



## WINNER MALAIKA

Actor Malaika Arora says she feels blessed to have overcome Covid-19 with minimum pain and discomfort

LEISURE

P2



## DRONE THREAT

The BSF says that airdropping of weapons by drones in J&K is a new challenge

TWO STATES

P7



## SHARIF'S COMEBACK

Pakistan's deposed premier Nawaz Sharif stages a political comeback by criticising the powerful army

INTERNATIONAL

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# RS passes farm Bills amid high drama

TROUBLE STARTED WHEN THE SITTING OF THE HOUSE WAS EXTENDED BEYOND THE SCHEDULED TIME TO ALLOW PASSAGE OF THE BILLS

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 20: Rajya Sabha Sunday passed two key farm Bills amid a bedlam as Opposition members charged towards the podium of the presiding officer, flung the rule book at him, tore official papers and heckled him over their demand for a division of vote.

The Upper House, which witnessed a brief adjournment due to the pandemonium, passed by voice vote the Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020. The Bills have already been passed by Lok Sabha and will now go to the President for his assent before they are notified as laws.

Trouble started when the sitting of the House was extended beyond the scheduled time to allow passage of the Bills. Opposition members, who felt such a move should be resorted to only by consensus, rushed into the Well, shouting slogans against the government and accusing it of being anti-farmer.

This forced Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar to cut short his reply and Deputy Chairman Harivansh took up the approval of the Bills.

Four Opposition sponsored motions to send the two Bills to a House panel for greater scrutiny were negated by voice vote, but the Congress, TMC, CPM and DMK members sought a di-



In this combo image, TMC MP Derek O'Brien is seen attempting to tear the rule book as ruckus erupts in the Rajya Sabha over farm Bills, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

## NO-TRUST NOTICE AGAINST RS DY CHAIRMAN

NEW DELHI: Twelve Opposition parties Sunday gave a notice for a no-confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh over the manner in which two farm Bills were passed in the Upper House after he



overruled their pleas for an adjournment of the proceedings. The parties that have submitted the notice include the Congress, All India Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party, Telangana Rashtra Samithi,

CPI, CPM, Nationalist Congress Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal, National Conference, DMK and the Aam Aadmi Party. Congress leader Ahmed Patel said 12 parties have given a notice of no-confidence against the deputy chairman, as the manner in which the Bills were passed is a "murder" of democracy.

vision of vote on the issue.

As Harivansh over-ruled them saying division of votes can take place only when members are on their seat, TMC leader Derek O'Brien charged towards the podium, thrusting the rule book into the face of the Deputy Chairman.

House marshals thwarted the move as also blocking a book that was flung towards Harivansh. An attempt was also made to pull microphones away from the chair but the marshals phys-

ically stopped that from happening.

DMK leader Tiruchi Siva, who along with O'Brien, KC Venugopal of Congress and KK Ragesh of CPM had moved resolutions for sending the Bills to the select committee, tore papers and flung them into the air.

Harivansh, who asked members to go back to their places and not come into the Well due to the COVID-19 protocol requiring physical separation, first muted the audio of the live proceedings

but with the ruckus continuing, he adjourned the proceedings for 15 minutes.

As the first Bill got voice approval of the House and motions for sending it to a select committee were rejected, at least two members tried to climb on the table of Rajya Sabha officers but were pulled down.

Both the Bills were passed by voice vote and amendments moved by the opposition parties rejected.

In his reply to the debate on the

## BJD OPPOSES

NEW DELHI: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD), which has been extending issue-based support to the NDA, demanded that the farm Bills be sent to select committee for further scrutiny. Speaking in the Upper House on the Bills, BJD MP Amar Patnaik said that there is possibility of cartelisation and asked the Union government to send the Bills to the Select Committee for scrutiny. The BJD MP said that the Bills are largely good on intent but ignore the implementation aspect. He said the Bills need to be evaluated from the point of view that who are the stakeholders. He said there are 63 per cent small and marginal farmers in the country and asked that can a small or marginal farmer be in position to find out a contract for himself. These Bills may not get the desired benefits as the bargaining power of the farmers will be gone, Patnaik said. "I'm not sure if the Bills are going to bring buyer in the market and there is possibility of cartelisation," Patnaik said.

Bill, Tomar said minimum price or MSP based procurement of agriculture crops from farmers will continue and is not related to the farm bills that seek to give cultivators freedom to market their produce.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



To protect our democracy, they are providing security to actors, arresting activists, muting our MPs...

## SHORT TAKES

### Human sacrifice to appease Goddess

Balasore: In a shocking incident, an elderly man allegedly sacrificed a 7-year-old boy to appease Goddess with the belief of getting a grandson at Dhain Sahi under Bahanaga block of Balasore district. The killing took place a week ago and the Khantapada police arrested the accused Laxmidhar Mallick and detained his son Bhagirathi Saturday. Bhairathi and his wife were childless for the last five years after marriage. A woman relative of Laxmidhar told him to sacrifice a child and assured him that it will result in birth of his grandson.

### State Covid toll breaches 700-mark

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Sunday registered its highest single-day spike of 4,330 COVID-19 cases, which pushed the state's infection count to 1,79,880, a health department official said. The death toll rose to 701 with 10 more people succumbing to the infection, he said. Of the 4,330 new cases, 2,556 were reported from various quarantine centres, while the rest were detected during contact tracing.

P4

WEATHER			
	BHUB	CTK	
MAX	28.2°C	29.2°C	
MIN	26.1°C	25.0°C	
Humidity	95%	87%	Forecast
Rainfall	1.2mm	Nil	Light rain very likely

## China erects 9 bldgs on Nepal's land

CHINA HAS OCCUPIED PART OF NEPAL'S LAND ALONG THE BORDER AND EVEN PREVENTED NEPALI PEOPLE FROM VISITING THE AREA

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 20: China has erected nine buildings Nepal's land and also disallowing Nepali authorities from stepping foot in the area. According to reports, the Chinese are talking advantage of the border standoff with India and the absence of Nepalese security forces owing to the approaching winter season to gradually capture land in the region.

The most recent incident of occupying Nepal's land by China has come to light from Humla district where the Chinese have stealthily constructed a building in Namkhya village. Work on nine buildings in the same village is now complete. Having occupied the region, China has even restricted the entry of Nepalese locals near these buildings.

Reports said that the matter first came to light when the head of the Namkhya village council, Vishnu Bahadur Lama visited border areas during a routine tour. He said that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has completed the construction of nine buildings in the Lapcha area



of Limi village.

Lama further revealed that he was stopped from entering the area and claimed that Chinese soldiers involved in the construction crossed over to China when he asked them questions about the buildings. He said the construction has been done two kilometers inside Nepal's side of the China-Nepal border.

Local elected representatives said construction of three buildings by the Chinese between Limi

and Lapcha was halted after Nepal objected to road development by China in the area in 2019. However, the Chinese have now erected nine buildings which are now in the final phases of completion.

Lama also claimed that locals are being stopped from entering their own lands while PLA troops are conveniently crossing over the border to participate in the construction of said buildings. When contacted, Humla chief district officer Chiranjeevi Giri said he has no knowledge of Chinese erecting buildings between Limi and Lapcha.

Now, Nepalese security forces along with measurement and survey department officials have been dispatched to the area concerned.

Neither Nepal's Home Ministry nor Foreign Ministry has issued a statement in this regard. It seems like the country's top officials are waiting for chief district officer Chiranjeevi Giri's report.

Nepal's foreign minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, however, had denied any reports of China occupying Nepal's land.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: The Odisha Meteorological Department Sunday said that most parts of the state may see heavy to very heavy rains Monday and Tuesday due to a low pressure area building in the Bay of Bengal.

Due to the sudden changes in the sea, rains are anticipated for the next two days, including heavy to very heavy rains in some parts of the state. Fishermen have also been warned not to venture into deep sea for go for fishing for the next three days.

Sudhakar Mallick, Duty Officer at the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Department said, "A low pressure area has been developing in the North East area of the Bay of Bengal. Due to this impact there are chances of rains in most parts of the state Monday. On Tuesday too there are chances of rains in all parts of the state. We have issued an Orange Category of warning to 10 districts for Monday."

He said that they have also issued warning to the fishermen to not go



into deeper sea. "Fishermen have also been warned not to venture into sea for fishing activities. Water-logging in plain areas and chances of landslide cannot be ruled out in hilly areas due to the weather," he said.

Due to the low pressure areas, it is anticipated that the chances of heavy rains are more in northern Odisha districts. Cuttack district has been put under Yellow Warning for Monday, the department said. "Heavy rains are likely in the state from September 20 to September 23 but from September 23 the intensity of rains will come down slowly," Mallick said.

The weather bulletin said, "Heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely to occur at a few places with extremely heavy rainfall over Bargarh, Nuapada, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda and Deogarh districts,

# Covid joblessness pushing youths to ultra groups in N-E

INDIA'S COVID-19 PANDEMIC LOCKDOWN IS NOW GIVING HEADACHES TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCIES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 20: India's Covid-19 pandemic lockdown is now giving headaches to the national security agencies. Youth, left jobless during the pandemic, are reported to be joining the banned rebel groups such as the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and other such, in droves.

Adding to this are the reports of a large consignment of China-made weapons reaching the hands of the secessionist Myanmar-based radical groups, who share close links with militant groups in the Northeast.

The emerging scenario is threatening to upset the delicate balance achieved through years of hard work by the Indian security and intelligence officers, according to senior executives in the national security establishment, who requested

to stay unnamed, citing government service rules.

The Arakan Army (AA) – which seeks an independent homeland in Myanmar's Rakhine state – has received the fresh cache of Chinese weapons and is known to be one of the key suppliers of arms and ammunition to the rebel groups in Northeast India.

In addition, the AA opposes India's Kaladan Multi Modal Project, which provides states like Mizoram – a landlocked province – an outlet to the sea through the Sittwe port in Myanmar, officials said. Interestingly the AA has not opposed the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor.

Security agencies have told the government that insurgent groups active along the Indo-Myanmar border find easy recruits among youth left unemployed by Covid-19 pandemic lockdown.



"The successful induction of the Chinese-made weapons by the AA will have an impact on the security situation in India's Northeastern states, as much of these weapons are finding their way to some of the dormant militant groups of the Northeast," the official said.

"The new weapons provide firepower to the northeastern groups whose ranks are increasing as youth left jobless by the pandemic are signing for militant groups."

Strengthened by new recruits and rearmed, the Khaplang faction National Socialist Council of

Nagaland (NSCN-IM) – a banned militant group of Northeast based out of Myanmar – is gathering along the Indo-Myanmar Border in areas such as Mon to plan and execute attacks against the Indian security forces.

In 2016, the NSCN(K) killed 18 soldiers of the Indian Army, forcing India to launch cross border strikes on the militant hideouts taking refuge in Myanmar. Worryingly, for India, peace talks with the Naga rebel groups have failed despite efforts of the Narendra Modi government.

Agencies have warned that groups like the People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK) had recruited 15 fresh cadres in Assam. "There was recruitment of 10-15 cadres by the Karbi Liberation Tiger in the outfit," the source said. Further, United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) had recruited 15-20 youths in the out-

fit from Meghalaya.

In Tripura, intelligence input indicates that extremist Parimal Debbarama of National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) is trying to revive his group and some newly recruited members of the outfit had completed their basic training in a hideout of Khagrachari District of Bangladesh.

"These cadres are planning to infiltrate into India for operations," the source further added.

Intelligence agencies also stated that the India-Myanmar border remained susceptible to threat due to the presence of insurgent groups.

"Many insurgents groups are camping in Myanmar and trying to infiltrate through Tirap, Longding and Changlang districts of Arunachal Pradesh, Mon District of Nagaland and Charaideo district of Assam," the source said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: The Odisha Lokayukta has directed the state Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department to initiate action against a Sarpanch who reportedly misappropriated a sum of ₹2 lakh earmarked for drinking water supply project in Haradeipur village under of Sindaria Gram Panchayat in Dharmashala block of Jajpur district.

The Lokayukta delivered the order while hearing a complaint filed by one Rilu Behera on the basis of data obtained through RTI in October last year.

The accused sarpanch, Gayatri Parida, along with three other officers misappropriated the entire amount meant for the construction of pipelines in the Haradeipur village for supply of drinking water.

The Sarpanch misappropriated a sum of ₹2 lakh earmarked for drinking water supply project in Haradeipur village

The enquiry reports of both the district Collector and the Block Development Officer found the four guilty.

The Lokayukta has asked the department to conclude the disciplinary action against the accused within five months from the delivery of order. It also strongly recommended the Principal Secretary of the Panchayati Raj department to remove the accused Sarpanch from her post within five months under Section 115 of the Odisha Gram Panchayat Act 1964.



## DIESEL PRICES FALL AGAIN

PNN/ IANS

Bhubaneswar/New Delhi, Sept 20: Diesel prices continued to decline for the fourth consecutive day Sunday on the back of falling global crude prices.

In state capital, diesel was dropped by 25 paise, Sunday, while petrol price remained unchanged. Now diesel price stood ₹77.94 and petrol was ₹81.74.

In Delhi, diesel was priced at ₹71.58 per litre, down from ₹71.82, Saturday.

Similarly in the other metros of Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, the fuel was sold for ₹78.02, ₹76.99 and ₹75.09 Sunday, respectively, against the previous levels of ₹78.27, ₹77.21 and ₹75.32 per litre.

The recent fall in transport fuel prices comes in the wake of softening of global oil prices as an extended run of Covid-19 has depressed demand and created a glut in the market.

Prices of petrol, however, remained unchanged for the second straight day at ₹81.14, ₹87.82, ₹84.21 and ₹82.67 per litre across Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, respectively.



**FORTUNE FORECAST**

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**ARIES**  
Ganesha predicts success if you're involved with the media. Here's a golden chance to showcase your talent, as all eyes are on you. Your skills and talent will be acknowledged, and short-term goals will see fulfillment.

**TAURUS**  
Today may be the beginning of an exciting relationship, predicts Ganesha. You will feel oneness with words and actions, communicating with your colleagues with ease. The spot light at whichever party you go to will be following you as you will storm the place with your enthusiasm and charisma.

**GEMINI**  
Your interest and performance in sports will go from strength to strength, says Ganesha. You are feeling a bit anxious and will not be able to concentrate on a single job.

**CANCER**  
Enough of waiting on the sidelines, watching others take credit for all your hard work. Today, you will stake your claim to what is rightfully yours, the due credit for your work. Surprisingly for you, your peers and superiors will not only appreciate your work without any fuss, but also share with you the big plans they have in store for you.

**LEO**  
Ganesha foresees that today, you will be gripped by the desire to shop till you drop, even if it means having to spend a small fortune from your hard-earned savings! You have no problem with that, especially if all the money-spending is being undertaken to please your sweetheart.

**VIRGO**  
All you have to do is start what you intend to do, and its success will automatically fall in. Such is the day today for you, says Ganesha. Financial transactions will be rewarding.

**LIBRA**  
You are at your best when communicating with others, and your silver-tongued speech will charm many. Your day will be spent in negotiating, meetings, and in interacting with people to get things done. At work, you may be put in charge of some investigative task.

**SCORPIO**  
Take the lonely road today in business ventures, advises Ganesha. Professionally, you are capable of managing massive missions. Be set to administer your department all by yourself. You shall stake a claim as a great team leader today, says Ganesha.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Belligerent – this word describes your state today. Good news, long since awaited, will come by at the workplace. Imagination is set to fly sky-high as you while the evening away in the pleasant company of someone from the opposite sex.

**CAPRICORN**  
It is time again for that once-in-blue-moon mood swing. You will be easily irked by everyday activities and may let small, less important things bother you too much, foresees Ganesha. But the darkest hour is just before dawn.

**AQUARIUS**  
Worried about your future? Just approach your work more seriously. You may be overburdening yourself by helping others. While this is noble, Ganesha says it shouldn't be at the cost of your own health.

**PISCES**  
It is a good day for you, since all the projects you take up today will reach a satisfactory conclusion. However, this does not mean that you will not be strung out, a fact you would do well to keep hidden, lest your competitors try to take advantage of it, says Ganesha.



**NAOMI KAWASE TO ESSAY A ROLE IN LUIS MINARRO'S *IMPALPABLE***

Japanese director Naomi Kawase is set to star in Palme d'Or winning producer Luis Minarro's next directorial, tentatively titled *Impalpable*. This will be Minarro's fifth feature which he will produce via his Barcelona-based label Eddie Saeta, reported *Variety*.

**KELVIN HARRISON (JR.) JOINS PETER DINKLAGE-LED *CYRANO***

Actor Kelvin Harrison Jr has boarded the cast of MGM's upcoming musical drama *Cyrano*. The film is an official adaption of Edmond Rostand's 1897 play *Cyrano de Bergerac* that will see actor Peter Dinklage reprise the titular role he played onstage in 2019.



**Malaika overcomes Covid-19 with minimal pain**

**Mumbai:** Actress Malaika Arora says she feels blessed to have overcome Covid-19 with minimum pain and discomfort.

Malaika, who tested positive earlier this month, took to Instagram to share her journey of overcoming the virus.

"Out and about...M finally out of my room after so many days, it feels like an outing in itself," the actress wrote while posting a picture of herself, in which she can be seen wearing a mask.

"I feel so blessed to have overcome this virus with minimum pain and discomfort. A big thanks to my doctors for their medical guidance, to BMC for making this process hassle-free, to my family for their immeasurable support and to all my friends, neighbours and fans for all their good wishes. I can't thank you all enough in words for what everyone has done for me in these difficult times. All of you please stay safe and take care," she added.

Earlier, Malaika had confirmed that she has tested positive for Covid-19, after speculative reports did the rounds that she has contracted coronavirus.

IAN S



**Daggubati to host animated series**

**Mumbai:**

Actor Rana Daggubati will soon be seen hosting an animated series, *Why are you?*, and describes the web series as a quirky irreverent fiction comedy. Rana is also a creative producer of the show.

"Animation and stories told in that form have been of interest since I first started watching, but growing up only a few of us make a transition from cartoon to animation/anime for the adult and India has very little content in this space, so here's presenting to you '*Why are you?*' ... A quirky irreverent fiction comedy with real-ish people," Rana said.

On the work front, he will next be seen

**Kareena reveals her birth day plan**

**Mumbai:** Ahead of her 40th birthday Monday, actress Kareena Kapoor Khan posted a note of gratitude.

"As I enter my 40th year... I want to sit back, reflect, love, laugh, forgive, forget and most importantly pray and thank the strongest force up there for giving me the strength and thank my experiences and decisions for

making me the woman I am. "Some right, some wrong, some great, some not so... but still, hey BIG 40 make it BIG," Kareena wrote on Instagram.

Along with it, she shared a picture, in which we can see her flashing her million dollar smile.

On the work front, Kareena will be seen sharing screen space with

Aamir Khan in *Laal Singh Chaddha*,

which is an adaptation of

Forrest Gump.

Also,

Kareena is currently pregnant

with her second child.

IAN S



**INDIA COUTURE WEEK-2020**

**‘Couture for me is embodying one’s spirit’**

**Popular fashion designer Amit Aggarwal believes that the pandemic has made people think about their responsibilities towards surroundings and nature**

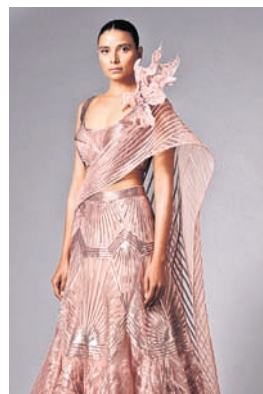
**AGENCIES**

**New Delhi:** Couture for him is embodying one's spirit and a feeling of wearing an outfit that makes one feel special, says popular fashion designer Amit Aggarwal as he launched his latest couture collection on the second day of the first-ever digital edition of the India Couture Week (ICW) Saturday.

"We always tread a balance of the surreal and functionality of



Models showcasing Amit Aggarwal's collections at India Couture Week -2020



the garment and it is exciting to translate that vision into a digital experience. At the heart of it is our constant brand story of intricate craftsmanship and hand embroidery," adds the designer.

The self confessed traditional-

ist has reinvented the wheel so to speak when it comes to traditional ensembles. "We constantly try and evolve the language of modern Indian craftsmanship. I think the pandemic has really made us all think about a higher respon-

sibility towards our surroundings and nature. I feel nature has played a very important role in this collection," reveals Aggarwal.

He captures nature through "the weightlessness of the ocean, the caress of the wind, and cra-

dles the earth" with this collection in a dramatic underwater show, which played on various FDCI platforms for five minutes.

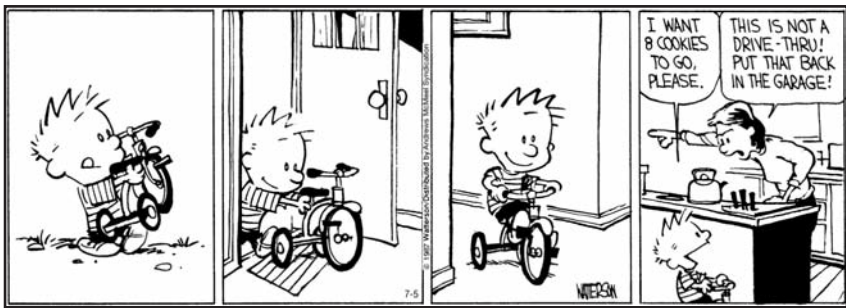
Staying true to vision of futuristic fashion and use of industrial material and signature polymers, the designer presented three dimensional, hand embroidered blouses in pearl and industrial yarn, paired with structured hand woven metallic polymer lehenga, striped structured lehengas complimented the structured lace palla, three-dimensional, hand embroidered blouses in pearl and yarns. The ensembles also consisted of three dimensional moulded blouses with lace and metallic polymer details.

Through his show, Aggarwal also launched his website which offers sarees and lehengas, dresses, separates and his luxury pret line.

**PEANUTS**



**CALVIN AND HOBBS**

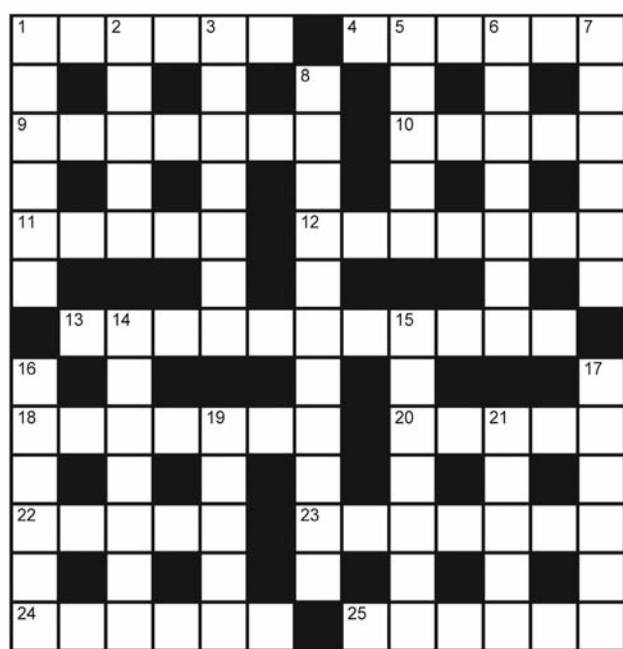


**BREVITY**



**FUN post**

**CROSSWORD**



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**Across**

- 1 Pine starter
- 4 Manual calculator
- 9 Razed
- 10 Tedium
- 11 Like some crust
- 12 Garments
- 13 Educational places (4,7)
- 18 Pulpit
- 20 Damp

- 22 "Likewise"
- 23 Take under one's wing
- 24 Disgraced
- 25 Implement of war

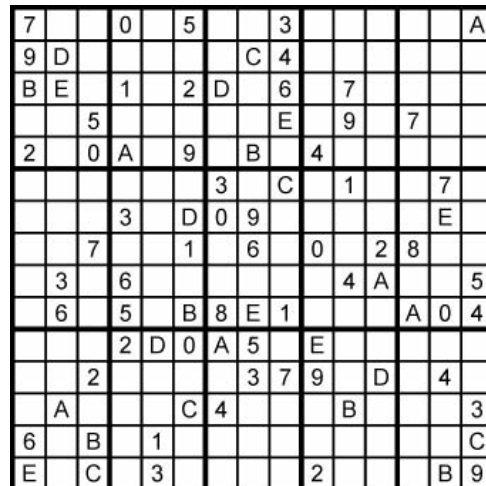
**Down**

- 1 Martial art (4,2)
- 2 Bizet work
- 3 Add together (5,2)

- 5 TV sound, at times
- 6 Call the shots
- 7 Safeguard
- 8 Worker's goal
- 14 Stone name
- 15 Witness
- 16 Feline groups
- 17 Firedrake
- 19 Geneva's river
- 21 Crabby person

**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**

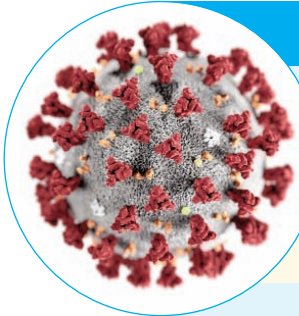
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





## MOBILE MANIA

A child plays with a smartphone while sitting on the pavement of the Ring Road near Jobra anicut in Cuttack, Sunday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	3,10,69,947	2,26,56,509	9,62,683
India	54,00,922	43,02,562	86,786
Odisha	1,79,880	1,45,675	701

# Another feat for Krushi Bhawan

THE ARCHITECTURAL MARVEL GETS ADJUDGED AS THE 'PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINNER' AT THE AZ AWARDS 2020 IN SOCIAL GOOD CATEGORY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 20:** Odisha's newly-constructed Krushi Bhawan brought laurels to the state once again as the building was adjudged as the 'People's Choice Winner' at the AZ Awards 2020 in Social Good Category.

Krushi Bhawan was the only project from India at the globally recognised prestigious award.

Expressing happiness over the feat, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said that the award is dedicated to farmers and artisans of Odisha, the inspiration behind design of this building.

In a Twitter statement, the CMO wrote, "Odisha's architectural marvel #KrushiBhavan has added another feather to its hat, emerging as People's Choice Winner in #SocialGood category at the prestigious #AZAwards20. This award is dedicated to farmers & artisans of #Odisha, the inspiration behind design of this building." (sic)

Earlier, Krushi Bhawan became India's first government building to feature in Dezeen – a prestigious international journal on architecture in August this year. It was also shortlisted for the World Architecture Festival (WAF) Award, in 2019. In February, it had bagged Surface Design Awards 2020 in the categories of Public Building Exterior, Public Building Interior and Supreme Winner.

The building brilliantly showcases the famous Sambalpuri Ikat design. It seems the entire building is draped in a Sambalpuri saree. The striking feature is that the entire building was built out of the prize money Odisha had received



from the consecutive Krishi Karman awards for exemplary agricultural development.

The building has been designed by Studio Lotus through intricate brickwork facade. It houses administrative offices for the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment around courtyards filled with ponds and trees.

The brickwork elements that wrap the upper floor create a pattern akin to Odisha Ikat, a traditional dyeing technique from Odisha.

In order to give a real Odisha Ikat look, the patterns have been created with bricks using three different colours of clay sourced from the surrounding areas. The perforations in the facade are essential to make the design visible. But this apart, they also help keep the building cool naturally.

The building has regional materials and techniques. Its pedestal and part of north wing are made from laterite and Khondalite stone from nearby mines.

The khondalite was carved by hand to create lattices around the central courtyard, which has a stone inlay floor that displays a yearly calendar according to the crops.

Bas reliefs carved into the laterite on the complex's public plaza illustrate rice paddies in the style of Odisha Pattachitra scroll paintings, a traditional, cloth-based scroll painting.

Dhokra, a type of metalwork perfected in India over 4,000 years, appears on screens along the building's corridors and the light fixtures on columns. Along with being a workplace for 600 staff, the site also houses spaces for education and community engagement.

These additional facilities were incorporated after they looked into German architect and planners Otto Königsberger's original plans to make Bhubaneswar's government offices a focal point for city life.

The plaza has an amphitheatre, and a garden with a pond to naturally cool the space. Entrance is



via a pathway lined with trees and stone colonnades, which doubles as a shady place for employees to eat their lunches.

A learning centre, gallery, auditorium, library and training rooms are also located on the ground floor.

Government offices are located on the first, second and third floors, where access can be restricted.

On the rooftop, there are urban farms that can be used to demonstrate the best agricultural practices. Odisha's climate is hot in the day but cooler at night, so a night-purging system was incorporated to pull cool air in through the northern facade after dark, lowering the building's temperature before the hotter daytime hours.

The courtyard design, along with recessed windows, also features brick louvers that create shade and airflow. Using local materials lowered the building's carbon footprint and usage of green energy has been encouraged by installing solar panels on the roof.

## Delay in Covid tests, 'faulty' equipment exasperate denizens

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 20:** While many people have alleged delay in availing COVID-19 test reports, others say that the equipment to be used for testing are faulty, reports said.

A person from Balipada area under Bhubaneswar block consulted an Anganwadi worker after he developed symptoms of fever. He was advised to undergo Covid-19 test along with his family members and was subsequently informed that all of them have tested negative. Because of the negative reports, the man attended a puja and cooked food for fellow villagers. However, again after three days he was informed that he has tested Covid-19 positive, sources said.

"After we were informed that we have tested negative, we met our neighbours, went to workplace, thus spreading the virus further. This could have been avoided if the authorities become serious about the testing," said a relative of the victim.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# Covid-19 +ve pregnant women 'shouldn't' opt home isolation

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 20:** Government authorised doctors in their daily interaction on home isolation Sunday said that pregnant women infected with Covid should get treatment at designated COVID Hospitals and not opt for home isolation.

Dr Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Special Secretary, Public Health department, said that pregnant women are among the high risk population who should not opt for home isolation.

"A COVID-19 infected pregnant woman and other high risk people should get treatment at COVID Hospital. It is safe for them to get treatment at such hospitals. The risk then is for the mother as well as for the foetus too," he said.

He added that as per the protocol, in pregnancy operation cases are done in COVID Hospitals. "These days when pregnant women are admitted for delivery operation, they are tested before delivery. If they test negative then they are treated in general hospital otherwise in case of positive patients, the deliveries are done in COVID Hospitals," he highlighted.

He also said that in COVID symptomatic cases the fever does not

## GOVT ADVICE FOR HOME ISOLATION

PREGNANT WOMEN SHOULDN'T OPT FOR HOME ISOLATION

HOME ISOLATION PATIENTS SHOULD USE SEPARATE TOILETS

COVID CAUSES DEHYDRATION, SO ADEQUATE WATER INTAKE NEEDED

DRUGS GIVEN BY GOVT IN HOME ISOLATION KIT ARE SAFE WITH NO SIDE EFFECTS



subside appreciable with paracetamol. He also said that loss of taste or smell is one of the other characteristic symptoms of the global pandemic. He also said that COVID also leads to dehydration and people must consume ample water every day to fight this.

The official also tried to allay the fears of any side effects of these drugs given by the government in the home isolation kit. There is no side effect to the medicines given in the kit. "The health workers who go to give such medicines also apprise the patients on how to use it," he said.

Niranjan Mishra, Director, Public Health Department, said that the viral infection is self limiting and gets cured automatically after a

few days if it does not harm the patients. He also said that self isolation is the best practice for its treatment.

"There is no drug specific for COVID. The drugs are available for the symptoms. Home isolation is a very good option now for COVID treatment. This is a self limiting disease. COVID will be cured automatically in most people without affecting their health badly," he said.

When asked if a child could also be put under home isolation, he said if the child is mentally fit and cooperating and understands the situation, s/he could be allowed home isolation if detected positive. He also added that under such a situation the responsibility of the care giver escalates.

# Srimandir servitor dies post COVID recovery

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, Sept 20:** A few days after recovering from Covid-19 infection, senior servitor of Srimandir, Premanand Dasmahapatra, passed away at the district headquarters hospital (DHH) here Sunday.

Dasmahapatra, 64, was in home isolation following his recovery from the Covid-19 infection. Dasmahapatra was rushed to the DHH in the wee hours of Sunday after he complained of chest pain. He was declared dead by the doctors at the DHH, family sources said.



Dasmahapatra was the secretary of Srimandir Suddhasuar

Niyog. He had earlier acted as the secretary of Daitapati Niyog of Srimandir and member of Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee.

Dasmahapatra had also acted as the treasurer of Puri district Congress committee. The senior servitor was also associated with various outfits in the Holy City here.

Senior Daitapati servitor Binayak Dasmahapatra and Puri district Congress committee president Amiya Kumar Patnaik condoled Premanand Dasmahapatra's death.

# From a Koraput village to Cuttack studio

WITHOUT ANY FORMAL TRAINING ON MUSIC, NAMITA HAS TAKEN THE SOCIAL MEDIA BY STORM BY SINGING TWO SONGS 'MILA HO TUM HUMSE BADI NASIBO SE' AND 'JEENA JEENA JEENA RE'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Sept 20:** A tribal girl of Koraput district, who became a sensation in social media for her sweet and melodious voice a few days ago, is all set to soak the audiences with a devotional song directed by eminent Odia music director Prem Anand.

Namita Melka of Chintaguda village of Bandhugaon block in Koraput Sunday recorded the devotional song dedicated to Lord Jagannath at New Recording Studio at CDA here. "The devotional song is written specially for Namita. The lyrics of the song blend Odia language with tribal language Kui. The first line of the song is 'Ninuna Niuti Jibana...', which means 'You (Lord Jagannath) are my life'. The song has been produced by Odia actor Varsha Priyadarshini," said lyricist Bijay Malla.

Without any formal training on music, Namita had taken the so-



Namita recording the song

cial media by storm by singing two songs 'Mila ho tum humse badi nasibo se' and 'Jeena Jeena Jeena re'. Lakhs of people have viewed Namita's videos on social media in last few days, sources said.

"The tribal girl's singing talent had impressed Odia actor Varsha Priyadarshini. She had decided to produce a devotional song for the budding singer. We had contacted the tribal girl to come to Cuttack and

record the song. Varsha bore the travel expenditure of Namita," said music director Prem Anand.

According to Anand, Namita has a unique talent in singing. "One can find a simplicity and innocence in the tribal girl's voice. Though Namita has to learn many things to become an acclaimed singer, she has made a lot of effort to sing her debut song perfectly

voice. Though Namita has to learn many things to become an acclaimed singer, she has made a lot of effort to sing her debut song perfectly. We have decided to give Namita a chance as a playback singer in Varsha's next movie," Anand said. Notably, Namita, a student of Nilabadi Ashram Vidyalaya, had started singing as pastime during the Covid-19 induced lockdown. Some onlookers recorded her songs and uploaded them to social media.

## FRONTLINE WARRIORS



Three traffic police personnel resume duty in Cuttack after their recovery from Covid-19 infection, Sunday

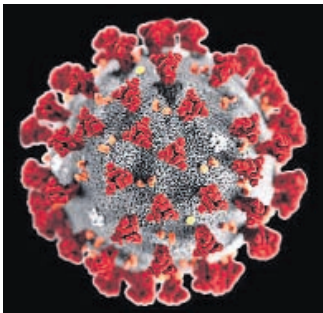
# Two MLAs test +ve for Coronavirus

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 20:** Pallahara Assembly constituency lawmaker Mukesh Kumar Pal and legislator from Biramitrapur Assembly constituency Shankar Oram tested positive for COVID-19.

Pal gave this information about himself Sunday His condition is stable and doctors have advised him to remain in home isolation for 14 days, as the MLA is asymptomatic. Pal has urged all those who have come in contact with him in the recent past to undergo tests.

Similarly, legislator from Biramitrapur Assembly con-



stituency Shankar Oram tested positive for COVID-19. MLA Oram informed about this on his social media handle.

"I underwent COVID-19 test fol-

The two MLAs are from Pallahara Assembly constituency and Biramitrapur Assembly constituency

lowing illness. I have tested positive for the coronavirus," said Oram. His health condition is stable and doctors have advised him to be under quarantine for 14 days.

Oram urged those who have come in contact with him during the past seven days to undergo COVID-19 test if necessary.



# nCoV worsens with highest single-day spike

WITH 10 FRESH FATALITIES, ODISHA'S COVID-19 DEATH TOLL BREACHES 700-MARK

PNN & AGENCIES

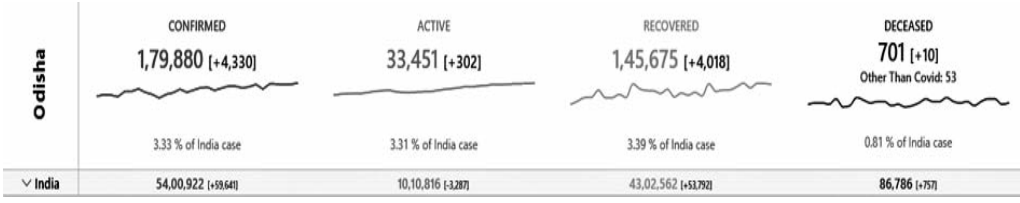
**Bhubaneswar, Sept 20:** The state Sunday registered its highest single-day spike of 4,330 COVID-19 cases, which pushed Odisha's infection count to 1,79,880, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

The death toll, on the other hand, rose to 701 with 10 more people succumbing to the infection, said the official.

"Regret to inform the demise of Ten #COVID19 positive patients while under treatment in hospitals. (sic)," the H&FW department said on Twitter.

Of the 4,330 new cases, 2,556 were reported from various quarantine centres, while the rest were detected during contact tracing, the official pointed out.

Khurda district, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the maximum number of fresh cases at 644, followed by Cuttack (549) and Puri (292), Kandhamal (178), Angul (176), Jagatsinghpur (167), Jajpur (158) and Jharsuguda (153), said the of-



## BREAKING DOWN THE NUMBERS

Of the 4,330 new cases, 2,556 reported from quarantine centres; rest detected during contact tracing

Khurda, of which Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the maximum number of fresh cases at 644, followed by Cuttack 549 and Puri 292

The deaths were recorded in eight districts—two each in Puri and Cuttack, and one each in Bolangir, Ganjam, Kalahandi, Khurda, Mayurbhanj and Sambalpur

ficial, adding that as many as 16 of the state's 30 districts recorded more than 100 cases each.

The deaths were recorded in eight districts—two each in Puri and Cuttack, and one each in Bolangir, Ganjam, Kalahandi, Khurda, Mayurbhanj and Sambalpur. Meanwhile, as many as 4018 COVID patients recovered from the disease, taking the total recoveries in Odisha to 1,45,675. Fifty-three COVID-19 patients have died due to comorbidities. As many as 27.66 lakh samples have been tested for COVID-

19 in the state so far, including 51,154 Saturday, added the official.

Meanwhile, a team of doctors, led by Jayanta Panda, has maintained that home isolation has become more useful for the asymptomatic and persons with mild symptoms who are identified as COVID positive. Panda, however, said persons with comorbidities are advised to avail treatment in hospitals.

Use of mask, gloves and sanitizer along with relevant precaution measures must be maintained by the patients and the attendant during

home isolation, he said.

Official sources said that nearly 80 per cent people without symptoms have tested COVID positive. They have been advised by the government to undergo home isolation adhering to health guidelines.

If more symptoms develop or illness increases, the patients are advised to come to hospital after consultation with doctors. Persons recuperated from COVID should take healthy food, multi-vitamins and practice breathing exercise for at least 15-20 days.

# Cong appeals to help non-Covid patients

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 20:** The state Congress Sunday attacked the state government over 'poor healthcare' of the people in the state during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Suresh Routray, Congress leader from the state, said that many non-COVID patients in the state are struggling to get treatment in the hospitals.

"The state government has been badly lacking behind in providing adequate number of ICUs, beds and testing of the people who want COVID healthcare facilities in the state. Many people are dying in the state due to COVID-19 as they are unable to get adequate government support on testing," he said.

He also added, "The government and the Chief Minister need to take special care of the COVID patients in the state. Only framing policies does not help people but taking care of the healthcare centres can aid the people who need it the most. The monitoring and scrutiny of COVID rule violations were good during the starting days but later it all fizzled out."



He said that the government is also misleading people on the actual number of people dying due to COVID-19 in the state. "You see the Satya Nagar crematorium; everyday 50-60 persons are getting cremated,.....every day," he said.

Routray also added, "Most hospitals are emphasising on Covid tests before treating any patient. People are struggling to get Covid tests and dying due to the delay due to such rules. I want the Chief Minister to intervene and see people do not die due to non-COVID diseases."

# Orissa HC to remain closed for two days

AGENCIES

**Cuttack, Sept 20:** The Orissa High Court will remain closed for two days— September 21 and 22, for extensive sanitization of the court premises, official sources said Sunday.

According to sources, COVID-19 positive cases have been detected in some of the sections of the court. In order to sanitise the premises of the High Court building, the court will be closed on September 21 and 22, said the source.



"The cases notified in the cause list of September 21 will be taken up September 23. Similarly, the bail applications from the Reserved Lists published for 22.09.2020, 23.09.2020, 24.09.2020 and 25.09.2020 will be taken up on 24.09.2020, 25.09.2020, 28.09.2020 and 29.09.2020 respectively," an order issued by the court read.

# Multiple road mishaps rattle Sundargarh, Kandhamal dists

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Daringbadi/Sundargarh, Sept 20:** Four persons were killed in separate accidents in Sundargarh and Kandhamal districts in the last 24 hours.

Reports from Daringbadi said, two bikers, identified as Prakash Pradhan and Milu Pradhan of Kidramala village under Partamaha panchayat in Kandhamal district, died in an accident Saturday.

Both Prakash and Milu were en route to Pattangi when a speeding vehicle coming from the opposite direction hit the bike, which they were riding, at Dangeri village under Daringbadi police limits in Kandhamal district. However, both of them succumbed to severe injuries on the spot, police sources informed.

On being informed, local police reached the spot and seized the vehicles. The driver of the van was also detained by police. The police have filed a case in this connection and launched an investigation.

On the other hand, the bodies have been sent to a nearby hospital for postmortem.

Similarly, two persons were killed after the car they were travelling in hit a roadside tree near Koida in



**TWO MEN OF KIDRAMALA UNDER PARTAMAHA PANCHAYAT IN KANDHAMAL MET WITH AN ACCIDENT WHILE EN ROUTE TO PATTANGI**

**TWO PERSONS WERE KILLED AFTER THE CAR THEY WERE TRAVELLING IN HIT A ROADSIDE TREE NEAR KOIDA IN SUNDARGARH**

neral rites there. On their way back, the driver of the vehicle lost his control on the wheels due to some reasons, leading to the vehicle ramming against a roadside tree.

The collision was so intense that one of the occupants died on the spot. Local people rushed to the spot, rescued the seriously injured patient and rushed him to Koida government hospital. But he breathed his last while being taken to the hospital.

On being informed, Koida police reached the spot, seized the vehicle and the body. Later, the body was sent for post mortem.

Police investigation was underway to identify the cause of the incident.

Sundargarh district late Friday night.

The deceased were identified to be locals of Jharkhand's Kiriburu town. Their names were yet to be ascertained.

Sources said that the duo had gone to Balijodi village to attend fu-

## INVITING TROUBLE



Shoppers flout COVID-19 norms including social distancing at Unit I vegetable market in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

# CMO congratulates Simanchala Dash

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 20:** Senior Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer from Odisha and principal special director to Enforcement Directorate (ED), Simanchala Dash, has been appointed as the advisor to the executive director of International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Appointment Committee of Cabinet (ACC) approved the proposal for appointment of Dash as advisor to executive director of IMF in Washington DC for a period of three years, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions said. Taking to Twitter, Odisha Chief Minister's Office congratulated Dash for his new appointment and responsibilities.

"Congratulate IRS officer from #Odisha and Principal Special Director of @dir\_ed, Simanchala Dash on being appointed as advisor to Executive Director of @IMFNews in Washington DC. Wish him the very best for this new responsibility. (sic)" the CMO said. The 1988-batch IRS officer had served as the private secretary to then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley till July 2017. Later, he was shifted to the Income Tax department. In March 2018, Dash was appointed to a newly created post of principal special director in the ED.

## RAIL SAFETY



An awareness programme in progress at Bhubaneswar railway station, Sunday, on the 36th RPF Raising Day OP PHOTO

# Row over demolitions at Patherpuri settled

*Puri sub-collector Bhabataran Sahu assures the action committee of SCS College former students that the dist admin would reconstruct the boundary walls of Patherpuri Hostel, which bears the memories of Vishwakabi Rabindranath Tagore*

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, Sept 20:** The row over demolitions at Patherpuri Hostel of Samanta Chandra Sekhar (SCS) College here seems to have been settled as the district administration has agreed to reconstruct the boundary walls that it had earlier demolished for road expansion.

Puri sub-collector Bhabataran Sahu Saturday assured the action committee of SCS College former students that the district administration would reconstruct the boundary walls of Patherpuri Hostel,



Reconstruction of the boundary wall underway in Puri



OP PHOTOS

which bears the memories of Vishwakabi Rabindranath Tagore. The administration had earlier demolished a portion of the boundary walls of Patherpuri Hostel to expand a road to the Blue Flag beach of Puri, sources said.

The incident had triggered strong protests from former students of SCS College, members of Puri Bar Association and activists of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad.

The action committee of SCS College former students had urged the district administration to take immediate steps to renovate the dilapidated hostel. The committee had

also threatened to intensify its agitation if the administration does not reconstruct the boundary walls of the hostel within a week, sources added.

According to locals, Tagore had landed properties in Chakratirtha area of Puri. He had constructed a building on the land and named it as Patherpuri. The Nobel laureate poet used to stay at Patherpuri during his visits to the Holy City Tagore had written some of his poems during his visits to the Pilgrim City, locals claimed.

The locals further claimed that Tagore had donated Patherpuri to SCS College for the establishment of a hostel. Patherpuri was con-

THE ADMIN HAD DEMOLISHED A PORTION OF THE BOUNDARY WALLS OF PATHERPURI HOSTEL TO EXPAND A ROAD TO THE BLUE FLAG BEACH OF PURI

THE INCIDENT HAD TRIGGERED STRONG PROTESTS FROM FORMER STUDENTS OF SCS COLLEGE, MEMBERS OF PURI BAR ASSOCIATION AND STUDENT ACTIVISTS

verted into a hostel in 1945. Subsequently, a ladies hostel, named as Sukanya Hostel, was also constructed near Patherpuri hostel.

Around 300 students were staying at Patherpuri and Sukanya Hostels. Patherpuri Hostel had celebrated its golden jubilee in 1998. However, the two hostels were shut for students around a couple of years ago. Since then, no step has been taken to renovate the dilapidated hostels, locals claimed.

"The administration has agreed to reconstruct the boundary walls of Patherpuri Hostel. However, we will continue our fight for renovation of the dilapidated hostel and upgradation of SCS College into a university," said the action committee of former students.

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# Road expansion in elephant corridor; NGT seeks report

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Sept 20:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has sought a report from the state government about construction activities and deforestation in the Telkoi-Pallahada elephant Corridor in Keonjhar district.

## HABITAT LOSS

The government had identified 23 elephant corridors in the state in 2011. Of them, 14 were given corridor status while nine others are awaiting nod

An interim order of a court in 2016 banned disruptive or damaging activities in all the 14 elephant corridors in the state

But hills are being damaged to make space for the NH-49 expansion in the Telkoi-Pallahada elephant corridor. Opposing such activities, Odisha Wildlife Society has filed a petition with the NGT

There was an interim order of a court in 2016 that no disruptive or damaging activities would be carried out in all the 14 elephant corridors in the state. That means, the order has clearly banned deforestation, building of roads and railways through the elephant corridors.

Despite this order, hills are being damaged to make space for the NH-49 expansion in the Telkoi-Pallahada elephant corridor.

Expressing concern over such damaging activities in the elephant corridor, the Odisha Wildlife Society has filed a petition with the NGT against the government.

In the petition, Shankar Prasad Pani, the counsel of the Odisha Wildlife Society, said that despite the court order, construction activities have been taken up for road



expansion inside the elephant corridor, but the Keonjhar DFO did not apprise the government about the expansion work.

The Odisha Wildlife Society observed that as a construction company has been carrying out the NH-49 expansion at huge costs, there should be action against the forest department.

It may be noted here that the government had identified 23 elephant corridors in the state in 2011. Of them, 14 were given corridor status while nine others are awaiting nod.

Telkoi-Pallahada and Karo-karampada corridors are included in the 24. However, these two corridors are allegedly getting damaged for lack of proper measures and monitoring by the forest department.

The Odisha Wildlife Society said that the petition has been filed with the NGT for protection of elephant corridors, while wildlife activists and environmentalists have been advocating for safety of elephants and protection of their habitats and corridors in the state.

The NGT has sought a report

## Female elephant dies in Mayurbhanj

**BARIPADA:** A female elephant was found dead in Giriamaajar forest under Jamda block in Mayurbhanj district. About four days ago, the elephant was found moving in the areas near the forest. Forest officials were keeping track of the animal. Since Friday, the elephant had stopped eating and died Saturday, forest officials said. A team of forest officials from Baripada and Rairangpur ranges has started an investigation.



from the state government about the condition of these elephant corridors in two months, but the state government has not submitted its report. The tribunal has expressed its displeasure over this.

# STEM BORERS DAMAGE PADDY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Manamunda, Sept 20:** Covid-induced difficulties had delayed farming activities during khariff season in Boudh district while erratic rainfall affected the agriculture sector in this western Odisha district. On top of them, floods washed away crops in some areas.

Now, the latest problem that has come up as a great cause of worry for farmers in Kantamal and Manamunda blocks is pest attack – stem borers and leaf blighting have been spreading in various pockets of the district. Farmers alleged that they have been applying pesticides on plants, but they are not effective.

“If pest onslaught is not curbed, our last hopes of paddy harvest will vanish,” farmers pointed out.

Reports said pest onslaught on paddy has been playing havoc in Semilipadar, Gobajora, Khatakhatia, Ratakhandi, Kantamal, Jogindrapur, Manamunda, Nurpa,



Bhaliapadar and Jogipadar.

Farmers from other parts like Mahulabahal, Khairamala, Jamupalli, Gudvelipadar and Kukuramunda panchayats are worried over the spread of pest attack.

Farmers in these areas alleged that the agriculture department was not coming out to help nor giving them pesticides effective for the attack.

Now, the latest problem that has come up as a great cause of worry for farmers in Kantamal and Manamunda blocks is pest attack

Stem borers and leaf blighting have been spreading in in Semilipadar, Gobajora, Khatakhatia, Ratakhandi, Kantamal, Jogindrapur, Manamunda, Nurpa, Bhaliapadar and Jogipadar

Farmers say, they buy pesticides at high prices, but there are no results. They are hopeless about paddy harvest this khariff season

sults. We are hopeless about paddy harvest this khariff season,” they bemoaned.

They demanded that the agriculture department come out with effective solution for the growing pest attack.

It is said that small and marginal farmers who have taken loans for paddy farming will be the worst affected by the unrestrained pest attack.

Babul Mahakud, a farmer of Bhaliapadar, said, “We have cultivated paddy in acres. Pest attack on the plants has been a major concern. I had applied pesticide on the farmland, but it is uncontrollable.”

“If pest attack is not checked, all our efforts and money invested in the paddy cultivation will go down the drain,” lamented many farmers.

Manamunda block agriculture officer Desbhashish Deshinayak, said, “Gram Sevaks are visiting villages and providing necessary assistance to the farmers.”

# Man held for raping daughter-in-law

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Digapahandi, Sept 20:** Police Sunday arrested a man on the charges of raping his daughter-in-law here in Ganjam district. The accused was produced in a court and subsequently sent to Digapahandi sub-jail after his bail plea was rejected.

Another accused, the victim’s brother-in-law, has been sent to a correctional home since he is a minor.

According to IIC Basant Kumar Sethi, the victim came to the police station September 15 to lodge an FIR accusing her father-in-law and brother-in-law of raping her and torturing her for dowry.

The police registered a case on the basis of her report and launched an



The woman was asked to bring dowry. Since their demands were not met, her in-laws started torturing her mentally and physically

investigation.

“The woman’s marriage was solemnised March 7, 2017. Then her parents had given her in-laws a number of dowry articles and Rs 1 lakh in cash. Later, she was asked to bring more. Since their demands were not met, they started torturing her mentally and physically.

Her husband is a mentally challenged person who is undergoing treatment. At the time of marriage, her in-laws had concealed this fact from her,” the IIC said.

The victim, in her FIR, has mentioned that her brother-in-law often raped her at knife-point in absence of her husband. Even her father-in-

law had raped her on several occasions. Her mother-in-law and sister-in-law were well aware of the developments. But they never tried to protect her.

The woman has also mentioned that far from being kind to her and taking her to hospital during her pregnancy, she was forcibly sent to her parents’ house and told to come with Rs 2 lakh more. After the victim gave birth to a girl at her parents’ house none from her in-laws’ house visited her. Later, her father-in-law had orchestrated a plan to kill her, the IIC said quoting her FIR.

The accused duo was produced in the court after a medical examination was conducted of them and the victim at MKCG Medical College and Hospital, IIC Sethi added.

# Jumbos give sleepless nights to villagers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sundargarh, Sept 20:** Elephant menace has returned to haunt Bargaon and Kutra blocks in Sundargarh district as pachyderms have been on a rampage and destroying crops and houses in the area for the last few days.

Two separate herds of about 20 to 25 have trampled paddy crops, maize and vegetables in several panchayats of the two blocks.

The animals have made Mahabir hill in Bargaon block their temporary resting place during day time for the last two weeks. During night time they damage crops at Birtola and Kadopada villages. The forest department, meanwhile, has been accused of failing to keep the animals at bay. This has led to discontent among the locals.

Meanwhile, Kusumdegi area of Kutra block has also been terrorised by a herd of elephants. The pachy-

derms enter the village after sunset and destroy crops and houses.

As the elephants have been damaging crops, farmers are spending sleepless nights trying to drive them away with drums and torches.

On the other hand, the Energy department has resorted to power cuts from 7 pm till 7 am to save the animals from electrocution.

As a result, people in 15 villages have to live in the dark for several days. The forest department has engaged several personnel to drive away the animals. It is suspected that the elephants have come from Badarama reserve forest in Bamara forest range of Sambalpur district.

Notably, the frequent intrusions by the pachyderms to the farmlands have robbed the farmers of their sleep. Crops in large tracts of farmlands were destroyed by the elephants in the aforementioned villages. This situation has led to panic among villagers.



## IN PLAYFUL MOOD



A child plays with stoppers put up by police as part of checking vehicles in Angul

OP PHOTO

# 3 arrested for smuggling leopard hide

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nuapada, Sept 20:** Nuapada forest department officials Sunday arrested three persons including a woman for allegedly possessing and trying to smuggle a leopard hide and head, wild boar meat and pangolin scales.

The department is yet to reveal the identities of those arrested as it may hamper the investigations.

Currently, a probe is on to find out if there are others associated with the three, said forest officials.

The forest department was tipped off about the smuggling of the leopard hide. The department swung into action and a team of Nuapada forest range section was tasked with the duty. The team tracked the three near Tipajhar village and appre-

hended them.

The accused could not give any valid reason as to why they were in possession of the wild animals’ body parts and hide. They were arrested under several sections of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. A further investigation into the involvement of other smugglers in the racket is underway.



# Mad rush to obtain abandoned TV sets, phones

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Patna, Sept 20:** A mad rush to obtain abandoned TV sets and phones has emerged in this town of Keonjhar district. This has happened after a rumour started doing the rounds that these abandoned objects have a red bulb with liquid mercury inside it. It has reportedly been said that liquid mercury can be sold for lakhs of rupees.

In Patna town and some areas under Turumunga police limits youths are now making a beeline for this red bulb. They are hoping if they get it they will turn rich overnight. These youths are visiting TV and phone repairing shops to obtain the red bulb. They are searching fervently with the hope that if they get the red bulb it will change their fortunes. These youths are looking especially for defunct TV sets belonging to the ‘Onida’ and ‘Konark’ brands. Apparently TVs of these two brands have that red bulb. The ‘red bulb with liquid mercury’



## CHASING A CHIMERA

In Patna town and some areas under Turumunga police limits youths are now making a beeline for this red bulb. They are hoping if they get it they will turn rich overnight

These youths are looking especially for defunct TV sets belonging to the ‘Onida’ and ‘Konark’ brands. Apparently TVs of these two brands have that red bulb

has become a hot topic of discussion in all roadside joints here including tea stalls. Some have called this development as ‘superstition’, but the fact remains that everyone is discussing this topic. Some of them are also re-

ferring to the ‘hanuman coin’ mad rush. Quite a few years back, a similar rush had been witnessed to get a coin with the image of Lord Hanuman on it. At that time it had been said that these types of coins bring in good

luck and fortune.

Senior citizens here have urged the administration to intervene in the matter and take steps to refrain the youths from indulging in a wild goose chase.

# 98-yr-old wins battle against virus

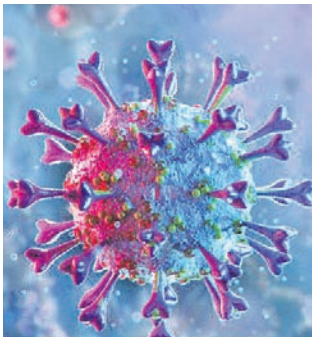
POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nayagarh, Sept 20:** A 98-year-old woman from Nayagarh district has won the battle against the deadly coronavirus.

Dealing a pleasant surprise to her doctors and co-patients, the woman came out of the hospital with a smile on her face after recovering from the disease.

Parbati Devi, a resident of Debottar Colony in Nayagarh town, and seven other family members had recently tested positive for the virus.

Later, they were all shifted to a COVID hospital in Chandpur area. Parbati’s family members had been concerned about her considering her age.



Parbati was discharged from the hospital after she tested negative for COVID-19. Her family members were discharged from the hospital September 10 but the fact that an elderly woman like Parbati beat the deadly infection has been the talk of the town.

Her recovery has surprised not

only her family members and neighbours but also the doctors and medical staff attending to her.

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

It hereby informed that on dt.16.07.2017 at 04.00 A.M. Bichhanda Mohanty (37), S/o Dhaneswar Mohanty of Vill. Gadasila, PS- Sadar, Dist.- Dhenkanal appeared at OP and reported that on Dt.09.07.2017 at about 09.45 A.M. while he was proceeding from his house towards Jhargadia Bus Stand on NH-55 unfortunately lost his Jari Bag elsewhere which contained the original Sale deed vide Hal Plot No.84/1058, Hal Khata No.170/248, Area A.0.060 decimals of mouza Gadasila. The above land he has purchased from one Muralidhar Rout of vill. Sudadihakateni on dt.11.03.2014 vide Deed No. 10501401811. Despite his through search he could not find and finally reported at OP. In this connection Jhargadia OP SDE No.08 Dt.16.07.2017 duly been entered. Noted for future reference. If anybody has found above mentioned documents, please contact: Ajay Kumar Sutar, Mobile No.-7008256569.

## OFFICE OF THE REGULATED MARKET COMMITTEE, KARANJIA

### INVITATIONS FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement Bid Identification No.01 e-Procurement Notice No.01 of 2020-21 TENDER CALL NOTICE NO.342/RMC dated: 16.09.2020

The Sub-Collector, Panchpir-cum-Chairman, RMC, Karanjia invites percentage rate bids in Double Cover system in online mode for the works as detailed below:

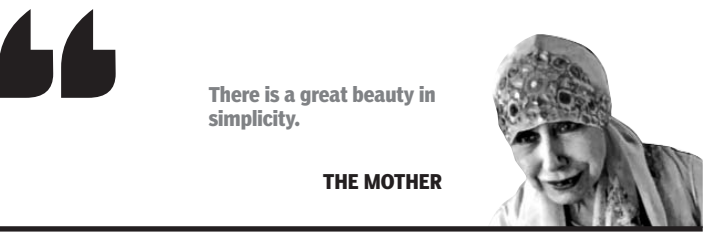
Sl. No.	Name of work	Apprx. value of work (in Rs.)	Security (in Rs.) (Online)	Cost of bid document (in Rs.) (Online)	Class of contractor	Period of completion	Cover system
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Construction of Farmers Facilitation Centre and Auction Hall, Office cum Laboratory, Toilet Block & Sinking of Tube well (125x100)mm at Ankura MMY under RMC, Karanjia.	5381346.01	53813.00	10000/-	B & A	6(Six) calendar months	Double cover

The bid documents will be available in the website from 10.00 A.M. of 21.09.2020 to 05.10.2020 upto 5.00 P.M. for online bidding. The bid shall be received only on online on or before dt.05.10.2020 upto 5.00 P.M. & received bid will be opened at 11.00 A.M. on dt.07.10.2020 in the Office of the RMC, Karanjia.

Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of the tender etc. can also be seen in the website:<https://tendersorissa.gov.in>.

Sd./- Sub-Collector, Panchpir-cum-Chairman  
R.M.C., Karanjia





New focus on media

Media freedom is back into strong focus with the Supreme Court saying the government must frame guidelines for functioning of the electronic media that went overboard in their obsession with TRP ratings bordering on sensationalism and even communalism. The government swiftly threw the ball back into the judiciary's court, suggesting that it frame guidelines first on the digital media as the mainstream print and electronic media already have regulations. How this back-and-forth would progress is worth a wait and watch. This is no easy job, and chances are that the entire spectrum of the media – print, electronic and digital - would come under scrutiny in an increasing manner. Although scrutiny may not sound negative yet which individuals will scrutinize will be a matter of great concern.

Notably, the issue arose after Sudarshan TV telecast a programme which stated among other things that an attempt was on by Moslems to infiltrate the government services. The apex court rightly found this to be a case of communalising a situation by use of terms like UPSC Jihad and Bureaucracy Jihad. Four episodes were telecast in a series after the channel got the nod from the government on September 9, and 10. More episodes were to be released when the court applied brakes, terming this as the “vilification of a community.”

The Central government's argument now is that, apart from the fact that the mainstream media already has a set of guidelines for functioning, while the digital media which has faster and wider reach and has the potential to become viral with applications like YouTube, WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook and such goes unfettered. In fact, the Centre has also opposed the court undertaking an exercise to regulate the electronic media alone, and said this was “unwarranted”, if it is “merely based upon one episode or a few episodes of one channel, namely Sudarshan TV.” The government's distaste to this exercise is clearly evident. It may also be noted that the Modi government came to power with the immense help and use of social media. Once in office, television became the mainstay for propaganda. It is definitely easy to control and manipulate these channels as they are always at the mercy of the government for spectrum and uplinking licenses. Digital media, on the other hand, is a free horse and much more difficult to reign in.

Two aspects need be noted in relation to the Centre's stand. One, the Modi government came to power in 2014 and in 2019 through a massive digital/social media build-up and this support is dwindling over the years. Rather, now the social media is exposing the failures of the Modi government. Two, the electronic media is now at the beck and call of the establishment. Running TV channels is an expensive exercise, and these entities can easily be controlled through multiple governmental interferences by cutting their financial resources. It is also known that prominent channels are run by large business houses, which require to be on the correct side of the government for their other larger business interests.

Global digital media functions on massive budgets and a third world country like India can neither punish nor lure these platforms to perform according to the wishes of our politicians. Case in point was when the Modi government was desperately pushing Facebook to share user data with it. Hilariously, there was a time when suggestions were made by the government to link Aadhaar with every social media account, which these platforms flatly refused to do.

Digital media is a worldwide phenomenon. Its freedom is not questioned except in autocracies in the Middle East or in countries like China and Russia. The wider world has no problem with digital media. Democracies are allowing them a free run, also as it helps those in power to gauge the mood of the people. For autocracies, people's mood does not matter. By applying controls on digital media, India could enter the age of darkness. Today, a channel vilified Moslems. Tomorrow, another channel may vilify Hindoos.

It is not a question of the BJP, or the Congress, or any party for that matter which rules at the Centre. Access to information or their dissemination should not be controlled by the government. The Constitution has granted freedom to the people and to media in the form of Freedom of Expression (FoE), and it must be upheld as a sacred commitment to the Constitution itself. Today, the government recommends control on digital media; tomorrow it can ask for controls on print media; and another day it can seek curbs on TV channels. It is for the court to look at matters from a wider perspective. The health of the entire spectrum of media is important. There cannot be a selective approach to set matters right. People must be trusted and they are capable to decide what is fake and what is not.

WISDOM CORNER

- Ignorance is the curse of God; knowledge is the wing wherewith we fly to heaven. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
- Whoever undertakes to set himself up as a judge of Truth and Knowledge is shipwrecked by the laughter of the gods. ALBERT EINSTEIN
- A mind of 'all logic' is like a knife all blade. It makes the hand that uses it bleed. RABINDRANATH TAGORE

WORDSWORTH

Totter

A totter is a rag-and-bone collector. Not, you will note, the verb to move unsteadily (which comes from the Middle Dutch touteren, to swing), nor to do with tiny tots (which you might wrongly guess is an abbreviated form of totter, but which is actually an old English dialect word whose origin is unknown, though it's the same one as a tot of spirits and so means something small), nor has it anything to do with a person who tots up figures to come to a total (that's an abbreviation from the Latin totum, total, which was once marked against a summed figure in account books). Our totters' name is from the old slang term tot for a bone, as in the 19th-Century tot-hunter, a gatherer of bones, a word also used as a term of abuse; both may come from the German tot, dead. Totters were once a familiar sight in the streets of every town and city in Britain, often announcing their presence with the ringing of a handbell and the cry of “rags, bones, bottles” that had been so often repeated it had been reduced to a hoarse, inarticulate shout. The original totters, of nineteenth-century Britain, really did collect rags and bones, among other items. The former were sold to a rag merchant who passed them on to firms that reprocessed them into the cheap material called shoddy. The latter were the remnants of families' meals, which were sent to firms that rendered them down for glue.

LOL

Office time

Heads of two legal firms sit together at the club and chat. One asks the other, “Man, how come all your staff report to work well before starting time, every day? To me, this has never happened in my firm. In fact, almost everyone drives in a few minutes late.”

The other head answered, “Well. Simple! I have 21 personnel at work, and kept just 20 parking spaces. The last one who comes will have to go round and round the complex to find a space to park his vehicle. You know it's not that easy to get a space there.”

Shivaji Sarkar

IN DIFFICULT TIMES, A TEMPTATION TO SELL ASSETS IS NATURAL. THE PROCESS OF PUTTING THE PSUs ON SALE REFLECTS THAT

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST  
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

FOCUS MEDIA

LEAPING FLAMES OF HELL

There have been many, but let me cite just two reactions from the family to Justices DY Chandrachud, Indu Malhotra and KM Joseph's utterances restraining Sudarshan TV from telecasting its 'UPSC Jihad' show. A relative mailed a couplet comprehensive in its simplicity:

“Door insaan ke sar se yeh musibat kar do  
Aag dozaakh ki bujha do, use jannat kar do”

(Remove this menace hovering over our heads,  
Douse the leaping flames of hell; make it a paradise)

'Leaping flames of hell'; that is how a majority of Indian TV shows register with petrified Muslims. TV news is daily mortification; lynchings happen outdoors. The Supreme Court's quest for 'some mechanism' for self-regulation of the media brings her hope. “Cricket will be played within a well-measured boundary?” Not too much to expect. The other reaction, from a younger relative, is more cynical. If the Supreme Court had sharp instincts, it would have taken suo moto note of the outrage, before Sudarshan TV was able to telecast even one episode.

Incipient communalism was part of the Republic from the very beginning. Contentious issues on that score, however, did not come up when the electronic media consisted only of Doordarshan. DD, launched in the mid-70s, faced road blocks too – as in the screening of Tamas, based on a novel by Bhisham Sahni and directed by Govind Nihalani. Centered on the Partition, the director pulls no punches on exposing communalism on all sides. Since majoritarian communalism had never been placed under the scanner with such candour in Independent India, there was a furore. Screening was stopped. Only when Justices Bakhtawar Lentin and Sujata Manohar of the Bombay High Court cleared the serial, was it screened.

Sudarshan TV's 'UPSC Jihad' is in the words of Justice Chandrachud, a 'rabid' vilification of Muslims. The channel felt encouraged to cross the red line because this particular line is considered kosher in the current po-



Sudarshan TV's 'UPSC Jihad' is in the words of Justice Chandrachud, a 'rabid' vilification of Muslims. The channel felt encouraged to cross the red line because this particular line is considered kosher in the current political atmosphere by mainstream channels as well as fly-by-night media operators

litical atmosphere by mainstream channels as well as fly-by-night media operators.

An anti-Muslim edge is a perceived requirement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's march towards Hindu Rashtira. But an anti-Muslim edge in the media has antecedents which predate Modi. Four apparently disparate events stirred the cauldron of communalism. In 1990, the Soviet Union collapsed. The disappearance of a column in the international system on which India had depended, plus an unprecedented economic crisis, caused then Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Manmohan Singh to lurch towards Washington and they swiftly embarked on liberal economic policies. With the new market economy came consumerism and the need for multiple TV channels to accommodate the burgeoning advertising. Remember, when the Babri Masjid fell in December 1992, there was only Doordarshan to televise the news.

About this time, the Mandal versus Kamandal, or caste versus communalism, spiraled out of control. It is pointless speculating whether a mushroom growth of channels went some distance in amplifying the new, energetic, communal politics. 'Market and iden-

tity politics' is a separate study. Internal politics, however communal, would have been amenable to management.

The real problem arose when globalisation, spurred on by unbridled capitalism caused even Barack Obama to ask in retrospect: “Did we mishandle globalisation?” I have often wondered if Ghalib's imagery is applicable: “Rau mein hai rakhish e umr kahaan dekhhiye thamey,  
Nay haath bag par hain, na pa hai rakab mein.”

(The steed is in full flight; I know not where it will halt; I have lost control of the reins and, feet are not in the stirrups.) That was globalisation. Having brought down the Soviet Union, the US put its imprimatur on a Unipolar World Order by embarking on operation Desert Storm in February 1992. In some ways, Desert Storm bared the plans the US had for the future. The most important of these, pertinent to our narrative, was the inauguration of the Global Electronic Media which the Pentagon planned with such stealth that even arch ally like UK found itself flat-footed.

BBC's senior correspondent, John Simpson, walked around Baghdad with a lowly satellite telephone while Peter Arnett of the CNN launched the New World

Information order from the terrace of Baghdad's Al Rasheed hotel. For the first time in history, a war was brought live into our drawing rooms. The unprecedented fire power which I saw from the 14th floor of Al Mansour Hotel remained a nightmare for months. This frightful exhibition, let it always be remembered, divided the world in perpetuity into two hostile sets of audience – the triumphant West and the defeated Muslim world, humiliated yet again. Had multiple channels been operational in India (they were not in 1991-92), would they have been cheering western victory or Muslim defeat? It would have been bad form to pose this query then? Please note how times have changed and why the Supreme Court's intervention is timely.

The post 9/11 war on terror transformed itself into a crusade against Islam. Journalistic restraint became a casualty. Geraldo Rivera of Fox News flourished a revolver in front of a TV camera in October 2001 in Afghanistan. “Should I see Osama bin Laden anywhere, I shall finish him off with this,” said he, his finger on the trigger. The copycat Indian media, now in a phase of rapid expansion, picked up every inflection. When Narendra Modi arrived in Gujarat in October 2001 for his baptism as Chief Minister, the fireworks over Afghanistan, demonisation of Osama bin Laden was dominating the airwaves.

Global Islamophobia dovetailed nicely into Indian communalism. The February 2002 Gujarat pogrom produced some excellent TV journalism but the confluence of Islamophobia and hard saffron muffled the murderous events for an attentive global audience.

All Prime Ministers of India from 1947 to the mid-90s depended on traditional forms of mass mobilisation, prior to the TV era. A more media savvy prime minister than Narendra Modi, there has not been. He played all the strings to arrange for himself a saturation coverage of the 2014 and 2019 elections with expert ease. Crony capitalism was essential and it was easily managed.

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

IANS

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

‘No’ to new projects, sale of PSUs

Ambition is good. The \$5 trillion economy is a nice goal, but the path chosen has to match the goal. Since the April-June quarter of 2019, the economy has been nose-diving. The industry has continuously been bringing to notice the demand plunge. Belated freeing of taxes up to ₹5 lakh of income was a prudent decision. So was relief to the corporates. Several other factors and contraction of factory output, job losses, salary cuts and other issues had taken 2019 to a virtual abyss.

It has started reflecting since December 2019, when the government started pruning allocations of various departments. In many cases, during the last quarter, before being hit by corona, the financial situation had turned severe. A stock taking is needed for taking right decisions and for giving up many projects that are now on offer. People have the wisdom to understand the difficulties and agree for course corrections. A visit to the hinterlands would make it clear how the village elders do such retractions. They say that if you are in difficulty desist from buying ornaments to keep your family happy. It is raw wisdom. The nation must imbibe it. In

difficult times, a temptation to sell assets is natural. The process of putting the PSUs on sale reflects that. No family, however, easily parts with their hard-earned assets. The nation has to rethink. The family silver, PSU, has been paying high dividends to help the government sail through difficult times.

PSUs like BPCL need ₹400 crore to sell but a mere ₹72 crore to refurbish and rerun. The PSUs have been harbinger of progress with measly investment. The 59th Public Enterprises Survey 2018-19 says as on March 31, 2019, there were 339 CPSEs with a total investment of ₹16,40,628 crore. The total revenue earned in 2018-19 was ₹25,43,370 crore. The dividend paid by only seven of these was ₹21,000 crore. Was this a bad performance?

In terms of giving jobs with living wages, the central PSUs are better than their private sector competitors. They employ 20 lakh people (sustain at least 80 lakh) and give indirect employment to almost equal numbers. The coal, steel, engineering, power and textiles have the largest number of employees. The PSUs have beaten the private sector in 2017-18 with 8 per cent employment growth. The private

sector growth was only 6.3 per cent, says a Care Ratings study of 700 companies. The study noted that overall job growth in the private sector had declined in 2018. The total employment was 4.57 million; of these, 2 million in PSUs. Additionally, the companies with net sales of ₹50-100 crore, ₹100-250 crore and ₹500-1000 crore underperformed and pulled down the overall employment growth.

The development indicates that the slide had started in 2017. However, the country had not taken the developments of 2017 to 2019 in a serious manner leading to almost a crisis situation post lockdown. It has raised a fundamental question of total stoppage of production, functioning and processes since the March 22 janata curfew. Still the unlock period is also marked by several restrictions. The lockdown has not been a prudent decision. An unseemly comparison with neighbouring Pakistan is one such hint. Except for local containment areas, there was no general lockdown. Industrial or economic or official activities were not stopped. Pakistan economy is growing and not as hit as large economies such as the US or Europe

or smaller ones like South Africa.

Islamabad interestingly has also received rave reviews from WHO. Its Director-General TA Ghebreyesus says Pakistan is included among the seven countries that the world can learn how to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. The state must be caring but not to the extent that it jeopardises activities. Many problems including severe job and income crunch today emanate from it.

It has to move beyond it, beyond falling factory outputs, infrastructure investments and less productive investments.

The time is to give up all luxuries, and hold PSUs and the Railways sales on hold. We must give up many euphoric projects that the country does not need. These include the ₹1.1 lakh crore bullet train; the ₹862 crore proposed new Parliament complex; the ₹20,000 crore New Delhi Central Vista project; the ₹29, 560 crore Jewar airport that may cause environmental degradation; the ₹22,000 crore new memorial projects in Mumbai, and may modify the ecologically sensitive Char Dham project linking in Uttarakhand.

INFRA

Film industry & scandals

Sir, Wrong tendencies exist in the Hindi film industry, and considering the dynamism and high stakes, this is but natural. Yet, actress Kangana Ranaut's blunt statement about tendencies like exploitation in the film world is an explosive revelation. In politics, power corridors, fashion, films, entertainment industry, there is the growing trend of unholy 'give and take', compromises with principles, bribes, and other forms of gratifications. Nepotism pervades every segment of our society. Most icons, the so-called guardians, stoop below a dignified level and there is the fast disappearing of social norms and values that are supposed to be guiding those in the government, industry, etc. Many have managed to get prime posts through some or other compromise, but not everyone stoops to this level.

Janaki Ballav Dash, MAYURBHANJ

A big boost for bamboo products

Sir, Tripura has brought an innovative step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat. The state launched bamboo cookies and bamboo-made honey bottles that will help in boosting immunity and creating a subsistence for villagers. The cookies produced from the shoots of 'Muli Bamboo' are rich in vitamins and other wholesome ingredients and are healthy. This is an admirable move and supports the 'vocal for local' movement introduced by PM Modi to build a self-sustaining nation.

Amit Singh Kushwaha, SATNA

Global terror in India

Sir, The UN had recently pointed out in its report the strong presence of ISIS and Al Qaeda in Kerala and Karnataka. The arrest of nine suspected Al Qaeda operatives in Kerala and West Bengal by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) is indicative of the accuracy of the UN report. A tip-off provided by central intelligence agencies and with the help of the state police the NIA carried out raids in Ernakulam in Kerala and Murshidabad in West Bengal and made the arrests. The international terror group was planning to launch terror attacks on vital installations in the country. It has come to light that the arrested men were radicalised by Pakistan-based Al Qaeda terrorists on social media platforms. The arrest of the terror operatives sheds light on the fact that Al Qaeda, that has its operation base in Afghanistan and Pakistan, is attempting to widen its presence in India as well. The central and state governments must remain vigilant against terrorist groups that pose threat to the country.

Venu GS, KOLLAM



# Terror infra intact in Pak: BSF

AGENCIES

**Jammu, Sept 20:** Asserting that the terror infrastructure in Pakistan is intact, a top Border Security Force (BSF) officer Sunday said airdropping of weapons by drones in Jammu and Kashmir is a new challenge along with various anti-India elements coming together.

Inspector General of Border Security Force (BSF), Jammu frontier, N S Jamwal said all security agencies are alive to the new security challenges and are maintaining tight vigil to scuttle the nefarious designs of the enemy forces. He was talking to reporters on the sidelines of a major recovery of 62 kg of heroin worth crores of rupees along with two pistols, three magazines and 100 rounds along the International Border (IB) in Arnai area of R S Pura sector here.

"The terror infrastructure (in Pakistan) is intact as is evident



The terror infrastructure is intact as is evident from the increased activities like attempts to smuggle weapons and narcotics and firing incidents on the borders

N S JAMWAL | IG, BSF, JAMMU FRONTIER

with the use of drones to airdrop weapons. "We are alert and the work for counter-measures to deal with it is in progress," Jamwal said, adding such type of activity was first reported in Punjab and subsequently

extended to Jammu and Kashmir. He said the forces are alert to the threat and have successfully foiled two such attempts in the past few months.

"The work on the counter-measures is in progress and we are utilising technology to deal with the threat."

On June 20, the Border Security Force (BSF) shot down a Hexa copter drone with a payload of five-and-a-half kilograms including a sophisticated US-made M4 semi-automatic carbine and seven grenades at Rathua village in Kathua district. Three Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists were arrested along with a cache of weapons airdropped near

## SUCCESSFUL OPS

■ JUNE 20, THE BSF SHOT DOWN A HEXA COPTER DRONE WITH A PAYLOAD OF FIVE-AND-A-HALF KILOGRAMS INCLUDING A SOPHISTICATED US-MADE M4 SEMI-AUTOMATIC CARBINE

■ THREE LASHKAR-E-TAIBA TERRORISTS WERE ARRESTED ALONG WITH A CACHE OF WEAPONS AIRDROPPED NEAR THE LOC IN RAJOURI DISTRICT LAST WEEK

the LoC in Rajouri district last week. Jamwal said forces have already been sensitised about the challenge, resulting in successful operations after airdropping of the weapons.

Asked about reports that various terrorist organisations are joining hands while Khalistani handlers are supervising the smuggling of drugs into India with the help of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence, he said "all anti-India elements are coming together wherever they get an opportunity."

"Security agencies are aware of this fact and appropriate measures are being adopted to meet the challenge," he said.

# KASHYAP RUBBISHES HARASSMENT CLAIMS

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Sept 20:** Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, who has been accused by actor Payal Ghosh of sexual harassment, Sunday said the claim is "baseless" and found support in his industry friends, with Hansal Mehta, Taapsee Pannu, Mohd Zeeshan Ayyub as well as former wife, film editor Aarti Bajaj crediting him for creating safe work space for women.

Saturday, Ghosh took to Twitter and wrote that the "Gangs of Wasseypur" director was sexually inappropriate towards her; a claim he has dismissed.

The 30-year-old actor tagged Prime Minister Narendra Modi in her tweet, requesting him to take action against Kashyap.

"@anuragkashyap72 has forced himself on me and extremely badly @PMOIndia @narendramodi ji, kindly take action and let the country see the demon behind this cre-



ative guy I am aware that it can harm me and my security is at risk. Please help!" Ghosh wrote.

In a video released to ABN Telugu, Ghosh claimed that the incident happened in 2014-2015.

The actor, who made her Hindi debut with Rishi Kapoor-Pareesh Rawal starrer "Patel Ki Punjabi Shaadi", also claimed that Kashyap boasted about his connection with megastar Amitabh Bachchan and claimed that there were other female

artists who he got intimate with. Dismissing the allegations, Kashyap called Ghosh's claim an attempt to "silence" him.

An outspoken critic of administration and a member of the Indian film industry who is vocal about the vilification of Bollywood by celebrities and trolls online, the director said it had taken some people "such a long time" to "shut me up".

"(But) while shutting me up, you lied so much that you dragged other women also in it. Please maintain some dignity madam. All I will say is that all your allegations are baseless," Kashyap, 48, tweeted.

"Any lover or all those female actors with whom I've worked or the team of all those girls and women that have been working with me or all those women I've met in private or in public. I neither behaved like this nor do I tolerate such a behaviour at any cost. Rest we will see what happens," he added.

# 17L get domicile certificates

Altogether 1,21,630 applications have been rejected so far for not annexing prescribed documents with the application

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 20 :** As many as 16.79 lakh people in Jammu and Kashmir have been given domicile certificates so far, the Ministry of Home Affairs informed Lok Sabha Sunday.

Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said, as per the information provided by the Jammu and Kashmir administration, a total of 21,13,879 people have applied for the domicile certificates. Out of these, 16,79,520 people have been given the domicile certificates, he said replying to a written question.

Mr Reddy said, altogether 1.21.630 applications have been rejected so far for not annexing prescribed documents with the application.

He said the Rule 5 of the Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules, 2020 mandates certain documents which are to be annexed with the application. The applications which lack the prescribed documents are re-



jected, he said.

The minister said, as per the registration records maintained with the Provincial Rehabilitation Officer (PRO), Jammu and Kashmir, a total of 6,565 families were registered as displaced families from Chhamb Niabat area during the Indo-Pak war of 1971.

For the displaced families of 1971, agricultural land at the rate of 4 acres (irrigated) or 6 acres (unirrigated) was allotted. A cash compensation of 7,500 per fam-

ily was also paid, he said.

Mr Reddy said, due to the Indo-Pak war of 1947, a total of 31,619 families got displaced from the Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK), out of which 26,319 families got registered and settled in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir.

A total of 5,300 families, who were initially registered with the PRO, Jammu and Kashmir, subsequently moved to other parts of the country, he said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, Sept 20:** The Jammu and Kashmir High Court will have arbitration centres in both regions of the union territory to provide an institutionalised framework for speedy and expeditious resolution of disputes through an alternate dispute resolution mechanism.

The court has accorded approval to setting up of high court annexed arbitration centres at Srinagar and Jammu, an official spokesman said here on late Saturday evening.

The centres will be called "The Jammu and Kashmir International Arbitration Centre (JKIAC)"

For securing fair, speedy and inexpensive justice to the litigants and being sensitive to the fact that the object of the Section 89, in absence of detailed modalities, has remained somewhat dormant in Jammu and Kashmir, the court has set up these arbitration centres, the spokesman said.

He said to ensure that the constitution of such centres is smooth and effective, the high court has also framed "The Jammu and Kashmir International Arbitration



Centre (JKIAC) (International Management Rules, 2020)".

As per these rules, he said, the chief justice of the high court of Jammu and Kashmir shall be the patron-in-chief of the Jammu and Kashmir International Arbitration Centre (JKIAC).

To monitor and oversee the cen-

tres, an arbitration committee consisting of three judges of the high court, advocate general, assistant solicitor general attached to the high court and three members to be nominated by the Chief Justice of the Common High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh out of whom at least one shall be desig-

nated senior advocate, while the others may be any arbitration expert, in India or abroad has to be established, the spokesman said.

He said to supervise and manage the JKIAC, a secretariat consisting of coordinator who shall be a member of higher judicial service and two additional coordinators who shall be members of Judicial Service, have to be appointed by the chief justice.

The spokesman said the rules further envisage appointment of Chief Counsel and Deputy Counsel amongst advocates having experience in the field of arbitration.

As per the rules, the JKIAC has to prepare and maintain a panel of arbitrators as approved by the arbitration committee from time to time from amongst the persons who are suitable and willing to serve as arbitrators provided that their suitability shall be determined by the arbitration committee, he said.

The empanelment of the arbitrators shall consist of former judges, former judicial officers, chartered accountants, bureaucrats, engineers, architects, professors etc, he added.

# Experts concerned over relaxation in age

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Sept 20:** Two days after the state education department relaxed the cut-off date for age criteria to nursery and Class 1 admissions in the state, experts have raised concerns over the new norms.

As per a government resolution released September 18, a child has to complete 3 years by December 31 to be eligible for pre-primary/nursery admissions. Similarly, the child should have completed 6 years by the same date for admission to Class 1.

The earlier cutoff date for both these admissions was set at September 30. This effectively means that a 2.5 year old and a 5.5 year old child can get admission to nursery and Class 1 respectively from 2021-22.

Rohan Bhatt, trustee, Children's Academy Group of schools said, "For CBSE/ICSE schools which begin their academic year in the month of April, even a child who is 2 years 3 months old will be eli-

## NURSERY, STD 1 ADMISSIONS



This is a big concern for educationists as it might have a detrimental impact on the development of children who start schooling at such a young age

gible for nursery admissions. This is a big concern for educationists as it might have a detrimental impact on the development of children who start schooling at such a young age. Several research stud-

ies have shown the importance of age appropriate learning which might not be achieved in this case."

Swati Popat Vats, president of the Early Childhood Association said that there will also be dispar-

As per a government resolution released September 18, a child has to complete 3 years by December 31 to be eligible for pre-primary/nursery admissions

Similarly, the child should have completed 6 years by the same date for admission to Class 1

This effectively means that a 2.5 year old and a 5.5 year old child can get admission to nursery and Class 1 respectively from 2021-22

ity between two children whose age differs by 6 months. "For example, 2.5-year-olds are able to use sentences of 2-3 words while 3-year-old toddlers can usually use sentences of upto 5 words or more. Curriculum designed for nursery is more in line with the 3-year-old development domains and 2.5-year-old would struggle to cope with it," she added.

## MARATHA PROTEST



Maratha Kranti Morcha workers stage a protest against Supreme Court's stay on Maratha reservation, in Mumbai, Sunday

# FORMER SCRIBE WHO SAW FREEDOM STRUGGLE, 3 WARS TURNS 100

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 20:** In his long career as a reporter, Walter Alfred has seen many things, including the launch of the Quit India movement, wars and the inside of a Pakistani jail.

Alfred, who had a long innings with the Press Trust of India (PTI) as a journalist, turns 100 on September 21.

He has covered many wars India has fought, including the 1962 war with China and the 1965 war with Pakistan. Reminiscing about his reporting days at his house in Mira Road township on the outskirts of Mumbai, he said, "For me, the 1962 war with China was a painful memory as it deeply affected the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

"The shock of China defying him was severe for him," he said.

Now, as Indian troops are once again locked in a stand-off with China, Alfred

said back then, there was "no dearth of official information" about the border developments.

There was a clear communication from the government and a detailed statement was made in Parliament, he said.

"I covered several events with Nehru, including his visit to the Ahmednagar fort as prime minister. He excitedly showed me his cell and the places he was allowed to visit as a prisoner during the independence movement," he said.

The British had chosen the Ahmednagar fort to lodge Nehru and other national leaders to prevent intensification of the Quit India movement.

Among the more dramatic events of Alfred's life was his incarceration in a jail in Pakistan during the 1965 Indo-Pak war. Alfred said this was during



his second stint as the PTI correspondent in Pakistan, his earlier tenure having lasted three years.

"The proclamation of war invited

charges of espionage against me. I was kept in solitary confinement in Rawalpindi jail for almost a fortnight and got hardly any information about the

### PAINFUL MEMORY

AMONG THE MORE DRAMATIC EVENTS OF ALFRED'S LIFE WAS HIS INCARCERATION IN A JAIL IN PAKISTAN DURING THE 1965 INDO-PAK WAR

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND ALSO PRESSURE FROM THE UN LED TO HIS RELEASE AND HE RETURNED TO INDIA AS PART OF AN EXCHANGE OF JOURNALISTS

AFTER RETIRING FROM PTI IN 1978, HE TOOK UP TEACHING AT THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MASS COMMUNICATION AND A FEW OTHER JOURNALISM INSTITUTES

charges levelled against me," he said. He said negotiations between the two countries and also pressure from the United Nations led to his release and

he returned to India as part of an exchange of journalists of the two countries. "I was so traumatised due to my incarceration that my office offered me some days' leave for recovery, after which I was posted as PTI's South Asia correspondent in Malaysia," he said.

Alfred, who grew up in Mangalore, said he joined Reuters in Mumbai in 1938 as a technical hand, and became a journalist soon after PTI was formed.

Alfred says he was at Gowalia Tank in Mumbai on August 8, 1942 when Mahatma Gandhi launched the Quit India movement.

"In 1949, I was the chief of bureau in Mumbai and led a team of over 20 reporters, including those covering business and sports," he said.

Alfred, who retired from PTI in 1978, took up teaching at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication and a few other journalism institutes.



of the day quote

Advertising should not communicate any discrimination as a result of skin colour and care should be taken in the pre-usage depiction of products to ensure the expression of a model is not negative in a way which is widely seen as unattractive, depressed or concerned

ASHWINI CHOUBEY | UNION MINISTER

Government is committed for the development of Devi Patan division's Bahraich, Shravasti and Balrampur districts

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

With the passing of two landmark agriculture Bills in Rajya Sabha today, India has cemented the strong foundation for 'Atmanirbhar Agriculture'

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Man nabbed

**Lucknow:** The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has arrested a person from here and seized 2.7 kg of bud (curated marijuana) concealed in an air compressor machine at Delhi. The consignor is based in the US and a few earlier seizures made by NCB had the same origin which alerted the NCB team. The payment for the consignment was made through bitcoins and came into contact through Instagram ID of the consignor. According to the NCB press statement, the parcel was sent to India from the US on August 31. A detailed investigation into the case with the help of digital analysis led NCB team to the consignee C. Gidwani, a Lucknow resident, who accepted his involvement in the case on September 18.

Tumour extracted

**Mumbai:** Doctors in Mumbai have extracted a gigantic 11-kg tumour from the abdomen of a 55-year-old woman after a marathon nine-hour surgery. A team of medicos headed by oncologist Dr Tanveer A. Majeed, urologist Dr Santosh Palkar and Dr Shilpa Deshmukh performed the complicated surgery at the Zen Multispecialty Hospital in Chembur. The patient is a housewife who noticed her abdomen growing daily accompanied by breathing difficulties. At the height of lockdown in June, she consulted a local doctor who confirmed the presence of a tumour with ultrasound and CT scan. However, owing to the lockdown she did not take any further steps or medicines, even as the tumour continued to grow rapidly, making her look obese.

Vulture census soon

**Pilibhit (UP):** A census of vultures will soon be conducted in Uttar Pradesh by the Institute of Wildlife Conservation (IWC) at Lucknow University. A workshop for forest personnel, NGO representatives and avian volunteers will be held through webinar between September 21 and 30. The aim is to train the participants for vulture mapping.

Boat capsizes

**Vyara (Gujarat):** A man drowned and five people were rescued after their boat capsized in the reservoir of Ukai dam in Tapi district in Gujarat, police said Sunday. Six people from Manehpore village had gone fishing Saturday but their boat toppled due to a strong gust of wind, an Uchhal police station official said.



Reports have been received from time to time that some NGOs are allegedly involved in activities that violates various provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010

NITYANAND RAI | UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME

32,238 PARAMILITARY PERSONNEL COVID+VE

The government Sunday said a total of 32,238 paramilitary personnel were infected by the coronavirus so far



631 people died cleaning sewers in last 10 yrs: NCSK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 20:** A total of 631 people have died in the country while cleaning sewers and septic tanks in the last 10 years, the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) said.

The figure was provided by the NCSK in response to an RTI query on the number of deaths reported while cleaning sewers and septic tanks from 2010 to March 2020. According to the data, 631 such fatalities were reported during the period. The highest number of deaths were reported in 2019 at 115.

Among states, Tamil Nadu reported the highest number of such deaths in total in the 10-year period at 122 followed by Uttar Pradesh at 85, Delhi and Karnataka each



reported 63 deaths and Gujarat reported 61 deaths.

In Haryana, 50 fatalities have been reported in the last 10 years.

ported while in 2017 as many as 93 people died while cleaning sewers, the data showed.

In 2016, 55 people died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks, 62 in 2015, 52 in 2014, 68 in 2013, 47 in 2012, 37 in 2011 and 27 in 2010, it said. The NCSK said the data is based on the information received by it from various sources and actual information may vary.

"Further, this is a dynamic data which keeps changing as it is updated as and when information is received by the commission from any source," it said in the RTI response.

An official said sanitation is a state subject and the NCSK maintains the data it receives from states and UTs.

Activists, however, said that such

deaths continue to happen because of poor implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act.

Bezwada Wilson, national convener of Safai Karmachari Andolan, an organisation working to eradicate manual scavenging, said the poor implementation of the law has left the sanitation workers in a lurch.

A single person has not been punished under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act since its enactment. An Act should not be a false promise like an election manifesto, an Act should be what we should implement in an unequal society," the Magsaysay award winning activist said.

CHILLING OUT



People visit Marina beach in Chennai, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

'Mosque may be square-shaped like Kaaba'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, Sept 20:** The mosque to come up in Ayodhya pursuant to the Supreme Court verdict in the Ram Jannabhoomi case may be square-shaped like the Kaaba Sharif in Mecca and will not be named after an emperor or king.

Secretary and spokesperson of the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF) Athar Hussain said Sunday, "A mosque measuring 15,000 square feet will be built in Dhannipur village. It will be of the same size as that of the Babri mosque. The shape of the mosque may be completely different from that of other mosques. It may be square-shaped like the Kaaba Sharif in Mecca, as hinted



by architect SM Akhtar."

To a question on whether the mosque will have no domes or minarets like the Kaaba Sharif, Hussain said it could be a possibility. He said the architect has been given a free hand in this regard. "The mosque will not be named Babri Masjid. It will not be named

after any king or emperor. My personal opinion is that it should be called the Dhannipur Masjid," Hussain said.

He also informed that the trust is making its portal so that people can donate for the mosque and the museum, hospital and research centre which will be built inside

the complex. Write-ups by national and international Islamic scholars will also appear on the portal. He said some work on the portal is yet to be completed and hence, donation is yet to begin.

The Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board has formed the IICF, a trust, for the construction of the mosque on a five-acre plot. The state government has allotted the five-acre plot in Ayodhya's Dhannipur for the construction of the mosque on the directive of the apex court.

After a protracted legal tussle, the Supreme Court, November 9 last year, ruled in favour of the construction of a Ram temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya.

Man attacks wife as priest predicts 6th daughter

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Badaun (Uttar Pradesh), Sept 20:** In an inbred state, a man allegedly attacked his wife, who was four months' pregnant, with a sickle after a priest predicted that "their sixth child would also be a girl".

The woman is undergoing treatment at a medical facility in Bareilly and her condition is stated to be critical. The woman was a mother of five minor daughters and the incident took place in the Civil Lines area on Saturday.

According to the police, the husband, Pannalal, 43, a labourer, returned home in an inebriated condition and picked up an argument with his wife Anita Devi, 40, forcing

The woman is undergoing treatment in Bareilly and her condition is stated to be critical

her to abort the child. When Anita refused, Pannalal attacked her with a sickle on her abdomen. The neighbours, meanwhile, arrived at the scene and rushed Anita to the district hospital. Emergency medical officer at the district hospital Dr Rajesh Kumar Verma said, "A woman with multiple injuries on her stomach and chest was brought to the hospital. Her injuries were grave and possibly caused by a sharp-edged weapon. We have referred her to a higher medical facility given her critical condition."

Anita's younger brother Ravi Kumar said, "My brother-in-law used to beat up my sister often for giving birth to five daughters. Even my parents tried to resolve the problem, but no one had ever imagined that he would take such a cruel step."

Civil Lines police station SHO Sudhakar Pandey said, "We have detained the accused and he is being questioned." The SHO added that they had been waiting for a written complaint from the woman's family to register a case in this connection.

BSF foils infiltration bid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, Sept 20:** The BSF Sunday recovered a consignment of 62 kg of heroin worth crores of rupees and two pistols after foiling an infiltration attempt from Pakistan along the International Border (IB) here, a top officer of the border guarding force said.

Inspector General of BSF, Jammu frontier, NS Jamwal said his force is shortly lodging a strong protest with Pakistan and expressed hope that stern action will be taken against those involved in the failed smuggling bid.

The attempt to smuggle the narcotics and weapons was scuttled by BSF personnel of Budhwar and Bullechak border outposts in Arnia area of RS Pura sector around 2am.

Villages along LoC finally connected with national power grid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

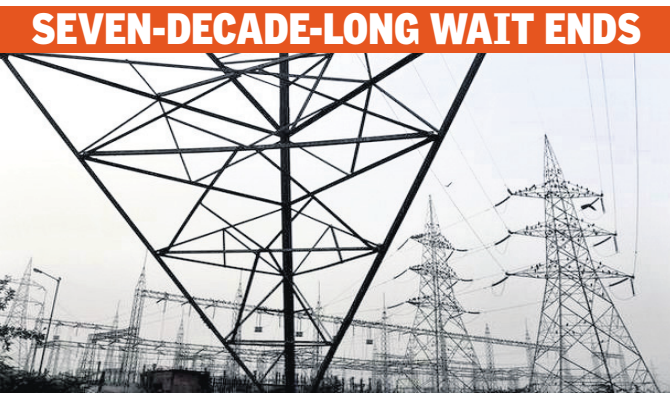
**Kupwara (Kashmir), Sept 20:** Shouts of 'Bijli' from thrilled villagers lit up the face of Kupwara Deputy Commissioner Anshul Garg after efforts for over a year finally connected habitats in Keran and Machil in far north Kashmir to the national power grid, ending an over seven-decade-long wait for people living in these areas along the Line of Control.

"When I took over as deputy commissioner (DC) of this northern-most district of the country, I began interacting with local people living in far-flung areas, especially those in villages located near the LoC (Line of Control)," 31-year-old Garg,

an IIT-Delhi graduate, said here.

Villagers in these areas have also enthusiastically participated in elections with the turnout always being over 60 per cent. Garg, who took over as DC in February 2019, said, "Kya hume bijli mil sakti hai sir? (can we get electricity sir). The question was from a delegation from Keran and Machil areas and the question indeed rattled me from inside. After seven decades of Independence, are these people asking me for electricity," he said recalling details of the meeting during his initial days in the district.

The files on 'providing electricity' were pulled out and work started at a frantic pace, the DC said. "There



SEVEN-DECADE-LONG WAIT ENDS

was a curiosity as to how people can live without electricity, possibly a fundamental right of every citizen of the country," he said.

"Government departments were fighting and playing passing the

parcel with these files. My inner voice said enough is enough, and I made this promise that these villages will be connected with the national power grid at any cost," Garg said.

"Everything was put on mission mode and I formed inter-departmental teams to work out the proposal and ensure that no file remains pending for any departmental clearance. The theme for a dream was laid on a solid foundation," he said.

Negotiating eight-months of thick snow cover, manpower issues post-abrogation of Article 370 last year and the COVID-19 lockdown, the district administration connected three villages in Keran and Machil areas of the LoC to the national

electricity grid, ending over seven decades of wait.

"The happiness of the villagers was evident. Definitely the entire team of the administration deserves kudos for having achieved this. The hearing of joyous screams of 'bijli' from villagers was our reward. I guess it is a job well done," Garg, who is a Bachelor in Technology from IIT-Delhi, said.

For receiving just three hours of power, Keran and Machil areas, with nine panchayats and a population of 25,000 people, till recently was dependent on decade old diesel generator (DG) sets for which fuel was transported from the district headquarters.





**The Centre has no proposal to abolish the Inner Line Permit system currently prevalent in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur**  
**G KISHAN REDDY | BJP LEADER**

## YOUR CHOICE

School students in Andhra Pradesh have the choice to attend classes in person or online from Monday, as the state government has allowed schools to reopen for students from ninth standard to 12th standard



## of the day quote

**The new National Education Policy is a milestone in strengthening the future of youngsters and would also pave the way for the country to become 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'**  
**RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT**

**There should be positive relations between the government and the media. I will take initiatives to uphold this tradition**  
**RAMESH BAIS | TRIPURA GOVERNOR**

**If Nitish Kumar is proud of his achievements why doesn't he fight alone? I can write on a piece of paper, he can't fight alone and win seats in double digits**  
**TEJASHWY YADAV | RJD LEADER**

## SHORT TAKES

### 2 Maoists killed

**Hyderabad:** Two Maoists were killed in an exchange of fire with police in Telangana's Komaram Bheem Asifabad district, police said Sunday. The encounter happened late Saturday night. The incident occurred in the Kadamba forest area in Kagaznagar mandal of the district when police personnel were conducting search operations following information about the presence of Maoists. In-charge district superintendent of police, V. Satyanarayana said Maoists opened fire on policemen and two of them were killed when the police returned fire. There were no casualties on the police side. The slain Maoists were yet to be identified but a top Maoist of the region M. Adellu alias Bhaskar is suspected to have escaped.

### Woman arrested

**Gurugram:** A woman was apprehended by CISF personnel at the Sikanderpur Metro station in Gurugram for allegedly carrying a pistol in her bag, police said Sunday. Rubi, 27, who hails from Aligarh, is currently residing at Shanti Nagar in Gurugram. The woman was returning to her native place at Aligarh when she was intercepted by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at the Sikanderpur metro station on Friday, the police said. "A country-made pistol was recovered from her bag during the security check. The woman was handed over to the police, for further investigation," said Sub-Inspector Neeraj Kumar.

### Drug peddlers held

**Bangalore:** Six drug peddlers, including two Nigerians, have been arrested in separate cases and different types of drugs/banned substances seized from them, Bangalore police said Sunday. "City Crime Branch officials arrested the two Nigerian peddlers from Ramamurthy Nagar in the eastern suburb and seized 134 Ecstasy tablets and LSD slips valued at ₹10 lakh from their premises," Bengaluru Joint Police Commissioner Sandeep Patil said here.

### Covid patient ends life

**Junagadh:** A 61-year-old COVID-19 patient Sunday allegedly committed suicide by jumping off the third floor of a private hospital where he was being treated in Keshod town in Gujarat's Junagadh district, police said. The man, a retired government employee, was being treated there for the past two days, an official said. "The exact reason why he took this step will be known only after our probe is completed," the Keshod police station official added.

# Terrorists building bunkers to escape

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shopian (Kashmir), Sept 20:** Hideouts in higher reaches and seeking refuge in local houses are a thing of the past as terrorists in Kashmir valley now dig underground bunkers in dense orchards and even in seasonal streams to escape the dragnet of army and security forces.

"This trend has been witnessed off late in twin districts of Pulwama and Shopian with the latter having a majority of them in view of dense apple orchards and jungles," says Colonel A K Singh, heading the 44 Rashtriya Rifles, the army's counter-insurgent unit which earned a distinction of having maximum kills of terrorists as well as surrenders or apprehensions.

Col Singh and his team is always seen engaging with locals to sort out their problems which may even include career counselling or guidance in education but when it comes to countering terrorists, they are much ahead by neutralising 47 militants and ensuring detentions and surrender of seven of them.

For Col Singh and his team, who man two areas of Shopian and three of Pulwama districts, both considered to be hotbeds of militancy, the task has not been easy after recovery of underground bunkers where terrorists could hide for several days without being noticed by the security forces.

The shocker was a hideout in the



Underground bunkers in Shopian district unearthed by the Army in the recent past. These bunkers were used by terrorists to hide during crackdown by the Army

PTI PHOTO

middle of Rambhi Ara, known for fluctuating water levels and often affected by flash floods, that led Col Singh and his team members back to the drawing board. "The terrorists were hiding inside an iron bunker made in the middle of Rambhi Ara. The alert troops saw an opening of an empty oil barrel which was subsequently used by terrorists to enter into the bunker." This was something worth suspicion and

discreet surveillance was mounted on the opening. Much to our surprise, we saw terrorists emerging out from underground in the middle of the stream, which generally has water gushing only in the rainy season," he said. Five terrorists belonging to banned Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen were killed after the troops launched an attack earlier this year. However, for the army, it was not the statistics of

## LOCKDOWN TAKES ITS TOLL ON WRESTLING



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Sep 20:** Samsaad, a wrestler for many years and a state-level champion three times, is now preparing to fight at the national level.

The absence of organised wrestling bouts in the last six months has left him frustrated. Samsaad says, "Our lives have been affected by the restrictions owing to the corona infection. We could not practise adequately

which has affected our speed. In the absence of wrestling bouts we have suffered financially and we could not have a proper daily diet".

Samsaad believes it will take at least a year for the wrestlers to return to the arena. All the wrestlers have been confined to their homes due to the lockdown in the wake of the pandemic. Wrestling bouts in different states could not take place and as such the physical condition of the wrestlers has gone down. Their finances have also been badly hit.

Wrestling is the oldest sport in the world and is believed to have originated in India. Indian wrestlers have performed extremely well in the last decade and many wrestling arenas in the country have also played an important part in earning a name for these wrestlers.

## Taj Mahal, Agra Fort to reopen

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Agra, Sept 20:** India's star tourist attraction, the 17th-century monument of love, the Taj Mahal, and the Agra Fort, are all set to reopen from Monday, after an unprecedented closure of six months, due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) officials have made all necessary arrangement for the re-opening. Amar Nath Gupta, caretaker of the Taj Mahal, said: "Sanitisation at the Eastern and the Western gates, thermal screening, painting of circles for social



distancing, etc., is in place. Only 2,500 visitors will be permitted in-

side the mausoleum in one shift and this will only be possible through online booking. Foreigners will need to buy ₹1,100 entrance tickets and domestic visitors will be able to enter paying ₹50 per ticket. ₹200 ticket is additional to enter the main platform for a view of the graves of Emperor Shah Jahan and his beloved consort Mumtaz Mahal.

Meanwhile, the health department reported 105 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours. The total number is now 4,706, of which 3,727 have recovered. The number of active cases is 862. So far, there have been 117 deaths.

flying out to the USA with Sonia Gandhi for her medical check-up, Rahul Gandhi declined the suggestion. The suggestions were made by several leaders after Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury was appointed as president of the West Bengal unit of the Congress. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury is presently leader of the Congress party in Lok Sabha. It was widely believed that following the principle of one-man one-post, Chowdhury will demit CCP post and lead the party from the front in West Bengal polls due next year. But Rahul Gandhi made it clear that he is not accepting any party post and will remain an active member in Lok Sabha and outside.

### Modi dumps 'gamchha'

Narendra Modi decided to use the blue-coloured three-layered mask when he entered the Parliament House complex on the

## STAY FIT



West Bengal's Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Minister Firhad Hakim performs exercises during the inauguration of Open Air Gym, at Chetla Park in Kolkata, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

## Cop suspended for thrashing man

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kannauj (Uttar Pradesh), Sept 20:** An Uttar Pradesh Police constable was suspended late Saturday night after a video clip showed him thrashing a physically handicapped man in Kannauj.

The Kannauj Police announced the suspension from its Twitter handle. The action was taken after a video of the incident went viral on the social media. In the video, the police constable is seen slapping the differently-abled man at the back of the head and pushing him to the ground at a police station in Kannauj. According to reports, the vic-

tim drives an e-rickshaw and he said that the constable abused and assaulted him for picking up passengers by the side of a road. However, the constable claimed that the differently-abled man misbehaved when he was asked to move to the side of the road to pick up passengers.

Kannauj Superintendent of Police Amarendra Pratap Singh said the constable has been removed from duty and an enquiry has been ordered over the incident. He further added that police officers are trained to control themselves and not misbehave with the public even if there is a provocation.

president and working committee next year. But the front ranking leaders like Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Prithviraj Chavan, Akhilesh Prasad Singh and Bhupinder Singh Hooda remained on the sidelines. Anand Sharma was hoping to be in the key 6-member committee to oversee party affairs until elections next year. But Sonia Gandhi inducted Mukul Wasnik who publicly pledged loyalty to her. Sonia Gandhi is unlikely to forgive him as he was the key draftsman of the revolt letter. She also demoted Deepender Singh Hooda by making him special invitee instead of permanent invitee to the CWC. The induction of Kuldeep Bishnoi as special invitee is significant. If she dropped Sachin Pilot for playing dirty from the CWC, she also dropped Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot from the CWC. She also removed Avinash Pandey as full CWC member and made him permanent invitee considered close to Gehlot. Manish Tewari, Shashi Tharoor and many

others have not been accommodated anywhere.

### Asthana may be CBI chief!

With the three-month long Rhea Chakraborty saga ending after the Narcotics Control Bureau arrested her, the graph of its Director General Rakesh Asthana has jumped manifold in the eyes of political masters in Delhi. Insiders say that Asthana's prospects of becoming the next CBI chief have brightened when Shukla retires early next year. Asthana had been extremely unhappy ever since he was shunted out of the CBI as special director of the CBI last year. He had bitterly clashed with Alok Verma, CBI director who was also sacked summarily. But Asthana was made BSF director general and given additional charge of the NCB. He is a 1985 batch of the Gujarat cadre IPS officer and close to Home Minister Amit Shah.

## Three cousins killed in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Etawah (Uttar Pradesh), Sept 20:** Three cousins on a motorcycle were killed when a speeding bus hit them from behind in the Civil Lines area in Etawah district late.

The incident happened Saturday evening. The police said the bodies have been sent for post-mortem and investigations are underway to identify and arrest the bus driver at the earliest.

The police said that all the youths, Aman, Shivam and Govind died on the spot. Aman was a native of Mainpuri while Shivam and Govind were residents of Etawah

The police said that all three youths, Aman, 23, Shivam, 18, and Govind, 16, died on the spot. Aman was a native of Mainpuri district while Shivam and Govind were residents of Etawah.

The police said Aman had visited his maternal uncle's place in Etawah on a two-wheeler from Mainpuri Saturday morning. In the evening, all three were going on their two-wheeler when the accident took place.

The bus driver escaped with the vehicle after hitting them near the Civil Lines railway underpass. Additional Superintendent of Police Etawah, Om Veer Singh, said the eyewitnesses claimed that an over speeding bus hit their vehicle at railway underpass in Civil Lines. "We are scanning CCTV footage to zero in the offending vehicle and it's driver," he said.





**COVID-19**  
restrictions in  
England will get tougher if  
rules were not followed, as the  
government has introduced  
10,000 pound fines for people  
who fail to self-isolate  
**MATT HANCOCK** | UK HEALTH SECRETARY

## MATTER OF CONCERN

Pakistani education activist and Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai has warned that as many as 20 million girls may never return to schools even after the global COVID-19 crisis is over



## of the day quote

The virtual edition of the United Nations General Assembly will see a record number of Heads of State and Government address the high-level week through pre-recorded video statements



**ANTONIO GUTERRES** | SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UN

China has adopted an aggressive posture against India to stop New Delhi from building defence infrastructure along the border, the absence of which gives Beijing a strategic advantage



**RAJYA KRISHNA MOORTHY** | INDIAN-AMERICAN CONGRESSMAN

Two days of Chinese military aircraft approaching Taiwan demonstrate that Beijing is a threat to the entire region and have shown Taiwanese even more clearly the true nature of China's government



**TSAI ING-WEN** | TAIWAN PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### Afghan airstrikes kill 24 civilians

**Kabul:** Government airstrikes in the north of Afghanistan killed 24 civilians, including children, and wounded six others, witnesses told The Associated Press Sunday. The two witnesses contacted by the AP said that most of those killed in Saturday's airstrikes, which struck the village of Sayed Ramazan in northern Kunduz province, were civilians.

### Italians vote in regional polls

**Rome:** Italians began voting Sunday in a raft of local ballots and a referendum, with the ruling coalition under pressure in its first electoral test since the coronavirus crisis. Voters have largely approved of Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's handling of the pandemic, but recent opinion polls suggest this will not help his coalition allies in the vote for the heads of seven regions and mayors in almost 1,000 towns.

### Ex-Canadian PM Turner dies

**Ottawa:** Former Canadian Prime Minister John Turner has passed away at the age of 91 at his residence in Toronto. He died Friday night, the BBC quoted Marc Kealey, a former aide speaking on behalf of his relatives, as saying to the Montreal Gazette.

### Thousands march in Berlin

**Berlin:** Thousands of people marched in Berlin Sunday demanding that the German government do more to help migrants stuck in Greece, many of whom have been made homeless since fires ravaged the country's largest refugee camp. The crowd marched through the capital to the landmark Victory Column carrying signs with slogans like "we have space" and "Seehofer, be a Christian" — a reference to Interior Minister Horst Seehofer.

### Another storm

**Oklahoma City:** Tropical Storm Beta Sunday was making a slow crawl to the shores of Texas and Louisiana, casting worries about heavy rain, flooding and storm surge across the Gulf Coast. Beta was one of three named storms whirling in the Atlantic basin during an exceptionally busy hurricane season.

# Iran dismisses US efforts for UN sanctions as currency drops

AGENCIES

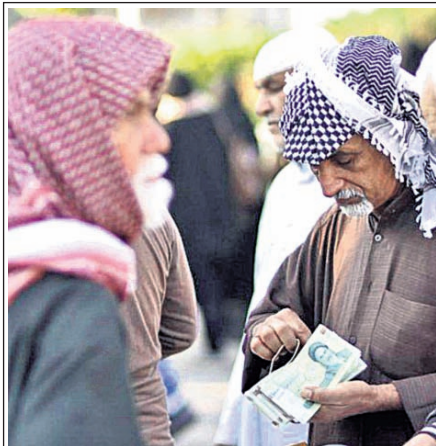
**Tehran, Sept 20:** Iran dismissed US efforts to restore all UN sanctions on the country as mounting economic pressure from Washington pushed the local currency down to its lowest level ever Sunday. Iran's currency dropped to 2,72,500 to the US dollar at money exchange shops across Tehran.

The Rial has lost more than 30 per cent of its value to the dollar since June as sweeping US sanctions on Iran continue to crush its ability to sell oil globally.

Iran's currency was at 32,000 Rials to the dollar at the time of Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which was signed by the Obama administration but which the Trump administration pulled the US out of. As the currency plummeted, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh slammed the Trump administration's declaration Saturday that all UN sanctions against Iran have been reimposed because Tehran is not complying with the nuclear deal.

"Tehran's message to Washington is clear: return to the international community, return to your commitments and stop bullying so the international community will accept you," he said. The US move has been rejected as illegal by most of the rest of the world and sets the stage for an ugly showdown at the world body ahead of its annual General Assembly this week.

Even before the US declaration, other Security Council members had vowed to ignore it. They say the



Iran dismissed US efforts to restore all UN sanctions on the country as mounting economic pressure from Washington pushed the local currency down to its lowest level ever Sunday

Tensions are running high between Iran and the US, particularly since a US strike killed Iranian Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad

US lost legal standing to invoke snapback sanctions when President Donald Trump withdrew from the nuclear deal in 2018 and began reimposing US sanctions on Iran.

France, Germany and Britain issued a joint statement Sunday reiterating that they contest the legal basis of the Trump administration's bid to activate the "snapback" sanctions mechanism because the United States withdrew from the nuclear accord.

The statement said "it follows that any decision or action taken on the basis of this procedure ... are without effect in law." The three countries stressed they remain determined to preserve the nuclear deal with Iran. The Iranian government spokesman said the snapback sanctions have only happened in "the fantastical world" of the Trump administration. He said the US stands on the wrong side of history. "They are attempting to make

everyone believe it, but nobody is buying it except for themselves," Khatibzadeh said during his weekly press briefing Sunday. "It is a television show whose sole presenter, viewers and those cheering it on are Mr. Pompeo himself and a handful of others," the spokesman said, referring to the US secretary of state.

The White House plans to issue an executive order on Monday spelling out how the US will enforce the restored sanctions, and the State and Treasury departments are expected to outline how foreign individuals and businesses will be penalised for violations.

Tensions are running high between Iran and the US, particularly since a US strike in January killed Iranian Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad, prompting Tehran to retaliate with a ballistic missile strike on Iraqi bases housing American troops.

## HK's first cannabis cafe

ALTHOUGH CBD IS A CANNABINOID, IT IS NOT CLASSIFIED AS A DANGEROUS DRUG UNDER HONG KONG LAW



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Hong Kong, Sept 20:** Cannabis may be illegal in Hong Kong, but a new cafe is offering a range of food and drinks that contain parts of the cannabis plant without breaking any local laws. The cafe, named Found, is the city's first to offer a range of coffees, biscuits, beer and fruit juices that contain cannabidiol, or CBD, a substance from the cannabis plant that is said to offer therapeutic effects without getting users intoxicated.

Cannabis's tetrahydrocannabinol compound — commonly known as THC — is the psychoactive ingredient that gives users a high. But unlike THC, CBD is typically used to

help reduce stress without the high. One Found customer, Killian Hussey, who works in finance in Hong Kong, said consuming CBD coffee is relaxing. "The coffee is delicious, and I like the effect that the CBD has on me," Hussey said. "Cognitively and physically, it kind of helps me get through the aches and pains of a normal day." A bottle of cold CBD-infused coffee costs 80 Hong Kong dollars (\$10) at Found, while a can of CBD beer is HK\$70 (\$9). The cafe, which had a soft opening this month, is expected to be fully operational in October.

"Hong Kong is actually one of Asia's most progressive cannabinoid markets," said Fiachra Mullen, co-owner of Altum International, a cannabinoid supplier in Asia that operates Found. According to the Hong Kong government's Centre for Food and Safety, under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, the illicit import of cannabis or any products that contain controlled cannabinoids constitutes a criminal offence. Although CBD is a cannabinoid, it is not classified as a dangerous drug under Hong Kong law.

# Letter containing poison addressed to Trump at WH

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Secret Service are investigating where the package came from and whether others have been sent through the US postal system

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Washington, Sept 20:** A package containing ricin poison that was addressed to US President Donald Trump has been intercepted before it reached the White House, officials told American media outlets.

The letter was discovered at a screening facility for White House mail earlier this week, the BBC quoted the officials as saying to the outlets Saturday.

They said a substance found inside the envelope was identified as

ricin, a poison found naturally in castor beans. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Secret Service are investigating where the package came from and whether others have been sent through the US postal system.

"At this time, there is no known threat to public safety," the FBI told CNN in a statement Saturday. One official told the New York Times that investigators believe the package was sent from Canada.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said Saturday it was

working with the FBI to investigate the "suspicious letter sent to the White House". Ricin is produced by processing castor beans.

It is a lethal substance that, if swallowed, inhaled or injected, can cause nausea, vomiting, internal bleeding and ultimately organ failure, the BBC reported.

No known antidote exists for ricin. If a person is exposed to ricin, death can take place within 36 to 72 hours, depending on the dose received, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

# Nawaz Sharif makes political comeback

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, Sept 20:** Pakistan's deposed premier Nawaz Sharif Sunday staged a political comeback by criticising the powerful Army and said the Opposition was not against Prime Minister Imran Khan but against those who brought an "inefficient" man to power.

Addressing the All-Parties Conference (APC) hosted by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) via a video link aimed at launching a protest movement against the Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, the three-time premier launched a scathing attack on the ruling party for its "failure to address the basic problems of the people".

Sharif, 70, the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supremo, has been living in London since November last year after the Lahore High Court granted him permission to go abroad for four weeks for treatment.

On Friday, PPP chairman Zardari talked to him over phone and invited him to virtually attend the Opposition-led All Parties



Conference (APC) scheduled to be held on Sunday.

Addressing the conference, Sharif criticised the country's powerful establishment for allegedly supporting Khan.

"Our struggle is not against Imran Khan. Today, our struggle is against those who installed Imran Khan and who manipulated elections (of 2018) to bring an inefficient man like him into power and thus destroyed the country," he said.

Sharif said that the foremost priority should be to remove "this selected government and this system", adding that "if the change is not brought, it will bring irreversible loss to this country."

Sharif, his daughter Maryam and son-in-law Muhammad Safdar were convicted in the Avenfield properties case July 6, 2018.

## STUNT TIME



A participant throws a lasso onto a cow skull during a traditional herdsman competition in Hortobagy, Hungary

# A TERRIBLE WEEK IN CALIFORNIA

AGENCIES

**Juniper Hills, California, Sept 20:** It was long, dizzying week to be a Californian. The Golden State has been trying to contain the surge of Coronavirus cases that started in the summer while dozens of wildfires are burning and smoke is making it hard to breathe.

Here's more about what people in California faced last week:

### PANDEMIC THREAT

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Saturday afternoon announced the most recent statistics on COVID-19. The pandemic, for its part, can be thought of as nature's revenge. It is a very tough time to keep people safest from the virus, smoke and ash. As more than 19,000 firefighters scrambled to contain multiple blazes in the



state, they had to mourn one of their own, officials said. Masks could help, but N-95 masks that can filter out wildfire smoke and protect against the coronavirus still are in short supply months into the pandemic.

### AN EARTHQUAKE JOLT

In a region already reeling from wildfires and smoke-filled skies, a

moderate earthquake jolted Southern California late Friday. The quake had a preliminary magnitude of 4.5, the US Geological Service reported. It jangled nerves, but no injuries or damage were immediately reported. The quake was centered in the city of South El Monte in the San Gabriel Valley,

east of downtown Los Angeles. It struck at about 11:40 p.m. PST. The quake was felt as far away as Palm Springs, about 80 miles east. Southern California has been known as prone to earthquakes, but greater Los Angeles hasn't seen a large, damaging quake for more than two decades.

### CHOKED BY WILDFIRE SMOKE

Last week, millions of Californians were smothered by smoke from a record explosion of wildfires burning through grass, shrubs, conifer forests, houses and mobile home parks.

Skies glowed orange. People suffered sore throats, headaches and chest pains.

Many cloistered themselves indoors as pollution spiked to "hazardous" levels, or worse, on the Air Quality Index. Even as air quality

begins to improve, many remain worried about long-term health impacts.

### WAKE UP CALL

Scientists have been warning of the growing threat of climate change. The wildfire signal of climate change is being seen around the world, in southern Europe, Canada, Australia, South America, and Africa, and other climate-change impacts are accelerating too, in the form of storms, melting glaciers, rising seas, and more.

More and more scientists are speaking out about the connections between these disasters and climate change. Our planet is getting warmer. Now it is our responsibilities to understand the human-caused climate change. There is no time to waste. We need to feel the pain of our mother Earth.



## of the day quote

We are optimistic about good growth in overall business and targeting 30% growth in the festive season. We have launched a range of flagship models and consumer experiential sessions are planned



**VIYAY BABU** | VP (HOME APPLIANCES), LG ELECTRONICS

As the nation begins unlocking, we are confident of weathering the initial setbacks. Our hospital operations, including surgical work, are showing good improvement and we have, also accelerated the work on other diseases, especially NCDs



**SUNEETA REDDY** | MD, APOLLO HOSPITALS

With the intent of protecting all jobs at Vistara, we have had to make the difficult decision of reducing some staff costs by implementing salary cuts. This will continue to be in effect until December 2020 and will be reviewed in January 2021



**LESLIE THING** | CEO, VISTARA

## SHORT TAKES

### Need govt support: CEPC

**New Delhi:** Exporters body for carpet sector CEPC Sunday sought immediate support from the government to push the outbound shipments as the labour intensive sector is struggling to deal with the COVID-19 induced disruptions. Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) Chairman Siddh Nath Singh said all the carpet units in areas like Agra, Mirzapur, Varanasi and Bhadohi are working only with 30-35% of their total capacity.

### CCI approves acquisition

**New Delhi:** Fair trade regulator CCI has approved acquisition of sole control over Bombardier Transportation, the global rail solutions division of Bombardier, by Alstom S.A. In addition, the regulator has also given approval to Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ) and Bombardier Inc for picking 18% and 3% stake in Alstom, respectively, a press release said. Alstom is a French corporation globally active in the rail transport industry.

### Ashiana Housing to invest ₹400 cr

**New Delhi:** Realty firm Ashiana Housing will invest around ₹400 crore over the next four years on new housing projects that it plans to launch during this fiscal year, and is also looking for partnerships with landowners for expansion of its business, a top company official said. In an interview, the Delhi-based Ashiana Housing's MD Vishal Gupta said housing sales are recovering gradually post lockdown.

### MyGate to hire 300 people

**New Delhi:** Tiger Global-backed MyGate is looking to hire about 300 people over the next few months across various roles, including technology, business development and sales, as it looks to further strengthen its position in the country. The company, which helps gated communities manage their security and operations by digitising and automating manual tasks, currently serves about 10,000 residential complexes and is aiming to expand that to 25,000 by January next year.



The technological and economic prowess of Japan coupled with India's strengths in manufacturing, skilled workforce and its large domestic markets will further strengthen the relationship between India and Japan

**RUDRA KUMAR PANDEY** | PARTNER, SHARDUL AMARCHAND MANGALDAS & CO

## GST COMPENSATION

# 21 states accept ₹97K cr borrowing proposal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 20:** As many as 21 states, mostly ruled by BJP or parties which have supported it on various issues, have opted to borrow ₹97,000 crore to meet the GST revenue shortfall in the current fiscal, sources said Sunday.

The states and union territories (UTs) which have intimated their decision to the Centre are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Puducherry, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Finance Ministry sources said Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra, Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and West Bengal are yet to respond to the GST Council proposal to decide their options.

The states which do not submit their borrowing options before the due GST Council meet October 5, 2020 will have to wait till June 2022 to get their compensation dues, subject to the condition that the GST Council extends the cess collection period beyond 2022, the sources said.



The states which do not submit their borrowing options before the due GST Council meet October 5, 2020 will have to wait till June 2022 to get their compensation dues

GST Council with full presence of states and UTs needs, as per the GST Act, only 20 states to pass any resolution, in case voting is required on any issue, the sources added.

In the current fiscal, the states are staring at a staggering ₹2.35 lakh crore Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue shortfall.

Of this, as per Centre's calculation, shortfall of about ₹97,000 crore is on account of GST implementation and rest ₹1.38 lakh crore is

due to the impact of COVID-19 on states' revenues.

The Centre late last month gave two options to the states to borrow either ₹97,000 crore from a special window facilitated by the RBI or ₹2.35 lakh crore from market, and has also proposed extending the compensation cess levied on luxury, demerit and sin goods beyond 2022 to repay the borrowing.

The sources said few more states are also to intimate their borrowing option in a day or two.

They added that Manipur, which had earlier opted to borrow ₹2.35 lakh crore, later changed its preference to the ₹97,000 crore option.

The non-BJP ruled states are at loggerheads with the Centre over the issue of funding shortfall.

The chief ministers of six non-BJP ruled states -- West Bengal, Kerala, Delhi, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu -- have written to Centre opposing the options which require states to borrow to meet the shortfall.

While these states want Centre to borrow to meet the shortfall, Centre has argued that the revenue accruing from GST compensation cess goes to the states and the Centre cannot borrow on the security of the tax it does not own.

## Lok Sabha passes Bill to amend Companies Law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 20:** Lok Sabha Saturday passed a bill to further amend the Companies Act and decriminalise various compoundable offences and promote ease of doing business.

The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020 -- which seeks to decriminalise various penal provisions and introduce a new chapter related to producer organisations in the legislation -- was passed by the Lower House.



Speaking on the bill, Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said decriminalisation of various provisions under the companies law will also help small companies by reducing litigation burden on them.

Around 48 sections of the Companies Act, 2013 will be amended to decriminalise various offences.

Sitharaman said there are currently around 124 penal provisions compared to 134 in 2013 under the Companies Act.

## Oracle, Walmart rescue TikTok in US



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**San Francisco, Sept 20:** In a surprise move, Oracle and Walmart have come together to save TikTok from the ban, forming a new company called TikTok Global which will be headquartered in the US President Donald Trump said he has given the deal his blessing.

Trump Saturday announced that China-based ByteDance which is the parent company of TikTok has received tentative approval for an agreement with the US government to resolve the outstanding issues, which will now include Oracle and Walmart together investing to acquire 20% of the newly-formed TikTok Global business.

Oracle announced it was chosen as TikTok's secure cloud provider and will become a minority investor with a 12.5% stake.

Walmart said it has tentatively agreed to a purchase 7.5% stake in TikTok and its CEO Doug McMillon would serve as one of the five board members of the newly-created company.

The parent company ByteDance will own the remaining 80% of TikTok.

"TikTok Global will be majority owned by American investors, including Oracle and Walmart. TikTok Global will be an independent American company, headquartered in the US, with four Americans out of the five member Board of Directors," Walmart and Oracle said in a joint statement.

Talking to reporters, Trump said: "I have given the deal my blessing. I approve the deal in concept".

"It will have nothing to do with

Oracle announced it was chosen as TikTok's secure cloud provider and will become a minority investor with a 12.5% stake

Walmart said it has tentatively agreed to a purchase 7.5% stake in TikTok

China, it'll be totally secure, that'll be part of the deal. The security will be 100%. They'll be using separate clouds and a lot of very, very powerful security".

All the TikTok technology will be in possession of TikTok Global, and comply with US laws and privacy regulations.

Data privacy for 100 million American TikTok users will be quickly established by moving all American data to Oracle's Generation 2 Cloud data centres, the most secure cloud data centres in the world, the companies informed.

In addition to its equity position, Walmart said it will bring its omni-channel retail capabilities including its Walmart.com assortment, eCommerce marketplace, fulfillment, payment and measurement-as-a-service advertising service.

"TikTok Global will create more than 25,000 new jobs in the US and will pay more than \$5 billion in new tax dollars to the US Treasury".

With the deal, TikTok averted the Sunday ban in the nick of time.

The US Commerce Department said Friday that as of Sunday, any moves to distribute or maintain TikTok on app stores such as Apple App Store and Google Play Store will be prohibited, and a more extensive ban against the app would be applied from November 12.

# ₹70,590 cr in loans sanctioned to discoms

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 20:** As much as ₹70,590 crore worth of credit has been sanctioned to discoms under the liquidity package for payment of dues by these utilities, Parliament was informed Sunday.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May this year had announced a ₹90,000 crore liquidity infusion into cash-strapped discoms for clearing their outstanding dues till March 2020.

Now, the government is in the

## LIQUIDITY PACKAGE



process of enhancing this package to ₹1.2 lakh crore factoring in discoms outstanding dues till June this year. Some states had urged the central

government to hike this liquidity package by factoring in outstanding dues of April and May as well.

"As against ₹90,000 crore of liquidity infusion package announced by the government, ₹70,590 crore worth of loans have been sanctioned and ₹24,742 crore has already been disbursed/released till September 16, 2020," said Power Minister RK Singh in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

The government is infusing liquidity in the power sector through Power Finance Corporation (PFC)

and REC Ltd to enable the sector to maintain power supplies as cash flows had plummeted during lockdown imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Under this intervention, the REC and PFC are extending special long term transition loans of up to 10 years to discoms for liquidating their outstanding dues of Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) Generation (Genco) & Transmission Companies (Transcos), Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and Renewable Energy (RE) generators.

## RAILWAYS OFFER 9.79L MANDAYS TILL SEPT 18

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 20:** Indian Railways have generated 9,79,557 mandays of work till September 18, 2020 under Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyaan scheme in six states: Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Around 164 railway infrastructure projects are being executed in these states.

Till September 18, about 12,276 workers have been engaged in this Abhiyaan and the payment of ₹2056.97 crore has been released to the contractors for the projects that are being implemented.

The Indian Railways has appointed nodal officers in each district as well as in the states so that a close coordination is established with the state government.

The Railways has identified sev-

eral works that are being executed under this scheme. The works are related to construction and maintenance of approach roads for level crossings, development and cleaning of silted waterways, trenches and drains along with the track, construction and maintenance of approach road to railway stations, repair and widening of existing railway embankments/cuttings, plantation of trees at extreme boundary of railway land(s) and protection works of existing embankments/cuttings/bridges.

This Abhiyaan of 125 days, is being undertaken in mission mode, and involves focused implementation of 25 categories of works/activities in 116 districts, each with a large concentration of returnee migrant workers in six states of Bihar, UP, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha.

## BIZ BUZZ

### 'Coal India output may fall below 600 MT in FY21'

**Kolkata:** State-run Coal India Ltd may witness de-growth in production during the current fiscal as its output is likely to fall below 600 million tonnes amid subdued demand, analysts said. The miner could end the current year with the production of around 580 million tonnes of coal as against its revised target of 650-660 million tonnes, they said. Analysts of brokerage firm Motilal Oswal projected production of 582 million tonne for Coal India and off-take of 565 million tonnes in FY2021 while ICICI Securities had estimated an output of 580 million tonne and sales of 550 million tonne this year. However, the miner is hopeful of achieving a 10 per cent growth in 2020-21 over 602 million tonne of coal produced last year, notwithstanding the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, a Coal India official said.



### Central Bank observes Hindi Divas in City

**Bhubaneswar:** Central Bank of India (CBI) organised Hindi month celebration from August 14, 2020 to September 14, 2020. During this time, various competitions like singing, quiz, general knowledge were organised by the staff members of the bank and the winners were awarded attractive prizes. Bank's Senior Regional Member (SRM) said, "It is our constitutional obligation to follow the official language and we must do maximum work in Hindi in our daily work (life). Hindi is being spoken and read in large numbers not only in the country but also abroad. "Respect for the official language is respect for the country" said the SRM of the Bank.



# 'Biz sentiments recover, weak demand continues'

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 20:** With the gradual lifting of the restrictions on economic activities across the country, business sentiments have recovered with the CII Business Confidence Index surging to 50.3 in the July-September period.

During the April-June quarter of 2020, it recorded its lowest reading at 41.0.

"The stellar recovery in the index has been supported by the remarkable increase in the Expectations Index (EI), which rose 46% quarter-on-quarter, to the level of 55.2, as the nationwide lockdown restrictions were lifted, and businesses gradually began to reopen during the July-September quarter," a CII statement said.

The 'Current Situation Index', on the other hand, was recorded below the psychological level of 50 -- at 40.6 -- as the stringent lock-



down restrictions led to the complete shutdown of most business operations for a larger part of the quarter, thus impacting business sentiments.

Commenting on the survey results, Chandrajit Banerjee, Director

General, CII, said: "It is heartening to note the recovery in CII's Business Confidence Index for the July-September quarter, indicating an improvement in business conditions during the period. However, while a recovery is un-

It is heartening to note the recovery, that indicates an improvement in business conditions during pandemic. However, while a recovery is underway, it could be tremendously expedited through continued government support

**CHANDRAJIT BANERJEE** | DIRECTOR GENERAL, CII

derway, it could be tremendously expedited through continued government support and hand-holding of businesses during this crisis."

Although business sentiments have strengthened, the demand scenario continues to remain weak, as per the survey.

"More than half of the respondents (51%) have indicated that the weakness in domestic demand is likely to be the top-most risk to

business confidence in the next six months," it said.

Further, nearly 30% of the respondents feel that the business activity may return to the pre-pandemic levels by Q1 FY22.

The heightened uncertainty led by the recurrent lockdown in certain states is impacting business operations and lengthening the recovery timeline even though a majority of the workforce has already returned to the workplaces for around 42% of the respondents.

The CII statement noted that a large share of respondents -- around 37% -- foresee a return of capital spending to its pre-pandemic levels only by the first half of FY22.

The survey was conducted during August-September 2020 and saw the participation of more than 150 firms across all industry sectors, including micro, small, medium and large enterprises, from different regions.

## PSBs report frauds worth over ₹19K cr tin April-June: RBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 20:** Public sector banks (PSBs) reported frauds worth over ₹19,964 crore in total 2,867 cases during the April-June quarter of the ongoing fiscal year, according to a reply to an RTI query.

The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) saw the highest number of fraud cases; however, Bank of India was the worst hit in terms of value, as per a reply from the Reserve Bank on frauds reported by these lenders to RTI activist Chandra Shekhar Gaur.

Of the 12 PSBs, SBI reported the maximum 2,050 fraud cases involving ₹2,325.88 crore during April-June 2020.

Bank of India took the biggest hit in terms of valuation at ₹5,124.87 crore in 47 cases, followed by Canara Bank ₹3,885.26 crore in 33 cases, Bank of Baroda ₹2,842.94 crore in 60 cases, Indian Bank ₹1,469.79 crore in 45 cases, Indian Overseas Bank ₹1,207.65 crore in 37 cases and Bank of Maharashtra ₹1,140.37 crore in 9 cases.



As compared to these, the second largest public sector lender Punjab National Bank (PNB) reported much less amount of fraud at ₹270.65 crore, even as the number of cases stood at 240.

Among others, UCO Bank had ₹831.35 crore as fraud reporting in 130 cases, Central Bank of India ₹655.84 crore in 149 cases, Punjab and Sind Bank ₹163.3 crore in 18 cases and Union Bank of India reported the lowest amount of fraud at ₹46.52 crore in 49 cases.



MAYANK’S KNOCK IN VAIN AS OTHER KXIP BATSMEN COMMIT HARA-KIRI

# Delhi Capitals win Super Over thriller

AGENCIES

**Dubai, Sept 20:** Delhi Capitals (DC) defeated Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) in the Super over after both the teams ended on identical scores of 157 for eight in 20 overs here Sunday at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. It was a thriller down to the wire, but it has to be the hara-kiri by the KXIP batsmen that took the game to the Super Over and then they lost it. Had it not be a stupendous show by Mayank Agarwal (89, 60b, 7x4, 2x6), KXIP would not have even got close to the DC total.

However, Mayank also must be blamed for the game going into the Super Over: With one run needed off three balls, he went for glory and holed out to Shimron Hetmyer at deep cover off Marcus Stoinis. Off the very next ball, Chris Jordan (five) flicked straight down Kagiso Rabada’s throat down mid-wicket and the match had gone into the Super Over.

Amid all the action, however, there will be an area of concern for DC. Star off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin after taking two wickets in his first over dislocated his shoulder. Whether he will be able to take any further part in the tournament will only be known after a proper examination is done.



**FUTILE EFFORT:** Mayank Agarwal of KXIP drives through the covers during his scintillating knock against DC, Sunday

In the Super Over bowled by Rabada, KL Rahul and Nicholas Pooran fell in two successive deliveries. They failed to utilise their

full quota of six balls and only scored two runs. DC then easily won the game

lost the plot. From none for 30 it became four for 35 and five for 55. The game was as good as over then with KL Rahul (21), Karun Nair

(one), Nicholas Pooran (0) and Glenn Maxwell back in the hut. But Agarwal held strong and played some astonishing shots.

Earlier a brilliant spell of fast and incisive pace bowling by Shami (3/15) helped Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) restrict Delhi Capitals (DC) to 157 for eight in their 20 overs. Shami was well-supported by West Indian fast bowler Sheldon Cottrell (2/24), one of the costliest buys for this year’s tournament. Had it not been for a late blitzkrieg from Australian Marcus Stoinis (53, 21b, 7x4, 3x6), DC wouldn’t have been able to go past the 150-run mark.

Stoinis was particularly severe on the man he also dismissed. When Jordan came to bowl the 20th over of the innings, Stoinis him for two sixes and three boundaries. A couple of no and wide balls made it into a 30-run over and DC had gone past the 150-run mark which no one thought was possible.

**Brief scores:** Delhi Capitals 157 for 8 in 20 overs (Marcus Stoinis 53, Shreyas Iyer 39, Rishabh Pant 31, Mohammed Shami 3/15, Sheldon Cottrell 2/24, Ravi Bishnoi 1/22); KXIP 157 for 8 in 20 overs (Mayank Agarwal 89, Kagiso Rabada 2/28, Ravi Ashwin 2/1, Marcus Stoinis 2/28). Match tied.

**Delhi Capitals won the game in Super Over**

HUNT FOR ELUSIVE IPL CROWN

# Kohli’s RCB face mighty Sunrisers



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, Sept 20:** He has won lots of matches and tournaments. However, the only thing he has hasn’t been able to is win the IPL crown. So no doubt, Virat Kohli will try and better that record when Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) begin their IPL-13 campaign against David Warner’s Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) here Monday.

Both teams possess dangerous batsmen who can single-handedly take the game away from the opposition.

Kohli has always led from the front. However, he knows his search for a maiden title will remain incomplete if the team do not perform in all departments. The addition of Australian limited overs captain Aaron Finch to the squad gives the star-studded batting line up more firepower. Expectations are also high from the highly rated

young opener Devdutt Padikal.

On the other hand, Warner, whose exploits in the IPL include winning the ‘Orange Cap’ (most runs) thrice and leading his side to a maiden title triumph in 2016, will once again pair up with the dangerous Jonny Bairstow.

Kohli will certainly have them in mind as he finalises strategy. The duo had set the highest opening stand record against RCB only last year. SRH also have of Kane Williamson, Manish Pandey, Mitchell Marsh and Fabian Allen to boost their batting.

RCB finished at the bottom of the podium last year and Kohli will certainly not want to replicate that show once more.

SRH also have a very balanced bowling attack with the likes of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Sandeep Sharma, Siddarth Kaul and Basil Thampi handling the pace department. Then they have the out-standing Afghan spin duo in Rashid Khan and Mohammad Nabi, not to forget left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem though.

However at the end of the day what will matter is how the likes of AB de Villiers and Kohli come off. If they start hitting, then this can be a thrilling game indeed.

## SHORT TAKES

### Not stepping down

**Barcelona:** Barcelona’s embattled club president Josep Bartomeu has no intentions of resigning. He said this after more than 20,000 club members signed a petition for him to go. “No one is thinking about stepping down,” Bartomeu told Catalan television ‘TV3’ here Saturday before Barcelona beat Elche 1-0 in their third and final pre-season match. The petition with 20,687 signatures had been handed over to the club Thursday. “The number (of signatures) surprised even the promoters of the motion,” Bartomeu said. “The board will continue working to build the most competitive team possible,” he added.

### BLM in vogue

**London:** Players of the West Indies and England women’s cricket teams will take a knee in support of the ‘Black Lives Matter’ (BLM) movement in all five games of an upcoming T20 International series which starts Monday in the UK. West Indies captain Stafanie Taylor said Sunday that the teams would perform the gesture and praised her England counterpart Heather Knight for offering to join them in recognising the movement. “They’re very much in support of it,” Taylor said of the England side. “It’s very much what we want to do, and they’re going to support,” Taylor said.

### Praying for crowds

**Dubai:** Prolific Australia opener David Warner wants to see ‘at least 25 per cent crowds’ inside stadiums when they host Virat Kohli’s India in a high-profile tour starting December. “Well, I am looking forward to the series. It will be a great battle between two highly competitive teams. And, I hope at least 25 per cent crowds will be allowed as was the case with some football matches. That will be fantastic for players,” Warner said Sunday.

### Poor show

**Chennai:** A below-par performance in Blitz-2, in which he managed only three points from nine rounds, saw Indian Grandmaster P Harikrishna finish joint seventh in the Saint Louis Rapid and Blitz online chess tournament. World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen and American Wesley So finished joint winners. Harikrishna’s solitary win on the final day of the tournament came against American Jeffrey Xiong. Harikrishna lost four games and drew three.

AGENCIES

# Experience counts in tight situations: Dhoni



**EYES SPEAK:** MS Dhoni gestures during the game against Mumbai Indians, Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Abu Dhabi, Sept 20:** Chennai Super Kings (CSK) skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni has said that his team’s tremendous ‘experience’ paid off during the five-wicket victory over defending champions Mumbai Indians (MI) in the IPL-13 opener Saturday.

“The experience pays off, everyone talks about it. You get it only after you play a lot of games. It is a dream for everybody to play 300 ODIs and when you do it you gain in experience which is handy. To do well you need a good mix of youngsters and experienced players,” Dhoni said after the game Saturday.

“You need experienced players to guide youngsters on and off the field. The young players get 60-70 days with the seniors in the IPL. They need to be looked after,” the former India skipper added.

Dhoni also spoke about what

CSK learnt from the first game itself. “When you go on the field you need to assess the conditions and give it your best. It took time for the bowlers to find the right length on this pitch. There are plenty of positives from the game, but still lot of areas to improve,” said Dhoni.

“Ambati Rayudu had a wonderful partnership with Faf (du Plessis). Most of us are retired so luckily no injuries as well,” Dhoni added.

MI skipper Rohit Sharma was upset that none of his batsmen could carry on the initial momen-

tum that they gained. “None of our batsmen carried on for us, like Du Plessis and Rayudu did for CSK. I think we were 85-odd in the first 10 overs. Credit to the CSK bowlers, they bowled well at the end to pull back things. Something for us to learn,” Rohit said.

Meanwhile CSK head coach Stephen Fleming said star all-rounder Dwayne Bravo will miss a couple of more matches as he recovers from a nigggle. The West Indian had suffered the injury during the CPL which ended recently.

## Stroke of ‘genius’

**Abu Dhabi:** England all-rounder Sam Curran said he was left ‘surprised’ by ‘genius’ Mahendra Singh Dhoni’s move to send him up the order against MI. The 22-year-old smashed 18 in six deliveries to facilitate CSK’s win. “To be honest, I was very surprised that I went in. He (Dhoni) is a genius and obviously thought something (about sending me before himself),” Curran said. “We targeted that over (18th) and I went in with a six or out mentality. Sometimes it comes off and sometimes it doesn’t,” he added.

## COACH WARNS PLAYERS AHEAD OF ISL

# Baxter wants OFC to inspire Odia children



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 20:** Odisha FC (OFC) head coach Stuart Baxter has said that the team will need to be on their toes and disciplined this season as the Indian Super League (ISL) is set to be held behind closed doors in Goa from November.

Baxter took part in a live video-conference session organised by the Hockey High Performance Centre (HPC) here. Baxter also highlighted the importance of social responsibility of a football club and said that Odisha FC want to inspire more and more kids in the state and help them in their discipline and decision-making.

“I am so pleased with the support that we have from the local government in Odisha. We have to make sure that we inspire kids in Odisha. I want to see some sort of two-way traffic wherein players go to schools and speak some kind words to the students. Social responsibility is an important part and I want us as a team to work towards that as well,” Baxter stated.

“When we can get more kids inspired and get them into sporting

**“You have to change your vision in the new normal. You have close out crowd presence and play accordingly. You must have discipline to give your best”**

STUART BAXTER

projects, we can help in their discipline, their decision-making, their self-esteem,” Baxter said during the session.

With the title of the live session being ‘Football in the new normal’, Baxter talked about the challenges ahead for the players and the support staff. The ISL is scheduled to be played in Goa without spectators.

“You have to do the job to make sure that you are independent of the crowd. I have spoken to many coaches in China and the US. Even my son is working with ‘Kaizer Chiefs’ in South Africa and everybody has said that the teams that have the best support are mostly suffering. We have to be 100 per cent focused and have discipline in the squad. Then only we will do well in the ISL,” Baxter said.

## JOSE MOURINHO’S TOTTENHAM BEGIN PL CAMPAIGN IN STYLE

# Scintillating Son sinks Southampton

AGENCIES

**London, Sept 20:** Heung-min Son was on song and scored four goals of the five goals as Tottenham Hotspur decimated Southampton 5-2 in a Premier League match played Sunday. It was exhilarating stuff all the way as Son and Harry Kane combined for all the five goals with the latter getting one. Most of the action happened in the second half with Son and Kane blowing the Saints away.

It did not start well for Spurs though. They fell behind early to a sublime Danny Ings goal and always looked vulnerable. However, after Son got them an equaliser at the stroke of the interval, things changed dramatically in the second half.

The next three goals for Spurs came the same way, a Kane assist and a Son finish. Mind you the



**ON THE PROWL:** Heung-min Son (in white jersey) scores one of his four goals for Tottenham Hotspur against Southampton, Sunday

passes were sublime and the finish precise. By the time, Kane had added a fifth, Saints had all but disappeared from action. Yes Ings got a second one, but then the writing was clear on the wall.

Earlier in matches played Saturday, Manchester United’s Premier League campaign began dismally as a double from their former player Wilfried Zaha gave Crystal Palace a 3-1 win at Old

Trafford. However, Arsenal and Everton made it two wins from two.

Andros Townsend put Palace ahead early on and Zaha scored from the spot in the 74th minute after Jordan Ayew’s original penalty had been saved by David De Gea but the Spanish keeper was adjudged to have moved off his line.

United debutant Donny van de Beek came off the bench to pull a goal back for United but Zaha got the better of Victor Lindelof to finish Man U off in the 85th minute.

Arsenal laboured to a 2-1 victory over West Ham United at ‘The Emirates’ stadium but needed a late goal against the run of play by Eddie Nketiah to hand the Hammers a second straight defeat. Michail Antonio’s first-half strike for the visitors had cancelled out Alexandre Lacazette’s 50th goal for the Gunners.

## FIRST TOURNAMENT FOR SPANIARD IN 7 MONTHS

# Schwartzman sends Nadal packing

AGENCIES

**Rome, Sept 20:** Rafael Nadal’s first tournament in seven months ended with a 2-6, 5-7 loss to Diego Schwartzman in the quarterfinals of the Italian Open tennis tournament here Saturday.

Nadal, a nine-time champion in Rome, had never lost to the 15th-ranked Schwartzman in nine previous meetings. But Schwartzman



Rafa Nadal expresses his anguish after missing a shot against Diego Schwartzman

AT A GLANCE
Diego Schwartzman bt Rafa Nadal
<b>6-2, 7-5</b>
Denis Shapovalov bt Grigor Dimitrov
<b>6-2, 3-6, 6-2</b>

dictated the baseline rallies and produced a series of drop-shot winners as Nadal made unforced errors and struggled to get his first serve into play.

For two months during the lockdown, Nadal said, he didn’t touch

a tennis racquet. “It’s a completely special year – an unpredictable year,” Nadal said. “At least I played three matches,” the Spaniard added.

Nadal’s rustiness showed from the start against Schwartzman. Nadal committed nearly twice as many unforced errors as Schwartzman, 30 to 17, and won only 29 of 63 points on his serve – resulting in five breaks.

“Losing that many serves you can’t expect to win a match,” Nadal said. “It is something that I have to fix. I know how to do it,” the multiple French Open winner added.

Schwartzman will next face Denis Shapovalov, who held off Grigor Dimitrov 6-2, 3-6, 6-2. It was a close affair and could have gone either way.

## BALE HAPPY TO BE BACK WITH SPURS

AGENCIES

**London Sept 20:** Tottenham Hotspur forward Gareth Bale is relishing the opportunity to work with manager Jose Mourinho. The striker completed a loan move Saturday from Real Madrid back to his former club Spurs, ending a seven-year stay at the Bernabeu.

“He’s (Mourinho) spoken to me about a few positions that he would like me to play and obviously I’m happy with that,” Bale, 31, told ‘BT Sport’. “He was a big reason for me coming back, he’s a household name and a winner. He’s the perfect fit for Tottenham. We need to win trophies and he knows how to do that. I know every Tottenham fan is desperate for a trophy and we’ll try very hard in every match to do that,” the striker added.