had completed his term as a member of the Rajya Sabha in April this year. He was sent to the Upper House again from Bihar.

In 2018, Singh had defeated Congress’s BK Hariprasad and was elected the deputy chairman.

Singh is likely to be elected to the post again as BJP floor managers are confident of securing the support of about 140 MPs, including the fence-sitters YSR Congress, TRS and BJD.

The strength of the BJP-led NDA has also gradually increased to more than 114 in the House with an effective strength of 244 members as there is one vacancy.

Floor managers of NDA are trying to build a consensus among all parties so that Singh could be elected unanimously.

The Congress has decided that the opposition will put up a joint candidate for the post and it will reach out to various parties in this regard. BJD has nine members in the Rajya Sabha of the 10 seats from Odisha, while the other one is held by the BJP.

BJP’s Ashwini Baishnab was elected to the Upper House with the support of the BJD in June last year.

SC notice to state over Ayushman Bharat

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 11: The Supreme Court, Friday, issued notice to Odisha and three other states in a petition regarding non-implementation of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) or Ayushman Bharat by these states.

A three-judge bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Sarad Arvind Bobde and comprising Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian heard the petition and issued notice to Odisha, West Bengal, Telangana and Delhi. The court would hear the matter September 28.

The petitioner urged the SC to declare the inaction of the state governments as illegal, unconstitutional and contrary to Article 14 and 21 of the Constitution. The petitioner submitted that people belonging to poor and middle class sections are not able to avail benefits of the scheme during COVID-19 period.

The petitioner also told the court that the Union government and

BJP bats for Central health scheme

Bhubaneswar: The state unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Friday reiterated its demand for implementation of the ambitious Ayushman Bharat scheme in the state. Former state BJP president and incumbent Lok Sabha MP from Kalahandi Basant Panda said that the scheme has been envisioned for the welfare of the people and must be implemented by the state government without delay. “With the intervention of the Supreme Court in the matter, we are quite hopeful that the state government would implement the scheme which can only help the poor during health emergencies,” he said. The scheme was launched in 2018 and envisioned covering the poor with health insurance cover upto ₹5 lakh.

National Health Authority should make a comprehensive policy in this regard.

Significantly, Odisha, West Bengal, Telangana and Delhi have not implemented the PMJAY-Ayushman Bharat scheme.



Children enjoy water sports at Puri beach as temperature soars, Friday

OP PHOTO

SHORT TAKES

HSC Supplementary exams from Sept 14

Bhubaneswar: The School and Mass Education department Friday said the Matric Supplementary exam or Supplementary High School Certificate (SHSC) and the State Open School Certificate examination (SOSC) will be held from September 14 to 24. The total of 22,649 candidates would appear for SHSC while 12,939 would write SOSC. The total number of centres for SHSC is 153 and 88 for SOSC. Similarly, there will be 13 evaluation centres for the Supplementary High School exam and seven for SOSC. All the centre superintendents of examination centres have been requested to strictly follow COVID-19 guidelines while conducting the above examinations. Collectors of all the districts have been requested to extend support for smooth conduct of the examinations.

State inks pact with NCDC

Bhubaneswar: The state government Friday signed an MoU with National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) for promotion and management of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). The MoU was signed between Horticulture director Rohit Kumar Lenka and NCDC regional director Shardul S Yadav here at Krushi Bhawan. Under this Central scheme, NCDC will form FPOs and impart training, proper guidance to small and marginal farmers of Odisha to help them face various challenges in production, technical knowhow, quality of production, optimum price realisation, credit, seed production, processing, utilisation and marketing.

Unit 1 market to remain shut for NEET

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: In view of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) scheduled for September 13, the civic authority here, Friday, stated that all shops at Unit 1 market will remain closed Sunday.

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) said that one of the exam centres, Mothers Public School, which is in the vicinity of the market, will host NEET aspirants. Thus to avoid any violation of COVID norms, the authorities have decided to close all shops in around Unit 1 market.



File photo of rush at Unit 1 market in Bhubaneswar

“More than 500 students are expected to arrive at the designated exam centre. Thus, we have come to conclusion that both wholesale and retail shops at Unit 1 will remain closed from 11am to 5pm Sunday.

This will help in overcrowding and smooth travel for the aspirants to exam centres,” a senior BMC official said.

It could be mentioned here that the state capital is set to receive

more than 16,000 students for NEET exams scheduled for September 13.

While 31 centres have been made available by the BMC here, part time lodging facilities at hostels for parents and students have been set up at five engineering colleges.

The five designated places where outstation students can accommodate are at Gandhi Institute of Technological Advancement at Madanpur, Silicon Institute of Technology at Infocity, Mahavir Engineering College at Pitapalli, CIPET at Macheswar and CV Raman Global University at Janla.

HIMANSHU LAL’S CENTRAL DEPUTATION CANCELLED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: The Centre has abruptly cancelled the proposed appointment of Odisha cadre IPS officer Himanshu Lal in RAW after several right-wing trolls on social media platforms raised objections to the move.

The trolls accused Lal of trying to suppress the National Herald case involving Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi during his posting at the Centre. However, many termed this a baseless smear campaign against the senior Odisha cadre IPS officer who had proved his mettle in a number of high-profile cases.

Lal, a former Deputy Inspector General of Police (northern range), Sambalpur was allowed by the state government to go on Central de-

putation as Class I Executive Cadre of the Cabinet Secretariat in New Delhi. He was rumoured to get posted in either the Enforcement Directorate or RAW.

He had also worked as the DCP Bhubaneswar.

Lal, who was on leave since his 4-year Central deputation got the state’s approval in June, has returned to Odisha.

Similarly, Satyajit Nayak, a 2008-batch Odisha IPS officer, who was on central deputation as the SP in National Investigation Agency (NIA), has been sent back to Odisha before the end of his proposed 4-year deputation period.

Meanwhile, two other senior Odisha-cadre IPS officers, Yashwant Kumar Jethwa and Ritu Arora have also returned to Odisha.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 11: She is just 23-month old but she has secured a place in ‘India Book of Records’. Considering her age, the achievement is dubbed a ‘rare one’. The cute girl’s sharp mind and extraordinary talent in learning things at such an early age have earned her the recognition. She is Janvi, the daughter of Prasanjit Mohanty and Subhashree Biswal. The family lives at Brahmeshwarpatna in Bhubaneswar.

According to Janvi’s parents, they had noticed their daughter’s talent when she was just nine months. “We had gone to Mysore on a trip. One day, when we were moving around the City of Palaces we came across a tourist. The tourist took a fancy to our daughter and asked her, ‘What’s your name?’ To his and our utter surprise,



THE FAMILY IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO ENTER JANVI’S NAME IN THE ‘ASIA BOOK OF RECORDS’

Janvi pronounced her name in English clearly This incident made us realise her potential. That day onwards we started showing interest in making her a genius, in true sense,” said the proud parents.

As of now, Janvi can pronounce the names of animals, birds and fruits in English. This apart, she can also recite English and Hindi rhymes

JANVI CAN PRONOUNCE THE NAMES OF ANIMALS, BIRDS AND FRUITS IN ENGLISH, AND RECITE ENGLISH AND HINDI RHYMES IMPECCABLY

IF SHE IS ASKED IN ENGLISH TO SHOW AN OBJECT, SHE CAN IDENTIFY IT THE VERY FIRST ATTEMPT

perfectly. If she is asked in English to show an object, she can identify it the very first attempt. On the basis of these criteria, her name has been included in the ‘India Book of Records’, observed her parents.

“After realising her talent, we first sent a video of her to the committee of ‘India Book of Records’ in March 2020. She was then 23

months as her birthday is April 10, 2018. We sent some more videos to the committee July 1. The committee went through the videos following which a team visited us. Then her name was included in ‘India Book of Records’ July 23,” said Subhashree.

“It was scheduled that she would be felicitated at a special function in New Delhi. They had to cancel the event due to COVID-19 pandemic. So, they sent the certificate and a medal to us through courier that we have recently received,” the proud mom added.

The family is now attempting to enter Janvi’s name in the ‘Asia Book of Records’. “We have already sent her videos to the committee of Asia Book of Records and are hopeful of getting a favourable response. Then we will try for her getting a place in Guinness World Records,” observed the family members.

CMC HELPLINE FOR HOME ISOLATION COVID PATIENTS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 11: In the interest of COVID-19 patients who are in home isolation, the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) Friday launched an emergency helpline number for disease related enquiries. The emergency helpline number is 1800 345 8289. The CMC tweeted, “1800 345 8289 – 24x7 Emergency Helpline ONLY for people who have been detected #COVID19 +ve, or are in home isolation and are in need of medical consultation & support. Contact in case of emergency situations. Urging citizens to not contact this number for any other purpose!” A total of 197 new COVID-19 cases were detected in this city, Thursday. While 49 of them were in home isolation, 59 were from institutional quarantine centres. The remaining 89 new infections were local contact cases. According to a notification issued by the civic body, as of Thursday, 7,093 persons have tested positive for COVID-19 in Cuttack out of which 4,970 have recovered. There are 2,092 active cases and 31 persons have succumbed to the disease.

Livestock inspectors in Cuttack warn to boycott field visits

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 11: The district livestock inspectors' association has decided to boycott field visits from September 12 on the suspicion that one of its members has died due to Covid-19 infections recently. This was revealed by association president Rudra Kumar Sahu at a press conference here Friday. “One of our colleagues has died due to Covid-19 infections. We were asked to meet the targets for various government projects and programmes amid the Covid-19 pandemic. There were also instructions not to adhere to the social distancing and other precautionary norms strictly while working for various programmes. As a result, some of our colleagues have been infected with the novel coronavirus,” alleged Sahu. According to Sahu, livestock inspector Santosh Kumar Jethi suffered from fever while working in Urali area of Cuttack district. Jethi was admitted to the SCB Medical College and Hospital after his condition deteriorated. “Jethi was treated for Covid-19 infections after examination of his swab samples. He died while being treated at SCB Medical College and Hospital September 10,” claimed Sahu. The district livestock inspectors' association has urged the state government to declare Jethi as a Covid warrior and provide Rs 50 lakh financial aid to his family. “We will not undertake field visits until justice is given to Jethi's family. We will only attend our offices from September 12 but won't do any work,” Sahu said. The association also submitted a memorandum to the district veterinary officer seeking justice for the deceased livestock inspector. District veterinary officer Keshab Chandra Pradhan said, “Jethi's demise is a painful incident for us. But, we all are bound to obey the government order in our service matters. We will try our best to assist Jethi's family.”

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, I have changed my surname from Dash to Panda. As I have married Sanjay Panda. Henceforth, I shall be known as Pragnya Panda, 1890, Chintamaniswar area, Bhubaneswar for all purposes.

A fresh day, fresh record in nCoV cases, fatalities

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: The state reported its highest single-day spike in COVID-19 cases Friday as 3,996 more people tested positive for the infection, an official of the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said. The state had registered its previous highest single-day spike of 3,991 coronavirus cases Thursday. The fresh infections have pushed the state's caseload to 1,43,117, said the official. Odisha's coronavirus death toll mounted to 605 as the state registered a record 14 fatalities in a day, the official said. Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, reported five fresh fatalities, followed by three in Puri, two in Mayurbhanj and one each in Cuttack, Kalahandi, Koraput and Sambalpur districts, said the official.



As many as 2,359 fresh infections were reported in quarantine centres, while 1,637 people tested positive for the infection during contact tracing. Khurda reported the highest number of new cases at 606, followed by 354 in Cuttack and 279 in Puri, the official pointed out.

THE SAGA CONTINUES

As many as 3,996 fresh cases push Odisha's COVID-19 caseload to 1,43,117. With 14 new fatalities, state's coronavirus death toll mounted to 605. Khurda registered the highest number of new cases at 606, followed by 354 in Cuttack and 279 in Puri. Odisha now has 34,458 active cases, while 1,08,001 people have been cured of the disease so far.

STIR OVER JOBLESSNESS



Youth Congress workers launch the 'Voice of Odisha' programme at Congress Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Friday, as part of their campaign to protest against worsening unemployment situation in the country

Another Covid hosp to come up at Balasore

The district administration has been directed to launch the Jana-Sampark campaign



Senior officials led by Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy visit Balasore to take stock of the recent spurt in Covid cases in the district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: With a fast rise in the number of Covid patients in Balasore, the state government has decided to set up another 100-bed Covid hospital in the district, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy said Friday. A team of senior government officers led by Tripathy made a field visit to Balasore district to review the Covid-19 management strategy. Additional Chief Secretary Health & Family Welfare PK Mohapatra, district Covid observer MS Padhi accompanied him. They visited the Covid hospital and the district headquarters hospital (DHH) at Balasore. So far Covid management in the district has been satisfactory. The mortality rate has been kept limited to 0.3 per cent which is lower than many other districts, he said. Keeping in view the possibility of future needs, the Chief Secretary directed to set up another 100-bed Covid hospital in an isolated place inside the district headquarters hospital (DHH). The hospital will be set up shortly. This will have an ICU and OT facilities for Covid patients. Funds for

CHIEF SECRETARY DIRECTED THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION TO SET UP ANOTHER 100-BED COVID HOSPITAL IN AN ISOLATED PLACE INSIDE THE DHH. THE HOSPITAL WILL HAVE ICU AND OT FACILITIES FOR COVID PATIENTS. FUNDS FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE WILL BE PROVIDED FROM CHIEF MINISTER'S RELIEF FUND. ADMIN TOLD TO INVOLVE LOCAL LEADERS, OUTFITS IN JANA SAMPARK CAMPAIGN.

the infrastructure will be provided from Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF), he stated. Further, Tripathy directed the district administration to launch Jana Sampark campaign involving local leaders, community-based organizations, resident welfare associations and health personnel from coming Monday with intensive efforts for identifying the vulnerable people and persons with co-morbidity. He instructed to attach it with 24x7 ambulance services during night hours.

OSCPCR team visits Khandagiri PS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: The Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSCPCR) Friday enquired about the current status of the investigation into the murder of a minor boy allegedly by drug addicts in Khandagiri area here a few days back. The members of the OSCPSCR paid a visit to the Khandagiri police station and held discussions with the Inspector-in-Charge Padmanav Pradhan. Later, speaking to media persons, Dibya Saswati, member of OSCPSCR, said, “As per the instructions of the chairperson, we

PROBE INTO MINOR'S MURDER

reached Khandagiri police station today to find out whether the police have been investigating the matter properly. We spoke to the IIC who after investigations has ascertained that six persons including the four held earlier were involved in the fatal attack on the minor September 2.” The police also informed the members of the commission that the probe process in the case got slightly delayed as several cops of the police station were infected with corona virus. However, they assured the OS-

Members of the OSCPSCR were told that the probe process in the case got slightly delayed as several cops were infected with corona virus

CPCR team that soon the accused will be arrested. Notably, the minor victim, identified as Badal Padhi, was attacked by the accused with sharp weapons

while on his way to the market September 2 evening. He had sustained grievous injuries in the assault and was admitted to a private hospital where he succumbed to the injuries September 8 night. Tension ran high after the death of the boy as over 50 local villagers agitated at Khandagiri police station demanding the arrest of the accused. Irrked locals also set a shop at Bharatpur ablaze. The mother of the deceased has alleged that her son was attacked by a group of drug addicts when he refused to part with his money while he had gone to purchase some daily needs from the local market.

Illegal stone quarrying at cashew fields irks villagers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, Sept 11: Illegal quarrying of gravel and laterite stone from the cashew forests at Mahula and Madhipur villages of Angarpada panchayat of Jatni block has caused resentment among locals. Around a 100 villagers Thursday congregated at the cashew forests and opposed the illegal stone quarrying. On being informed, Jatni tehsildar Premanshu Chand reached the spot and seized two power tillers engaged in the illegal stone quarrying, sources said. According to sources, a private contractor has taken around 50 acre of cashew forests at Mahula and Madhipur on a lease for Odisha State Cashew Development Corporation to collect cashew nuts. However, the contractor and some of his associates have been quarrying gravel and laterite stone illegally from the cashew forests for



Illegal quarrying of laterite stone at Angarpada panchayat in Jatni block

last several days. “The contractor has been supplying stone and gravel illegally to various places through heavy vehicles. The cashew forests have suffered extensive damage due to the illegal quarrying. Now, one can find several deep pits in the forests. The administration should take

immediate steps to stop the illegal stone quarrying in Angarpada panchayat,” said a villager. Tehsildar Premanshu Chand said they have taken steps to check illegal stone quarrying at Angarpada. “The contractor has been directed to stop the illegal quarrying,” he added.

4 special trains for NEET candidates by ECoR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: With less than 24 hours left for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2020 to be held September 13, preparations have reached the final stage. Authorities are ensuring the test is conducted while abiding by the COVID-19 safety guidelines. For the NEET candidates, the ECoR Friday declared four special trains. They are Khariar Road to SBP via Titlagarh, Rayagada to Sambalpur, Bhadrak to Bhubaneswar via Cuttack and Keonjhar to Bhubaneswar via Cuttack which will be running September 12.



The timing can be checked by the candidates from railway website. The students can use these trains for reaching their centres. The exam conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA) will be held at seven cities of the state. These are-

Berhampur, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Balasore, Angul, Rourkela and Sambalpur. Earlier, with an aim to ensure smooth conduct of National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) scheduled for September 13, the BMC has made all preparations to facilitate free accommodation and transportation for students arriving in the state capital. As per sources, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) is preparing to provide accommodation and transportation to more than 15,000 students who would be appearing for the annual medical entrance exam at 31 centres here. The civic body has made the facilities available at hostels of five engineering colleges here for students and parents in adherence to COVID guidelines. “Around 15,000 to 16,000 students will appear for the NEET exam at 31 centres in Bhubaneswar. While accommodation facilities have

been made, we have also ensured availability of special vehicles for easy transportation of parents and students. The authorities will coordinate amongst themselves to ensure smooth conduct of examinations and compliance of COVID guidelines,” BMC Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary said. Arrangements have been made for accommodation at five locations and transportation of students coming from other districts. “We will ensure that all COVID-19 protocols are followed as per the SOPs for students' safety and security during their stay and movements in the city,” said the BMC Commissioner.

Scheme to protect 'Garima' of sanitation workers

Bhubaneswar: With an aim to eliminate manual scavenging in the state, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday launched the Garima scheme to provide safety and dignity to sanitation workers in the states. Naveen said, “Manual scavenging has been the starkest example of discrimination in the name of caste, being practiced in India, relegating the less privileged to perform the sanitation work. I am glad to dedicate the scheme Garima for the welfare of sanitation workers of our state.” It is a humble tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary, he said. Naveen said the scheme includes introduction of special wage category, risk & hardship allowance, provision of health & life insurance, among others.

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300-bed hospital for Boudh, DPR to be sent to govt soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh, Sept 11: A 300-bed government hospital, a dream of the people of Boudh, is going to be realized soon. The administration has initiated the process to set up this ambitious project under Mo Sarkar Yojana.

That apart, a 30-bed rest shed will be set up for the attendants of patients. Collector Lalatendu Mishra presided over a review meeting here Thursday.

At the meeting, it was revealed that the sub-jail built by erstwhile king of Boudh has been shifted to Landibandh while an architect has drawn up a blueprint of the 300-bed hospital at this place.

It was decided at the meeting that the design of the hospital will be monitored by a district level screening committee. After changes in the design, if any, a detailed project report will be prepared for the project which will be later sent to the state government for administrative approval.

As for the project work, Manoj Kumar Tripathy, superintending engineer of the Boudh Phulbani Circle, said, "If necessary facilities are provided at the project site,



the hospital work will be completed on time."

It was revealed at the meeting that the administration has handed over 10.445 acres.

Collector Lalatendu Mishra said as expansion work of NH is underway in the same locality, some space will be created while the road passing between DIC and the local hospital will be widened up to 20 metres for better connectivity.

"The width of the road is 12 metres. Some land given to DIC and DRDA will be used for expansion of the road," he added.

The administration has put the onus on the CDMO, the Boudh tehsildar and the executive officer of the Boudh NAC to initiate pre-

liminary steps for construction of the project. There are some electricity utility structures and drinking water projects in the proposed site.

The Collectors asked the officials to remove those facilities if they come up as hurdles for the medical project. Officials were also asked to draw up plans for developing basic infrastructure required for the construction work.

The medical building will be of seven storied with state-of-art facilities for patients. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had announced in 2019 that the Boudh district administration will hand over the jail land which will be utilised for a 200-bedded district hospital.

NGT settles case with 5 riders

SPCB ASKED TO SUBMIT COMPLIANCE REPORT IN TWO MONTHS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Sept 11: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has settled a case pertaining to alleged air and water pollution at Sukinda rail siding under East Coast Railway in Jajpur with five conditions. It has asked the State Pollution Control Board to check if these conditions are carried out and submit a report within two weeks.

The green court held a hearing on a petition (34/2020EZ), alleging that norms pertaining to air and pollution control guidelines were violated at the rail siding.

A division bench of the NGT comprising justice SP Wangdi and technical member Nagin Nanda held a hearing on the issue Tuesday. However, complainant Sushant Das expressed his displeasure over settlement of the case with conditions. He warned of moving the Supreme Court.

Various industrial units of Kalinganagar Industrial Complex carry out loading and unloading of their minerals at Sukinda railway siding every day. They are supposed to ensure strict pollution control measures.

People living around the railway siding complained that they

POLLUTION AT SUKINDA RAILWAY SIDING



Based on the investigation report, the NGT had directed some anti-pollution measures – construction of wind screen wall on the boundary wall of the railway siding, roofing for gypsum transportation, creation of green belt inside and outside the railway siding and creation of special drains

The green court held a hearing on a petition (34/2020EZ), alleging that norms pertaining to air and pollution control guidelines were violated at the rail siding

However, complainant Sushant Das expressed his displeasure over settlement of the case with conditions. He warned of moving the Supreme Court

were suffocated by air and water pollution in the area due to the railway siding.

Complainant Sushant Das's counsel Shankar Prasad Pani said even though pollution norms were being violated at the railway siding, the SPCB renewed the railway siding operation March 30.

No step has been taken to control pollution caused by mineral loading and unloading at the railway siding. Dumping of minerals in open spaces creates air pollution in the area.

Moreover, in the monsoon, rainwater carrying mineral dust flows into farmlands, it was alleged. Students of a nearby school are

affected by pollution at the railway siding.

In view of pollution, the regional office of the SPCB (Kalinganagar) had issued a show cause notice to the authorities of the railway siding August 13, 2018.

Following the complaint, the NGT had held a hearing on the issue June 16, 2020. Thereafter, an investigating team of the NGT had visited the railway siding and had asked the SPCB to submit a report within three weeks.

As per the NGT direction, regional officer of the SPCB, Pramod Kumar Behara, Jajpur sub-collector Narayan Chandra Dhal, and scientist of the Central Pollution

Control Board Sasmita Ekka had looked into alleged pollution July 13 and submitted a report to the NGT.

Based on the SPCB report, the NGT had directed some anti-pollution measures – construction of wind screen wall on the boundary wall of the railway siding, roofing for gypsum transportation, creation of green belt inside and outside the railway siding and creation of special drains.

The SPCB regional officer said the case was settled on these conditions. But the SPCB will submit a report within two months if these conditions have been put in place by the railway authorities.

SOG martyrs given tearful farewell in Angul, Mayurbhanj

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul/Baripada, Sept 11: Family members, friends and local residents paid last respects Friday to two SOG commandos who died during an encounter with the Maoists. While Debasish Sethy (27) was from Angul district, Sudhir Kumar Tudu (28) belonged to Mayurbhanj district.



Gauraba Debasish' and 'Tumaku Sahe Salaam' filled the air in the village. His mortal remains were cremated with full state honours Friday morning.

Deputy Speaker of Odisha Legislative Assembly Rajnikant Singh along with Athamallik MLA Ramesh Chandra Sai and former Athamallik MLA Sanjeeb Sahoo paid tributes to the slain jawan.

Sudhir was given tearful adieu at his native place Sanabhadua village in Mayurbhanj. The bereaved family members were inconsolable due to their son's untimely demise.

Several senior administrative and local police officials attended the cremations at both the places and paid their last respects to the martyrs.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed grief over the death of the two jawans Thursday. He also praised them for their bravery. The Chief Minister has instructed officials to give Rs 10 lakh as insurance, Rs 16 lakh as ex-gratia including homestead land and jobs to the kin of the two slain jawans immediately.

TESTING TIMES



Koraput ADM flags off a bus carrying students bound for NEET test in Bhubaneswar

OP PHOTO

Koraput girl turns singing sensation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Sept 11: After rapper 'Dule Rocker' – the tribal 'Gully Boy' Duleshwar Tandi from Kalahandi, another Odia singer has set the social media abuzz with her extraordinary talent.



She is Namita Melka, a young tribal girl from the remote Chintagada village in Koraput district. She became an overnight sensation on social media, after two of her songs went viral a few days back. Melka sings in Hindi, Odia and her own native tribal language.

It was her teacher Bansidhar Halwa who helped her voice to reach thousands. Now Melka is getting accolades from all quarters. She is enjoying the adulation as it inspires her on end.

"I have participated and won many competitions since I was in Class X. However, I had never got the recognition and admiration which I am receiving these days," Melka said.

Duleshwar is a 27-year-old Dalit and a migrant worker of Kalahandi had drawn attention of netizens through his rap songs that depicted the plight of migrant workers during the lockdown.

Jumbo calf found dead in Keonjhar forest

KEONJHAR: The forest officials recovered the carcass of a female elephant calf in Barabanka reserve forest under Sadar range's Janghira section in Keonjhar forest division Friday. It is aged about three. However, the officials are yet to establish the cause of the animal's death. Top officials not being aware of the incident has left many surprised. ACF, Ghanshyam Mahanta was not aware of the incident while Ajit Satpathy, DFO in-charge of Keonjhar division, confirmed about the carcass recovery.

PDS rice dumped in Barbil forest



POST NEWS NETWORK

Barbil, Sept 11: Residents of Serenda panchayat under Joda block of Keonjhar were in for a shock Friday after they found sacks of rice allegedly meant for distribution through PDS dumped in a ditch of the nearby forest.

14 sacks of rice are said to be of seven quintals. But it is not clear about who has dumped this rice and why. Reports said, local residents informed the panchayat office about the rice sacks in the forest. But the panchayat authorities did not

show promptness to enquire about the rice. Locals alleged that there were irregularities in PDS rice distribution. When rice got rotten, those involved in the scam had dumped the rice in the forest to hide the truth, they said.

"It was disturbing to see such a huge quantity of rice going waste whereas several people suffered without food due to the pandemic," they lamented.

They said around 700 kg of rice was dumped in the forest while the district civil supplies department has not taken any steps in this regard. Tehsildar Khirod Kumar Behera visited the spot and said there are 15 sacks of rice.

The tehsildar has intimated the matter to the civil supplies officer concerned.

Covid effect: 'Pua Jointia' lacks sheen

POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogarh, Sept 11: After 'Nuakhai', people of Western Odisha celebrate the 'Pua Jointia' festival in a grand manner. However, this year the festival will be a muted one in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 'Pua Jointia' festival will be celebrated Friday.

The festival holds special significance in the region as it marks the umbilical relationship between mother and her child (especially son). Mothers across Western Odisha worship 'Lord Dutibahana' to protect their children. For this the festival is also known as 'Dutibahana Osha'. It is celebrated every year on Ashwina Krushnapakhyia Ashtami (eighth day of the dark fortnight of Odia month Ashwina).



As per the rituals of the festival, mothers fast for 24 hours and in the evening they gather at open spaces in their respective localities to perform the puja before Lord Dutibahana. However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the district administrations have restricted such gatherings. So this year mothers will perform the puja in

their respective homes.

'Lord Dutibahana' is worshipped in an open space decorated with Aam Taran (mango leaves) and flowers. The offerings include 108 duba (strands of green grass), 108 unbroken arua rice (non-boiled rice), jointa (thread), jugar (made of puffed paddy) and tikhri (made of moong dal).

A wrapping is made for each of the child and is offered to Lord Dutibahana. The most important ritual of the festival is the touching of the strand of grass. It is believed that it protects the children from all illnesses and evils. Then, the 'Jointia' thread is tied on the wrists of the children.

The next day, during the wee hours the mothers take a holy dip in a water body. Then they perform a set of rituals on the banks before breaking the fast on Navami morning. After breaking the fast, the moms prepare a special dish comprising 21 varieties of vegetables and fruits.

On the occasion of Pua Jointia, the children also offer their moms various delicacies to break the fast. They also hand over gifts to their respective mothers.

F. No. 3-48/2016-AGP
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
Wide Publicity for Awareness Generation and Publicity Scheme

The Awareness Generation & Publicity Scheme is one of the significant scheme of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MSJE), Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Government of India under which grant is released to NGOs/Govt. Institutions/Central & State Universities across the Country to create general awareness and publicity of the programmes/schemes run by this Department for welfare of the Persons with Disabilities and fulfil its objectives for better and effective outcomes. Information in detail regarding this scheme is available on the website of Department link as www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in.

2. The willing Stakeholders who are working in the field of the disability sector may send their proposals in the prescribed format in Hindi or English to the Under Secretary, Room No. 522, Wing B-2, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, 5th Floor, C.G.O. Complex, New Delhi - 110003 or through email on awarenessd4@gmail.com.
dvp 38117/11/0015/2021

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(A Gold Rated State PSU)
O/O Sr. GENERAL MANAGER, Rengali Hydro Electric Project
P.O: RENGALI DAM SITE, PIN: 759105, DIST: ANGUL (ODISHA)
TEL: 06760-277214, FAX: 06760 – 277324
CIN: U40101OR1995SGC003963

No. OHPC/RHEPC & P/PUR-III- 1139/4812 Dated. 09. 09.2020
NOTICE INVITING TENDER No.15 /2020-21 /DATE.09.09.2020

No. CAD-463: Sealed tenders are invited in single part from 'D' & 'C' class Registered Contractors for the following works as mentioned below on percentage rate contract basis for "Construction of a shed for DG Set at Rengali Power House," as mentioned below.

TENDER CALL NOTICE NO.15/2020-21				
Sl. No.	Description of Work	EMD (In Rs.) (Refundable)	Cost of Tender Paper (in Rs.) (Non-refundable)	Class of Contractor
01	Construction of a shed for DG Set at Rengali Power House.	Rs. 4,500/-	Rs. 2,360/- (inclusive of GST @ 18%)	'D' & 'C'

Important Dates:
(a) Period of sale /download of Tender Document: From dt.14.09.2020 to dt.25.09.2020. (Up to 03:30 PM)
(b) Last date and time of seeking of clarification: Dt.21.09.2020 (Up to 05:00PM)
(c) Last Date and time for submission of Tender Document: Dt.25.09.2020 (Up to 04:00 PM)
(d) Date and time for opening of Bid:dt.25.09.2020 at 04:30 PM at RHEP, Rengali.

Sd./- C&P Head
R.H.E. Project, Rengali
OIPR-04005/11/0017/2021

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान विशाखपट्टणम
Indian Institute of Management Visakhapatnam
SPECIAL RECRUITMENT DRIVE FOR OBC/SC/ST/EWS/PwD FOR FACULTY POSITIONS
REF. NO. 02/SRD/F/2020 DATED: AUGUST 26, 2020
Assistant Professors & Associate Professors

Last date for submitting application through e-mail is 28 Sep. 2020 and for submitting hard copy of the same is 17 Oct. 2020. Please visit www.iimv.ac.in/careers for details and applying.

Senior Administrative Officer
davp 21359/11/0008/2021

ODISHA LIFT IRRIGATION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, L.I. DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR
e-Mail: eeolicdivn.bbsr@gmail.com, Tel.0674-2391847
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.1750/2020-21 Dt.09.09.2020

No.CAD-465:- The Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Division, Bhubaneswar on behalf of ODISHA LIFT IRRIGATION CORPORATION LIMITED, BHUBANESWAR invites percentage Rate bids in online mode for installation of Lift Irrigation Projects in Khordha district under BKVY in TURNKEY BASIS as mentioned below from the reputed Contractors/Firms having valid HT licence issued by E.L.B.O., Odisha and Civil licence as mentioned below with experience in similar nature of work.

- Nature of work: Execution of work for installation & energisation of 08 Nos L.I. Projects in different blocks of Khordha district.
- No. of packages : 04 Nos.
- Estimated cost : Varies from Rs.3561920/- to Rs.3648587/-
- Period of completion : 90 days
- Date & time of availability : 21.09.2020 at 10.00 A.M. of bid documents in the portal
- Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal : 09.10.2020 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Date & time of seeking : 21.09.2020 at 10.00 A.M. to clarification : 05.10.2020 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Opening date & time : 12.10.2020 at 03.00 P.M.
- Name & address of the officer inviting bid : Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Division, Bhubaneswar

The details of tender are available in the Government tender website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in and other related documents are available in the DTCN for bidding. Any addendum/ corrigendum/cancellation of tender will be available in the said website.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, L.I. Division, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-32155/11/0009/2021

There are two allied powers in man; knowledge and wisdom. Knowledge is so much of the truth seen in a distorted medium as the mind arrives at by groping, wisdom what the eye of divine vision sees in the spirit.

SRI AUROBINDO

Pep talk from PM

As many as 131 IPS probationers, including 28 women, who completed 42 weeks of Basic Course Phase-I training at the prestigious Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy in Hyderabad had a rare opportunity to interact with Prime Minister Narendra Modi through a video conference. He is known to do this infrequently but it thrills those who chance into one. During the basic course training at SVP NPA over two segments, probationers are imparted training in various indoor and outdoor subjects like law, investigation, forensics, leadership and management, criminology, public order and internal security, ethics and human rights, modern Indian policing, field-craft and tactics, weapon training and firing. This was their final training before field postings in their respective state cadres. In his address to the 2018-batch of IPS probationers, the Prime Minister urged them to excel in their careers. He also used the opportunity to plug the government's new theme "Mission Karmyogi," a scheme for capacity-building of civil servants, a task which the National Police Academy has been performing quite ably since its inception back in 1948. The theme immediately got national attention, way beyond police lines, as expected. The academy Director Atul Karwal, a 1988-batch IPS officer from Gujarat cadre, presided over the Dikshant (convocation) Parade and addressed the probationers.

TOUGH TALK ON J&K

The message is loud and clear from the Modi sarkar that no anti-national rhetoric, especially by the government employees, shall be tolerated at any cost. A year after abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has constituted a six-member committee, headed by J&K chief secretary BVR Subrahmanyam, to look into cases related to government officials allegedly indulging in anti-national activities. The high-level committee has been empowered to scrutinise cases and recommend action against officials involved in anti-national activities under Article 311(2)(c). Apart from the J&K chief secretary, the other members of the high-level committee include the administrative secretary to the home department, J&K DGP, the administrative secretary of the general administration department, additional DGP, CID and the administrative secretary to the department of law and justice. Experts say any government official, including IAS and IPS officers, if found guilty by the committee for "anti-national" activity can be dismissed from service without an inquiry. According to sources, it is rumoured that many government officers are under the scanner in Jammu and Kashmir for their involvement in 'anti-national' activities.

MEDIA TRIAL

What made seven former DGPs and a police commissioner approach the Bombay High Court in the Sushant Singh Rajput case? The media's obsession with the Sushant Singh Rajput death case has overridden the raging coronavirus pandemic, our stalled economy and the Chinese threat on the border. After the CBI, the Enforcement Directorate and sundry agencies have been brought in by the Centre, the Mumbai Police has been forced into a corner. It has been accused of political bias and of botching up the investigation, though in the freestyle mud-wrestling that the nation has seen, it is hard to determine who is cleaner. Now, the former IPS officers have urged the court to put an end to the "media trial" and the "unfair, malicious and false media campaign" against the Mumbai Police. The petitioners include former Maharashtra DGPs MN Singh, PS Pasricha, DK Sivanandan, Sanjiv Dayal, Satish Mathur, K Subramanyam and former additional DGP KP Raghuvanshi, and former Mumbai police commissioner DN Jadhav. According to the petition, the adverse media campaign "appears to have been designed with sinister motives to tarnish the fair image of the Mumbai Police." Significantly, the petition urges the court to frame rules or guidelines, which would help the media cover investigations that are sub-judice. But, for now, it is a no-holds-barred approach as far as sections of the media are concerned.

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WISDOM CORNER

- An invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come.
- VICTOR HUGO
- All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players: they have their exits and their entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages.
- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
- Do not reveal what you have thought upon doing, but by wise council keep it secret being determined to carry it into execution.
- ARTHASASTRA

WORDSWORTH

■ Titivil

Back in 1938, Paul Harvey wrote in The Oxford Companion to English Literature that "Titivil was evidently in origin a creation of monastic wit." He was thinking of the earliest sense of the word. A titivil was a very specific kind of tale-bearer. He was a devil whose job was to collect up the fragments of words or phrases that monks skipped or mumbled while they were reciting divine service. He took them down to Hell, where they were logged against the offender to await the Day of Judgement. Might he have been invented as a way to scare the less conscientious members of monastic congregations into saying their prayers properly? It seems more than likely. He wasn't English to start with. He turns up in continental Europe in the fourteenth century under various names, including Titinillus and Titivillus. He's mentioned in a sermon dated to the early 1300s by a Dominican monk named Petrus de Palude who later became Patriarch of Jerusalem: "Fragmina psalorum Titiuillus colligit horum. Quaque die mille vicibus sarcinat ille" (Titivillus collects up fragments of these psalms. Every day he fills his bag a thousand times.) One guess is that his name was from the Latin word titivillitium used by the Roman comic dramatist Titus Maccius Plautus and which seems to have meant a mere trifle or a trivial bit of gossip. Around the same period, Titivil became a convenient scapegoat in monastery scriptoria. The inevitable little accidents that happen when copying manuscripts, such as joggling of elbows and skipping of pens that caused blots, false strokes, and ink smears, were also attributed to him. Titivil escaped from the cloisters into the medieval mystery plays and from there into the colloquial language as a mischievous tale-bearer or more generally a ne'er-do-well or scoundrel.

LOL

BUG IN THE SOUP

A boy asks his father, "Dad, are bugs good to eat?" "That's disgusting. Don't talk about things like that over dinner," the dad replies. After dinner the father

asks, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?" "Oh, nothing," the boy says. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."

FOCUS GOVERNANCE

LESSONS FROM CHINA



Bharat Jhunjhunwala

POLITICAL SCIENTISTS SAY THE FUNDAMENTAL INGREDIENT OF GOVERNANCE WAS 'LEGITIMACY.' ANY SYSTEM WORKS AS LONG AS PEOPLE CONSIDER THE RULERS TO BE LEGITIMATE

About 20 years ago, a press officer of the Chinese Embassy in Delhi sought a meeting with me. She asked me at the end of the discussion whether I thought China was India's friend or foe. I replied 'foe.' There, the exchange ended. Yet we must understand the strengths of our opponent if we have to win the fight. At present, China is being internationally derided for crushing democracy in Hong Kong. This anti-democratic tirade started with the 1989 Tiananmen Massacre. Since then, US experts have been predicting the imminent collapse of autocracy in China. They have held that there was an irreconcilable contradiction between market capitalism and autocracy. Capitalism needed freedom to grow, while autocracy required restricting that same freedom. However, these predictions have been utterly disproven. China has become world's number two economic power while maintaining its autocratic rule.

Political scientists say the fundamental ingredient of governance was 'legitimacy.' Any system works as long as people consider the rulers to be legitimate. The form of the particular system is not important as long as the people consider it legitimate. And, it seems, the Chinese people do consider the autocratic state to be legitimate. The Edelman Trust of the US publishes an annual report on governance. In a 2020 report, it said that, according to a survey done in October-November 2019, some 90 per cent of Chinese people have trust in their government. In comparison, 81 per cent people in India and only 39 per cent in the US had trust in their governments. Further, 59 per cent people in China fear that they may be left behind in the march of humankind. In comparison 73 per cent people in India and 55 per cent people in the US feared so. More numbers of Indians are afraid that their government will take them into the dumps.

Another study done by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance at Harvard University has surveyed the governance in China from 2003 to 2016. Here I am giving figures from 2011 to 2016 only



Let us not forget that democratic India and autocratic China were economically at par in 1981. After the turn of the century, autocratic China kept overtaking democratic India

since these overlap with the ascendance of Xi Jinping who is considered to be moving fast to create an absolute autocracy. Harvard University has said that 61 per cent of the people considered their local governance to be kind towards the ordinary people in 2011. This increased to 74 per cent in 2016. In 2011, some 45 per cent of people considered the local bureaucracy to work for the rich in 2011. This reduced to 40 per cent in 2016. Forty-four per cent of people felt that their local bureaucracy is concerned with the difficulties of ordinary people. This increased to 52 per cent in 2016. Thirty-two per cent of the people said that local bureaucracy imposed illegal taxes and fees in 2011. This reduced to 23 per cent in 2016. It is clear that the bureaucracy has become more benign during the reign of Xi.

An article published in the New York Times says that Deng Xiaoping started to reward bureaucracy for ushering in economic development. They were ranked and promoted on the basis of their performance in securing economic prosperity. Thus, the "ossified bureaucracy," says the New York Times, was transformed into a "capitalist machine." In recent times, Xi has added criteria such as social harmony, environment protection, public service and happiness of people. Clearly, the Chinese government is meeting the expectations of the people even if it is autocratic.

Now, let us consider the views

of our tradition regarding democracy. Yudhishtira says in Chapter 108 of Shanti Parva of Mahabharata, "Differences among the top people of democracy is the cause of destruction." Question then is this: Why is it that the US is, in the words of New York Times, "exporting" democracy when it is not delivering within America, and while China is doing well without it? Here too, Yudhishtira comes to our aid. He says, "The best of the persons in a democracy get controlled by enemies due to differences in their inner thoughts." Again, "Enemies control a democratic country by creating differences among the best of persons." These teachings suggest that the US is encouraging democracy in countries like India so that they can create differences within India and control India.

Our democracy, if we listen to Yudhishtira, may be the route to disintegration of our sovereignty. We should, therefore, not blindly assume that democracy is the best. Let us not forget that democratic India and autocratic China were economically at par in 1981. After the turn of the century, autocrat China kept overtaking democratic India. We must be careful in accepting American diatribes against China because American assessment of the perils of Chinese autocracy has proven wrong.

I must admit here that I had also thought in the '90s that the Chinese economy will founder. My logic was that Chinese dependence on exports to the West

will create trouble for the red nation as and when the Western economies go into a recession, as they indeed did in 2008. I too have been proven wrong. Instead of floundering with the American economy, China has successfully overpowered its rival.

These perils of democracy notwithstanding, it is also true that democracy has been the foundation of development of mankind. The common man gets mental freedom to think and act. Every citizen is free to explore his/her potential and this leads to inventions that have transformed our lives in a positive direction. The likes of steam engine, electricity, nuclear power and jet airplanes are all products of democracy, not autocracy. The challenge before us, therefore, is to adopt the free thinking environment of democracy along with the pro-people ambience of Chinese autocracy.

We need to take two steps in this direction. One, our rulers must have deep engagement with the Opposition instead of deriding them. Dialogue leads to a commonality of views and, as Yudhishtira says, "the chances of internal division leading to destruction are minimised." Two, we need to transform our bureaucracy, the character of which appears to be exactly opposite to that of China. The loot by Indian bureaucracy is destroying every facet of our lives.

Our politics is getting focused on reservations rather than on economic growth because people want their share of the loot by getting government jobs. Our education system continues to sell certificates because highly paid teachers and professors do not have any compulsion to teach. Our economy is going down since the Fifth Pay Commission because wealth of the country is being used to pay high salaries to government servants rather than investing in areas like, say, space research. The combination of deeper democratic dialogue and accountability of bureaucracy can beget us both mental freedom and economic prowess.

The writer is a former Professor of Economics at IIM Bangalore.

SPECTRUM AVIATION

The unboxing of an F-16



Kamal Baruah

THE FIRST EDITION OF AERO INDIA 1996 EARNED INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR INDIA FOR HOSTING SUCH AN EXHIBITION

Good morning aviators. This is your captain speaking. Today's exercise is dog-fighting." After 34 years, Tom Cruise returns with his Maverick. He did (actually he didn't) fly an F-18 doing Cobra and Vertical Charlie at the 'Top Gun: Maverick' trailer recently.

That reminds me of my years at Air Force Station Yelahanka, India's only flagship aviation event for International Air Show. I was part of the host team twice for that spectacular, inspiring Air Show of Asia. It was another afternoon shift during the 2nd Aero India edition 1998. A huge guy strolled over the end of the corridor and finally knocked on our WT cabin that noticed the Hourly Weather: "Hi there. Where is the Met section?" He was a staff sergeant from the US Air Force. That gave us insight into the arrival of Fighting Falcons. Bengaluru has the privilege of hoisting all the 12 air shows till 2019.

The first edition of Aero India 1996 earned international recognition for India for hosting such an exhibition. After successful completion of the inaugural event, the 2nd Aero India was planned. Fighter jets boost combat capa-

bility for Air Force. IAF had then the newly acquired multirole Sukhoi SU-30 with existing fighter MiG-29, MiG-27, Dassault Mirage-2000, ground attack Jaguar and Interceptor MiG-21. A day prior to the event, the exhibitors Allied Signal, Bell Textron, Airbus, Aerospatiale, Dassault and Aerospace had displayed jets from across the globe. The French and Russian presences were especially strong while American Boeing brought in varieties of commercial aircraft.

While the aprons saw parking by hundreds of aircraft, we were disheartened by the absence of F-Series. We searched inside ramps, stands and hangars under lights but they were not sighted. Suddenly a strategic airlifter having 28 landing wheels touched down at 9 (92' heading) that threatened our ATC; the aircraft making a huge noise from its fuselage and wings as well as from its four engines. It quickly made a full reverse thrust at the runway. Alas, there was no sign of that supersonic Fighter: C-5 often accompanies the US president, in advance of Air Force One.

We had not seen such a gigantic airplane although IAF has IL-76

which has proven to be a tactical transport that was fitted with thrust reversers and a high lift wing for good STOL (short take off and landing aircraft) performance and high floatation landing gear with 20 wheels. But C-5 seems double in size to IL-76.

What we saw that day was an awesome moment. The Galaxy is so galactic; it won't fit inside our hangars. It was the largest aircraft in the US Air Mobility Command. At a time when everyone was eagerly waiting to see the big birds, the C-5 completely opened its nose and tail. Can C-5 haul a fighter jet? Yes, the cargo had actually loaded an F-16 with its wings removed. It seemed dismantled and the bits pile into a heap while C-5 hydraulically kneel to truck-bed a height, allowing F-16 to be offloaded. But we were not anticipating the F-16 to be ready for flying the next day.

The flags waved in the wind on that big day, the morning of 8 December 1988. There were tens of thousands of business visitors while the monster C-5 dwarfed all other aircraft. The fly-pasts by Jaguar, MiG, Hawk, Mirage and aerobatic from Surya Kiran were incredible followed by the sky div-

ing display by nine sky divers of Akash Ganga. Russian Sukhoi abruptly passed through visitors. Beyond all, visitors could get to see a Dassault Rafale on display.

And at last, a fighter jet suddenly took off at barely 1,500 feet, performing astounding manoeuvres to gain a positional advantage over us and upped itself into the clouds. The jet abruptly broke away from its pursuit. We failed to understand the American intentions. It was the same supersonic multirole F-16 that was unboxing from C-5 a day before evening.

Aviation films like Top Gun Maverick had never been done, but it's releasing in June 2021, that could bring moviegoers to see some dogfight in the Hollywood. But we saw the real hero at Yelahanka when F-16 did withstand to nine G's (9 times force of gravity) vertically; while driving a car anything over -1.0G on deceleration is potentially a crash. On the fifth day, the most badass plane, C-5, was finally whisked away, swallowing the F-16 inside, airlifted back to America.

The writer is a former Air Warrior.

Kudos to SFF

Sir, The secretive military unit, the Special Frontier Force (SFF), deserves kudos. The entire nation pays its tributes to the valiant Tibetan soldier and hero Nyima Tenzin. SFF commanding officer, who died in action. Here are some intriguing facts about the unit. SFF comprises ethnic Tibetans and one of its earliest soldiers was Radug Nawang. He is known to be among the handful of bodyguards who accompanied the Dalai Lama when the monk escaped from Tibet and came to India in 1959, following the Chinese invasion of Tibet. The force directly reports to the Prime Minister and it is said that sometimes the Indian Army may not know what SFF is up to due to the secretive nature of its operations.

Animesh Mishra, IIMC, DHENKANAL



Nyima Tenzin

Ministry of cricket

Sir, Cricket brought by British to India has remained firmly with us after they left. Cricket has gone through the hardships of Independence too. Cricket also suffered from partition. Cricket is loved by millions in India. Cricket players are heroes for them. Earlier, radio and later television brought cricket into our homes. Now, all family members are involved in cricket. Cricket is the only sports where India unites and dominates. IPL prize money has attracted foreign players to India. It generates a lot of revenue for the government. Cricket and its related industries have generated employment too. Cricket has produced politicians, brand ambassadors, and even actors. India is considered as the Mecca of Cricket. All things considered, let us have a Ministry of Cricket, but on a condition that it does not kill cricket.

Sunil Pradhan, Khariar, NUAPADA

Sorry state of universities

Sir, Out of the 875 universities we have, the Sri Venkateswara University the Andhra University and the Osmania University find place in world ranking, but even these three have their names in the rock bottom of the list. None of the universities perform in a satisfactory manner. The letter from Janaki Ballabh in this space is noted; sad that scams spread to different departments due to dilution of the value system. Universities are not any exception. This is a sad state of affairs.

K. Lakshman Rao, VISAKHAPATNAM

How UP uses draconian NSA to detain those accused of killing cows



REUTERS

Lucknow, Sept 11: More than half the arrests this year under a tough national security law in India's most populous state of Uttar Pradesh have involved suspects in cases of cow slaughter, data showed.

The northern state has used the National Security Act (NSA), which allows for those deemed a threat to national security to be detained without charge for up to a year, almost 140 times in the first eight months of the year.

"The NSA has been invoked in 139 cases across Uttar Pradesh, of which 76 have been against the slaughter of cows," Awanish Awasthi, a top state official, said in a statement. The cow is considered sacred by India's Hindu-majority population, and most states, including Uttar Pradesh, have laws against slaughter of the animals.

Vigilante attacks on those accused of killing the animal for meat, often people belonging to the Muslim minority, are common.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has repeatedly urged use of the NSA to combat law and order issues in the state of

The northern state has used the NSA, which allows for those deemed a threat to national security to be detained without charge for up to a year, almost 140 times in the first eight months of the year

more than 200 million people.

The Hindu monk is a high-profile figure in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The NSA, which Indian rights activists have described as draconian, is also frequently used in the contested region of Kashmir to detain people suspected of separatist activity. "In many cases the charges of NSA are dropped because the authorities fail to prove it in court," said Irfan Ghazi, a lawyer based in the state's city of Aligarh, who has defended clients held under the act.

Why Hema Malini seeks Mathura's inclusion in NCR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mathura, Sept 10: BJP MP Hema Malini has now sought the inclusion of Mathura in the National Capital Region (NCR) in order to boost prospects of international tourism in the holy city.

Hema Malini, while interacting with a group of reporters in a virtual meeting this week, said, "There is immense tourism potential in Mathura. If tapped properly, it will open the gates for international tourists."

She said that this will not only solve the problem of unemployment, but will also help in the overall development of Mathura. She said that more than six years ago, she had urged the then Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav to send a proposal to the NCR Planning Board to include the temple town in the NCR.



Malini said she also gave a written request to the Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs to include Mathura in the

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ayodhya, Sept 11: The Uttar Pradesh Police have registered an FIR against unknown persons for fraudulently transferring ₹6 lakh from the bank account of the Ram Mandir Trust through two fake cheques and attempting to transfer around ₹10 lakh with a third cheque that was timely detected as counterfeit by the bank.

A case has been registered at the Kotwali police station here on a complaint filed by the Trust's secretary and VHP leader Champat Rai, a senior police official said.

"We have seized the account in which the fund has been transferred. A police team has been sent to Lucknow and another team to Mumbai as the account in which the money has been transferred is of Maharashtra," Ayodhya DIG Deepak

Kumar told PTI.

He said those behind the crime have withdrawn ₹4 lakh from the fraudulently transferred amount while ₹2 lakh is still in their account. ₹2.5 lakh was fraudulently transferred from the Trust's account in State Bank of India (SBI) September 1 and ₹3.5 lakh September 8 through a second fake cheque, the FIR said.

The issue came to light after a senior official of the SBI in Lucknow called Rai to confirm if the Trust had issued a cheque for transfer of ₹9.86 lakh.

"We give phone calls to all our customers before clearing cheques (with large amounts). I myself called the customer regarding the clearing of cheque for ₹9 lakh 86 thousand and the customer (Rai) received the phone after many repeated calls," Mona Rastogi, deputy man-



ager of clearing department of SBI, told PTI.

She said it was certain that bank officials had called on the Trust's registered phone number to confirm payments for the first two 'fake'

The call records and details are being checked to ascertain if the customer had received the calls," she said.

Rastogi said had Rai not taken her call, the third cloned cheque would also have been cleared because it appeared as original and the signatures too raised no doubts. "The cheques are cleared if the norms are followed and the signatures are found to be correct," she said.

In his complaint filed with the police, Rai stated that the Ram Jannabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has crores of rupees in its bank account and it was earlier unaware that the funds were fraudulently transferred from the account.

Ayodhya DIG Deepak Kumar told PTI that an FIR has been lodged at the Kotwali police station here in this regard and investigation is being done.

WEAVER AT WORK



A weaver works on a power loom in Varanasi, Friday. Several power loom weavers in Uttar Pradesh have gone on indefinite strike in protest against the new power tariff imposed on them.

PTI PHOTO

Fringe outfits flex muscles in run-up to UP by-elections

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Sept 11: With by-polls to eight Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh on the horizon, fringe political groups have started flexing their muscles.

Nishad Party chief Sanjay Nishad has renewed his demand for reservation to the fishermen community in the scheduled caste category.

The Nishad community is among the 17 caste groups that have been seeking reservation under the SC category instead of the OBC category. Sanjay Nishad's son Praveen Nishad is the sitting BJP MP from Sant Kabir Nagar parliamentary segment.

"MPs are people's representatives. Now, people are asking when the promise will be fulfilled? We will gherao the residence of BJP MPs and ask for reservations," Sanjay Nishad told reporters.

The Nishad party, Friday, protested outside the residence of Bulandshahr MP Bhola Singh.

Sanjay Nishad, however, clarified that they were friends of the ruling BJP but when Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was an MP, he

had advocated reservation for the fishing community in Parliament.

"We will stage a demonstration at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi September 25. We want reservations and SC certificate for fishermen and other sub-castes," he added.

Nishad had earlier said that the Congress had deceived them.

"During the Samajwadi government, one member of our community died in police firing during a demonstration for reservation. We are friends of the BJP and support them," he added.

The Nishad party has also laid claim to the Malhani seat in Jaunpur that fell vacant following the demise of SP MLA Parasnath Yadav.

There is a sizeable population of Nishad community on this seat and the party wants to field former MP Dhananjay Singh from here. The eight Assembly seats where by-elections are due include: Tundla, Bangar mau, Suar, Bulandshahr; Malhani, Ghatampur; Naugawan (Amroha) and Deoria.

Two of the eight seats were held by Samajwadi Party while the rest were with the BJP.



Village holds croc hostage, asks for ₹50k ransom

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

New Delhi, Sept 11: Villagers in Uttar Pradesh were initially alarmed when they found a crocodile lurking in the local pond. But then they hatched a plan -- to demand a ransom. The eight-foot reptile from a nearby nature reserve turned up in the village of Midania in Uttar Pradesh after monsoon flooding Tuesday, officials said.

Anil Patel, an official responsible for the buffer zone around the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve told AFP

that the locals caught the crocodile and then demanded ₹50,000 to give it back.

"It took us hours to convince them with help from local police and authorities to release the crocodile," Patel said.

The villagers were also threatened with legal action, with officials explaining that they risked being



jailed for up to seven years. The crocodile, Patel said, is free now. "We released it into the Ghagra river the same day."

"They had no idea that the crocodile was a protected animal under the Wildlife Protection Act. It's important for us to educate more people about wildlife," he added.

Docs perform India's first double lung transplant on Covid patient

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Sept 11: In a first of its kind procedure in India, doctors at the Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) here successfully performed double lung transplant surgery on a Covid-19 patient.

The 32-year-old patient from Chandigarh, who received lungs from a brain-dead person in Kolkata, was discharged from the hospital Friday. The team of doctors was led by Sandeep Attawar, considered a pioneer in heart and lung transplant surgeries in India.

Rizwan alias Monu was suffering

from sarcoidosis that affected his lungs significantly, leading to fibrosis of the lungs. The doctors said his condition deteriorated rapidly and double lung transplant was the only permanent option for cure. The situation worsened when the patient contracted coronavirus while awaiting for his double lung transplant. His oxygen requirement increased from 15 liters/minute to 50 liters/min for the last eight weeks.

"The patient was a severe case of lung sarcoidosis, and Covid-19 only complicated the precarious lung condition. Fortunately, a match to his lungs was found in a person

declared brain dead in Kolkata, and the harvested lungs were airlifted to Hyderabad to save the life of the patient," said Attawar.

According to him, the procedure was complex and had little scope for errors and only a timely transplant of lungs helped save the patient. "What is more important is that good outcomes are difficult to achieve as these patients are extremely sick, under nourished and bed-ridden before the transplant. Post discharge, he will need close monitoring, bio bubble environment and careful drug control for at least six weeks," he said.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Sept 11: The spike in Covid-19 cases in Telangana continued as the state reported 2,426 new cases during the last 24 hours, officials said Friday.

With this the state's tally mounted to 1,52,602 while 13 more deaths pushed the toll to 940.

The fatality rate in the state marginally declined to 0.61 per cent against the national average of 1.67 per cent. Out of the total fatalities, 53.87 per cent had comorbidities.

While Hyderabad and surrounding districts continued to report a maximum number of cases, other parts of the state are also witnessing the surge.

During the last 24 hours till 8 p.m. Thursday, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) saw 336 new cases. Neighbouring districts Rangareddy and Medchal Malkajgiri reported 216 and 172 cases respectively. Sangareddy, another district bordering the state capital, recorded 97 cases.

Outside Hyderabad and surrounding districts, Nalgonda recorded the highest single-day jump of 164. Karimnagar saw 129 new cases, Warangal Urban 108, Khammam 98, Nizamabad 89 and Siddipet 87.

According to the director of public health, 69 per cent of 1,52,602 cases reported so far in the state were



asymptomatic.

The last 24 hours also saw 2,324 people recovering from the virus, taking the total number of recoveries to 1,19,467.

Telangana's recovery rate at 78.2 per cent is slightly higher than the national average of 77.63 per cent.

The number of active cases in the state stands at 32,195 including 25,240 in home and institutional isolation.

A total of 17 government and 38 private laboratories and 1,076 rapid antigen test centres across the state conducted 62,890 tests. These in-

clude 28,300 primary and 8,804 secondary contacts. With this the state has conducted over 20 lakh tests. However, there was no information available as to how many of these are rapid antigen tests.

The state health authorities said samples tested per million population improved further to 54,313. This is much higher than the daily testing target of 5,600 per day as per the World Health Organisation (WHO) benchmark of 140 per million per day.

Age wise Covid positive details show that 65.3 per cent of those

tested positive were in the age group of 21-50 years. Officials said that 24.71 per cent are above 51 years of age and about 10 per cent were aged below 20 years.

Officials said 64.41 per cent of those tested positive were male while the remaining 35.59 per cent were female.

Out of 20,396 beds under government, 17,728 beds are vacant, including 1,627 ICU beds.

A total of 199 private hospitals treating Covid patients have 10,388 beds, out of which 6,101 are vacant.



It is estimated that climate change will impact the Indian GDP by 2-6 per cent on an annual basis. This means that our future development goals and investments will also be severely affected if we do not address climate risks now

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | UNION MINISTER

EIGHT QUAKES HIT PALGHAR

Eight low-intensity earthquakes in the range of 2.2 to 3.6 magnitude were recorded in Palghar district of Maharashtra within four hours early on Friday, officials said



of the day quote

Students giving SSC have given many good suggestions including completion of the examination process + all stages + final result in a fixed period based on a calendar



PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

The state government is exploring the option of moving an application in the Supreme Court to get its interim order on implementation of Maratha quota vacated



ASHOK CHAVAN | MAHARASHTRA MINISTER

In view of the WHO's warning that COVID-19 cases will be on the rise in the coming days, the state government has decided to provide 80 per cent oxygen cylinders to hospitals and 20 per cent to industries



UDDHAV THACKERAY | MAHARASHTRA CM

SHORT TAKES

Fishermen rescued

Bangalore: The Indian Coast Guard rescued 24 fishermen stranded at sea off the Bhatkal port in Karnataka due to strong winds and swell on Friday. A press release by the Defence Public Relations Office here said that a fishing boat IFB Qamrul Bahar was found stranded at sea, 15 nautical miles off Bhatkal, and its inmates evacuated. The fishing boat had lost propulsion owing to engine failure.

Manoj Jha files nomination

New Delhi: With the post of Rajya Sabha Deputy Chair set to witness a contest between two leaders from Bihar on September 14, RJD leader Manoj Jha Friday filed his nomination papers for the electoral battle. The 'Bihar vs Bihar' contest gains significance as the eastern state is expected to go for Assembly polls later this year and the ruling Janata Dal-United and Rashtriya Janata Dal led alliances will flex some political muscles in the run-up to that contest.

Swami Agnivesh passes away

New Delhi: Social activist Swami Agnivesh, who was suffering from liver cirrhosis for a long time, died of multi-organ failure at a Delhi hospital, doctors said. He was 80. Agnivesh was critically ill and admitted to an ICU of the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, and was on ventilator support since Tuesday, the doctors said. "He was suffering from liver cirrhosis and died today due to multi-organ failure as his condition deteriorated and he went into cardiac arrest at 6 pm," a spokesperson of the hospital said. Resuscitation was attempted but he passed away at 6:30 pm, he said.

Man arrested

Mathura (Uttar Pradesh): Thirty-seven years after he committed a crime, Raghunath Singh, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh, wanted in connection with a case of motorcycle loot in 1983, was finally arrested Thursday. He carried a reward of Rs 20,000 on his head. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Gaurav Grover said that three persons were booked in the loot of a motorcycle from a bank manager in Managadhi in 1983. Two of them had earlier been arrested and remanded to judicial custody and the motorcycle was recovered from their possession. The third accused Raghunath Singh, however, was absconding.

Rhea, Showik denied bail

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 11: A special court here Friday rejected the bail pleas of Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik, arrested by the NCB in connection with a drugs-related case pertaining to the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

The court also rejected the bail pleas of four other accused in the case. Special Judge G B Guroo, presiding over cases under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, rejected their bail applications. All the accused are currently in judicial custody.

Special public prosecutor Atul Sarpande, appearing for the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), welcomed the decision and said the court, while rejecting the bail pleas, has accepted the contentions of the prosecution that the investigation is at a crucial stage.

Rhea's lawyer Satish Maneshinde said they would decide further course of action after perusing the court order. "Once we get a copy of the order passed by the special NDPS court, we will decide next week on further course of action and about approaching the Bombay High Court," he said.

In her bail plea, Rhea had claimed that she was falsely implicated in the case. Rhea had also retracted the confessional statement recorded by the NCB when she was questioned for three days. She had claimed that the NCB officials had coerced her into making self-incriminating statements.

The NCB had strongly opposed the bail pleas and said that Rhea was conscious of the fact that Rajput was con-



Maha orders probe against Kangana

Mumbai: The Maharashtra government Friday asked the Mumbai police to conduct an inquiry into the allegation that Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut used banned substances and narcotics drugs, a senior police official said. The city police received a communication from the state home department in this connection, he said, adding that the crime branch will look into the matter. Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh had said Tuesday that the Mumbai police will probe allegations by actor Adhyayan Suman that Ranaut took drugs. Adhyayan, the son of actor Shekhar Suman, was once in a relationship with Ranaut and had made the allegation in an interview, Deshmukh had said. Shiv Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik had submitted a letter to the Home Department referring to the allegation in Adhyayan's interview. Taking cognisance of the letter, the department asked the police to conduct an inquiry, the official said.

suming drugs, but despite that she continued procuring and making payments for drugs.

Act against guilty, IndiGo told

New Delhi: The DGCA has asked IndiGo to take "appropriate action" after the regulator found alleged violation of safety and social distancing protocols by mediapersons in the airline's Chandigarh-Mumbai flight that had actor Kangana Ranaut as a passenger, senior officials said Friday. "We have seen some videos wherein mediapersons are standing too close to each other in the 6E264 flight on Wednesday. It seems to be a violation of safety and social distancing protocols," a DGCA official said. There are multiple issues with this incident, and prominent among them are related to "photography on board in violation of Aircraft rules 13, violation of COVID-19 protocols and certain actions falling within the purview of unruly behaviour on board", the official stated.

AGUSTAWESTLAND CASE

CBI seeks nod for prosecution

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 11: The CBI has sought the government's permission to prosecute former Defence Secretary and Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Shashi Kant Sharma, Air Vice Marshal Jasbir Singh Panesar (ret'd) and three other former IAF officers in Rs 3,600 crore AgustaWestland VVIP chopper scam case.

A top Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) source said that the agency, in March, sought sanction to move against Sharma, who was then Joint Secretary, Defence; Panesar and three other IAF officers -- Deputy Chief Test Pilot S.A. Kunte, Wing Commander Thomas Mathew and Group Captain N. Santosh (all now retired). As per the source, the role of these officials came to the fore during the agency's probe.

The source said that the agency



got leads about their alleged role in the decision making and in the procurement process of the AgustaWestland choppers, and has got the documents related to their alleged involvement in the case.

The agency came to know about the alleged involvement of five officials after two officials turned as witness for the CBI earlier this year and shared key details, the source said. The source said that once the prosecution sanction is granted or denied by the government, the agency will file its supplementary charge sheet in the case.

On January 1, 2014, India cancelled the contract with Finmeccanica's British subsidiary AgustaWestland for supplying 12 AW-101 VVIP choppers to the IAF, over alleged breach of contractual obligations and on charges of paying kickbacks amounting to Rs 423 crore.

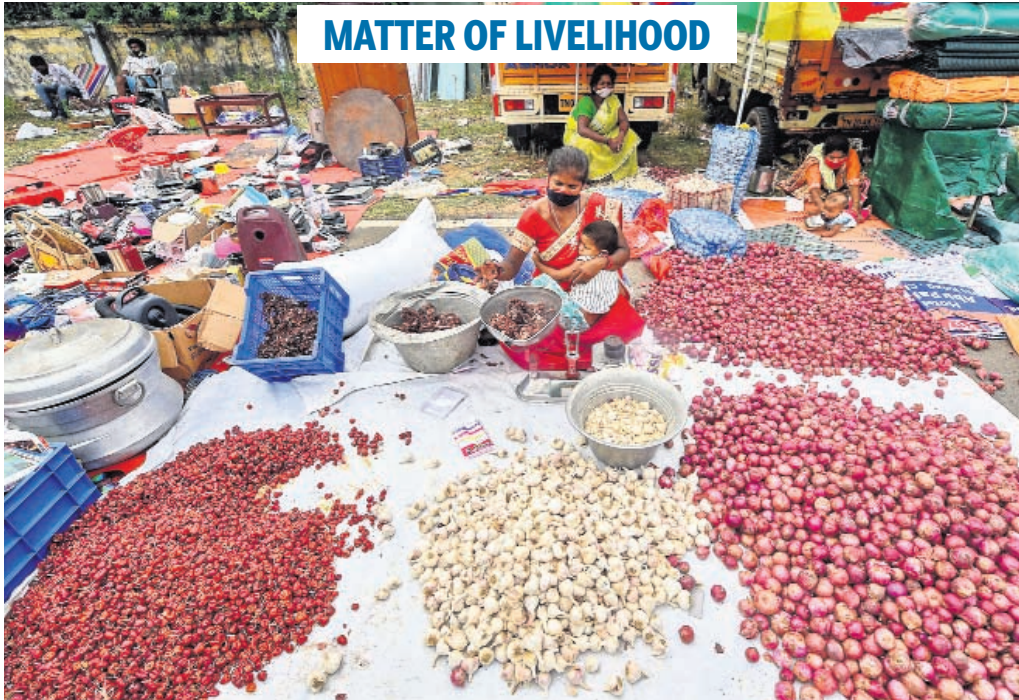
The CBI, which registered an FIR in the case on March 12, 2013, had alleged that former IAF chief S.P. Tyagi, some of his relatives and the other accused received kickbacks from AgustaWestland to help it win the contract.

The CBI probe revealed that several payments were made to the Tyagis by alleged middlemen Guido Haschke, Carlo Gerosa and Christian Michel. Indian investigative agencies in December 2018 arrested British national Michel after he was handed over by the UAE and he has been in judicial custody since then.



was in power in Bihar. Now, since NDA is in power at the Centre as well as the state, the work on the river-linking project, which would connect rivers like the Kosi, Gandak,

Ganga, Bhudhi, and many others, has picked up," he said. The river-linking project holds great significance for the state as around 20 districts witness floods every year and



A shopkeeper waits for customers at the 100-year-old Friday market of Pallavaram that was reopened following ease of restrictions during Unlock 4 in Chennai, Friday

PTI PHOTO

New Covid-19 drug gets DCGI nod for human trial

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 11: Amid the raging coronavirus pandemic, PNB Vesper Life Science Private Limited on Friday received approval from the Drug Controller General of India to conduct the clinical trial of their drug on Covid-19 patients.

CEO of PNB Vesper Life Science Private Limited P.N. Balaram said that this is a very big step for mankind in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. The molecule has shown remarkable results in reducing lung inflammation and acute respiratory distress syndrome.

The Indian Pharma Research company claimed that if their proprietary drug PNB-001 - Baladol -- works successfully in Covid-19 patients, it would be the "first new chemical entity in the world for treatment of the disease".

The drug has shown positive results in all the initial pre-clinical studies. The Phase 2, which would prove the efficacy of the molecule, will now be conducted at BMJ Medical College in Pune on 40 moderate patients on oxygen support, within 60 days.

"In Covid-19, the main symptoms are pyrexia, body pain and inflammation in the lung and we lose patients mainly because of cytokine storms and ARDS. We have proved in the pre-clinical studies, our drug is effective in reducing fever, body pain and inflammation," said CEO Balram.

He said that with the drug, the death rate also reduced to 80 per cent, whereas Dexamethasone drug, currently the most popular medicine in COVID-19 treatment in the world, only gives 20 per cent death reduction.

Parl panel bats for 'digital justice'

Batting for virtual courts as an instrument for speedy justice, the committee said one of the principal benefits of virtual courts is that they help expedite processes and procedures that are otherwise protracted and laborious

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 11: Parliament's Standing Committee on Law and Justice has favoured integration of virtual courts into India's legal ecosystem and recommended certain categories of cases like fines for traffic offences and cheque bounce to be handled only through virtual courts in future.

The panel chaired by senior BJP leader Bhupender Yadav submitted its report to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Friday. The panel said that the concept of virtual courts has gained immense ground during the COVID-19 pandemic, and emerged as the 'new normal'.

Citing opposition by various Bar associations, which favoured physical hearings over virtual ones, the committee said: "Since the integration of virtual courts into the legal ecosystem will have a significant impact on all stakeholders, the committee feels that members of the Bar associations and Bar councils must also be involved in



evolving a consensus. This will avoid unnecessary opposition and irritants."

Batting for virtual courts as an instrument for speedy justice, the committee said one of the principal benefits of virtual courts is that they help expedite processes and procedures that are otherwise protracted and laborious.

"The problem of truncated hearings, interspersed by frequent adjournments, can be avoided as there can be no excuse for litigants and lawyers to not attend court. Repeated adjournment of cases and truncated hearings are resulting in rescheduling of court processes and disrupting the

progress of cases," the parliamentary panel pointed out.

The committee recommended that, to begin with, the judiciary may identify categories of cases that can be tried by virtual courts. "The Department of Justice, in its written replies to the committee, submitted that the following cases may be tried in the virtual courts -- offences under the Motor Vehicles Act (traffic challan cases), petty offences where summons can be issued under Section 206 of CrPC, cases registered under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, and motor accident claim petition cases." It asserted that virtual courts would lead to improvement over the working of traditional courts as the former are more affordable, citizen-friendly and offer greater access to justice.

The committee emphasised that it was of the view that all such matters where personal presence may be dispensed with can be transferred to virtual courts. It said it believed that virtual adjudication will bring massive benefits across the

system. "The committee is of the opinion that a full-fledged virtual court should be piloted in the first instance. This allows the system to be tested in practice, which can then be refined in the light of feedback from stakeholders. It will also enable the judiciary to identify the type of cases best suited for virtual courts."

The parliamentary panel held a series of meetings with Secretaries of the Department of Justice and Legal Affairs, Secretary General of the Supreme Court, and representatives of the Bar Council of India as well as other Bar associations on the functioning of virtual courts.

The panel also suggested that virtual courts can be extended permanently to various appellate tribunals like Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal, Intellectual Property Appellate Board, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal etc, located across the country, which do not require personal appearances of the parties/advocates.

Couple ends life

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Sept 11: In a shocking incident, a speech and hearing impaired couple committed suicide after their families refused to accept their marriage proposal.

Before immolating themselves, the young couple recorded a selfie video in sign language, conveying their decision to end their lives to their families.

The incident occurred near Palem village in Anumula mandal of Telangana's Nalgonda district on Thursday.

According to police, N. Ashwini (20) and Sheikh Mastan Vali (27) reached the village outskirts, poured petrol on themselves and committed self-immolation. "We identified them from the identity cards recovered from the scene," said Veera Raghavulu, Circle Inspector, Halia Police Station.

KOZHIKODE MISHAP

Air India Express to get \$51 million

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 11: The Air India Express will get about \$51 million towards the loss of its Dubai-Kozhikode aircraft in the accident in Kozhikode airport last month, a senior insurance industry official said.

On August 7, the ill-fated Air India Express skidded off the runway of the Kozhikode airport and fell into a valley before breaking into two pieces, killing 18 persons and leaving scores injured.

"The total claim amount to be paid to Air India Express for loss of aircraft/hull will be about \$51 million. The aircraft has been insured for \$50 million which will be paid as it is a total loss. A sum of \$1 million will also be paid towards increased cost of working," the senior official with one of the four insurers said.

According to the official, an interim payment or 'on account payment' is expected to be paid to Air India Express sometime next week.

Social engineering seen as vital to succeed in Bihar elections

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Sept 11: With elections round the corner, political parties are working hard to streamline their social engineering to win the Assembly polls.

While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is following the social engineering ideology of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya where even the person in the last line of society also gets the benefits, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) has changed its social engineering narrative after the BJP registered a victory in the 2014 and 2019 Parliamentary elections.

BJP spokesperson Ram Sagar Singh said, "In 12 states the party is in power alone while in six it is in alliance with other parties. People have voted for us as we have tried

to serve every single person which has been the ideology of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. If we continue to do this, people will continue to vote for us."

"Schemes like Antyodaya Yojana, Ujjawal Yojana, Housing for All by 2022, electrification of villages along with various road projects have already been implemented by the Central government. The policies of the Central government have been effectively implemented in Bihar as there is better coordination between the two governments. Our social engineering has also helped us in implementing the schemes at the ground level in the state," he said.

Talking about the river linking project, Singh said it requires huge resources and money. "Before 2014, the Congress government at the Centre was not supportive as NDA

was one of the reasons the RJD emerged as the single largest party in Bihar in the 2015 elections despite contesting on only 100 seats," he added. He said that the opposition is running a false propaganda that the RJD is run by a family and is a party which favours only one or two castes.

Talking about the JD(U)'s social engineering, Information and Public Relations Minister in the Bihar government Neeraj Kumar said, "The JD(U) doesn't believe in caste based politics. For us, social engineering is implementing the public welfare schemes across the state. We have worked in such a way that the benefits reach all. We don't differentiate between castes and polarise votes. Social justice is the best social engineering model for the JD(U)."

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of the day quote

Women are not safe in West Bengal, even though the Chief Minister herself is a woman



KAILASH VIJAYVARGIYA | BJP NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY

Extremely heavy rainfall and flooding caused Rs 9,500 crore loss as crops, houses, livestock and roads suffered damages



SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | MP CHIEF MINISTER

The issues raised by Rahul Gandhi are justified. The country is facing an economic crisis, industries are shutting down, 2.10 crore people have lost their jobs, salaries are being cut and on the other hand, China is entering our territory



SACHIN PILOT | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Contraband seized

Kohima: The Excise Department in Nagaland has seized contraband worth Rs 1.25 crore from a vehicle and arrested two persons for allegedly smuggling ganja and heroin. Acting on a tip-off, a special team intercepted a truck near Hydro along National Highway 29 at 11:30 pm on Thursday. Assistant Commissioner of Excise (Zonal) S Phybemo Kikon said in a press release here. Hydro is located around 15 km from state capital Kohima.

Kolkata cop killed

Kolkata: A senior officer of West Bengal Police and two others were killed when their car hit a stranded truck in Hooghly district Friday. Police said Commanding Officer of 12th Battalion of State Armed Police, Debasree Chatterjee died after her vehicle hit a stranded truck from behind at Dadpur in the early hours of Friday. Apart from Chatterjee, her bodyguard and driver were brought out from the twisted vehicle and taken to Imambara Hospital, Chinsurah where all three were declared brought dead.

Woman dies

Thane: A 45-year-old woman died after being bitten by a snake at Vasai in Maharashtra's Palghar district, police said Friday. Sangeeta Suresh Gathal was attacked by a snake while she was asleep in the early hours of Thursday, an official said. The victim's family killed the snake and rushed her to a hospital in Bhiwandi where she died within a few hours of treatment, the official said.

Two girls raped

Gonda (UP): Two minor girls, aged six and seven, were allegedly raped by a man in a village here, police said Friday. The incident took place in the Umri Begamganj police station area on Thursday evening, they added. The girls had stepped out of their houses to pluck guavas when the youth lured them into his residence and allegedly raped them, Circle Officer, Tarabganj, Mahaveer Singh said. A case has been registered, and raids are on to nab the culprit, he said.

Leopard found dead in MP

Umaria (MP): A four-year-old leopard was found dead in a forested area near a village in Madhya Pradesh's Umaria district Friday, an official said. The carcass was found close to Barbaspur village, around 40 km from the district headquarters, the official said.



There should be a presentation by the government on what is happening on the India-China border, particularly in Ladakh, where the armies of the two countries are involved in a face-off

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP PRESIDENT

NAIDU UNDERGOES COVID TEST

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu Friday underwent a compulsory COVID-19 test, ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament that starts September 14



Follow Centre's SOP on Covid: SC

The top court, hearing a PIL filed by organisation 'Earth' alleging that exorbitant rates are being charged for ambulances from suspected and confirmed coronavirus patients, however made clear that states should fix this charge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: The Supreme Court Friday said states are obligated to implement the Centre's standard operating procedure (SOP) on various aspects of COVID-19 including transporting a suspected or confirmed case.

The top court, hearing a PIL filed by organisation 'Earth' alleging that exorbitant rates are being charged for ambulances from suspected and confirmed coronavirus patients, however made clear that states should fix this charge.

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan took note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already issued the SOP in this regard and all states "will have to implement it".

"It is obligatory for all the states to follow the SOP and take appropriate measures with regard to augmenting the capacity of ambulances," said the bench, also comprising Justices R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah, in the proceedings conducted through video conferencing. The petitioner organi-



sation said the SOP does not cover the pricing aspect of ambulances and this should be fixed as hospitals are charging exorbitantly and arbitrarily.

"State government will fix reasonable charge and all ambulances will be provided on that charge," the bench said and disposed of the PIL. The bench, during the hearing, noted that the some states are not implementing the SOP and the patients are at the mercy of others and are being charged Rs 7,000 and sometimes up to Rs 50,000 for ambulance services.

Earlier, the central government on March 29 had laid down the SOP on various issues including for medical staff attending to or trans-

porting a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19. The SOP was also meant to guide and train ambulance drivers and technicians in transporting COVID-19 patients.

"Ideally, there should be ambulances identified specifically for transporting COVID suspect patients or those who have developed complications, to the health facilities," the SOP had said.

"Currently, there are two types of ambulances 'ALS (with ventilators) and BLS (without ventilators). States may empanel other ambulances having basic equipment like that of BLS and use it for COVID patients," the Health Ministry had said. It had warned against use of the "102 ambulances" for coronavirus patients and said they should only be used to transport pregnant women and sick infants.

The emergency medical technician (EMT), driver of ambulance must wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling, managing and transporting identified and suspected cases of COVID-19. The patient and the attendant should be provided with triple-layer mask and gloves, the SOP said.

Date for submission of life certificates out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all central government pensioners can submit life certificate from November 1 to December 31, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said Friday.

Earlier, life certificate used to be submitted only in November for maintaining continuity of pension, he said. Singh said the decision was taken in view of the pandemic and the vulnerability of the elderly population to COVID-19.

"All central government pensioners can submit life certificate from November 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020," the minister of state for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions said.

"However, the pensioners in the age group of 80 years and above can submit life certificate from October 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020. During this extended period, the pension will be continued to be paid by the pension disbursing authorities (PDAs) uninterrupted," according to a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

Man gives minister haircut, gets ₹60,000

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Khandwa (MP), Sept 11: A young man who had asked for help to set up a barber's shop was asked by a Madhya Pradesh minister to demonstrate his skill on dais during a function.

Satisfied with the job he did, forest minister Vijay Shah paid the man Rs 60,000 on the spot. The incident took place at Gulaimal in Khandwa district on Thursday. Rohidas, a local resident, had asked the minister for financial help to start a hair salon.

During the function, the minister called Rohidas to the stage, and asked him to give him a haircut and shave. Rohidas, wearing a mask, cut the minis-

ter's hair and gave him a shave then and there. Shah handed over to him Rs 60,000.

"These people are facing problems because of COVID-19 restrictions and are jobless for the last few months. I got my hair cut on the spot to give confidence to people that it is safe if precautions are taken," the minister said.

The money was paid from the minister's discretionary fund, he said. He also said that the government would provide loans through banks to the youth who want to start their own small businesses. They will only have to repay the principal amount while the state government will pay the interest, the minister said.

Man arrested for threatening Raut

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 11: A man, claiming to be a fan of actress Kangana Ranaut, was Friday arrested from the city's Tollygunge area for allegedly threatening Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on a social networking site, police said.

A team of Mumbai Police with the help of Kolkata Police nabbed Palash Ghosh, in his late 20s, from his Tollygunge residence in the early hours of Friday for allegedly threatening Raut, they said.

Ghosh had allegedly threatened the Shiv Sena MP with "dire consequences" on a social networking site following which the Mumbai Police contacted the city cops and arrested the man. "He will be produced at a city court where the Mumbai Police will ask for transit remand to take him with them to Mumbai," the source said.

The Shiv Sena and the actress were engaged in a war of words after the latter recently likened Mumbai to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and also said she feared Mumbai Police more than "movie mafia".

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), which is ruled by the Sena, on Wednesday, pulled down some "illegal alterations" made at Ranaut's bungalow in Bandra.



Farmers stage protest against the agriculture ordinances introduced by the Central government, outside the Central Jail of Amritsar, Friday

PTI PHOTO

Lalu tries to pacify Raghuvansh

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ranchi, Sept 11: Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) president Lalu Prasad Yadav has written a letter to Raghuvansh Prasad Singh trying to pacify him after he sent a handwritten resignation to him.

In his letter to Singh, Lalu said, "Dear Raghuvansh Babu, a letter said to be yours is circulating in the media. I cannot believe it. My family and the RJD family wants to see you back soonest after recovery. For four decades, we have taken every political, social and even family decisions together. First you get better, then we will sit and talk. You are not going anywhere."

Lalu Yadav is serving a prison term after being convicted in a multi-million fodder scam. Earlier on Thursday, senior leader Raghuvansh Prasad Singh sent his handwritten resignation to Lalu Prasad Yadav saying that "After (former Chief Minister and socialist icon) Karpuri Thakur's death, I stood by you for 32 years, but no more."



At present, Singh is admitted at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi following some health issues. RJD leaders are silent over Singh's resignation but the BJP and JDU said that his decision is correct.

RJD spokesperson Mrityunjay Tiwari said, "I got to know about his resignation from the media. I have not received any official information." "I'll only give any statement after official information is received," he added.

Angry over former MP Rama Singh's reported entry into the RJD, Singh had earlier resigned from all party posts. However, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav had met him in the hospital and tried to convince him but the efforts were futile.

Engage in critical thinking: PM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 11: Emphasising on the need to impart learning in a language that a student understands, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday asked students to engage in critical thinking and study new things.

The Prime Minister said that the new 'mantra' for new-age learning is 'Engage, Explore, Experience, Express, and Excel'. He was speaking at a two-day conclave on 'School Education in 21st Century' under the new National Education policy 2020.

"We have to take students forward in the 21st century with skills of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, curiosity and communication." He emphasised that a subject's study should be undertaken in a language a student understands easily. That was the reason why many countries impart primary education in the chil-



The Prime Minister said that the new 'mantra' for new-age learning is 'Engage, Explore, Experience, Express and Excel'

dren's mother tongue.

"Education up to Class 5 should be in one's mother tongue only, but it does not mean that no other lan-

guages can be taught," Modi said.

The Prime Minister said that a marksheet had become a "mental pressure sheet" for the children, and the NEP 2020 aimed to remove this pressure. Also, teachers will have to learn and also unlearn many things under the new NEP, he added.

He said that in a week's time, the Union government had got around 15 lakh feedbacks on how to implement the new education policy. The Prime Minister expressed happiness about the enthusiasm of students and asked them to develop mathematical and scientific skills, especially in the field of robotics and data sciences as the future learning will depend more on Artificial Intelligence. He said that the new education policy is the new hope for the future while the previous policy was based on exam marks and to certain streams. However, the new NEP will focus on learning, he added.

Andhra fastest in developing 'chance fingerprints' from crime scenes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati, Sept 11: The Andhra Pradesh police department has emerged number one in the country when it comes to developing 'chance fingerprints' from crime scenes and also identifying 'chance fingerprints cases', according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

"The force stood first in the country when it comes to developing chance fingerprints' from the scenes

of crime as well as identifying 'chance print cases' for the year 2019-2020," said an official.

In the assessed year, the southern state successfully developed 9,418 chance finger prints, leading over all other states in the country. Kerala stood second, managing to develop 7,687 chance fingerprints.

Similarly, Andhra Pradesh has also topped the list in identifying 'chance fingerprint cases' with 512 instances, 233 more cases than



Punjab which managed to identify 279 to emerge as the second best state. According to the NCRB, the main responsibility of fingerprint experts is to develop chance prints left by criminals at the crime scene to match them with the data bank of existing criminals' fingerprints.

"The main responsibility of fingerprint experts is to develop the 'chance prints' left by criminals at the crime scene and to match the same with the fingerprints of known

criminals," the NCRB report noted.

Incidentally, Andhra Pradesh managed to achieve this feat even though the police department was working with fewer number of fingerprint experts than the sanctioned number.

In order to recover fingerprints from the crime scene, it is crucial to cordon off the crime scene, following the best protocols to ensure that the crime is not tampered with. "Despite working with fewer fin-

gerprint experts as the report suggests, the state stood first in the country in terms of both developing chance fingerprints and identifying chance prints cases speaks volumes about the competence and efficiency of the Andhra Pradesh police," observed state's senior CID officer P.V. Sunil Kumar.

Kumar said the accolade will only make the department work even harder toward ending crime and bringing criminals to justice.

of the day quote

So when Joe Biden says, build back better, that better includes building back in a way that is resilient, that is green, that protects the planet



NANCY PELOSI | US HOUSE SPEAKER

The national police apologise for any violation of the law or ignorance of regulations by any members of the institution



CARLOS HOLMES TRUJILLO | COLOMBIAN POLITICIAN

The party will be run on the basis of its established guidelines. However, the government is required to hold consultation with the party while deciding on issues of national importance



NARAYAN KAJI SHRESTHA | COMMUNIST PARTY OF NEPAL (CPN) SPOKESPERSON

SHORT TAKES

Beirut fire brought under control

Beirut: White smoke rose from the smoldering wreckage of Beirut's port on Friday hours after firefighters extinguished a huge fire that terrified the city's residents five weeks after a massive blast killed nearly 200 people and destroyed parts of Lebanon's capital. It wasn't clear what caused the raging fire that broke out Thursday afternoon and covered the city with dark smoke and toxic fumes for hours, as fire fighters and army helicopters struggled to bring it under control.

Seven killed in Colombia protests

Bogota: Violent clashes erupted in Colombia's capital following the death of a man in police custody, with angry citizens setting fire to city buses, vandalising police stations and squaring off with officers in confrontations that killed seven people. The wave of violence Wednesday erupted over a video showing two officers holding down a 43-year-old man being tasered as he begged them to stop and highlights long simmering tensions over excessive use of force by police.

Sudan floods kill over 100

Cairo: Flash floods in Sudan have killed more than 100 people this summer and inundated over 100,000 houses, threatening even a famous archaeological site near the capital of Khartoum and compounding the country's already dire economic situation, officials said. The floodwaters this week entered the ancient royal city of the Kushite kings known as the Island of Meroe, a UNESCO World Heritage site, said head of the archaeological exploration department at Sudan's National Corporation of Antiquities and Museums.

UK inks trade deal with Japan

London: The UK secured its first major post-Brexit trade deal Friday after signing an agreement with Japan just as discussions with the European Union appeared to be on the verge of collapse. The deal, which has so far only been agreed upon in principle and for which details are thin, will increase commerce with Japan by around 15 billion pounds (\$ 19 billion) and expands upon a recently signed deal between the EU and Japan, the UK said.



We are very happy that Moscow has presented a platform to Russia, China and India to have this very productive, fruitful meeting whose goal is to stabilise the situation on the border between India and China

SERGEY LAVROV | MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

HARD TIMES

A new study has revealed that the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in the US, currently the worst-affected country in the world, has been greatly undercounted due to a lack of testing



REMEMBERING THE TRAGIC DAY



A large American flag is unfurled at the Pentagon ahead of ceremonies at the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial to honor the 184 people killed in the 2001 terrorist attack on the Pentagon, in Washington

PTI PHOTO

Thousands protest after Greek refugee camp burns down

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mytilene (Greece) , Sept 11: Thousands of protesting refugees and migrants left homeless on the Greek island of Lesbos after fires destroyed the notoriously overcrowded Moria camp gathered on a road leading to the island's main town Friday, demanding to be allowed to leave.

Clapping and chanting songs, the protesters, most of whom appeared to be from African countries and from Afghanistan, were boisterous but peaceful. More than 12,000 people who had been living in and around Moria were left homeless by two consecutive fires Tuesday and Wednesday night. Greek officials said the blazes were deliberately set by some of the camp's residents angered by isolation orders issued to prevent the spread of the coronavirus after 35 residents were found to have been infected. They slept in the open for a third night, some cutting down reeds and using salvaged blankets to make rudimentary shelters to protect them from the night-time chill and the scorching day-time Sun.

'Biden family selling country to China'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Sept 11: US President Donald Trump has accused his Democratic challenger Joe Biden of being "weak" on China and that his family was "selling" the country directly to the Chinese military.

Democratic Party's presumptive nominee Biden and his Indian-American running mate Kamala Harris are challenging President Trump and Vice President Mike Pence in the November 3 Presidential election. Speaking to reporters at the White House on Thursday, Trump said, "Biden is weak on China. Yesterday, it was revealed that a fund partly owned by Joe Biden's son, Hunter, facilitated the sale of a Michigan auto parts producer to a leading Chinese military defense contractor."

Hunter Biden owns 10 per cent of

Shanghai-based private-equity firm Bohai Harvest RST. The president charged reporters that they were not reporting on the Michigan transaction. "You don't want to write about that, do you? Biden spent his entire career selling Michigan jobs to China," he said.

"Now the Biden family is selling out our country directly to the Chinese military. He didn't have a job. Now, all of a sudden, he's selling companies from Michigan to China," Trump said. He alleged the Chinese military got American manufacturing jobs, and the Biden family got paid in return.

"I said 'If Joe Biden ever got elected, China will own America', they will own America," Trump said. The president also accused his Democratic challenger of undermining his efforts to bring out a coronavirus vaccine.

"Joe's decision to publicly attack



the China (flight) ban proved he lacks the character or intelligence or instinct to do what is right. Now, Biden has launched a public campaign against the vaccine, which is so bad, because we have some vaccines coming that are incredible,"

he said. "Biden is perfectly happy to endanger the lives of other people by doing something that he thinks is going to help him politically because his polls are getting very bad. They're getting very shaky," he said.

Trump rules out extension of TikTok deadline

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Sept 11: US President Donald Trump Thursday ruled out extending the September 15 deadline for Chinese video-sharing social networking platform TikTok to either change its ownership to an American company or shut it down.

In an executive order last month, Trump had set September 15 as the deadline for the Chinese app to either change its ownership to an American company or shut it down. In the initial stages, Microsoft was said to be involved in negotiations with ByteDance, the Beijing-based internet technology company which owns TikTok. "I'm not extending deadline, no. It's September 15th. There will be no extension of the TikTok deadline," Trump told reporters Thursday.

Dutch hackers broke into Trump's Twitter account in 2016: Report

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, Sept 11: Three hackers who attempted to break into Donald Trump's Twitter account just before the presidential elections in October 2016 were left amused to see that his leaked password 'yourfired' worked to enter his Twitter account, the media reported Friday.

According to a report in the Netherlands-based news portal nltimes.nl, the Dutch hackers found Trump's password because of a 2012 LinkedIn data breach involving a database of 117 million usernames and passwords.

The password 'yourfired' - the erroneously spelled catchphrase for Trump's TV reality show 'The Apprentice' - turned out to also work on his Twitter account.



"They were shocked when it worked. The Dutch knew they were potentially in trouble, because it could be interpreted as a cyber attack on a presidential candidate," Vrij Nederland journalist Gerard Janssen who saw the hacking screenshots was quoted as saying.

The hackers did not mean to do any harm or post anything from Trump's account as they

were "testing the security on the account, and then they reported the vulnerability to Trump and the United States government".

The hackers never heard back from Trump but they did get a message from the National Cyber Security Center saying that the American government had taken up the report. "Thank you for contacting us".

In July this year, 130 several high-profile personalities like Bill Gates, Elon Musk, Apple, Joe Biden and Barack Obama saw their Twitter accounts being hacked in a crypto scam. Trump's account was not part of the hack.

According to reports, Trump's accounts may have some form of enhanced security measures that aren't available to regular verified Twitter account holders.

MATTER OF CONCERN

Pak continues to foment 'culture of violence' at home: India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Sept 11: Hitting out at Pakistan, India has said the country foments a "culture of violence" at home and across its borders and its "deplorable" human rights records and discriminatory treatment of religious minorities is a cause of "persistent concern" for the global community.

"Unfortunately we have witnessed another attempt by the delegation of Pakistan to exploit a UN platform for hate speech against India," Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN, Paulomi Tripathi, said Thursday at the high-level forum on the 'Culture of Peace' at the 74th United Nations General

Assembly. "This happens at a time when Pakistan continues to foment a culture of violence at home and across its borders," Tripathi said.

India's strong rebuke came as Pakistan's UN envoy Munir Akram made references to Jammu and Kashmir, the Babri Masjid demolition and construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya during his remarks to the virtual forum on 'Culture of Peace'.

"Pakistan's deplorable human rights records and discriminatory treatment of religious and ethnic minorities is a cause of persistent concern for the international community," Tripathi said. "Blasphemy laws are used against religious minorities such as Hindus, Christians



and Sikhs, to violate their human rights and dignity," she said, adding that women and girls remain par-

ticularly vulnerable in Pakistan as they are abducted, raped, forcefully converted and married to their vi-

olators. The pandemic has only aggravated the situation, she said. "Talk of 'culture of peace' from the delegation of Pakistan is nothing but a decoy to divert attention from their own shameful records. Before making absurd allegations against India, where equal rights of people of all faiths are guaranteed by the constitution, the delegation of Pakistan must do itself a favour of looking at their own system and records of protecting minorities," Tripathi said.

The Indian diplomat emphasised that a culture of peace does not merely signify absence of war but embodies a predisposition towards resolving differences

through dialogue and understanding. Children are worst affected as terror networks spread their tentacles across the borders and threaten peace, India has said in a veiled reference to Pakistan, as it called on the UN member states to demonstrate a greater political will to ensure perpetrators of terrorism are held accountable for abusing child rights.

Terrorist outfits and individuals banned by the Council are directly or indirectly responsible for abusing child rights, India said in a statement on Thursday to the UNSC open debate on Children and Armed Conflict/Attacks against Schools as Grave Violation of Children's Rights'.



POVERTY DUE TO PANDEMIC

business

of the day quote

Adoption of the digital route has now become important for the sustainability of operations, maintenance and also in keeping liquidity

ANJANI KUMAR TIWARI | DIRECTOR (FINANCE) GAIL

The company has managed to gain a 51% market share in the Chinese smartphone industry amid US sanctions

RICHARD YU | PRESIDENT (CONSUMER BUSINESS), HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES

The longest lockdown interval in the history of cinema exhibition industry has got us missing our patrons dearly. We truly believe that our audiences share our love for the unparalleled experience of watching movies in a theatre that has led us to reach out to them with this campaign

GAUTAM DUTTA | CEO, PVR CINEMAS

SHORT TAKES

Crisil projects 9% contraction

Mumbai: The Indian economy will contract by 9% in 2020-21 as the coronavirus infections are yet to peak and the government is not providing adequate direct fiscal support, ratings agency Crisil said Thursday. In May, Crisil had estimated the economy to contract by 5%. The latest projection comes days after official data for the June quarter showed a contraction of 23.9% in the economy. Crisil said the 9% contraction will be the highest since the 1950s.

PMMSY to raise farmers' income

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday launched the ₹20,050 crore-Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) in 21 states, including Bihar that will help double fisheries exports, create more employment opportunities and boost income of farmers. Through a video conference, Modi also launched the mobile app e-Gopala as well as several initiatives linked to studies and research in fisheries production, dairy, animal husbandry and agriculture in Bihar.

Kerala projects gain pace

Thiruvananthapuram: Fast-tracking the investment procedure within a 30-day deadline, the Kerala government has cleared 29 industrial projects over the last four years. The ₹3,604.70-crore projects were cleared under the Kerala State Single Window Clearance Board. Constituted under the Kerala Industrial Single Window Clearance Boards and Industrial Township Area Development Act, 1999.

IndiGo operates 1,700 cargo flights

Mumbai: Budget carrier IndiGo operated over 1,700 cargo charter flights, transporting over 14,300 tonnes of supplies between April 18 and September 7, which is equivalent to the total cargo handled by the carrier in the last fiscal, the airline said Friday. These flights, comprising both domestic and international, were operated across 21 destinations, it said in a release. The international destinations include Bishkek, Cairo, Almaty and Tashkent, it added. "We operated passenger flights in 'freighter mode', with cargo secured in the cabins, to domestic and international stations," IndiGo CEO Ronojoy Dutta said.



Real estate sector, which has a large contribution to the GDP and employment, will also have to realign itself with the new normal and think about future investments

DURGA SHANKER MISHRA | SECRETARY, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

SAGEONE NAMED TOPMOST WEALTH CREATOR

SageOne Investment Advisors LLP topped the list of biggest wealth creators for the last decade, finds a report. The company's portfolio delivered an annualised return of 24.70%, the highest amongst its peers. The report ranked Sundaram SISOP as the 2nd biggest wealth creator for the last decade with an annualised return of 18.80%



Industrial production shrinks 10.4% in July

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: Industrial production shrank by 10.4% in July, mainly due to lower output of manufacturing, mining and power generation sectors, official data showed Friday.

Explaining the reasons behind the fall in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said a large number of industrial units were not operating from the end of March due to the lockdown imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19.

"This has had an impact on the items being produced by the establishments during the period of lockdown," it said in a statement. It further said industrial activity is resuming with the lifting of restrictions. The ministry added that it "may not be appropriate to com-



MINING SECTOR OUTPUT FELL 13% IN JULY WHILE POWER GENERATION SHRANK BY 2.5%

THE IIP FOR APRIL-JULY PERIOD HAS CONTRACTED BY 29.2%

LOCKDOWN IMPACT

ACCORDING TO THE IIP DATA, FACTORY OUTPUT HAD REGISTERED A GROWTH OF 4.9% IN JULY 2019

AS PER THE DATA, MANUFACTURING SECTOR, RECORDED A DECLINE OF 11.1% IN JULY AS AGAINST A GROWTH OF 4.8% IN SAME MONTH LAST YEAR

pare the IIP in the post pandemic months with the IIP for months preceding the COVID 19 pandemic."

However, it said the index for the month of July 2020 stands at 118.1 as compared to 108.9 in June, 89.5 in May and 54 in April.

According to the IIP data, factory output had registered a growth of 4.9% in July 2019. Meanwhile, the fall in IIP for June has been revised to (-) 15.77% from the provisional estimates of 16.6% contraction released last month.

'Online food delivery GMV to hit \$13bn'



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Sept 11: India's total online food delivery gross merchandise value (GMV) is expected to be \$13 billion by 2024 by clocking 12 million daily orders on an average, said a new report Friday.

While online food delivery, which has scaled to more than 500 cities and towns in India and over 10x GMV over the past three years, will continue to be the core, a significant growth is expected in the other businesses such as ads and groceries, amongst others, according to Bengaluru-based consulting firm RedSeer.

These businesses have the potential to contribute up to a quarter of the total GMV.

"While food delivery in itself is likely to be \$13 billion by 2024, as the players diversify with a keen eye

on profitability, we expect further \$4 billion+ growth in ads and loyalty programmes, Cloud kitchens, hyperlocal delivery and procurement offerings," Abhijit Routray, Senior Consultant at RedSeer, said in a statement.

In June, RedSeer in its findings said that while due to the Covid-19 impact, the number of orders dropped, foodtech players evolved themselves into hyperlocal super apps. "While grocery delivery boosts fleet utilisation, it is challenging due to low shelf-life, thin margins, and the need for specialised infrastructure," said Routray.

"Also, with large players entering the space with a focus on value, foodtech players will look to excel on delivery times, fill-rates, while differentiating on other aspects -- for instance, driving customer delight through curation."

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 11: Moody's Investor Service Friday enhanced the contraction rate of India's FY21 GDP to (-) 11.5% from an earlier estimate of (-) 4%. The revision comes days after India reported a massive 23.9% contraction in the first quarter GDP of the current fiscal.

Consequently, Moody's revised the forecast for the next financial year 2021-22. It now estimates a growth of 10.6% from a rise of 8.7%, which was predicted earlier.

Persistent growth challenges, including weak infrastructure, land and rising financial sector risks continue to constrain the economy's potential

"The country's policymaking institutions have struggled to mitigate and contain these risks, which have been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. Mutually reinforcing risks from deeper stresses in the economy and financial system could lead to a more severe and prolonged erosion in fiscal strength, exerting further pressure



on the credit profile," a Moody's statement said.

Moody's had earlier downgraded India's sovereign rating to Baa3 with a negative outlook.

The statement Friday said that the negative outlook reflects mutually reinforcing downside risks from potentially deeper stresses in the economy and the financial system that could lead to a more severe and prolonged erosion in fiscal strength than currently projected.

Persistent growth challenges, including weak infrastructure, rigidities in labour, land and product markets and rising financial sector risks continue to constrain the economy's potential, it said, adding that these structural weaknesses may impair the economy's recovery from domestic or external

LiboLyf to open new store in Balasore

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: LiboLyf, a leading supplier of sports and fitness requirements, will start its operation in Balasore soon. Benu Madhab Panda will be franchise partner for the store. He signed a pact in this regard at company's Bhubaneswar office. Panda is director of Satya Sai Engineering College.

LiboLyf is a leading supplier of sports and fitness requirements which includes gym equipments, sports wears, casual wears, e-Bicycles and other essential products with 'go green' stores.

LiboLyf believes in staying active while exploring new sports and fitness requirements on a



day to day basis that can impact lifestyle in a healthier manner. LiboLyf provides franchise which will be operated by the company with high returns and high profit payout.

PV sales up 14% over festive demand: SIAM

REUTERS

Bangalore, Sept 11: Total passenger vehicle sales in India rose 14.16% in August, showing some signs of economic recovery as industries restart operations months after a coronavirus-led lockdown disrupted a sector already hit by poor demand.

Indians bought a total of 215,916 cars, utility vehicles and vans in August, compared with 189,129 a year earlier, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said Friday.

"We are beginning to observe growth, which is instilling confidence back into the industry," SIAM President Kenichi Ayukawa said in a statement.



The upcoming festive season, which culminates in Diwali and sees a majority of Indians making big ticket purchases, will help with a faster revival in demand, another executive said.

Two-wheeler sales - widely seen as an indicator of the health of the rural economy - rose 3% from a year earlier.

Hotel occupancy in Puri reaches 67%

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: With the ongoing festive season, hotel industry in the state, especially those located in the coastal regions, showed some improvement in reviving their business this month. Odisha, like the rest of the country has also been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Hotel & Restaurant Association of Odisha (HRAO), the representing body of hotel and hospitality sector in the state affirmed that hotels in the coastal belt have shown positive response when it comes to achieving 'occupancy'.

HRAO General Secretary Srinivas Subudhi said, "The pandemic has created a disastrous situation to

FESTIVE REVIVAL



the hotel industry. But, hotels in coastal areas like Berhampur, Balasore, Gopalpur and Puri have gradually improved and have achieved an increase in occupants. Hotels occupancy in Berhampur, Balasore and Gopalpur has reached 40% in the first week of September

while Puri achieved 67% occupancy in first week of the same month."

Subudhi also stated that the pandemic caused the sector to fall 20-25% of hotel occupancy in the aforementioned places. The situation is grim in the pilgrim town of Puri which had a hustling and bustling atmosphere luring tourists until Covid struck. The abode of Lord Jagannath always used to see a footfall in lakhs for its pristine golden beach.

Normally, the hotel occupancy in Puri remains full (i.e. 100%) during the festive season and 30-40% during off season.

According to Subudhi, there are over 200 hotels available in Puri and expecting a revival in the post-pandemic world. Sadly, the general

secretary claimed that no financial assistance was offered from state or the central government to revive the sector. "No subsidy or financial package was assured or offered to revive the damaged industry," said Subudhi.

HRAO had urged the governments for minimum of 1 year moratorium on all working capital, principal, interest payments, loans and overdrafts and Soft loan at concessional rate of interest up to 4 years for hotel industry which will help them sustain and revive.

On behalf of the hotel industries of Odisha, HRAO Friday submitted their suggestions on the recommendations of the Kamath Committee on the proposed key ratio for the hotel industry.

Adani Green Energy ties up with 10 int'l banks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 11: Adani Green Energy Friday said it has tied up with around 10 international banks to diversify construction finance portfolio for its ongoing and future projects. The company - which has a portfolio of 14 GW of operating, in-construction and awarded wind and solar parks - is aiming to commission renewable capacity of 25 GW by 2025.

"We have a very large construction pipeline that is ahead of us. Typically how we do our financing is that we take construction financing from Indian banks and once they are operational then we

refinance the portfolio by raising international bond funding.

"So, what we are doing going ahead is because of the size, scale and volume of projects we have ahead of us, in addition to the Indian banks we are also having about 10 odd international banks who are going to work with us for construction greenfield funding," Adani Green Energy executive director Sagar Adani told reporters in a media analyst call. However, he did not disclose further details on the same.

He said the move is a step towards diversifying its construction finance portfolio as well so that all projects are fully funded at the time of execution.

Big European states call for curbing cryptocurrency

The finance ministers of five EU members said in a joint statement that stablecoins should not be allowed to operate in the 27-member bloc until legal, regulatory and oversight challenges had been addressed

REUTERS

Berlin, Sept 11: Germany, France, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands called on the European Commission to draw up strict regulation for asset-backed cryptocurrencies such as stablecoins to protect consumers and preserve state sovereignty in monetary policy.

The finance ministers of the five European Union member states said in a joint statement Friday that stablecoins should not be allowed to operate in the 27-member bloc until legal, regulatory and oversight challenges had been addressed.

Stablecoins, a type of cryptocurrency often backed by traditional assets, leapt onto policymakers' agendas last year when Facebook revealed plans for its Libra token.

Some central banks and financial regulators, concerned that Libra could destabilise monetary policy, facilitate money laundering and erode privacy, threatened to block it and the project has been delayed and reshaped as a result.

The EU's regulatory framework

for stablecoins should preserve the bloc's monetary sovereignty and address risks to monetary policy, as well as protecting consumers, the five countries said in a statement issued on the sidelines of a broader meeting of European officials in Berlin.

The European Commission is expected to present its regulatory proposals later this month. "We all agree that it's our task to keep financial market stable and to ensure that what is a task for



states remains a task for states," German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz told reporters during a joint statement with his counterparts. **'VERY CLEAR RULES'**

Scholz said authorities should take a tough approach and this should include a ban on any private sector activities if regulatory requirements were not met.

The five countries want all stablecoins to be pledged at a ratio of 1:1 with fiat currency, with reserve assets denominated in the euro or other currencies of EU members states, and deposited in an EU-approved institution.

All entities operating as part of a stablecoin scheme should be registered in the EU, they said. Such a move would likely impact the Geneva-based Libra Association, which plans to issue and govern Libra. "We're waiting for the Commission to issue very strong and very clear rules to avoid the misuse of cryptocurrencies for terrorist activities or for money laundering," French FM said.

ONE LAST HURDLE

Ankle betrays Serena at the wrong time as the American's wait for record-equalling title stretched further following her loss to Azarenka

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 11: Serena Williams already was struggling to keep up in a fast-paced US Open semi-final when she stopped behind the baseline after a third-set point and leaned over.

She held that pose for a bit, then clutched at her left ankle and asked for a trainer. While Williams took a medical timeout for a tape job, her latest bid for a 24th Grand Slam singles title seemingly slipping away, her opponent, Victoria Azarenka, sat in a sideline seat, eyes closed, calm and composed as can be.

After a delay of about five minutes, action resumed, and while Williams raised the force of her shots and volume of her shouts, it was Azarenka who finished off a 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory to return to a major championship final for the first time since 2013.

"It's been seven years? That's my favorite number. I guess that's meant to be. I'm very grateful for this opportunity," said Azarenka who won the Australian Open in 2012 and 2013 and lost to Williams in the US Open finals each of those two years. "On the road to the final, you have to beat the best players and today was that day."

The loss left Williams just short of No.24 yet again. She was beaten in the finals of four of the preceding seven Slams, including at Flushing Meadows in 2018 and 2019.

With her 39th birthday a little more than two weeks away, the question will become: How many more chances

will Williams get?

This was Williams' fourth consecutive three-setter in New York and although she was far better at the outset Thursday, racing to a 4-0 lead inside of 15 minutes, Azarenka eventually did get going.

Evidence of Azarenka's brilliance: She compiled 12 winners and merely one unforced error in the second set, then continued her baseline mastery in the third, especially with her backhand.

That carried her to her first win against Williams in 11 career Grand Slam matchups between the pair. Azarenka will face Naomi Osaka Saturday for the championship in a meeting between two-time major champions who have both been ranked No.1 in the past and have been by far the two best players since tennis resumed last month after a pandemic-forced hiatus.

Azarenka has won 11 matches in a row; Osaka's streak is at 10 after her 7-6(7-1), 3-6, 6-3 win over Jennifer Brady in a hard-hitting semifinal filled with fast serves and strong forehands.

Osaka sets sights on her 3rd Grand Slam title as she overcomes Brady challenge in US Open semis

The match was played with the retractable cover at Arthur Ashe Stadium shut, and rain loudly pelted the roof. That also created an indoor environment conducive to the clean hitting both women produced, the thud of racket-on-ball echoing off thousands of empty blue seats at a tournament closed to spectators because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"It means a lot for me. I kind of consider New York my second home," said Osaka, who was born in Japan and moved to the United States as a child. "I kind of love the atmosphere, even though there's no people here. I feel like this court kind of suits me well."

Osaka served at up to 120 mph; Brady reached 117 mph. And they pounded the ball once it was in play, too, particularly off the forehand side.

"I just felt like I was sticking it out. It felt like we were trading serves," Osaka said. "I tried to adjust a little bit on her serve in the third set so maybe that helped."

They combined for 70 winners – 35 apiece – to just 42 unforced errors, each as good as the other; and it took a bit of luck to swing things after one hour, 45 minutes.

That's when, at 2-1 in the third set, Osaka earned her first break point with a backhand that clipped the net tape and trickled over. She was able to convert the chance when she hit a deep return of a 110 mph serve, and Brady's backhand in response was called long – although a television replay showed it actu-

ally caught a piece of the back of the baseline.

Brady did not challenge the ruling. Ashe is one of only two courts at the US Open using line judges this year; to reduce the number of people on site, the tournament used electronic line-calling in the other arenas.

The opening set of the first women's semifinal came down to the tie-breaker and Osaka was superior, maybe owing to her greater

amount of experience in such situations.

She didn't make a single error – Brady's lone point arrived via an ace – and coolly closed it out with a 120 mph ace. That was the first set ceded by Brady in the two-week tournament, but she also hadn't faced anyone the caliber of Osaka, whose resume also includes the 2019 Australian Open trophy and status as the first Asian tennis player to be ranked No.1.

A trainer attends Serena Williams for the tape job



Maxwell, Marsh help Aussies post 294 for 9

AGENCIES

Manchester, Sept 11: Glenn Maxwell (77, 59b, 4x4, 4x6) and Mitchell Marsh (73, 100b, 6x4) forged together a splendid partnership for the sixth wicket to guide Australia to a massive 294/9 in the first innings of the first ODI against England here, Friday.

The duo put together 126 runs after the visitors were reduced to 123/5 in the 24th over. Marsh looked more calm and composed in a bid to dig deep, while Maxwell took odd risks to maintain the run-rate and also to put pressure on the home team.

The idea paid off completely before Maxwell perished to a Jofra Archer (3/57) delivery in the 44th over with the scoreboard reading 249/6. However, it didn't bother Marsh much as the all-rounder continued in the same vain. He was finally dismissed by Mark Wood (3/54) in the 47th over.

Australia could manage only 15 runs in next 2.5 overs before Mitchell Starc hit Chris Woakes

BRIEF SCORES

Australia 294/9

(Glenn Maxwell 77, Mitchell Marsh 73, Marcus Stoinis 43; Mark Wood 3/54, Jofra Archer 3/57) **vs England.**
Match to continue.

for a six on the final delivery of their innings.

Earlier, England's decision to field first after winning the toss paid off well as they dismissed openers David Warner and skipper Aaron Finch inside first 10 overs.

Marcus Stoinis (43, 34b, 6x4) was again preferred at No.3 ahead of Marnus Labuschagne. Stoinis approached attackingly before Wood removed him. Labuschagne and Alex Carey couldn't do much as Adil Rashid (2/55) got rid of the duo one after another.

Australia and England, considered as one of the biggest cricketing rivals, are playing a three-match ODI series. Earlier, the hosts had clinched the three-match T20I series 2-1 after winning the first two games.



Glenn Maxwell launches a shot down the ground as Jos Buttler looks on; Mitchell Marsh (inset) played a watchful knock
PHOTOS: ESPNCRICINFO

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chahar gets nod to start training

Dubai: Chennai Super Kings pacer Deepak Chahar will start training from Friday, having got the necessary BCCI clearance following his recovery from COVID-19. Chahar, who entered the team's bio-bubble Wednesday after returning two negative tests, had to undergo a cardio vascular test as per BCCI protocol before he could hit the nets. Last year's runners-up CSK face defending champions Mumbai Indians in the tournament-opener September 19. Another player, a batsman, who was tested positive shortly after team's arrival in Dubai, will be tested Saturday. CSK were the last team to start training after 13 members of their contingent tested positive.

OFC sign Aussie defender Tratt

Bhubaneswar: Odisha FC have roped in Australian defender Jacob Tratt on a three-year contract, the club announced Friday. The centre-back is the third foreign signing for the Bhubaneswar-based side ahead of the seventh edition of ISL. The 26-year-old Tratt can play both as a right-back and centre-back. After his youth career at Sydney FC, he has been consistently playing in the Australian A-League and has represented Sydney FC, Sydney United, Wellington Phoenix, Sutherland Sharks and Perth Glory. Earlier, OFC had signed forwards Diego Mauricio and Marcelinho as foreign recruits.

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