



Kerala boy dies due to Nipah virus

KOZHIKODE: A 12-year-old boy died due to Nipah virus infection at a hospital here, state Health Minister Veena George said Sunday. The samples of the boy, which were sent to the Pune National Institute of Virology, confirmed the presence of Nipah virus. "Unfortunately, the boy passed away at 5 am. The condition of the child was critical Saturday night," the minister told the media. Meanwhile, two more people in the state have been identified with symptoms of Nipah virus infection. **P8**



4 soldiers killed in Pak suicide attack

KARACHI: A suicide bomber of the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan blew himself up in the country's restive Balochistan province Sunday, killing at least four security personnel and injuring 20 people, according to officials. The attack targeted a Frontier Corps (FC) checkpoint on the Mastung road in Quetta, the provincial capital, Deputy Inspector General of Quetta police Azhar Akram said. The four personnel who were killed in the blast and majority of the injured belong to the FC, which is in forefront of the efforts to tackle militancy in the province. **P10**

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL



He's paying obeisance on Teacher's Day!

FARMERS VS BJP

Thousands of farmers who assembled in Muzaffarnagar Sunday resolved to campaign against the BJP in the ensuing UP Assembly elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

'KISAN MAHAPANCHAYAT'



Rakesh Tikait

Rakesh Tikait said. Popular names like Medha Patkar and Yogendra Yadav were seen on the dais. Yadav was given a yellow robe by Tikait, while the BKU leader was presented a mace at the event.

Reiterating their resolve to continue with the protest and campaign against the BJP in the coming state elections, several speakers declared, "They (the Centre) said only a handful of farmers are protesting. Let them see how few are protesting. Let us raise our voices so it reaches the ears of those sitting in Parliament."

The mahapanchayat also gave a call for a 'Bharat bandh' September 27 to press for their demands.

Meanwhile, BJP MP Varun Gandhi Sunday described the protesting farmers as "our own flesh and blood" and suggested that the government should re-engage with them in reaching common ground.

BKU media in-charge Dharmendra Malik said farmers belonging to 300 organisations spread across different states like Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Karnataka, among others, have gathered for the event.

He said over 5,000 'langars' (food stalls), including some mobile stalls, have been set up for the participants.

The farmers, including women carrying flags of different organisations and wearing different coloured caps, were seen arriving at the venue in buses, cars and tractors.

One of the participants blew a 'rarsingha' (trumpet), the photograph of which was posted by the Kisan Ekta Morcha on Twitter.

"In old times, when the fight was for honour and respect, this instrument (rarsingha) was used. Today, a call has been given for war by all 'kisan majdoor' unions against the BJP's 'corporate raj,'" it tweeted in Hindi.

BATTLE FOR PANJSHIR

Afghan resistance leader seeks talks with Taliban

REUTERS

Kabul, Sept 5: The leader of the Afghan opposition group resisting Taliban forces in the Panjshir valley north of Kabul said Sunday he welcomed proposals from religious scholars for a negotiated settlement to end the fighting.

Ahmad Massoud, head of the National Resistance Front of Afghanistan (NRF), made the announcement on the group's Facebook page. Earlier, Taliban forces said they had fought their way into the provincial capital of Panjshir after securing the surrounding districts.

"The NRF in principle agree to solve the current problems and put an immediate end to the fighting and continue negotiations," Massoud said in the Facebook post.

"To reach a lasting peace, the NRF is ready to stop fighting on condition that Taliban also stop their attacks and military movements on Panjshir and Andarab," he said.

A large gathering of all sides with the Ulema council of religious scholars could then be held, he said.

Prez honours two Odisha teachers



Ashok Kumar Satpathy



Ajit Kumar Sethy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: Two teachers from Odisha - Ashok Kumar Satpathy and Ajit Kumar Sethy - were among the 44 teachers who were honoured by President Ram Nath Kovind with National Awards on the occasion of the Teacher's Day Sunday.

Ashok Kumar Satpathy is posted at the Zila Government School in Bhadrak district, while Ajit Kumar Sethy is the Acting Head Teacher of Government Upper Primary School, Kanamana, Chatrapur in Ganjam district.

Felicitating the teachers for their

distinguished contribution to nation-building in a virtual mode, the President said such teachers strengthen his belief that the future generation is safe in the hands of our well-qualified teachers. He said, "Teachers have a very crucial role in everyone's life. People remember their teachers life-long. Teachers who nurture their students with affection always get respect from their pupils." "The primary responsibility of combining the inherent talents of the students lies with the teachers. A good teacher is a personality-builder, a society-builder, and a nation-builder," said the President of India.

Petrol cheaper by 15 paise

NEW DELHI: Oil marketing companies reduced petrol prices in the key metro cities after keeping them unchanged for three consecutive days. In the national capital, petrol price was cut by 15 paise to ₹101.19 per litre, from the previous level of ₹101.34 per litre. Similarly, petrol price in Bhubaneswar was reduced to ₹102.06, while diesel was cheaper by 17 paise at ₹96.64.

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	33.4°C	34°C
	MIN	24.2°C	24.5°C
Humidity		98%	98%
Rainfall		Nil	Nil
Forecast: Moderate rains likely			

"The exercise of right of pre-emption in respect of the stand-alone lessees is based on the rationale that as far as possible, minerals raised from leases within the State must be put to use within the State for value addition".

- excerpt from point 49 of State Government's sworn affidavit to Orissa High Court in WPC (20774 / 2013)

Hon'ble Chief Minister Sir,

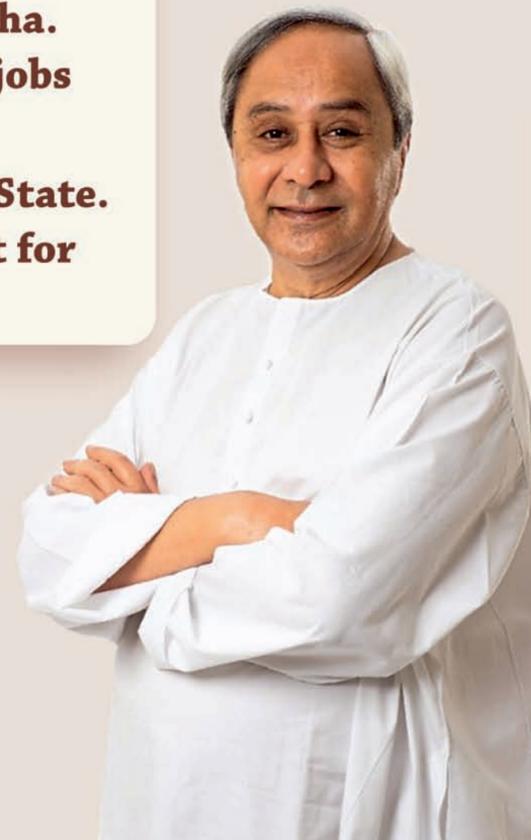
MSME Steel Sector in Odisha now languishing for scarcity of iron ore

- **60% Iron Ore diverted outside State despite protest from local industry.**
- **Merchant mines profiteering as iron ore prices skyrocket in Odisha.**
- **Several Sponge Units closed for iron ore scarcity & thousands of jobs in peril.**
- **Only Pre-emption can save industry doing real value addition in State.**
- **Pre-emption will generate more State Revenues and Employment for local youth.**

Hon'ble Sir,

Kindly reserve minimum 50% Iron Ore for State based Steel Industries under the Pre-Emption scheme

and save the MSMEs in steel sector and lakhs of livelihoods in Odisha



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ARIES

Today, you will focus your lens on the one you've taken a fancy to! You are high on energy, but low on commitment to work. It won't be surprising if your bosses are miffed. But still, says Ganesha, it's a day of flowers and love notes.

TAURUS

There ain't no mountain high enough and there ain't no valley deep! Today, you will find yourself on an invincible run. You might be your own worst enemy today, if you waste your effort and energy for unproductive purposes. Overall, it is smooth sailing today and Ganesha advises you to stay focussed.

GEMINI

Today, your emotions will cloud your ability to reason. You may try to find a refuge in devotional and spiritual activities. A visit to a couple of religious places may help you restore your peace of mind. A laid-back mindset will work wonders for you today.

CANCER

Today is a fabulous day for your love life. Your happiness may make a few people go green with envy, but they can do you or your relationship no harm, so ignore them. However, it may be important for you to make sure that you safeguard your reputation.

LEO

Even an emperor, when struck with an ailment, is not a pretty sight. Bearing this in mind, today you shall make health your number one priority, says Ganesha. You will do wise to chart out some sort of a workout regime for yourself, and inculcate a sense of discipline in maintaining it, even if it is anything as simple as a thrice-a-week routine.

VIRGO

The day will bring unexpected changes and pleasant surprises. You may hit the road with your loved ones, and the journey will not only be exciting but also calm your nerves. Overall, a bright, happy day to make most of, says Ganesha.

LIBRA

Ganesha says you will have a good time with your family members and will have fun with them. You will also be able to organize a picnic or a party for your family members and enjoy the day with them. Ganesha says you will go out for a trip to a religious place or temple, which will enhance your mind and ideas.

SCORPIO

You might just blow your fuse today, warns Ganesha. Anger will melt all sense and sensibilities. But if logic does prevail eventually, things may just improve as the day passes. Ganesha says it is high time you awakened your softer side.

SAGITTARIUS

A demanding day today, as you find yourself in charge of arranging and attending high-voltage meetings. Those dealing in stock and share will have profitable returns in the afternoon. But don't count your chickens before they hatch, says Ganesha. Wait till the evening to count those wads of notes.

CAPRICORN

As the day begins, you may get a strong urge to leave everything and set off on a backpacking trip. So strong the wanderer in you may be now that it may even momentarily take over the famed Goat caution. Yet alas, this being only a fleeting moment, you may soon don your dapper avatar, and head to work. If nothing else, at least, loosen your tie at the end of the day and head to a dance floor. In short, live a little, winks Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

Today, you will wish there were two of you! You are deluged with pending work, and even doubling up efforts will not seem enough. You may even cancel your movie date, deciding to deal with your sweetheart's tantrums later. It's your boss you are worried about, says Ganesha.

PISCES

Bright prospects will greet whatever new ventures you decide to focus on today, says Ganesha. It is a good time to implement your plans. Apart from short-term monetary gains, you may also find yourself pursuing activities which bring you intangible rewards, like goodwill for example.



MUNN STRUGGLES TO DEAL WITH PUBLIC PERCEPTION

Actress Olivia Munn has said that she finds it hard to deal with people who have an inaccurate or unfair perception of her real-life self. "What I have probably struggled with more is perception versus reality," Munn said, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

ACTING BROUGHT OUT POSITIVE SIDE OF ME

Singer Ellie Goulding says that she now loves the challenge of acting. "I've been acting with an amazing coach. It's brought out such a positive and energetic side of me. I love that I can be other people. I really enjoy it," Goulding said.



Soulful Odissi, violin recitals enthrall viewers

Veteran Hindi film actresses Vyjayanthimala Bali and Hema Malini attended the inaugural evening virtually and shared their messages

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: The 27th Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award Festival, organised by *Srjan*, Sunday kicked off with the spectacular performances by Odissi dancer Sharmila Mukherjee and violinist Sangeeta Shankar.

Following the welcome address by Guru Ratikant Mohapatra, Director, *Srjan*, veteran actresses Vyjayanthimala Bali and Hema Malini, also a Member of Parliament, spoke to the viewers on digital mode.

Attending the event virtually, Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, Minister, Tourism and Odia Literature Language and Culture, and Balwant Singh, Managing Director, Odisha Mining Corporation Limited also shared their views with the digital audience.

Mukherjee, a senior disciple of Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, and founder/artistic director of Sanjali Centre for Odissi Dance, Bangalore, presented three dance styles, beginning with a Mangalacharan, invoking the blessings of Lord Jagannath for an auspicious beginning.

The presentation was choreographed by her, set to the music composition of Debashish Sarkar. Her second presentation was



Vyjayanthimala Bali



Hema Malini

Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Award Festival: Day 1

Visaarini, a uniquely choreographed pure dance piece in *Raag Darbari*. Mukherjee concluded her presentations with a timeless and evergreen composition of the legendary Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra set to the music composition of Pt. Bhubaneswar Mishra—*Yahi Madhava, Yahi Keshava*, an *Ashtapadi* from Shri Jayadeva's *Geeta Govinda*. In her presentations, she was ably accompanied on vocals by Debashish Sarkar, Mardala

by Satchidananda Das, flute by Srinibas Satapathy, violin by

Agnimitra Behera, and Sitar by Chandrachur Bhattacharya. This was followed by a mesmerising violin recital by world-renowned violinist, Sangeeta Shankar. She explored the intricacies and nuances of *Raag Abhogi Kanada* and *Raag Khamaj*. Her first performance was a *Khyal* in *Vilambit Ektal*, in *Raag Khamaj*, ably accompanied by Pt. Ajeet Pathak on Tabla. This mellifluous performance concluded the inaugural evening of the five-day event.

The second day of the festival will witness performance of Bharatnatyam dancer Anita Mallick and Odissi vocal performance of Rupak Kumar Parida.



Kubbra

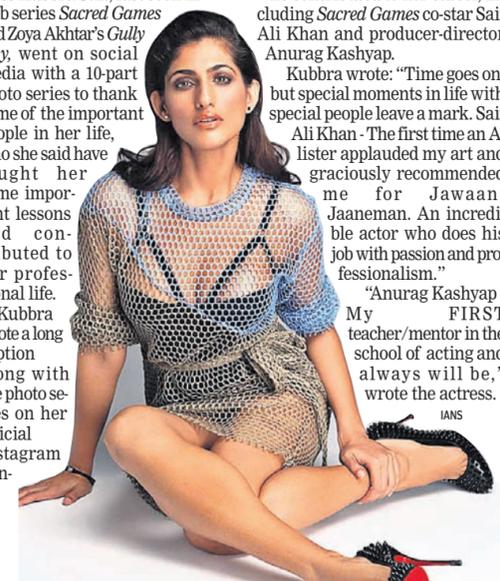
thanks Saif, Anurag on Teachers' Day

Mumbai: On Teachers' Day, actress Kubbra Sait, last seen in web series *Sacred Games* and *Zoya Akhtar's Gully Boy*, went on social media with a 10-part photo series to thank some of the important people in her life, who she said have taught her some important lessons and contributed to her professional life.

Kubbra wrote a long caption along with the photo series on her official Instagram handle and thanked every individual who contributed to her career, including *Sacred Games* co-star Saif Ali Khan and producer-director Anurag Kashyap.

Kubbra wrote: "Time goes on, but special moments in life with special people leave a mark. Saif Ali Khan - The first time an A-lister applauded my art and graciously recommended me for Jawaani Jaaneman. An incredible actor who does his job with passion and professionalism."

"Anurag Kashyap - My FIRST teacher/mentor in the school of acting and always will be," wrote the actress.



SRK, Nayanthara papped in Pune

Pune: Actors Shah Rukh Khan and Nayanthara were reportedly spotted in Pune, shooting for their much-talked about film together. The two prolific actors have come together for Tamil director Atlee's next project.

This film marks the first collaboration of Atlee with Shah Rukh, who will also be seen in YRF's *Pathan*.

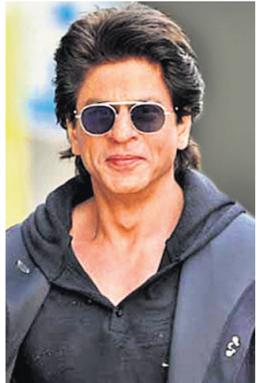
While no official confirmation has come from either the stars or the director, the pictures have gone viral on social media.

It is being speculated that an action scene was being shot when the two got papped. The team will have a 10-day shooting schedule in Pune.

The film is said to have a great cast, which includes Sanya Malhotra, Sunil Grover and Priyamani. Telugu actor Rana



Daggubati is also expected to join them later in the shoot. IANS



A look at B-town's female entrepreneurs

From setting up funding ventures to starting their own businesses, Hindi film industry's new wave of women entrepreneurs is making all the right moves

Model and wellness enthusiast Malaika Arora recently launched her investment company, Malaika Arora Ventures, which has invested in lifestyle and wellness start-ups. While Hindi film industry's leading ladies might be in the spotlight for their films and glamorous fashion outings, there's more to them than meets the eye.

From setting up funding ventures to starting their own businesses, the industry's new wave of women entrepreneurs is making all the right moves, here's a round-

up of some popular actresses who are boss babes in their own right:

Alia Bhatt

With a career spanning almost 10 years, Bhatt has been a part of some spectacular films and brand endorsements. Last year, the 28-year-old launched a sustainable clothing line for children Ed-a-Mamma catering to the age group of 2-14 years. The actress has invested in companies like Stylecracker and Nykaa.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas

From opening Indian restaurant *Sona* in New York to launching her own vegan hair-care brand *Anomaly*, there's

no stopping this global trendsetter. A production company under the name, the actress has delivered two successful hits *Ventilator* and *The Sky Is Pink*. That's not all; the superstar became the face of dating app *Bumble* in 2018 and invested in the start-up as well.

Katrina Kaif

She began her innings as an entrepreneur in 2019 with the launch of her make-up brand *Kay Beauty*, in partnership with beauty giant *Nykaa*. The elaborate range of cosmetics is primarily aimed at catering to the Asian skin tone and texture.

Anushka Sharma

At 25, Sharma set up a production house *Clean*

Slate Filmz with her brother. Known to have produced some incredible movies and web series, she is actively involved in the process, from selecting scripts to finalising the cast. The 33-year-old also launched her apparel line *Nush* in 2017, which is an extension of her distinct style.

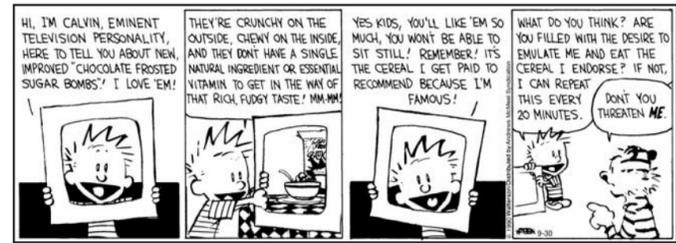
Deepika Padukone

In 2017, Deepika Padukone set up her own investment venture *KA Enterprises* which has invested in *Epigamia* -- a brand of yoghurts, hobby-based start-up *FrontRow*, electric taxi enterprise *Blu Smart* and aerospace start-up *Bellatrix*. Padukone made her debut as a producer in 2020 with the release of her film *Chhapaak*.

PEANUTS



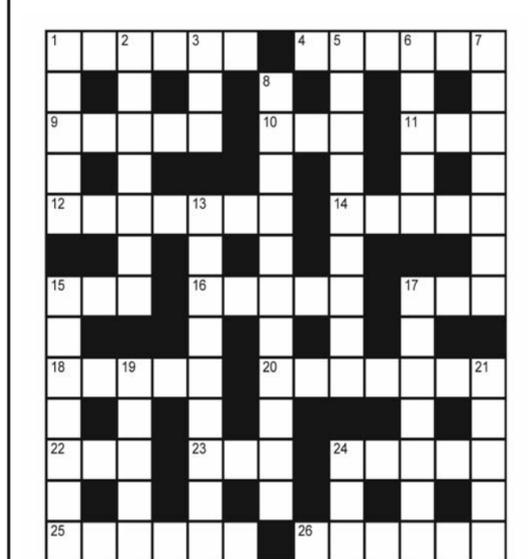
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



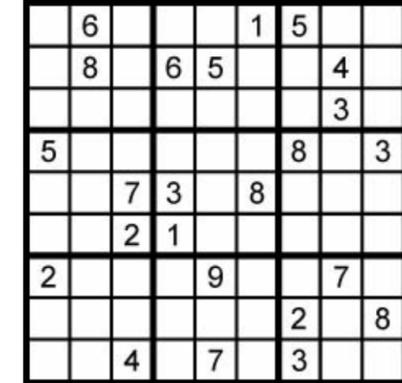
FUN post CROSSWORD



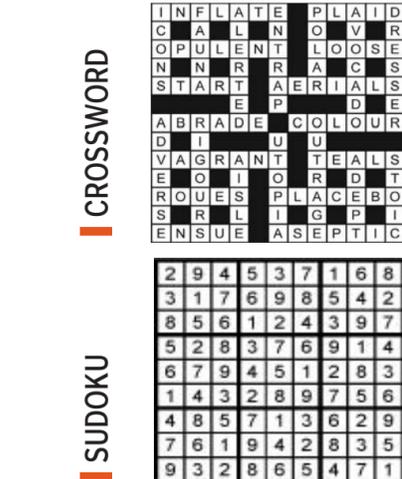
- Across
- 1 Means of escape
 - 4 Stings
 - 9 Fake jewelry
 - 10 Dogma
 - 11 Lady's man
 - 12 Iodine source
 - 14 Audacity
 - 15 Increases
 - 16 Fragrance
 - 17 Dawn goddess
 - 18 Gallic goodbye
 - 20 Retribution (3,4)
 - 22 Class
 - 23 Dead heat
 - 24 Artist's stand
 - 25 One of the Gorgons
 - 26 Grass units
 - 5 Fleeting
 - 6 Stair part
 - 7 Bug stoppers
 - 8 Raptors (5,2,4)
 - 13 Appraisals
 - 15 Nuclear weapons need
 - 17 Passed by
 - 19 Signed
 - 21 Oasts
 - 24 Aquatic shocker
- Down
- 1 Fairs
 - 2 Scamps
 - 3 Behold

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

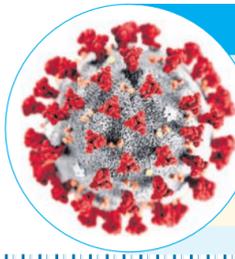


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



GANESH PUJA AHEAD

A woman buying clay idols of Lord Ganesh from a stall at Unit-I market in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	22,13,19,064	19,78,15,347	45,79,008
India	3,29,88,673	3,21,38,092	4,40,533
Odisha	10,11,558	9,97,063	8,047

Odisha scripting golden history in sports

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: Today, if someone talks about sports, especially hockey in India, perhaps s/he will not forget to mention Odisha because the eastern state of the country has been emerging as a sports hub. In fact, people have started calling Bhubaneswar the sports capital of India.

A decade ago, Barabati Stadium—the main cricketing centre in Odisha where a few international matches have been hosted—was the only sports venue recognised by people outside the state. Not to forget some hockey players of yesteryears who kept coming from remote areas of the state, making a name for themselves on the international stage. Although Kalinga Stadium was there in Bhubaneswar; people were not aware of it as the platform was confined to the training of local athletes. But, now, the stadium has become a centre of excellence for sports personalities in India.

The state government has substantially increased its funding for sports. Odisha had allocated nearly ₹100 crore in its annual Budget for 2016-17, which was increased to ₹301 crore in 2020-21. This year (2021-22), ₹400 crore has been allocated to sports.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had rightly said, "Investment in sports is an investment in youth. Investment in youth is an investment in the future."

The growth of Odisha as a sports hub or sports capital did not happen overnight, but a strong effort was made over a period of 7-8 years.

The state government, under the leadership of CM Naveen Patnaik, has been giving priority to the sports since 2013, when the state had franchised its own hockey team, Kalinga Lancers, for the Hockey India League. At that time, the state felt the necessity to have a world-class hockey facility in order to host the Kalinga Lancers' matches in the Hockey India



Investment in sports is an investment in youth. Investment in youth is an investment in the future
NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

League. In 2014, Bhubaneswar conducted the Hockey Champions Trophy. In 2015, the Indo-Japan Hockey series was organised in Bhubaneswar. Later in 2017, the final of FIH Hockey World League was also conducted.

Just three months before the 22nd Asian Athletics Championships, the Jharkhand government had withdrawn its assurance to host the event. It was Odisha which came forward and successfully organised the mega sporting event, taking it as a 90-day challenge. The state has earned praise from various quarters for making the event successful.

Similarly, in 2018, when Sahara backed out of sponsoring the Indian hockey teams, it was the Odisha government that announced it would sponsor both the men's and women's teams for a period of five year. Recently, the state has announced to sponsor both the teams for another 10 years.

In 2018, the Odisha government announced the setting up of 11 High-Performance Centres (HPCs) in 10 sports disciplines with an aim to develop elite athletes and strengthen the sporting landscape in the state.

Odisha has become the only state in India to set up HPC hub. The state has also set up 16 sports hostels in 15 districts, and each of them runs training and coaching programmes in multiple sports curriculum for around 1,250 budding talent.

Speaking about sports infrastructure projects being taken up by the state, Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera said that Bhubaneswar already has the iconic Kalinga Hockey Stadium with about 15,000 seating capacity, while the Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium at Rourkela in Sundargarh is being developed at an estimated cost of ₹112 crore over 15 acres.

The Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 will be hosted in both Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. The government is also setting up another 20 hockey training centres at different places at a cost of ₹200 crore, Behera pointed out. Recently, the Odisha Cabinet has

Odisha had allocated nearly ₹100 crore towards sports in its Budget for 2016-17, which was increased to ₹301 crore in 2020-21. This year (2021-22), ₹400 crore has been allocated to sports

approved the construction of 89 multi-purpose indoor stadiums at a total project cost of ₹693.35 crore to be completed over the next 18 months, the minister further said.

The department has been holding state-level training camps for under-18 athletes for Khelo India Youth Games and National Championships.

Sprinter Dutee Chand hailed the state government for extending support to sports and sports persons as well. "Recently, the state has decided to set up indoor stadiums in the urban areas. It will encourage youths towards sports. The HPCs will also help budding athletes recover quickly from injuries," Dutee said.

Former hockey Olympian Lazarus Barla said, "The state has taken a lot of steps for the development of the various sport. The move to set up an international hockey stadium and training centres in 17 blocks of Sundargarh will give a boost to hockey in Odisha."

He suggested that the state needs to give some more emphasis to promoting sports at the school level to produce international-standard athletes in the near future. Odisha Hockey Promotion Council chairman Dilip Tirkey said that the state has come a long way when it comes to hockey.

"The state has been sponsoring hockey teams since 2018. Now the government is also giving emphasis to other sports for which indoor stadiums are being constructed across the state," Tirkey stated.

Army veterans on a mission to rejuvenate River Ganga



Members of Atulya Ganga Trust at a presser in Delhi, Sunday

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 5: In a rare display of undiminished passion to rejuvenate River Ganga, a group of army veterans held a 190-day long Atulya Ganga Parikrama to study the various reasons behind pollution in the great river.

The military veterans held a 5,530-km walkathon under their Atulya Ganga initiative for rejuvenation of the river. The walkathon was flagged off by Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel December 16, last year at Prayagraj and was successfully accomplished June 23 this year.

Thousands of people from various walks of life participated in the walkathon and the message of urgency towards Ganga reached over 5 million strong masses.

Col Manoj Keshwar, co-founder of Atulya Ganga Trust, said a team led by Maj Gen Bhatt geotagged the sources of pollution in the river during the walkathon and a Ganga health dashboard is being prepared to help fix location and accountability for the pollution.

"Massive forests are needed on

FINDINGS OF ATULYA GANGA TRUST

GLASS AND PLASTIC WASTES ARE TWO MAJOR CAUSES FOR POLLUTION IN THE GANGA

THE TRUST MEASURED POLLUTION AT 224 POINTS AND GEOTAGGED 329 SEWERAGE NULLAHS AND 201 SEASONAL NULLAHS ALONG 2,500 KM STRETCH OF RIVER GANGA

THERE IS NO DEMARCATED LAND FOR RIVER GANGA AND ITS FLOODPLAINS. ENCROACHMENT FOR VARIOUS REASONS IS A COMMON PRACTICE

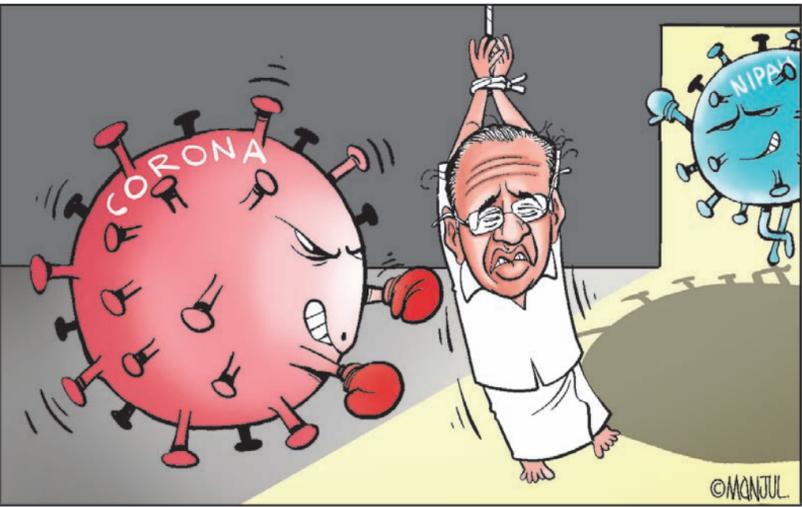
the floodplains of rivers to conserve soil, retain underground water and rejuvenate flora & fauna. Around 30,000 saplings including that of Bargad, Neem and Peepal were planted by our team on the floodplains of Ganga. Tree mentors were nominated to ensure high survivability," Keshwar said.

According to Atulya Ganga Trust, the aim of the project is to synergise the efforts of the government and non-government agencies, volunteers, and common public for rejuvenating Ganga to its pristine glory. It is the most sure-footed people's project underway right now with an objective to give a clean Ganga to the future generation, the trust said.

During an event at Delhi Sunday, members of Atulya Ganga Trust informed that they have decided to launch a cyclothon in February next year from Gomukh to Gangasagar for rejuvenation of River Ganga. As per its plan, the trust has decided to hold Ganga Parikrama every year and launch Ganga-health dashboard, a tech-based water quality index, to provide authentic and real-time data on the health of the river. It has also decided to raise the green cover in Ganga basin among other initiatives.

Notably, the idea to launch the Atulya Ganga mission was mooted by ex-military engineer and mountaineer Gopal Sharma, Lt Col Hem Lohumi SM and Col Manoj Keshwar Maj Gen Brajesh Kumar, AVSM, VSM and Maj Gen Vinod Bhatt, SM, VSM are the chief mentors.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



CM lays stone for OAV Centre of Excellence

Naveen also gave appointment letters to 443 teachers of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday laid the foundation stone for Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya (OAV) Centre of Excellence in Bhubaneswar through virtual mode, and also gave appointment letters to 443 newly-recruited teachers for Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas from across the state.

The special school will be built over 25 acres of land at Andharua on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar. The best 1,000 students will be chosen from 314 Adarsha Vidyalayas in the state to study in Class XI and XII here.

The centre will provide formal and technical education along with subject oriented practical training (SOPT) to



A few of the newly-recruited OAV teachers

OP PHOTO

the higher secondary students and teachers of the schools launched in every district, in

order to impart free education to rural talents.

The centre will incorporate so-

phisticated smart classrooms, world-class laboratories, e-libraries and computer hubs to impart global standard education.

The centre will have as many as 26 classrooms, eight science laboratories, two girls' hostels, two boys' hostels, 22 teachers' quarters and eight guest houses.

State School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash stated that the iconic centre would be built at an estimated cost of ₹100 crore and will be commissioned by 2022.

CM also gave appointment letters to 443 newly-recruited teachers present at Lok Seva Bhawan. He said, "Through Adarsha Vidyalayas, we aim to provide quality education to every student, and in this endeavor, a teacher's contribution is immense."

BJP smells a rat over CCTV installation at police stations



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Sunday attacked the state government alleging massive irregularities in the installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in police stations across Odisha.

The saffron party claimed that the Centre has been funding the ambitious project to install CCTV cameras in police stations as it would ensure transparency. Odisha Computer Application Centre

(OCAC), the nodal agency for execution of the project in the state, has procured CCTVs at exorbitant prices.

Highlighting the alleged irregularities in execution of the project, state BJP spokesperson Thakur Ranjit Das said, "Instead of appointing candidates with Information Technology background as the project consultant, the BJD government chose those who have studied BSc (Chemistry). They are not IT experts." This raises questions regarding the transparency of the project being funded by the Union government, he added.

Das further said that CCTV units, which could have been easily bought for ₹6 lakh each in Odisha market, were procured at ₹15 lakh.

He alleged that the state government has no care for ensuring transparency at police stations. "The government has awarded the project to those who are from outside the state and their service centres are also operating outside Odisha," Das pointed out.

The party sought cancellation of the tender and proper enquiry into the matter.

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Khurda, Cuttack share 55% of fresh Covid-19 cases in Odisha



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: Two major districts in Odisha - Khurda and Cuttack - have accounted for 55 per cent of the fresh Covid-19 cases detected Sunday, a Health department official said.

At least 805 more people have tested positive for the infection, of which 346 are from Khurda district, which comprises state Capital Bhubaneswar; and 98 from Cuttack, the official said.

With the detection of the fresh cases, the state's Covid-19 tally rose to 10,11,558, while seven more fatalities pushed the death toll to 8,047, the official said.

Two deaths each were recorded in Angul and Balasore, and one

each succumbed to the infection in the districts of Bhadrak, Cuttack and Khurda.

Since the outbreak of viral disease, both Khurda and Cuttack have accounted for 25 per cent of the state's caseload.

"As Bhubaneswar and Cuttack are the state's main political, educational and commercial hubs, many people across Odisha visit these places frequently. That has led to the surge in numbers in these two places," said CBK Mohanty, Chief of the Directorate of Medical Education and Training (DMET).

Khurda is currently the only district in the state coming under 'red zone' with 2,782 active cases. The place has also registered maximum fatalities at 1,465.

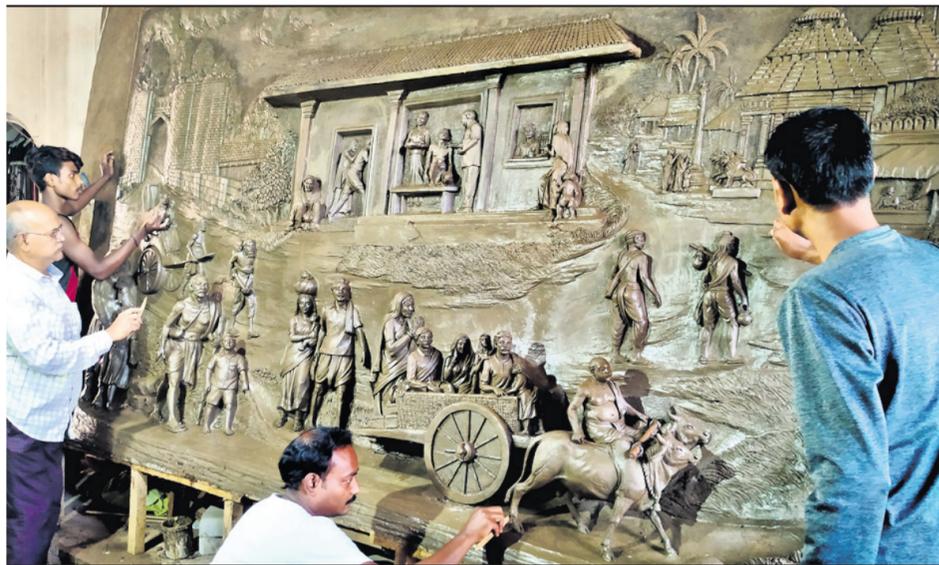
Since the outbreak of the viral disease, both Khurda and Cuttack have accounted for 25 per cent of the state's caseload

Khurda is currently the only district in state coming under 'red zone' with 2,782 active cases. The district has also registered maximum fatalities at 1,465

As Bhubaneswar and Cuttack are the state's main political, educational and commercial hubs, many people across Odisha visit these places frequently, leading to the surge in numbers in these two places

Of the 805 new patients, 131 are children and adolescents, according to the Health department. Odisha currently has 7,158 active cases, while as many as 9,96,300 patients, including 826 Saturday, recovered from the highly infectious disease. The positivity rate in the state stands at 5.49 per cent.

Over 1.84 crore samples have been tested in the state thus far, including 72,412 Saturday. The state has inoculated 2.35 crore people with Covid-19 vaccines, 58.20 lakh of them having taken both the doses.



SCULPTORS AT WORK

Artisans at Kathagada Sahi in Cuttack, Sunday, busy shaping a clay sculpture depicting the Silver City of 1960

OP PHOTO

State's 1st ornamental aquaculture field school opened in Cuttack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: The ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneswar, has inaugurated the first ornamental aquaculture field school of Odisha at a farm in Tangi-Choudwar block of Cuttack district recently.

The field school was inaugurated at the farm of Rajesh Ranjan Mohapatra of Kochila Nuagaon village, CIFA sources said.

Mohapatra has received training and guidance from CIFA in freshwater aquaculture. He has now two farms spread over 6 acres of land.

"This unique field school is established to facilitate farmer-farmer learning and dissemination of ornamental aquaculture techniques. The school would work in the empowerment of ornamental fish farmers of nearby villages," said a source in the CIFA.

The field school was inaugu-



rated by ICAR-CIFA director Saroj Kumar Swain. During the inaugural ceremony, Swain urged the farmers and farmwomen to take up ornamental fish farming as a means to strengthen their livelihood and assured them of all technical support from ICAR-CIFA.

A training programme on ornamental fish farming was also organised for the farmers by maintaining the Covid guide-

lines. The programme was attended by 50 farmers and farmwomen. A farmer-scientist interface was also organised on this occasion and the queries of fish farmers were addressed by the scientists. A soil and water testing camp was organised too for the benefit of the farmers. The programme was coordinated by ICAR-CIFA principal scientist S N Sethi, sources said.

Youth held with firearms, ammo

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: The Commissionerate Police Sunday claimed to have seized two fire arms from a youth at Kolathia under Bharatpur police limits here. The 23-year-old accused, identified as Babuzan Khan, is a resident of Ghetua village in Paschim Medinipur of West Bengal. Khan has been residing in Pipili of Puri district for past few years.

Police sources claimed that some locals suspected a youth standing near a field at Kolathia on the outskirts of the City. The team of Bharatpur police patrolling in the area rushed to the spot immediately upon being alerted. Seeing the police, the accused tried to run away and was nabbed by the cops following a brief chase.

Two fire arms and ten live ammunitions were seized from Khan during search. The accused, a dreaded snatcher, revealed before police that he used the fire arms to threaten his victims.

IMD WARNS OF HEAVY RAIN FOR NEXT 3 DAYS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Sunday issued warning of heavy rain for the next three days.

The IMD said that while heavy rain is likely to lash different parts of the state Monday, thunderstorm and lightning could also be seen in some districts.

The department, in its warning of adverse weather for Monday, said, "Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Koraput, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam and Puri."

It also added, "Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Malkangiri, Koraput, Nawarangpur, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Boudh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj."

The department claimed that heavy rain may lash different parts of the state till Wednesday. While six districts - Gajapati, Ganjam, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput and Puri - are likely to see heavy to very heavy rainfall Tuesday, seven other districts have been warned of heavy rain for Tuesday.

The weatherman has not issued warning of heavy rainfall, thunderstorm and lightning for Thursday and Friday. It has, however, issued warning for fishermen and asked them not to venture into the sea between September 6 and September 7.

Meanwhile, the department claimed that the state Capital might see cloudy sky with the possibility of moderate rain or thundershower Monday. The maximum temperature in City could go upto 31°C.

Businessman dupes bank of ₹6L

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: The Deputy General Manager of a prominent bank has lodged a complaint with Badagada police in connection with a loan fraud of around ₹6 lakh by a City-based businessman. The police have started investigation into the matter after registering a case (309/21) in this regard.

According to the complaint, Prasant Kumar Pradhan of Chintamaniswar area applied for a loan of ₹6 lakh as cash credit in

January, 2016. One of the friends of Pradhan, identified as Ramachandra Pahadsingh, stood as guarantor and gave a landed plot at Begunia in Khurda district as mortgage. Subsequently, the bank released the loan amount into the account of Pradhan after securitising the documents. However, Pradhan defaulted on repayment and the account was declared Non Performing Asset (NPA).

Later, when the bank initiated the process to seize the property found that the land had already been sold by Pahadsingh to his sons.

Cong seeks probe against OSSC chairman

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: The Congress party Sunday sought thorough investigation against the chairman of the Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) for his possible involvement in the alleged recruitment scam.

Party leader and MLA Narasingha Mishra held a press conference here Sunday and attacked the government for allegedly shielding the chairman.

"The Congress party had Saturday raised the issue of massive irregularities in the Staff Selection Commission. The state government in its response has not totally denied the allegations. The Commission was constituted to keep corruption away from recruitment into government

jobs," he said.

He also attacked the current chairman of the commission and said that the official had a tainted past. "The current chairman was Collector of Khurda district earlier. He was accused of corruption in the past. While the unemployment is rising in the state, the government seats here are being easily captured through money power," the MLA said.

He also said that his party had proof of link of private secretary of the commission with the chairman in such acts who was recently caught in such nefarious works.

He also said that the party has proof that can link the chairman to his private secretary's nefarious acts. "If an enquiry is held, we can present proof before them. If the private secretary was ar-

rested and his properties were seized, why wasn't he examined properly," he asked.

Demanding a probe, he said, "We believe that there is a need to investigate properly on the properties owned by the chairman. The government is shielding them. I accuse the OSSC chairman and members of indulging in the recruitment scam. I want a proper enquiry into the matter."

The MLA also said that if the Chief Minister truly believes in transparency and has nothing to hide, he should initiate an enquiry into the case by probing the role of the chairman and other OSSC members. "The government did not even assure of any enquiry during the debate on the matter in the Assembly," he added.

Heritage tour Begins to promote rich culture of Puri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, Sept 5: A heritage tour began in Puri Sunday to promote the rich culture of the holy town in Odisha. Fifty-three famous heritage locations like 'mathas', temples and 'ashrams' have been identified and divided into five cycling and walking routes, the Puri district administration said on Twitter.

"Every Sunday, a group of 40 children from government schools take this educative ride with guides and volunteers," it said.

A quiz contest would also be held at the end of the tour and winners will be rewarded. The ride and walk will be open for tourists and senior citizens very soon, it added.

ECoR allows unreserved tickets for some spl trains

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: For the convenience of passengers, Ministry of Railways has allowed booking of unreserved tickets (UTS) in some limited trains.

In view of this, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) has allowed train journey for passenger in some trains through UTS tickets. Now, UTS tickets are available in Puri-Angul-Puri Special (08428/08427) and Khurda Road-Kendujhargarh-Khurda Road Special (08456/08455) trains under Khurda Road division.

Apart from this, Gunupur-Visakhapatnam-Gunupur Special (08521/08522), Raipur-Visakhapatnam-Raipur Special

(08527/08528), Titilagarh-Bilaspur-Titilagarh Special (08263/08264) and Kakinada-Visakhapatnam-Kakinada Special (07265/07266) trains have also been allowed for booking of UTS Tickets.

These apart, UTS Tickets will also be provided for train journey in Khurda Road-Puri-Khurda Road Passenger Special and Kharagpur-Bhadrak-Kharagpur Specials since their resumption, shortly.

As per the standard operating procedure (SOP), fully waiting list tickets are not being permitted to travel by train and enter into the stations. UTS are now being permitted on the above limited trains only on which such unreserved journey has been permitted.

Stop jeopardising Similipal: Experts in OES webinar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: The Orissa Environmental Society (OES) organised a webinar Sunday on 'Similipal - The Pride of Our Natural Heritage'. President of OES Sundara Narayan Patro, OES Secretary Jaya Krushna Panigrahi and chief guest M Yogajayanand, Field Director of Similipal Tiger Reserve and Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (RCCF), Baripada discussed the importance of forests in the state as well as issues involving Similipal.

Experts attending the webinar gave a detailed account of the Similipal forest's significance to the state. The forest, located in Mayurbhanj district, is a splendid gift of nature and is considered a treasure house of biodiversity including flagship flora and fauna like tiger, elephant, sal and varied medicinal plants and orchids. For its distinction as a natural heritage of immense significance and for its unique features, it earned the



status of the only biosphere reserve of the state in 1994.

However, the biosphere reserve is going through increasing stress caused by increase in population, over-dependence on its resources, poaching of wildlife, and ecosystem degrading activities by people with vested interests. The forest fires

in recent summer testify to the detrimental effects of human activities. The need of the hour is an integrated approach of management in which the local communities will function as the custodians of forest resources by extending support to the forest officials, opined the experts.

Sundara Narayan Patro, in his address to the participants, said that Odisha is bestowed with immense natural resources including precious forests which provide various goods and services, and also regulate the local climate. Similipal has also been included in the UNESCO's World Network of

FOR ITS DISTINCTION AS A NATURAL HERITAGE OF IMMENSE SIGNIFICANCE AND UNIQUE FEATURES, SIMILIPAL EARNED THE STATUS OF THE ONLY BIOSPHERE RESERVE OF THE STATE IN 1994

The forest is the fourth largest tiger reserve of the country and is home to 70 per cent of the tigers and 25 per cent of the elephants of the state

It has also been included in the UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves since 2009

Yogajayanand highlighted that Similipal harbors a unique blend of Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats and Sub-Himalayan species. The forest is home to 70 per cent of the tigers and 25 per cent of elephants of the state. It is the fourth largest tiger reserve of the country. He also deliberated on various measures undertaken by the forest department to address the current problems, including the forest fire issue.

On the occasion, Patro also emphasised on relocation of the inside villages, and undertaking of carrying capacity study and special measures for eco-restoration and boosting of the tiger population.

Jaya Krushna Panigrahi said, "Health of the natural ecosystems has an important bearing on the well-being of the human society. Thus, our moral responsibility is to diminish such detrimental activities that put the Similipal forests into jeopardy and to use their resources sustainably."

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KHARASROTA PROJECT ROW

Opponents to demonstrate near Assembly tomorrow

The proposed ₹892 crore project will draw water from the Kharasrota river for piped water supply to 91 panchayats under four blocks in neighbouring Bhadrak district, where the groundwater is acutely saline



- Since August 15, opponents of the project have been continuing peaceful sit-in protests at Maa Andharuni Thakurani temple
- Before the start of project construction, Section-144 was imposed around the project site August 9
- Kharasrota Bachao Sangram Samiti activists descended to agitation August 10 and some were taken into preventive custody
- On August 12, people and the police had a face-off. Locals vandalised the machinery and a temporary camp of the construction agency

Locals alleged that false cases have been filed against over 800 people while 24 of them have been arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Aul, Sept 5: Even as controversy rages over diversion of Kharasrota water from Kendrapara to Bhadrak, people affiliated to various outfits of Aul and Rajkanika block have resolved to intensify their agitation. They will stage a sit-in near the Assembly September 7 demanding construction of a barrage in the downstream of the river, sources said.

They alleged that the state government is sidling the issue that diversion of fresh water from the river would affect agriculture in the region, biodiversity of Bhitarkanika and livelihood of thousands of people.

"The government has always

ignored the need for a barrage on the downstream area of the river while it has not yet conducted any survey on how much water is flowing in Kharasrota," they said.

The outfits have accused the government of forcibly carrying out the construction of an intake well of the drinking water project at Barunadiha.

Notably, since August 15, project opponents have been continuing peaceful sit-in protests at Maa Andharuni Thakurani temple.

As the government is allegedly doing nothing for the barrage, locals have decided to stage a sit-in in front of the Assembly since September 7. This was stated by Duryodhan Mohanty, president

of Kharasrota Bachao Sangram Samiti. He said that hundreds of people from Aul and Rajkanika would hold sit-in protests in front of the Assembly.

Before the start of construction of the project, the administration had imposed section-144 around the project site August 9 with deployment of force.

Kharasrota Bachao Sangram Samiti activists descended to agitation August 10 and some people were taken into preventive custody for violating the prohibitory orders under section 144.

On August 12, people and the police had a face-off. Locals vandalised the machinery and a temporary camp of the construction agency.

Locals alleged that false cases have been filed against over 800 people while 24 of them have been arrested.

Environmentalists have warned of ecological consequences from the diversion of water from the Kharasrota river system. They said that the proposed mega drinking water project will adversely affect the fragile mangrove ecosystem in the Bhitarkanika National Park.

"Bhitarkanika forest, the second largest mangrove ecosystem in the country, is now under severe threat due to the planned diversion of fresh water from the Brahmani river basin," they said.

They alleged that the state government had ignored the need to conserve the wetland for posterity even though it is a notified Ramsar Convention site.

The proposed ₹892 crore project will draw water from the Kharasrota, a tributary of the Brahmani river, for piped water supply to 91 panchayats under four blocks in neighbouring Bhadrak district, where the groundwater is acutely saline.

Foeticide in Nayagarh: Fake doctor lands behind bars

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Sept 5: An unqualified doctor identified as Biswanath Ghadei who was involved in a recent case of illegal abortion carried out at Ananda Bhawan Aditya Hospital and Clinic in Nayagarh town has landed behind bars.

This was informed by additional SP Madhuri Samal at a presser held here Saturday evening.

According to a source, Nayagarh Collector Poma Tuadu had directed

officials concerned to conduct raids after two consecutive incidents of illegal abortion surfaced in the district in the last week.

Ghadei had allegedly assisted the health facility owner Satyapriya Swain.

Town police have included the name of Ghadei in a case (No-182/21) which was registered under Sections 312, 313, 417, 34 of IPC and Section 5 of Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971.



The accused was forwarded to Nayagarh sub-jail earlier in the

day as his bail plea was rejected in a local court, Town police station IIC Jaydeep Mohanty said.

During a detailed probe, it was ascertained that Ghadei was closely involved in the illegal activity. Initially, he had opened a clinic of his own at Chhayapatha Lane in the town, which was not registered.

The unqualified doctor had been carrying out surgical operations at his own health facility named Kalyani Clinic, the IIC added.

WATER STRESS



Residents of hill-locked Purnanapani village, situated around 15 km from Phulbani town in Kandhamal district, collecting drinking water from a pool

STIR OVER DROUGHT



Members of Basti Basinda Surakshya Mancha staging a sit-in outside the Sonepur Collectorate demanding irrigation facilities to all farmlands due to drought conditions

Couple found dead in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 5: A couple was found dead in their house in Polasara area of Ganjam district Sunday morning. The deceased were identified as Lili Gouda and her husband Bipin Gouda.

Locals spotted the two bodies and reported the matter to police, which rushed to the spot, retrieved the bodies and sent them for post-mortem.

Polasara police have registered a case and investigation is underway.

As per preliminary reports, there is a possibility that the man committed suicide after killing his wife, a police official said.

"However, we are waiting for the autopsy reports and further investigation to ascertain the cause of deaths. Inquiry is on," he added. A scientific team was also pressed into the service as police registered a case over a complaint by the woman's brother.

Healthcare in mess as docs go on deputation

Though the government has appointed doctors in several hospitals in the district, many of them have been sent on deputation, affecting healthcare services

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Sept 5: Healthcare services are in disarray in Kandhamal district due to shortage of doctors. Though the government has appointed doctors in several hospitals in the district, many of them have been sent on deputation, affecting healthcare services, a report said.

Locals sought to know why the doctors appointed in hospitals were sent on deputation. They wondered if the appointment of doctors is only in pen and paper.

Shortage of doctors has become acute at Baliguda sub-divisional hospital and the district headquarters hospital. Various organisations have decried the policy of deputation while healthcare has been in mess. In some cases, doctors are appointed, but they do not join the work. Paediatrician Dr Sumit Kumar joined the district headquarters hospital July 5. However, he was sent on deputation to VIMSAR two days later. His post has been lying vacant since.

Another case in point is Dr Bikananada Rath, who joined in the obstetrics and gynaecology



department July 5. On the same day, he was sent on deputation to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur.

Radiology expert Dr Satyendra Mohapatra had joined the district headquarters hospital July 7.

However, after some time, his posting was cancelled and he was sent to Jajpur. Similarly, four doctors were appointed in Baliguda sub-divisional hospital. One of them was sent on deputation while three others have not joined duty. Earlier, only three doctors were working at this hospital. Out of

Villagers give teacher a fitting felicitation on retirement day

AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Sept 5: When Ananta Kishore Rout retired after 33 years of teaching at a school in Odisha's Kendrapara district, the entire village came together Saturday to honour him, especially for reducing the dropout rate.

Students washed his feet in public as a gesture of respect towards him amidst beating of drums.

The Koilipur village in Rajnagar block wore a festive look as Rout, who retired August 31, participated in a procession that covered five kilometres Saturday on the eve of Teachers' Day, villager Basant Mallick said.

The Tetelenga primary school, of which Rout was the headmaster, earlier witnessed large scale dropout rate. Rout made it a point to visit the doorsteps of villagers to convince them to send their wards to



school, remarked villager Bira Kishore Jena. This led to a remarkable drop in absenteeism in the school, he said.

"Ananta sir is our motivation and ideal role model. He helped many poor students like me," said Akhil Das, who is now a teacher in Rajnagar.

Rout not only taught hundreds of students during his three-decade-old career but also shaped their lives, recalled Bishnu Charan Das, a local resident.

"Many of his pupils have attained professional success in various walks of life. It was he who had imbibed the value of education in them," said Sarbeswar Rath, a teacher of the school.

Rout said the students knew he expected them to do their very best and they did not disappoint him.

"Even after retirement, I want to teach children in my house till the last breath," he added.

Man, son-in-law held for child marriage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Saraskana, Sept 5: Police arrested Sunday two persons including a man and his son-in-law for allegedly solemnising child marriage. They were identified as Jatindra Baske and Lakshman Kisku (26) living in this locality.

It has been alleged that Jatindra got his 14-year-old daughter married to Lakshman against her wishes. The incident took place at Darukudar village under Jharpokharia police limits in Mayurbhanj district.

Police arrested them after the victim lodged a complaint against her father and husband at the Jharpokharia police station. The accused were produced in the court,

IIC Subhransu Sekhar Nayak said. Reports said that child marriages are rampant in various villages of tribal dominated Mayurbhanj district. Parents allegedly marry off their minor daughters to persons much senior in age despite objections by the girls.

Police said that Jatindra got his daughter, studying in Class IX, married to Lakshman who stays in neighbouring Jaragada village. The marriage was solemnized eight days ago. After her marriage, the minor girl stayed for a few days at her in-laws house. However, she returned to her parents' house and refused to go back in spite of much persuasion. This infuriated her father who hurled abuses at her and assaulted her.

Inspiring tale of Odisha's shuttler Pramod Bhagat

THE YOUTH STRUGGLED HARD IN INITIAL DAYS OF HIS LIFE AND WORKED AS A MECHANIC TO EKE OUT A LIVING AND SUPPORT HIS PARENTS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Attabira, Sept 5: Pramod Bhagat has made the country proud by clinching the gold medal in Tokyo Paralympics, 2020 in badminton men's singles SL3 event. However, behind the current success lies an indomitable spirit toiling hard for his passion.

The youth struggled hard in initial days of his life and worked as a mechanic to eke out a living and support his parents.

Bhagat hails from Attabira locality of Bargarh district and was born in 1988. After schooling, he

MECHANIC TO GOLD MEDALIST



joined ITI course at a college in Hirakud town of Sambalpur dis-

- BHAGAT HAS SO FAR WON OVER 40 COVETED AWARDS, INCLUDING FOUR GOLD MEDALS IN A NUMBER OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
- HE WAS CONFERRED WITH THE ARJUNA AWARD AS WELL AS ODISHA GOVERNMENT'S BIJU PATNAIK SPORTS AWARD IN 2019

trict. Owing to poor financial standing of his family, the ambi-

tious youth could not complete his education.

Bhagat's elder brother had a repairing shop for electrical appliances. In the early part of his life, he assisted his brother in repairing works.

According to Bhagat's family, when he was five years old, he developed a defect on his left leg. As destiny would have it, he once watched a badminton match and got fascinated with the game. At the age of 13, he aspired to become a badminton player.

Subsequently, in order to fulfill his dream, Bhagat started fo-

cus on his footwork and physical fitness for the next couple of years.

Bhagat played his first ever badminton tournament at the age of 15 against local players. Thereafter, the youth never looked back. His dreams have come true for his strong determination alone.

It is pertinent to mention here that Bhagat has so far won over 40 coveted awards, including four gold medals in a number of world championships. He was conferred with the Arjuna Award as well as Odisha government's Biju Patnaik Sports Award in 2019.

FOCUS DEMOCRACY

EUROPE'S ACHILLES' HEEL



The West's meltdown in Afghanistan shows that democratic institutions cannot be established by force and foreign aid. The lesson for the European Union should be clear: if it does not lead by example and expel its own authoritarians, its stated commitment to democracy will mean nothing

as les trente glorieuses – the glorious 30 years. More recently, the EU's expansion to Central and Eastern Europe was initially a success, too. It is difficult to imagine that Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and the Baltic countries could have undergone so rapid a democratic transition without the prospect of EU accession and funding. And it is equally unlikely that Poland would have emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing economies without the EU.

But the eastward expansion now looks like Europe's Achilles' heel. Hungary and Poland have come to symbolise the EU's dysfunction and institutional weaknesses.

To be sure, expelling Hungary, and credibly threatening Poland with the same fate, is a serious decision that should not be made hastily. Any member state can elect a government that might try to weaken democratic institutions (as Italy did with Silvio Berlusconi, and as Britain has done with Boris Johnson). Generally, the best way to deal with would-be authoritarians is to allow democratic institutions to do their jobs and trust voters to remove dangerous politicians. But Hungary has become the exception that nullifies the rule. After more than a decade under Orbán's Fidesz Party, its democracy appears to have been fatally wounded, raising doubts that voters could ever remove the current regime.

The longer the EU continues to treat Hungary like a normal democracy, the more damage it will do to its own brand. It should start the process of changing its rules, so that it can take action against Hungary and Poland, even if these countries try to use their veto power. It should then invoke Article Seven of the Treaty on European Union to suspend Hungary's voting rights, and then stop the delivery of EU funds to the country while it works out the best way of terminating its membership. Barring some miraculous last-moment return to democracy, Hungary must go in order for the European project to survive.

The writer is Professor of Economics at MIT.
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Following Hungary's adoption of legislation banning "LGBTQ content" in schools this past June, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte concluded that the country "has no place in the EU anymore." He's right. The European Union should begin the process of expelling Hungary, and it should then consider doing the same with Poland.

Over the past decade, Hungary and Poland have consistently undermined the rule of law and democratic institutions, which are supposed to be at the core of the European project. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's self-styled "illiberal democracy" is a misnomer: there is no longer any democracy to speak of. Courts are increasingly under the control of Orbán's Fidesz party; the media have little freedom left; civil-society organisations operate under constant threat; and universities have already been stripped of what little autonomy they had.

In Poland, meanwhile, the similarly authoritarian ruling party, Law and Justice (PiS), has openly followed in Orbán's footsteps. Though it has not yet cowed civil society and the opposition to the same degree, it is steadily undermining the country's democratic institutions.

From the EU's perspective, the two countries' refusals to participate in a new European Public Prosecutor's Office should be the last straw. Launched in June, the EPPO has a mandate to investigate and prosecute fraud, embezzlement, and other crimes involving EU funds. Not surprisingly, there is ample evidence implicating both Fidesz and PiS in such abuses. By refusing to recognise the EPPO's authority even as they continue to receive EU funds, Hungary and Poland are making a mockery of the European project and everything it stands for.

Moreover, there is now yet another argument for the EU to act against Hungary and Poland. With the Taliban's reconquest of Afghanistan, there is no longer any doubt that the Western effort to establish democracy and the rule of law by force and foreign aid has failed. From now on, Western countries will have to lead by ex-

ample. As US President Jimmy Carter said in his inaugural address: "The best way to enhance freedom in other lands is to demonstrate here that our democratic system is worthy of emulation."

In new research examining data from more than 110 countries, Nicolás Ajzenman, Cevat Giray Aksoy, Martin Fiszbein, Carlos Molina, and I show that democratic institutions generate greater trust when they reliably deliver economic growth, peace, stability, and public services. Evidence from the past four decades suggests that democratisation proceeds in regional waves, partly because the demand for democracy spreads from one country to another. Reversals of democracy have followed a similar pattern. When existing democracies appear less worthy of emulation, democratic institutions are less likely to spread.

These considerations apply doubly to the EU, given that its mission is to establish democratic institutions at the supranational level. At a time when global cooperation is needed more than ever, the EU's historic experiment should be viewed as a success.

At the end of World War II, the continent was devastated and hollowed out economically, having poured all of its resources into armaments. While the United States was awash in modern technolo-

gies such as refrigerators, central heating, indoor plumbing, and civilian transport systems, these were nowhere to be seen in Europe. In Britain, which had fared better than the rest of the continent, only half the houses in 1947 had hot water or indoor plumbing. In Germany, many major cities – including Hamburg, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Dresden, and Berlin – laid in ruins after Allied bombing raids. As many as 20 million Germans were homeless, and 10 per cent of the country's prewar population was dead. The rest of Europe was hardly much better. Occupied France, Belgium, and the Netherlands faced long recoveries after being savagely pillaged by the Nazis.

On top of it all, historic animosities – especially against Germany – were at an all-time high. Many assumed that communism or conservative dictatorships were more likely than democracy to take hold. Peace was viewed as tenuous at best.

But, as we now know, peace prevailed and democracy took root and blossomed in all of Western Europe, except Spain and Portugal (which remained under their own quasi-fascist dictatorships until later decades). Economically, the situation improved almost unbelievably; the three decades following the war came to be known



Daron Acemoglu

HUNGARY AND POLAND HAVE COME TO SYMBOLISE THE EU'S DYSFUNCTION AND INSTITUTIONAL WEAKNESSES

Tug of War

Pain is the hammer of the Gods to break a dead resistance in the mortal's heart.

SRI AUROBINDO



The stage is set for yet another unseemly duel between the judiciary and the executive over the appointment of judges in different high courts. For quite some time, a ping pong game is being played by the two constitutional bodies as the government at the Centre is trying to assert its authority over the judiciary and the latter is jealously guarding its independence as guaranteed by the separation of powers enshrined in the Constitution. This time, the confrontation centres around the appointment of 12 candidates, including three judicial officers, to five High Courts the decision about whom the Supreme Court Collegium, headed by the Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, iterated September 3 despite objections from the government. The Collegium's recommendations for the second time were published on the Supreme Court website as well. In fact, the Collegium recommended 68 candidates for a total of 12 High Courts last week. Significantly, the CJI at a programme September 4 expressed the hope that the Centre would give its nod to the recommendations as it had done in the recent case of nine judges who took oath simultaneously. This has prompted Justice BR Gavai of the Supreme Court to compare the CJI with ace batsman Sachin Tendulkar on the ground that since he took over as CJI, he has been "like Tendulkar" breaking one record after another. The judge was effusive in placing on record that the appointment of nine judges for the apex court took place August 31 for the first time in the country. Responding to the compliment, the CJI said it could happen because of a "team effort" and named his brother judges in the Collegium for being "active and constructive partners" in this endeavour. As a result, the number of vacancies in the apex court could be reduced to just one.

According to the Memorandum of Procedure, once iterated by the Collegium, the Centre is bound to make the appointment, even though the Centre can just sit on the recommendations indefinitely. This is why the CJI has said he hopes the names will be cleared. He went a few steps ahead and praised the Law Minister, Kirren Rijiju as being very efficient at his work and he would process the names quickly. The appointment of the 12 candidates has already been hanging fire for quite some time.

It could not be a coincidence that one of the candidates against whom the Centre has raised its objection is the son of a retired judge of the Calcutta High Court who, in his verdict, had ruled out conspiracy in the Godhra train fire in which kar sevaks were killed triggering the Gujarat riots during the tenure of Narendra Modi as Chief Minister. Another candidate against whom the Centre has expressed its reservations is the son of a former High Court judge who currently heads the human rights commission of a non-BJP ruled state. Ironically, the Centre promptly cleared a recommendation made in January 2019 for an Additional Solicitor General who became a permanent judge this week. The suspicion that the Centre's objections stem from political prejudices seems strengthened due to such surmises.

The CJI has also made an observation that is likely to exacerbate the friction between the executive and the judiciary. He has rightly pointed out the "problem" that "everything in this country is shown with a communal angle by a section of the media." The CJI-led bench was hearing a batch of petitions seeking action against news channels for their coloured coverage of the Tablighi Jamaat meeting at the Nizamuddin Markaz last year. The congregation was castigated by the social media and an impression was sought to be created as if the Centre was handling the COVID-19 pandemic efficiently, but the congregation by the minorities acted like a super-spreader. The Centre responded with an iron hand putting many of the organisers and delegates from abroad behind the bars till they were later cleared by the courts for having played no role in the spread of the disease.

However, the corrective measure that the CJI-led bench has urged the Centre to take to rein in biased and highly detrimental coverage by the audio-visual media may prove counterproductive. The Centre is likely to use the opportunity to strengthen its case to impose curbs on the independence of the Press. Predictably, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who speaks for the Centre, referred, as solution, to the controversial Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, that have been challenged.

There is no doubt that a section of the electronic media, mostly TV channels that sensationalised the Tablighi Jamaat congregation are known apologists of the Centre. While their propensity to work as government propagandists needs to be checked, it would be wrong to allow the Centre to use it as a pretext to curb constitutionally guaranteed fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression. The Centre's defence of the new IT Rules that seek to blur the difference between freedom of the Press and the rights of the audience "who believe and act upon misleading news," is only spurious. In a democracy, the freedom of the Press is inextricably linked with the people's right to know.

To be fair with the CJI he has at least opened up the possibility of a proper debate on free speech and the government's attempts to muzzle the freedom.

WISDOM CORNER

I am not afraid of an army of lions led by a sheep; I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion. **ALEXANDER THE GREAT**

We should not fret for what is past, nor should we be anxious about the future; men of discernment deal only with the present moment. **CHANAKYA**

There are only two forces in the world, the sword and the spirit. In the long run the sword will always be conquered by the spirit. **NAPOLEON BONAPARTE**

WORDSWORTH

Pantehnicon

A word mainly in British usage for a furniture removal van, it's a compound of two classical Greek words: pan, "all", and tehnikon, "artistic; belonging to the arts", hence "a place for all the arts". It was invented in 1830 as the name for a bazaar, a kind of early craft shop, which opened in that year in Motcomb Street in the Belgravia area of London. There was a fashion for terms in pan- at that period, such as panopticon, Jeremy Bentham's name for a circular prison of his invention, which was later used as the name of a London showroom for novelties. Panorama was invented by the Irishman Robert Barker. All three may have been influenced by Milton's Pandemonium as a name for Hell in Paradise Lost, literally "the abode of all the demons". Alas, the scholarship of the Pantehnicon's proprietor was not matched by his business acumen. The enterprise soon closed and the building, constructed to be fireproof, was turned into a furniture repository. The vehicles that transported furniture to and from it were dubbed pantehnicon vans, inevitably shortened to pantehnicons. The name has easily outlasted the building, which, despite its reputation, burnt down in 1874.

LOL

Tell what happened

The policeman arrived at the scene of an accident to find that a car had struck a telephone pole. Searching for witnesses, he discovered a pale, nervous young man in work clothes who claimed he was



an eyewitness. "Exactly where were you at the time of the accident?" inquired the officer. "Mister," exclaimed the telephone lineman, "I was at the top of the pole!"

SPECTRUM RIGHTS

Let's not allow fear to silence freedom

The Chief Justice of India in a recent lecture observed that "law can be used not only to render justice, it can also be used to justify oppression." He went on to say that a Rule passed by Parliament can be classified as 'Law' only if it embraces the principle of justice and equity. A 'Just Law' would have higher legitimacy and acceptance than an 'Unjust Law' even if the latter elicits the adherence of some segments of society to the detriment of others.

It is in this context that the recent order of the Gujarat High Court staying the implementation of the Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act, 2021 (Hereinafter, Amending Act) amending the Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act, 2003 (Hereinafter, Act 2003) has to be understood. Section 3 of the Act 2003 outlawed the use of coercion, allurements, or fraudulent means to convert an individual from one religion to another. The Amending Act amended Section 3 of Act 2003 to provide that even conversion by marriage would be considered as an act of forceful conversion.

When the said Amending Act was challenged in the Gujarat High Court by a religious organisation

named Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind, the Court observed that a plain reading of Section 3 of Act 2003 post amendment would suggest that a "marriage itself and a consequential conversion is deemed as an unlawful conversion." Hence, the Court held that merely because a conversion takes place post marriage, it cannot be termed as an unlawful or forceful conversion. It also infringes upon the right to choice as provided under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The Court relied upon the case of Shafin Jahan v. Ashokan (Hadiya case). The facts of the case were that Hadiya was the daughter of Ashokan. She left her hometown in Kerala to study Homoeopathy at Salem, Tamil Nadu. One day, the family noticed that she was unwilling to participate in Hindu rituals. One month later, her father received information that she has started attending classes in 'purdah'. Later, it was also found that Hadiya had married Shafin Jahan and was planning to travel to the Middle East. The dispute finally went to the Supreme Court where the basic question that arose was whether the father's right to protect the interest of his daughter would prevail

over the adult daughter's own right to choice?

The Court interacted with Hadiya and found her to be devoid of any mental incapacity or vulnerability. It gave a lot of importance to the fact that Hadiya was a major and was capable of deciding her future. The Court observed that social values and morals are important but they cannot override the constitutionally guaranteed freedom to marry a person of one's choice as provided under Article 21 of the Constitution. The government may regulate the conditions of valid marriage or procedure to annul a marriage. However, neither the government nor the society has any power to determine the partner of an individual or the person one loves. Social approval is not required to recognise intimate personal decisions. Hence, the Court finally observed that the marriage between Hadiya and Shafin stands valid and neither her father nor the State can be allowed to interfere in their personal choice.

The Lata Singh v. State of UP is another relevant judgement. In this case, the Supreme Court went on to clearly observe that once an individual becomes a major, he/she

can marry according to his/her likes. If parents do not approve, the most they can do is to cut off social relations with their children. They cannot threaten or commit violence against the couple.

The Gujarat High Court order although not final and binding comes as a solace to interfaith couples living in fear. The Court has rightly stood up as the custodian of the citizens' rights. The Amending Act is against numerous Supreme Court judgements and legitimises an unjust rule as described by the Chief Justice of India. It creates a scenario where the "legislator becomes the transgressor."

Our Constitution's strength stems from its recognition of our culture's multiplicity and diversity. Individual decisions about whether or not to marry and whom to marry are outside the State's jurisdiction. The intervention by the State in such issues has a significant chilling impact on the exercise of liberties and freedom of choice guaranteed by the Constitution. Let's not allow fear to silence freedom.

The writer is BA LLB, Hidayatullah National Law University. Views are personal.

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

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Wear seatbelts

Sir, The horrific car crash in Bangalore killing seven on the spot has rekindled the importance of wearing seatbelts. Almost all modern cars come with inbuilt safety mechanisms. Plenty of them have special features that contribute to life saving processes. Still, cities are witnessing gory accidents claiming precious lives. Three point seatbelts are popular though more refined belts are available. Secondary impact is minimised and passenger positioning is largely maintained with their use. When a car stops suddenly due to an external impact and suddenly loses momentum, the passengers still tend to move unless there is a system to prevent them from moving, and the seat belt comes handy. What the seatbelt does is to increase the time of the forward falling process of a passenger thereby drastically lessening possibilities of grievous injury that may have occurred by collision of the body in the car with steering wheel, dashboard or other parts without the preventive action of the seatbelt. Generally, shoulder, abdomen and hips are protected due to this. Another important protective device is the airbag. This is, of course, a luxury of a few select cars where immediately after a crash when the car stops, air bags are inflated as a result of seatbelt sensors cushioning the body parts to a great extent. The signal passed from the seatbelt sensors result in the formation of nitrogen gas – this inflates the airbag. Rear seatbelts can minimise injury by about 75 per cent and death by approximately 25 per cent. The problem lies in the blatant disregard of rules by passengers. Although drivers wearing seatbelts are not uncommon, the same cannot be said of other occupants of the vehicle.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Mamata's lifeline

Sir, The Election Commission (EC) threw a lifeline to Mamata Banerjee, announcing the holding of the bypoll to Bhabanipur constituency September 30. Mamata had lost to her former protégé-turned-rival Svendula Adhikari in Nandigram election held in March-April this year, though the Trinamool Congress swept the West Bengal Assembly elections. To remain in the Chief Minister's chair, Mamata has to win the Assembly seat by November 5. The EC's decision to order a bypoll only in Bhabanipur has come in for stick from the West Bengal BJP, but the TMC has welcomed the move and blamed the saffron party for trying to scuttle the process for narrow political gains.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Fishing harbour awaits environmental clearance

Rare fish found in Subarnarekha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Sept 5: Balaramgadi near Chandipur in Balasure district is known as the second largest fishing centre in Odisha. Varieties of fishes are caught on a daily basis. A major portion of the catch is exported. Over 1.5 lakh fishermen and traders, depend on this fishing centre for their livelihood.

There has been a proposal to upgrade this centre into a fishing harbour. However, the ambitious project has remained a non-starter due to lack of environmental clearance.

The proposed harbour, once it gets the necessary clearance will come up near the Kasaphal fishing base at Bahabalur.

Fishermen have been demanding the setting up of the harbour for a long time. The district association of fishermen submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in 2016 for a fishing harbour.

The Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery, Bangalore, then carried out field investigation for preparation of the techno-economic feasibility report, including the detailed project report, for the project, in 2017.



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for the project, in 2017. The pre-feasibility study for the proposed project was conducted by the Fisheries department and brought relief to people involved in the fishing sector.

A tender was then floated for the project. However, two years passed by without any further development. Now contractors are not keen to take up the job as cost of the materials has gone up in these few years. A new estimate for the project was worked out and a fresh tender was floated.

However, till date, the project has not got environmental clearance. A total of 407 trawlers and 200 motorised boats are engaged in the Balaramgadi area. Owing to the absence of a jetty or a harbour, most of the vessels prefer to trade the catch at Digha in West Bengal and not at fishing centres in Balasure.

Badal Das, president of Matsyajibi Sangh said, "There is an urgent need of a harbour. Fishermen face a lot of difficulties due to its absence. They have

to go to Digha for trading. As a result, the government incurs huge revenue losses."

As the fishing harbour is getting delayed, there is a plan to construct a pucca pindi at a cost of Rs 1 crore.

The Collector will send the proposal to the Odisha government. After the government sanctions funds for the pindi, the fishermen will not have to go to Digha to sell fishes.

For the Balaramgadi project, 55.01 acres of land had been allotted to the fisheries department August 14 and an estimated budget of Rs 48 crore has been earmarked for it. Former MP Rabindra Jena said that the state government has laid stress on the development of the proposed fishing harbour. After environmental clearance, it will be set up, he added.

District Fisheries officer Pradip Ghose said that the land for the fishing harbour has been identified while DPR is being prepared. A fish sale centre at a cost of Rs 1 crore will be set up, he informed.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Saraskana, Sept 5: Local fishermen caught Sunday a rare species of fish from Subarnarekha river at Jamashola area in Mayurbhanj district Sunday. It is a type of catfish weighing around two kilograms.

The fishermen brought the exotic fish to their village where people flocked in a large number to catch a glimpse of the rare species. Locals informed that these varieties fishes are not usually found in the Subarnarekha river. So it is indeed a rare and precious catch.

According to locals, a person from nearby Bahadogoda village has evinced interest to buy the rare fish and keep it in his pond.

Experts say, the fish looks more like Plecostomus (also known as the Sucker-mouth Catfish) which are highly carnivorous and considered a major threat to natural



ecosystems. They are also used as bottom cleaners in the aquarium trade.

The fish has distinctive spikes on its back and its mouth is in the lower side. Multiple spots on its body also give it an attractive look. Sucker-mouth catfish is a tropical freshwater species mostly found in other parts of the world.

These kinds of fishes have been spotted previously in Balasure.

Rayagada farmers want loan waiver



POST NEWS NETWORK

Muniguda, Sept 5: With drought looming large in the Rayagada district, hundreds of farmers held a meeting at here Sunday raising various issues like declaration of drought zones, shortage of urea

fertiliser and loan waiver.

Hundreds of farmers from 12 villages discussed in detail the drought crisis and drafted a memorandum over their demands. They said that at this critical time of pandemic coupled with drought-like situation, farmers are in urgent

need for loan waiver and water cess.

"There is need to connect Bengel nullah with Badanalla to facilitate irrigation in 12 panchayats. A mega irrigation project should be set up across Vansadhara river at Kantarabali to boost farming," they said.

They also demanded the construction of a dam at Agula and declaration of drought zone for their region.

A delegation of farmers will meet the tehsildar soon and submit their memorandum to the district collector.

The farmers informed that due to scanty rainfall, the region is going to see the spectre of drought very soon. "Rain has completely vanished. We do not have any water to continue farming. The saplings are dying," farmers stated.

AWARENESS RALLY



Residents and health workers take out an awareness rally on Covid pandemic and its vaccination at Muniguda in Rayagada district, Sunday

OP PHOTO

New mobile app to help fishermen track fish, climate info

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, Sept 5: A new mobile application to help know the exact location of fish in sea and a host of other facilities has been developed for fishermen fishing in deep sea, a report said.

The matter came to fore during an awareness drive on the new mobile app named as Fisher Friend Mobile Application (FFMA) at the panchayat office in Purunabandh village under this block and district, Sunday.

The new mobile app piloted by MS Swaminathan Research Foundation will give the fishermen a wealth of information ranging from exact geographic coordinates of shoals of fish, real-time data on wave length and wind speed.

The state fisheries department has signed a memorandum with MSSRF. This was stated here by Biswa Bhusan Jena, assistant fisheries officer at the function held, Sunday.

The new app will help the fishermen know where fish can be available and on the climatic conditions. The information on movement of fishing shoals is updated once every 24 hours while the app also lets you identify danger zones like coral reefs and sunken ship wreckages.

Other details like wind speed and wave height are updated once every six hours.

Fishermen say that the app has helped them tremendously by increasing the catch and sales, thereby income.

The fishermen can download the application in their mobile phones and know their geo-coordinates to keep away from notified fishing ban area of Bhitarkanika Wildlife sanctuary, Devi, Dhamara and Rushikulya river mouths designated for Olive Ridley conservation.

The new app will help them know about potential fishing zones, state of the ocean and weather forecast, global positioning system, danger zone alerts, disaster alerts and market realities, emergency contact number and international border lines.

Moreover, services such as news alerts, information on government schemes and subsidies, training programmes, latest information on technological innovations etc. are provided to the fishermen on a regular basis, allowing them access to a range of knowledge services.

'Mo Pokhari' boosts farmers' livelihood

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khaira, Sept 5: The Mo Pokhari Yojana has reportedly turned out to successful in Khaira block of Balasure district. Ponds are being excavated under MGNREGS with a view to create job opportunities for rural people and boost the prospects of fishery and allied farming.

According to reports, 60 people in the district had benefitted from Mo Pokhari Yojana in this block in the current year. The beneficiaries have become self-reliant by taking up pisciculture. They are also planning to expand their fish farming activities in future.

During the pandemic, thousands of youths came back home to this district from other states after losing their jobs. Most of them were exploring scope of alternative livelihood.

They came to know about the Mo Pokhari Yojana being implemented by the Soil Conservation department. A total of 380 people applied for pond excavation under the scheme. In the first phase, 60 of them were sanctioned ponds. After excavating the ponds, these youths started fish farming. They are also growing vegetables on land around the ponds.

Soumyaranjan Rout, a resident of Teladia village said that after obtaining his B.Tech degree, he was working in a com-



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SOUMYARANJAN ROUT, A RESIDENT OF TELADIA VILLAGE SAID THAT AFTER OBTAINING HIS B.TECH DEGREE, HE WAS WORKING IN A COMPANY IN BHUBANESWAR

GOUTAM PRADHAN AND HAREKRUSHNA SAMAL OF PATIRAJPUR, REBATI BEHERA OF GENGUTIA HAVE ALSO STARTED FARMING OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF CROPS WITH THE HELP OF MO POKHARI YOJANA

pany in Bhubaneswar.

"But I left the job and started fish farming. I have also raised grapes and black pepper on an experimental basis on my farmland. Fish spawns were released in my pond," Rout informed.

Rout said that he expects to earn Rs 3 to 4 lakh per annum from fish farming and crops. "With this earning, there will be no problem to manage my family," he added.

Anadi Parida, a resident of Alipur in Sardang panchayat said

that Cyclone Yaas had inflicted huge losses to his crops and vegetables. "In spite of the losses I suffered, I did not feel discouraged. I knew I could take advantage of Mo Pokhari Yojana, which will provide me with my livelihood," stated Parida.

Goutam Pradhan and Harekrushna Samal of Patirajpur, Rebati Behera of Gengutia have also started farming of different types of crops with the help of Mo Pokhari Yojana.

Field officer of Soil Conservation

department, Ashok Kumar Rout said that all help will be provided to youths in the second phase.

Notably the Odisha government is implementing 'Mastya Pokhari Yojana' (Mo Machha Pokhari) to create an additional 2,200 hectares of freshwater aquaculture farming. Under this scheme, 50 per cent financial assistance is being provided to farmers.

The plan has a budgetary provision of Rs 96 crore. The new scheme aims at helping fish farmers to increase their productivity.

Poor rainfall: 2000 ha farmland lie fallow in Sambalpur district



Saplings, sown and transplanted, have wilted in most parts of this western Odisha district. Though low-pressure induced rains are predicted from September 6, it will not be sufficient to save the crops at this stage, farmers' outfits have said

Post-transplantation work has not happened in areas like Jujumara, Rengali, Maneswar, Dhankauda, Bamra, Redhakhole, Naktideula and Jamankira blocks. As these areas have received less than usual rainfall, there is every possibility of crops being damaged

District agriculture officer Saroj Chand said that paddy farming has been affected in the areas that cannot avail of irrigation facilities. If the district receives rains due to low pressure in the coming days, crops can be saved to some extent, he said

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 5: Scanty and insufficient rainfall has triggered a drought-like situation across many districts in Odisha. Sambalpur district has also suffered due to lack of rain with over 2,000 hectares of farmland remaining uncultivated. It has happened due to the lack of water.

Saplings, sown and transplanted, have wilted in this huge area of land. Though low-pressure induced rains are predicted from September 6, it will not be sufficient to save the crops at this stage.

As per information available from the Agriculture department, a total of 1,50,660 hectares of land was to be used for cultivating paddy this kharif season. By August 31, paddy cultivation had been done in 1,30,696 hectares.

Paddy saplings have been transplanted in 42,650 hectares which are usually irrigated from Hirakud dam, lift irrigation point and small irrigation projects.

District agriculture officer Saroj Chand said that paddy farming has been affected in areas that cannot avail of irrigation facilities. If the district receives rains due to low pressure in the coming days, crops can be saved to some

extent, he informed.

In such situation, farmers in most parts of the district have lost their hopes for paddy harvest this year. Farmlands are dry while farming activities have come to a halt.

Post-transplantation work have not happened in areas like Jujumara, Rengali, Maneswar, Dhankauda, Bamra, Redhakhole, Naktideula and Jamankira blocks. As these areas have received less than usual rainfall, there is every possibility of crops being damaged.

Farmers say, the post-transplantation activities in the farmland have been affected by insufficient rainfall.

In August, the rainfall was very low, leading to possibility of drought. Farmers in these areas expressed concern over the scanty rainfall that affected farming activities. "Paddy saplings have started wilting in dry farmlands. The situation is worse in areas without irrigation. Here, paddy cultivation solely depends on rains," some farmers lamented.

"We apprehend a possible spectre of drought with the monsoon doing a vanishing act. Telltale signs of drought are already evident at several places," they added.



Officials and medical professionals attend a health camp on cancer in Bhawanipatna, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Nipah adds to Kerala's Covid worries

Is two-party system over for Rajasthan?

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram/Kozhikode, Sept 5: As Kerala reeled under a daily increase of nearly 30,000 cases of COVID-19, the deadly Nipah virus has come as another thorn in its side, prompting the state to further heighten the alertness of its health machinery to prevent an outbreak of a different infection.

The southern state, which already saw a localised outbreak of 63 cases of Zika virus in July that were mostly confined to Thiruvananthapuram, however, need not be concerned about the spread of Nipah infection as preventive measures like use of masks and PPE kits – are already in place due to COVID-19 and intensive contact tracing was going on, state health minister Veena George said on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the central government has rushed a team from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to provide support to the state, where a 12-year-old boy died due to Nipah Sunday and two others displayed symptoms of the virus infection.

However, experts, like Dr Amar Fettle, Dr TS Anish and Dr TN Suresh, told PTI that there was less cause for concern at present as the state has already dealt with the Nipah virus twice in the past – when it reared its head in 2018 and 2019 – and the risk of transmission would be less this time round as protective measures, like wearing of



Health workers bury the body of a 12-year-old Nipah virus victim, at Kannamparambu cemetery in Kozhikode, Kerala, Sunday.
PTI PHOTO

masks and PPE kits, are already in place. They also said that Nipah infections are usually confined to small clusters or areas.

The experts said that “intensive contact tracing” and quarantine of all primary contacts were the two main steps to be taken to ensure effective control over spread of the infection.

Dr Fettle, the nodal officer for H1N1, said that the Nipah infection is very pathogenic, but it is more likely to spread once the patient's condition becomes severe – when

he/she is hospitalised.

He said that risk of the infection spreading would, therefore, be higher in the hospital than at community level. Hence, while doing contact tracing, people who may have come into contact with the patient at the hospitals should be “meticulously traced,” he said.

Dr Fettle further said that steps taken by the state to tackle COVID-19, like preparing a time stamped route map of patients, would come in handy here also as it would help public health authorities inform

people about the places visited by the infected person and at what times.

This will let people know as to who all need to quarantine themselves or come forward for testing if they exhibit symptoms and would avoid widespread panic in the district or state, he said.

Dr Anish, a specialist in community medicine, and Dr Suresh, general secretary of the Kerala Government Medical Officers' Association, were also of a similar view that contact tracing and

DOUBLE WHAMMY

The first Nipah virus disease outbreak in South India was reported from Kozhikode district in Kerala May 19, 2018

With this year's reporting of a case, it is the fifth time the virus has been detected in India and the third in Kerala

Experts say that supportive care was the only mode of treatment as there is no cure or vaccine for Nipah

They also said that the likelihood of both Nipah and COVID-19 infecting patients was less

quarantine of primary contacts were the two most important steps presently. Dr Anish said that Nipah usually remains confined to smaller areas or clusters and its numbers remain very few and hardly ever crosses even 50.

Dr Suresh said that the state has already dealt with the virus twice in the past and therefore, it already has a model in place to ‘effectively’ tackle it.

Moreover, due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, people are already taking preventive steps like wearing masks and kits, and therefore, the spread of Nipah may be less.



MANY REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PARTIES ARE MAKING A BEELINE TO MAKE FORAY INTO THE DESERT STATE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Sept 5: Is the two-party system over for Rajasthan? Are the deep factions existing within the Congress and BJP camps splitting their vote banks?

These are a few burning questions rocking Rajasthan as many regional and national parties are making a beeline to make foray into the desert state.

Secondly, the independents are also giving trouble to both the Congress and the BJP after constant victories in the Assembly and local polls, thereby disturbing the political equations in the state.

Presently, the state has a strong presence of the Congress and the BJP. Besides these, the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party formed during the last Assembly elections swept three seats in 2018 while the Bharatiya Tribal Party also won two seats in its first ‘game’ being played in the same elections.

Besides these regional parties, the AAP has now announced to contest polls on all 200 seats of the state.

Speaking to IANS, AAP Rajasthan veteran leader Khemchand Jagirdar said, “We have decided to strengthen our presence in the desert state. In the next 6 months, we will expand our party and strengthen it at the grassroots level. The party will hire people from teachers, employees and other professional associations. Also, many BJP and Congress leaders are ready to join the party,” he said, adding, “People in the state are now looking for an option as they are fed up with the faulty policies of these parties.”

Similarly, political sources confirmed that AIMIM is also planning to enter the state politics in the next Assembly polls.

Two regional parties, namely the BTP and RLP have already spoiled the so-called two-party system status of Rajasthan by cap-

turing five seats in their first attempt.

The RLP, once an ally of BJP, is now contesting local elections and bypolls on its own after severing ties with the saffron party, and has been giving a tough challenge to both the ruling government as well as the opposition.

The party was third in the bypolls held on three seats – Rajsamand, Sahada and Sujangarh and managed to give a tough fight to the Congress and BJP.

Also, in the last Assembly polls, 13 independents won the elections when the RLP swept three seats and the BTP won two, limiting the Congress to only 99 seats. Eventually independents supported the Congress to give it a strong majority.

On Friday, the results of local Panchayat elections for six districts were announced. Out of 1,564 seats, results for 1,562 were announced and till filing of report BJP had won 551 seats, Congress 670 while independents won 290 seats and are said to be the kingmakers. The BSP managed to win 11 seats, while the RLP swept 40 seats in these polls.

Former PCC vice-president Archana Sharma said, “Congress has been garnering a majority everywhere and stands on the top. This is the result of our policies which cater to public welfare. Even the independents who won were inclined towards the Congress.”

BJP spokesperson Rakhi Rathore said, “Congress has intentionally done a unique delimitation which is indirectly benefiting the party. This process has shortened the wards and in such a scenario, independents gain mileage. Contacting voters on one to one basis is easier in these small wards. The deepening factionalism has left the government worried and hence they resorted to delimitation in municipal corporation elections in three districts earlier (Kota, Jaipur and Jodhpur) and are following the same trend in all elections.”

BJP media head Pankaj Joshi said, “The other parties coming in have been limited to a certain region. Hence can't say that the two party system is over in Rajasthan. Those contesting as independents are ex-workers of one or the other party.”

Farmers will teach BJP a lesson: Gehlot

Change in Kerala politics post Taliban takeover: BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Sept 5: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Sunday hit out at the BJP government at the Centre over the contentious farm laws, saying when the time comes the farmers of the country won't lag in teaching the saffron party a lesson.

The crowd that gathered at the ‘Kisan Mahapanchayat’ in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar, are fed up with the BJP, he claimed.

Thousands of farmers gathered Sunday at a mahapanchayat in Muzaffarnagar, where BKU leader Rakesh Tikait called Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other BJP leaders ‘rioters’ and said the party should be given a drubbing in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls.

The event was organised by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) to protest the Centre's controversial farm laws. Referring to the panchayat poll results in six districts of Rajasthan, Gehlot claimed it has made clear that there is a lot of resentment against the BJP.

The panchayat poll results have made it clear that there is a lot of resentment against the BJP among the farmers and they are in the mood to teach the party a lesson, the chief minister said in a tweet.



The attitude of the NDA government towards the farmers is well known. When the time comes, the farmers of the country will not lag in teaching the BJP a lesson

ASHOK GEHLOT | CHIEF MINISTER

Gehlot said the farmers have fully understood the BJP's ‘false promise’ of doubling their income by 2022 and attempts to hand over agriculture to big businessmen by imposing anti-farmer agricultural laws without taking the farmers into confidence.

“The attitude of the NDA government towards the farmers is well known. When the time comes, the farmers of the country will not lag in teaching the BJP a lesson,” he added.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 5: The Kerala unit of the BJP has slammed the attitude of rival parties in the state ever since the Taliban took over control in Afghanistan.

Kerala BJP President, K Surendran said recent news reports over the 1921 Moplah (Malabar) rebellion being given importance is meant to give a clean chit to the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban.

“For some strange reason ever since the new developments in Afghanistan, both the Left and the Congress-led Opposition are playing a new political game. The Speaker of the Kerala Assembly, MB Rajesh has said both Bhagat Singh and leader of the Malabar rebellion Variyamkunnath Kunjahammed Haji are the same,” a furious Surendran added.

Incidentally it was in August that top RSS leader, Ram Madhav raked up the issue that the Union government is aware of the correct history of the Malabar rebellion and therefore, it will not give any space to such Talibani or separatist forces to create violence or divide people in the country, be it Kashmir or Kerala.

Both the ruling LDF and the Congress leadership went ham-



For some strange reason ever since the new developments in Afghanistan, both the Left and the Congress-led Opposition are playing a new political game

K SURENDRAN | KERALA BJP PRESIDENT

mer and tongs at the BJP as the news surfaced that popular leaders of the Malabar rebellion such as Variyamkunnath Kunjahammed Haji and Ali Musaliar along with 387 other leaders of the pre-independence movement, are set to be removed from the ‘Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle,’ jointly published by the Ministry of Culture, Indian government, and the Indian Council of Historical Research.

The Kerala BJP president said even when there have been reports of increased activity by religious and fundamental forces in the state, both the police and the ruling LDF government were acting irresponsibly. “Just look at the recent events when six youths from Jammu

and Kashmir were arrested from Kerala for possession of guns without a license, the operation of an illegal telephone exchange at Kochi, and it was known only after the Telangana police took a person into custody. A similar illegal exchange was found to be operative in the gold smuggling business being carried out in the state which was being controlled from Pakistan and the Kerala police has no clue of what's happening,” Surendran added while slamming CM Pinarayi Vijayan for his failure to act on these issues.

Congress first, groups second: Chandy

MARRIED AT 7, THIS ‘BALIKA VADHU’ GETS FREEDOM AFTER 12 YEARS

The remark comes amid differences between the party's warring groups led by Chandy and Ramesh Chennithala



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 5: Amidst moves by the new leadership of KPCC to eliminate group culture in the state Congress, veteran leader Oomen Chandy Sunday made it clear that this practice is a reality, but that the party comes first.

“Congress should move forward. Congress first, groups second,” he told reporters when asked whether this kind of culture was over in the party.

Chandy clarified his stand when the Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly VD Satheesan met him at his residence in Kottayam as part of the new leadership's bid to iron out differences with warring groups' leaders Chandy and Ramesh Chennithala.

His statement comes days after AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal said in Kannur that Congress was “his group.”

Chandy's statement also assumes significance in the wake of many leaders who were part of ‘A’ and ‘I’

groups starting to ditch them and rallying behind the new leadership.

The ‘A’ group is headed by Chandy and the ‘I’ group, by Chennithala. Satheesan said the Congress needs the support and guidance of senior leaders like Chandy and therefore, it would hold discussions to address their grievances so that the party can move forward together and become stronger.

Admitting there were some internal problems within, Satheesan said these cannot be ignored and the only way to resolve them was through talks.

He said the discussions would continue.

In the joint media address, Chandy also admitted there are problems in the Congress and said he agreed with Satheesan's suggestion that the issues need to be resolved through talks.

“Without discussions, the problems will only get worse and if the talks take place, I will cooperate,” he said.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Sept 5: Married at the age of just seven, a 19-year-old ‘Balika Vadhu’ of Rajasthan's Bhilwara district finally got freedom from the clutches of child marriage after 12 years.

The child bride, Mansi had knocked the family court in Bhilwara and pleaded for annulment of her child marriage. Hearing her plight, the Family Court Judge Harivallabh Khatri showed sensitivity and gave a strong message against child marriage by pronouncing a historic verdict of annulment of Mansi's child marriage.

Mansi, originally a resident of Paldi in Bhilwara district, was married at the age of seven in 2009 to a groom, who was a resident of Baneda Tehsil. For about 12 years, she suffered the brunt of child marriage. During this, pressure was constantly made from the caste ‘Panchayat’ and others to get the ‘Gauna’ (a ceremony associated with the consummation of marriage) done. There were also many



Mansi (L) with Dr Kriti Bharti

threats issued to the family.

Meanwhile, Mansi, after getting information about Dr Kriti Bharti's campaign being run by the Saarthi Trust to annul child marriages, contacted her for annulment of her marriage. Dr Kriti came to Bhilwara from Jodhpur and filed

a case of Mansi's child marriage annulment in the family court in March this year.

Dr Kriti Bharti appeared along with Mansi in the family court of Bhilwara, and made the court aware of the facts related to the child marriage. The Judge of the Family

Court delivered a historic verdict annulling the marriage of Mansi, which was solemnised 12 years ago at the tender age of just seven.

The order gave Mansi freedom from the bond of child marriage. Judge Khatri, while giving a strong message to the society against child marriage, said that the bondage of child marriage spoils both the present and future of the innocent children.

Mansi told IANS, “With the help of Dr Kriti Bharti didi, I have got freedom from the exile of child marriage. I am studying for my second year BA and now I want to study further and become a teacher.”

Kriti Bharti-Rehabilitation Psychologist, Managing Trustee, Saarthi Trust, Jodhpur said, “Family Court Bhilwara gave a historic verdict to annul Mansi's child marriage. Honourable Judge Harivallabh Khatri Sir showed sensitivity on the issue of child marriage and annulled the marriage. We are now striving for the best rehabilitation of Balika Vadhu Mansi.”

national

of the day quote

The BJP government may have differences with Sonia Gandhi, Rahul or Priyanka, but why this hatred for Nehru? The institutions created by Nehru are being sold by the present government to give a fillip to the economy

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA CHIEF SPOKESPERSON

Those who have left should never come back into politics. This is all in your hands. Send them permanently home. Just like government servants can be given VRS if they do not work, just like that they (the defectors) should be given VRS and made to sit at home

DIGAMBAR KAMAT | GOA'S LEADER OF OPPOSITION

Having turned Kashmir into an open air prison, now even the dead aren't spared. A family isn't allowed to mourn & bid a final farewell as per their wishes. Booking Geelani sahab's family under UAPA shows GOI's deep rooted paranoia & ruthlessness. This is New India's Naya Kashmir

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Minor girl alleges rape by father

Jodhpur (Rajasthan): A minor girl was allegedly raped by her father in Jalore district of Rajasthan and her brother committed suicide after he came to know about it through an audio clip wherein she is purportedly narrating the whole episode to her aunt, police said Sunday. The police have begun investigation into the matter after the 32-minute audio clip went viral Saturday. On the same day, the girl's brother committed suicide by jumping into the Narmada canal in the Sanchore area of the district, a police officer said. The girl's father had fled from home before a police team reached there, the officer said, adding that a hunt for him was on.

5 killed as car rams into lorry

Chennai: Five youths lost their lives after the car in which they were travelling rams into a parked lorry during the early hours of Sunday. The incident occurred at Peringalathur near Chennai. The youths were travelling from Chennai to Vandallur and the accident occurred between 1.30 a.m. and 2.30 a.m Sunday.

32 injured in road mishap

Surajpur: At least 32 staffers and workers of the South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) were injured after a bus carrying them fell into a rivulet in Surajpur district of Chhattisgarh Sunday, police said. The incident occurred when a total of 43 personnel of the SECL were travelling for work in the bus to the Mahan open cast coal mines from the Bhatgaon headquarter of the company.

Curbs eased out in Kashmir

Srinagar: Restrictions were eased out in Kashmir, but security forces continued to remain deployed on the fourth day Sunday following the death of hardline separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, officials said. There are no restrictions on movement of people in the Valley, but barricades continue to remain in place along roads at several areas, especially those leading to Geelani's residence at Hyderpora here in view of the fourth day of mourning for the separatist leader.

Centre shares parameters to identify fake vax

This comes days in the backdrop of concerns flagged by the WHO over counterfeit/falsified Covishield vaccine being identified in the South-East Asia and Africa region of WHO



AGECNIES

New Delhi, Sept 5: The Centre has shared a set of parameters with all states and UTs to enable service providers and monitoring teams under the national Covid-19 vaccination programme to identify any fake Covid-19 vaccines so that they are not administered in the country.

Currently, the Serum Institute of India's Covishield, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin and Russian vaccine Sputnik V are being administered to eligible beneficiaries under the ongoing Covid-19 inoculation drive in the country. "It was requested that the vaccines need to be carefully authenticated before use...The information on genuine Covid-19 vaccine labels and additional information of the Covid-19 vaccines in use is being enclosed for reference of program managers and service providers under the National Covid-19 Vaccination Program. "The service providers and monitoring teams for Covid-19 vaccination may be informed about these details and to ensure due diligence towards recognition of counterfeit vaccines," Additional Secretary Manohar Agnani said in a letter to

additional chief secretaries and principal secretaries (Health) of all states and UTs on September 2.

A genuine Covishield vial bottle will have the parameters like the SII product's label shade in dark green, the brand name with the trademark mentioned on the original vaccine and dark green aluminium flip-off seal.

The font of the generic name is un-bold, (Recombinant) is printed at the end of the generic name, overprinted with CGS NOT FOR SALE.

The SII logo is printed on the adhesive side of the label and at a unique angle and position which can be identified by only a select few who are aware of the exact details.

The lettering is printed in special white ink to be more clear and readable. According to the parameters, the entire label has been given a special texture honeycomb effect which is visible only at a specific angle.

At strategic locations, the honeycomb design has been altered slightly and certain additional special elements added to the texture design such that it is not visible to the layman, but people who know the subtle changes can easily check and verify the authenticity of the label and vial.

The anti-counterfeit features in the Covaxin label include invisible UV helix (DNA-like structure) which is only visible under UV light, micro text hidden in label claim dots, which is written as COVAXIN, green foil effect in X of "Covaxin" and holographic effect on COVAXIN. As for Sputnik, imported products are from two different bulk manufacturing sites from Russia and, hence, there are two different labels for both these sites. While all the information and design are the same, only the manufacturer name is different.

We are moving forward as a strong opposition force and under the leadership of Priyanka Gandhi we will win the polls, and form the government in 2022
AJAY KUMAR LALLU | PRESIDENT OF THE UP CONGRESS COMMITTEE

CATWALK FOR A CAUSE

Several women and children of a locality near Hoshangabad Road in Bhopal, adopted a creative way to draw the attention of the government to the potholed roads in the area. They performed a catwalk on the potholed roads and made the video viral on the social media



REMEMBERING RADHAKRISHNAN



President Ram Nath Kovind paying floral tributes at the portrait of former President of India, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, on the occasion of his birth anniversary at Rashtrapati Bhavan

Congress voices support for 'kisan mahapanchayat'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 5: The Congress Sunday voiced support for the 'kisan mahapanchayat' in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar with party leader Rahul Gandhi saying the call of truth is echoing and an "unjust government" will have to listen.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said that the "arrogance of power" cannot withstand the roar of the farmers.

Thousands of farmers from Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring states Sunday gathered in Muzaffarnagar for the 'kisan mahapanchayat' aimed at what they called "saving the country", just months ahead of the crucial Uttar Pradesh assembly polls.

The event was organised by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) at the Government Inter College ground in Muzaffarnagar in protest against the Centre's contentious farm laws. "The call of truth is echoing. You have to listen, unjust government!"



Rahul Gandhi tweeted in Hindi.

Priyanka Gandhi also voiced support for the mahapanchayat, saying, "Farmers are the voice of this country. Farmers are the pride of the country. Arrogance of any power cannot withstand the roar of the farmers."

The whole country is with the farmers in the fight to save agriculture and in demanding their dues in lieu of their hard work, the

Congress general secretary said.

Congress' chief spokespersons on Randeep Surjewala said those stealing the farms of farmers are traitors.

Voicing support for the mahapanchayat, senior Congress leader Sachin Pilot expressed confidence that the mahapanchayat organised under the leadership of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha will prove to be giving strength to the farmers' interests.

"May this mahapanchayat prove to be a milestone in the direction of a peaceful farmers' movement," Pilot said in a tweet in Hindi.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha, an amalgam of several farmer unions, has been spearheading the agitation against the farm laws since last year.

The government has insisted that these laws have given farmers new opportunity to sell their produce and rejected the criticism that they are aimed at doing away with the minimum support price regime and farm mandis.

ISRO TRUCK BLOCKED FOR 'NOKKU-KOOLI'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 5: Barely a couple of days after the Kerala High Court directed the State to get rid of the practice of 'nokku-kooli' which literally means 'gawking wages', a truck of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) was blocked Sunday by workers allegedly demanding the wages. According to an employee of ISRO Rajeswari tasked with ensuring offload of the cargo before noon, the people demanded money for allowing the vehicle into the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) facility at Thumba here.



She told PTI that the cargo was so heavy that it can be offloaded with the use of only hydraulic systems. Despite this, she said, the people

wanted money for letting the cargo in. She said ever since the VSSC was set up after acquiring land of the local residents, there was the practice of paying them whenever goods arrive. She hoped this practice would stop and said she would be lodging a police complaint. She said a labour officer visited the scene and talked to the people.

The issue was resolved after the intervention by government and senior police officials, she said. Police said they received a complaint from ISRO at around 11 AM based on which they reached the spot and found the workers blocking the lorry. Nokku-kooli is an

euphemism for extortion by organised labour unions. The court, hearing a plea filed by a businessman from Kollam over the issue, said the rights of the headload workers should be protected legally and petitions seeking action on those demanding nokku-kooli were on the rise.

"The practice of nokku-kooli is damaging the image of Kerala. It should be eradicated. It gives out wrong perceptions about the state.

Meanwhile, the rights of the headload workers should also be protected," the court had said. On May 1, 2018, the State government banned the practice.



Fear united Oppn, not Sonia

Never before had the Opposition parties got together against the ruling establishment three years before the Lok Sabha polls. Be it 1967, 1971, 1977, 1989, 1996 or even in 2004, the groupings emerged only a few months before the polls. Therefore, it was rather surprising that 19 Opposition parties came together under one roof three before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls to dislodge Prime Minister Narendra Modi. And if you thought, these parties have decided to do business with each other under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi or she is in any way responsible for this unity, you are

sadly mistaken. It is the fear factor that has brought these rival parties together. Even the Congress has agreed to eat the humble pie by agreeing to the first principle of this unity; whichever party is strong in a particular state will play the lead role and others will have to play around. If there are differences on certain seats, the warring parties can resort to "friendly fights".

BJP orders poll surveys

After developments in Afghanistan, the BJP has ordered fresh election surveys in five poll bound states due in February-March 2022 -- UP, Goa, Manipur, Punjab and Uttarakhand. The surveys have also been ordered in Gujarat and Karnataka which will go to polls by the end of 2022. Though the BJP is a weak wicket in Punjab having just three MLAs and without an alliance partner. Yet, it has hired two agencies to assess the ground level situation in the border state. The BJP is closely monitoring the situation and wants to prevent AAP and the advent of Navjot Singh

Sidhu in the state as it feels that they are not good for the betterment of the state. In the remaining four states, different survey agencies prominently associated with some TV channels have been given huge contracts. Some of the leading psephologists have been hired to give their independent feedback to the party. It is widely believed that the BJP had backed Capt. Amarinder Singh in 2017 Assembly polls to ensure that AAP is kept out. Interestingly, two agencies have been specifically told to assess the mood of the people if anti-Taliban stance will pay rich dividends to the BJP. It is largely due to this very reason that cases have been slapped in some BJP-ruled states under the NSA and UAPA against those speaking in favour of the Taliban. Interestingly, the RSS is conducting its own surveys through different teams. The BJP wants to know which prominent leader in the state is getting the traction and what are the issues so that the high command drafts campaign policies accordingly. This pre-poll survey is the first in the series and the second survey will be held around November-December. The recent 'Mood of the

Nation poll' by a leading channel may have given 24% popular votes to the Prime Minister, a fall from 66% in 2019. But the same survey gave BJP 269 Lok Sabha seats if polls were held right now, a heartening feature.

No booster dose for now

The Covid-19 working group is not in favour of a 'third booster dose' for those who had already taken double dose. The Covid-19 Working Group, a highest policy making body of experts set up by the Union Government, has conveyed that there was no need to give the third booster shot to prevent Covid as is being propounded. "There is no need to give a third booster Covid vaccine in India. Neither the WHO nor other eminent experts have recommended it. Even data emerging from the UK and USA where the third booster dose is administered has not shown such benefits," the expert group said. The Working Group, which deliberated on a variety of sensitive issues relating to the vaccination program, is of the firm opinion that

"there is no need for a third booster dose." Dr Rakesh Agrawal, Director of Director of Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research (JIPMER), Pondicherry and member of the Covid Working Group went on record to say that the efforts must be to vaccinate maximum number of people in the shortest possible time. "This alone will prevent deaths and hospitalisation," he said. Secondly, no one claimed that double vaccinated persons would not be infected. The latest studies have shown that double vaccinated persons will not die of Covid-19 unless they have serious commodities.

PM frees 'babus' from shackles

In order to protect the serving and retired bureaucrats and top ranking persons, the Modi government has provided a shield to protect them from harassment by the CBI and probe agencies in future. This has been done to expedite the process of decision making in the government at all levels which has been hurting the country's growth path. In a latest

FIR against Baghel's father

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi/Raipur, Sept 5: An FIR has been registered against Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's father, Nand Kumar Baghel, who made objectionable comments against the Brahmin community. The comments have now gone viral on the social media. The complaint was filed by one Avnish Pandey and others.



The FIR has been lodged at Deen Dayal police station in Raipur against Nand Kumar Baghel under IPC Sections 153-A and 505-A. Reacting to this, Chief Minister Baghel said that nobody is above law.

On Saturday, the Brahmin community took out a rally and demanded action against Nand Kumar Baghel as the BJP upped its ante on the issue against the Chief Minister. Baghel said, "As a son I respect my father but as the chief minister the law is supreme."

In a counter attack, the Chief Minister has demanded apology from the BJP and said it has disrespected the farmers. The incident relates to D. Purandeswari, the BJP in charge of the state who allegedly made objectionable comments against the CM in Bastar.

BHABANIPUR BYPOLL

Mamata named TMC candidate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 5: The Trinamool Congress Sunday officially announced Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as its candidate for the by-election in Bhabanipur. TMC's campaign in the seat in south Kolkata is already underway with the Election Commission announcing the bypoll Saturday, following a request from the state government to avoid a constitutional crisis.

Banerjee, who lost the election in Nandigram, has to win this by-poll to retain her chief minister's post.

The BJP, Congress, and CPI(M)-led Left Front are yet to announce their candidates for the bypoll.

The bypoll will be held on September 30 along with the elections to two seats in the Murshidabad district - Samsarganj and Jangipur where polling could not be held during the eight-phase assembly elections earlier this year.

The counting of votes will take place October 3. Jakir Hossain is the TMC candidate in the Jangipur seat, while Amirul Islam is contesting as the party's candidate from Samsarganj.

international



In these moments of upheaval, in which Afghans are seeking refuge, I pray for the most vulnerable among them. I pray that many countries welcome them and protect those who are seeking a new life
POPE FRANCIS | LEADER OF CATHOLIC CHURCH

DRESS CODE IN UK PARL

Britain's MP have been issued a warning note by the Speaker to dress appropriately in "business attire". Sir Lindsay Hoyle, the Commons Speaker, has updated the "Rules of behaviour and courtesies in the House of Commons" to address any laxity that may have set in during the lockdown



of the day quote

The world should engage with Afghanistan to address humanitarian needs and provide economic stability to prevent a refugee crisis in the war-torn country
IMRAN KHAN | PM, PAKISTAN

The stakes are high, the arguments can be bitter. And I worry this process is capable of generating a sort of cold mistrust between us and the EU which could spread across the relationship
DAVID FROST | BRITAIN'S BREXIT MINISTER

In growing back greener, we think Denmark is a very, very unique partner, because you have strengths and experiences and best practices which are enormously helpful for a country like India at this stage of its development
S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Lankan delegates to visit New Delhi

Colombo: The Indian government Sunday said it has initiated a visit by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces to New Delhi aimed at strengthening defence cooperation with specific focus on industrial expertise. The Lankan delegation to New Delhi will comprise 39 officers who will be exposed to the functioning of all three Service Headquarters while also getting familiarised with routine of tri-service field formations. During the visit "several interactions with top Indian Armed Forces officials and visits to various industries and cultural sites have also been scheduled", according to an official statement.

IS attack in Iraq kills 13

Baghdad: At least 13 security members were killed and six others injured in an overnight attack carried out by the Islamic State (IS) terror group in Kirkuk province, a provincial police source said Sunday. The attack took place late Saturday night when IS militants attacked a federal police outpost in a village near the town of al-Rashad in the south of the namesake provincial capital Kirkuk, about 250 km north of Baghdad.

Russia detains 50 Crimean Tatars

Kyiv: More than 50 Crimean Tatars have been detained by Russian law enforcement officers in Crimea, Ukrainian officials said Saturday. Ukraine's human rights ombudswoman Lyudmyla Denisova said Russia's Federal Security Service, the FSB, detained five minority Crimean Tatar activists. In response, more than 50 Crimean Tatars gathered in front of the FSB's branch in the Crimean city of Simferopol to protest the arrests. "As a result, more than 50 Crimean Tatars have been detained," said Denisova.

Jordan to host energy meeting

Amman: Jordan will host a meeting of Egypt, Syria and Lebanon's energy ministers Wednesday to discuss transportation of Egyptian gas to Lebanon for electricity generation, said state-owned broadcaster Mamlaka. The United States has been in talks with Egypt and Jordan over a plan to ease Lebanon's power crisis which involves using Egyptian gas to generate power in Jordan that would be transmitted via Syria.

ETHNIC TENSIONS



A demonstrator gestures as a barricade is set on fire during a protest against the enthronement of Bishop Joanikije in Cetinje, Montenegro

Suicide bombing in Pak; 4 killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, Sept 5: A suicide bomber of the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan blew himself up in the country's restive Balochistan province Sunday, killing at least four security personnel and injuring 20 people, a top police official said. The attack targeted a Frontier Corps (FC) check post on the Mastung road in Quetta, the provincial capital, Deputy Inspector General of Quetta police Azhar Akram said. Akram told reporters

that an initial investigations suggested that the suicide bomber drove an explosives laden motorcycle into a vehicle carrying Frontier Corps. "The bomb disposal squad has estimated that the motorcycle was laden with six kilogrammes of explosives," he said. Akram confirmed that four people were killed in the blast while 20 others, 18 soldiers and 2 bystanders, were injured in the attack. According to the Counter-Terrorism Department of

Balochistan, the blast was a "suicide attack" and was carried out near the Sona Khan check post. The banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attack, sending a grim signal that the change of government in Kabul might not end the woes of Pakistan as the country looks towards the Taliban to rein in the TTP rebels who are hiding in Afghanistan. Condemning the attack, Prime Minister Imran Khan took to Twitter to offer condolences to the families of those killed.

Saudi intercepts missile attack by Houthi ultras



AGENCIES

Dubai, Sept 5: A ballistic missile attack aimed at Saudi Arabia's oil-rich eastern region was intercepted on Saturday, the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthi group in Yemen said in a statement carried by Saudi state media. The missile was intercepted over the city of Dammam, according to a source familiar with the matter who declined to be named and social media reports. The shrapnel of the missile scattered over the Dammam Suburb neighbourhood, injuring two Saudi children, while 14 residential houses suffered light damages, Saudi state news agency SPA said, citing a statement by the defence ministry. The coalition blamed the attack on the Iran-aligned Houthi forces. There was no immediate claim of responsibility in Houthi-run media. The coalition also said it intercepted and destroyed ballistic missiles heading towards Jazan and Najran, both in the southern part

of the country. Eastern Saudi is home to significant oil infrastructure which has previously been targeted and hit by aerial attacks. An attack in September 2019 on two Aramco plants in the east temporarily knocked out half the country's oil production. Yemen's Houthi, who regularly launch drones and missiles into the kingdom, have claimed responsibility for several attacks on Saudi oil installations in the past. A source familiar with the matter said there was no impact on facilities belonging to state-controlled oil giant Saudi Aramco and that the attack happened outside of Aramco facilities. "The Ministry of Defense will take the necessary and deterrent measures to protect its lands and capabilities, and stop such hostile and cross-border attacks to protect civilians, in accordance with international humanitarian law," the ministry said in a statement according to SPA.

Taiwan sends jets against Chinese military activity

The latest Chinese mission involved 10 J-16 and four Su-30 fighters, as well as four H-6 bombers, which can carry nuclear weapons, and an anti-submarine aircraft

AGENCIES

Taipei, Sept 5: Taiwan's air force scrambled Sunday against renewed Chinese military activity, with its defence ministry reporting that 19 aircraft including nuclear-capable bombers had flown into Taiwan's air defence identification zone. Chinese-claimed Taiwan has complained for a year or more of repeated missions by China's air force near the self-ruled island, often in the southwestern part of its air defence zone near the Taiwan-controlled Pratas Islands. Taiwanese combat aircraft were dispatched to warn away the Chinese aircraft, while missile systems were deployed to monitor



them, Taiwan's Defence Ministry said. The Chinese aircraft flew in an area closer to the Chinese than Taiwanese coast, roughly north-east of the Pratas, according to a map provided by the ministry. There was no immediate comment from China. The last such large-scale activity, June 15, involved 28 Chinese air force aircraft, the largest incursion reported by Taiwan to date.

Soldiers dissolve government in Guinea

AGENCIES

Conakry, Sept 5: Soldiers who staged an uprising in Guinea's capital Sunday said in a short broadcast on state television that they have dissolved the constitution and the government in the West African state. However, the defence ministry said an attack on the presidential palace by mutinous forces had been put down. Heavy gunfire had broken out near the presidential palace in Conakry Sunday morning, with sev-

eral sources saying an elite national army unit led by a former French legionnaire, Mamady Doumbouya, was behind the unrest. An unidentified soldier, draped in Guinea's national flag and surrounded by eight other armed soldiers, said in the broadcast that they planned to form a transitional government and would give further details later. The soldier spoke after videos shared on social media - which could not immediately authenticate - showed President Alpha



Conde surrounded in a room by army special forces. The defence ministry said the attempted insurgency had been put down. "The presidential guard, supported by the loyalist and republican defence and security

forces, contained the threat and repelled the group of assailants," it said in a statement. "Security and combing operations are continuing to restore order and peace." Earlier, videos shared on social media showed military vehicles patrolling Conakry's streets and one military source said the only bridge connecting the mainland to the Kaloum neighbourhood, which houses the palace and most government ministries, had been sealed off.

UAE liberalise residency laws to attract foreigners

GENERALLY, FOREIGNERS ARE ONLY GIVEN LIMITED VISAS TIED TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT, AND LONG-TERM RESIDENCY IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Dubai, Sept 5: The UAE announced a new visa Sunday allowing foreigners to work in the country without being sponsored by an employer, loosening residency requirements in an attempt to boost economic growth. Foreigners in the oil-rich United Arab Emirates are generally only given limited visas tied to their employment, and long-term residency is difficult to obtain. But those holding the new "green visa" will be able to work without company sponsorship, and can

sponsor their parents and children up to 25 years old, officials said. "It targets highly skilled individuals, investors, businesspeople, entrepreneurs, as well as exceptional students and postgraduates," said Minister of State for Foreign Trade Thani al-Zeyoudi. Resource-rich Gulf countries such as the UAE are increasingly seeking to diversify their economies and reduce reliance on oil. The coronavirus pandemic has also impacted tourism and businesses in the UAE, whose economy was already slumping in recent years due to low oil prices.



In 2019, the UAE launched the 10-year "Golden visa" to attract wealthy individuals and highly

skilled workers, the first such scheme in the Gulf. Similar programmes have since

GREEN VISA
Those holding the new 'green visa' will be able to work without company sponsorship

Green visa holders can sponsor their parents and children up to 25 years old

UAE also said it will allow people who've lost their jobs to remain in the country for up to 180 days

been launched in other resource-rich Gulf countries, such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Riyadh said in June 2019 that it will offer permanent residency for 800,000 riyals (\$213,000) and a one-year renewable residency costing 100,000 riyals, allowing expats to do business and buy property without a Saudi sponsor. Doha also flung open its property market to foreigners, with a scheme giving those buying homes or stores the right to longer-term or permanent residency permits. Foreigners account for 90 percent of the 10 million population in the UAE, the Arab world's second-largest economy after neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

of the day **quote**

By November, the recommendations of the committee will be in, some parts of actioning will also happen. The reorganisation is expected to take place in a phased manner and I believe in the current financial year, most of the significant shifts will happen

ANAND AGARWAL | CEO, STL GROUP

Initiatives such as India's upcoming national multi-modal connectivity plan will be crucial in boosting the competitiveness of the sub-region in terms of logistics performance

BIPUL CHATTERJEE | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CUTS INTERNATIONAL

Liquidity in the domestic market has been strong for the past couple of days with FII's putting in over ₹6,000 crore in last four sessions itself. Further, strong service PMI data and healthy GST collection numbers boosted market sentiments

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA | HEAD OF RETAIL RESEARCH, MOTILAL OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

SHORT TAKES

Bitcoin rises back above \$50,000

New York: Bitcoin rose 0.49% to \$50,188.4 at 1004 GMT Sunday, adding \$245.24 to its previous close. The world's biggest and best-known cryptocurrency is up 81% from this year's low of \$27,734 on Jan. 4. Ether, the coin linked to the ethereum blockchain network, rose 1.16% to \$3,932.07 on Sunday, adding \$44.97 to its previous close.

HOP Electric to raise ₹200 crore

Mumbai: Integrated e-mobility firm HOP Electric is looking to raise at least USD 30 million (over ₹200-crore) in Series-A round amid its plans to expand product portfolio as well as dealership network, the company's founder and CEO Ketan Mehta has said. The Jaipur-based HOP Electric Mobility, which hit the market with two e-scooters in January this year, is gearing up to launch another vehicle model, an e-bike, OXO, by October-November this year, Mehta said.

NCL launches CSR schemes

New Delhi: State-owned CIL arm Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL) has launched various CSR schemes and projects focused on village infrastructure and education among others, amounting to ₹2.25 crore to benefit the villagers of Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh. These people programmes have been launched as part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" celebrations, the coal ministry said. Inaugurating the programme, MP Riti Pathak lauded the efforts of NCL towards infrastructure development, livelihood generation and overall community development in Singrauli district.

Yanolja to leverage Softbank fund

New Delhi: Korean IT firm Yanolja will use funds raised from venture capital fund of Softbank Group to expand business of its Indian subsidiary eZee Technosys, a company official said. Yanolja raised USD 1.7 billion from SoftBank Vision Fund in July. "Yanolja, our parent company, in July closed USD 1.7 billion with softbank vision fund. This is going to help eZee to grow its b2b business across the region. Our target is to grow the business 100% y-o-y basis.



The IFLAPP scheme was extremely beneficial for the leather and footwear industries. It helped the sector in registering healthy growth rates. If the government extends it, the leather industry would get a significant fillip

SANJAY LEEKHA | CHAIRMAN, CLE

BOEING 787 DREAMLINERS MAY NOT BE DELIVERED TILL OCT: WSJ

Boeing Co's delivery of 787 Dreamliners will likely remain halted until at least late October as the US Federal Aviation Administration has rejected the company's recent proposal to inspect them, the Wall Street Journal reported Saturday



Swiss startup boost attracts Indian entrepreneurs

WITH INDIA BECOMING A MAJOR GLOBAL HUB OF ENTREPRENEURS SEEKING TO TAP THE STARTUP ROUTE, INDUSTRY EXPERTS SAID SWITZERLAND CAN EMERGE AS A MAJOR DESTINATION FOR INDIANS LOOKING TO SET UP THEIR NEW ENTERPRISES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bern, Sept 5: A large number of Indian entrepreneurs are looking to tap Switzerland's startup ecosystem to set up their new enterprises there with the Alpine nation planning to bolster its appeal as a preferred location for startups through a number of globally competitive measures.

According to a statement from the Swiss government, the European nation's top-decision making body, the Federal Council, had asked the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER) to examine

Switzerland's startup ecosystem, following which it has found that while this ecosystem is generally in good shape, there is room for improvement in a number of areas, namely technology transfer, internationalisation, access to skilled labour and financing.

The Federal Council has now tasked the EAER and the Federal Department of Justice and Police FDJP to examine further measures in these areas in greater detail and the findings are expected to be presented in June 2022.

Noting that startups play an increasingly important role in a country's innovative strength, the Swiss



government said the startups make a significant contribution to harnessing the innovation potential resulting from research and also play an important role in the development and application of new technological innovations.

With India becoming a major

global hub of entrepreneurs seeking to tap the startup route, industry experts said Switzerland can emerge as a major destination for Indians looking to set up their new enterprises in a global financial centre.

Several investment bankers and international law firms also said they are being approached by potential startup initiators from India to examine Switzerland's potential as a startup location, following the recent measures announced by the Swiss government.

Himanshu, Founder and CEO of IDDI Investments' parent firm Switzerland For You SA, which is

looking to attract entrepreneurs and investors from across the world including India to Switzerland, said the Swiss government's decision can go a long way in promoting the Swiss economy on a sustainable way.

Given the dynamics of the rapidly changing business environment, it is essential to constantly update the ecosystem with a view to attracting young talents and budding entrepreneurs from not only other parts of Europe but across the globe, said the Indian-origin businessman who is settled in Geneva and goes only by his first name.

Hero MotoCorp opens booking for next batch of Harley-Davidson



AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 5: Two-wheeler major Hero MotoCorp on Sunday announced opening of bookings for the next batch of Harley-Davidson adventure touring bike 'Pan America' 1250 after the first lot completely sold out.

The company also said that the bookings for all the 13 existing models and the Sportster S are currently open, along with the expansion of customer touch-points and service centres for Harley Davidson.

Hero MotoCorp now has an expanded network of 14 full-fledged dealerships and seven authorised service centres across the country, exclusively for Harley-Davidson customers, it said in a release.

In October last year, Hero MotoCorp and Harley-Davidson announced a partnership for the Indian market. As per the licensing pact, HeroMotoCorp has taken over the exclusive distribution rights of the Harley-Davidson motorcycle, parts and merchandise in India after the iconic American motorcycle maker pulled out of the Indian market.

"The Pan America 1250 is one of the most anticipated motorcycles of 2021. Considering it is Harley-Davidson's first foray into the adventure-touring segment, the motorcycle has already generated immense excitement among customers.

Govt's excise collection jumps 48% in April-July

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: The government's collections from levy of excise duty on petroleum products have jumped 48 per cent in the first four months of the current fiscal year, with the incremental mop-up being 3-times of the repayment liability of legacy oil bonds in the full fiscal, official data showed.

Data available from the Controller General of Accounts in the Union Ministry of Finance showed excise duty collections during April-July 2021 surging to over ₹1 lakh crore, from ₹67,885 crore mop-up in the same period of the previous fiscal.

After the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, excise duty is levied only on petrol, diesel, ATF and natural gas. Barring these products, all other goods and services are under the GST regime.

The incremental collections of ₹32,492 crore in the first four months of the fiscal year 2021-22 (April 2021 to March 2022) is three-times the ₹10,000 crore liability that the government has in the full year towards repayment of oil bonds that were issued by the previous Congress-led UPA government to subsidise fuel.



The incremental collections of ₹32,492 crore in Q1 2021-22 is 3-times the ₹10,000 crore liability that the government has in the full year towards repayment of oil bonds

Bulk of excise duty collection is from the levy on petrol and diesel and with sales picking up with a rebounding economy, the incremental collections in the current year may be over ₹1 lakh crore

Bulk of excise duty collection is from the levy on petrol and diesel and with sales picking up with a rebounding economy, the incremental collections in the current year may be over ₹1 lakh crore when compared with the previous year, industry sources said.

In all, the UPA government had

issued ₹1.34 lakh crore worth of bonds (equivalent to a sovereign commitment to pay in future) to state-owned oil companies to compensate them for selling fuel such as cooking gas LPG, kerosene and diesel at rates below cost.

Of this, ₹10,000 crore is due to be repaid in the current fiscal, according to the finance ministry.

First, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and then Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri had blamed the oil bonds for limiting fiscal space to give relief to people from fuel prices trading at near record high.

Sitharaman had last month ruled out a cut in excise duty on petrol and diesel to ease prices, saying payments in lieu of past subsidised fuel pose limitations. She put the total liability that the BJP government has to service at ₹1.3 lakh crore.

Trade deficit may continue to widen in 2nd half of FY22

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 5: India's trade deficit is likely to continue widening during the second half of the current financial year. Kotak Economic Research report noted that imports in August increased further as economic activity continued to normalise and exports continued to be strong but have stagnated at the current levels, for now, leading to a widening of the trade deficit.

"We expect the current trend to continue in 2HFY22 and maintain our FY2022E CAD/ GDP estimate at 1.1 per cent. We continue to pencil in USD-INR within 72.5-74 in the near term," it said.

Exports in August increased 45.2 per cent to \$33.1 billion but declined sequentially by 6.5 per cent. Non-oil exports at \$28.6 billion increased 36.6 per cent while falling 3.3 per cent sequentially. Compared to August 2019, exports were higher by 27.5 per cent and non-oil exports increased by 25.5 per cent.

However, exports have been stagnating around the current levels after a sharp spike in March 2021. Top exports in August (over August 2020) were gems and jewellery (88 per cent), engineering goods (58.8



per cent), cotton and handloom products (55.6 per cent), and chemicals (35.8 per cent).

Imports in August increased 51.5 per cent to \$47 billion while increasing sequentially by 1.3 per cent (July: \$46.4 billion). Non-oil import was at \$35.4 billion increasing 43.9 per cent, while increasing sequentially by 5.6 per cent. Compared to August 2019, imports were higher by 18 per cent and non-oil imports increased by 22.6 per cent.

"We expect the overall external sector to remain comfortable but will be subjected to risks from a widening trade deficit, high commodity prices, and policy normalization in the US, and spread of Covid cases," it said.

BIZ BUZZ

Samsung launches Galaxy Watch4 Series

New Delhi: Samsung, India's most trusted smartphone brand, today announced the launch of Galaxy Watch4, Galaxy Watch4 Classic and Galaxy Buds2 in India. The pre-booking for Galaxy Watch4 Series and Galaxy Buds2 will start from August 30, 2021. Galaxy Buds2 will be available in Graphite, White, Olive Green and Lavender and priced at ₹11999. Watch4 will be available in Pink Gold, Black, & Silver priced at 40MM BT ₹23999, LTE ₹28999, 44MM BT at ₹26999, LTE ₹31999 and Watch4 Classic is available in Silver and Black colour and priced at 42MM BT ₹31999, LTE ₹36999, 46MM BT ₹34999, and LTE ₹39999. On pre-booking Galaxy Watch4 Series, consumers will be eligible for e-voucher worth ₹6000. On pre-booking Galaxy Buds2, consumers will be eligible for e-voucher worth ₹3000.

Amazon to host Career Day Sept 16

New Delhi: Amazon today announced that it will host its first-ever Career Day in India on September 16. Career Day will feature interesting and informative sessions including a fireside chat with Amazon CEO, Andy Jassy, who will share his own career experience and advice for job-seekers. Amit Agarwal, Global Senior Vice President and Country Head of Amazon India will deliver the opening India keynote, followed by exciting panel discussions with Amazon leaders and employees to 'decode' 'Life at Amazon', its unique workplace culture and what makes Amazon a great place to work at. As part of the event, besides multiple global and India-focused sessions, 140 Amazon recruiters will conduct 2000 free, one-on-one career coaching sessions with job seekers across the country.

Cos can incorporate rewards, incentives to achieve ESG goals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: Companies in India are increasingly focusing on the importance of environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues following the coronavirus pandemic, and their compensation committees can play a crucial role in taking this agenda further, according to global advisory firm Willis Towers Watson.

Rewards and incentives could be incorporated in a company's ESG matrix to achieve the larger agenda, and companies must chalk out a plan that drives the right ESG behaviour in the long term and reward the management for the same, Willis Towers Watson said.

"The incentivising achievement of the ESG matrix must be done in a top-down manner: Boards need to

set the right expectations for the management and reward them for delivering the desired performance while demonstrating the right behaviours," said Rajul Mathur, consulting head (talent and rewards), India, Willis Towers Watson.

Mathur further noted that one big lever that companies must use to drive this agenda is through "executive compensation".

"Boards need to set the right expectations for the management and reward them for delivering the desired performance whilst demonstrating the right behaviours. One big lever that they must use to drive this agenda is through executive compensation," he said.

For example, how significantly the management can reduce their carbon footprint (direct and indirect) in terms of tCO2e (or tonnes



of CO2 equivalent) could be one of the parameters to drive incentivisation, he said.

"But, this is not as simple as it might seem to appear: Designing the right LTI (long-term incentive) plan with stretch but realisable targets is critical and dependent on a number of considerations - a

plan that drives right ESG behaviour in the long term and rewards the management for the same," he noted.

According to Willis Towers Watson's Global Executive Compensation Trends, ESG has become a critical business consideration, impacting companies' cost

of, and access to, capital. ESG goals and outcomes directly impact the company's reputation with the public and employees, and often play a role in attracting and retaining a

new generation of talent. Companies with strong ESG practices have been found to deliver more sustainable returns, including higher levels of value creation and risk mitigation. Investors and stakeholders now believe that modern-day corporates should have a moral responsibility towards the environment and society at large, and are demanding greater accountability and transparency in this regard.

In India, ESG reporting was limited through BRR (business responsibility reporting) and CSR reporting. However, in 2021, the BRR committee took the next steps and recommended a BRSR (Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report) reporting

HOUSING DEMAND RECOVERY

Anarock eyes up to 50% revenue growth in FY22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: Property consultant Anarock aims up to 50 per cent growth in its turnover to around ₹450 crore this fiscal year on the back of recovery in housing demand after the second wave of the Covid pandemic.

Mumbai-based Anarock, which is one of the leading housing brokerage firms in the country, had clocked an 18 per cent growth in its revenue at around ₹305 crore during the 2020-21 financial year despite the pandemic.

In an interview with PTI, Anarock Chairman Anuj Puri said,

"Housing demand bounced back strongly both after the first and second wave of the Covid. The recovery happened much faster than our expectations."

Asked about the company's revenue outlook in FY22, Puri said the company is expecting strong growth in turnover on improved housing sales driven by pent up demand and low interest rate on home loans.

"We are targeting to achieve a revenue of around ₹400-450 crore from our housing brokerage business and other consultancy services in offices, capital market, hotel, malls and project management

among others," he said. Puri said significant revenue will also come from its joint venture firm with UK-based Mace.

The JV, formed in July 2020, provides project management services to Indian real estate developers and infrastructure firms.

On the market, Puri said the size of the residential real estate market has shrunk from the pre-COVID level but developers with good execution track record have performed well and their sales bookings numbers have grown. He expects a strong housing demand during the upcoming festive season as it was seen during the last year.



Data from primemfdatabase.com showed that the AUMs of the other major players HDFC Mutual Fund, ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund, Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund and Nippon India Mutual Fund stood at around ₹4,37,093 crore, ₹4,34,180 crore, ₹2,58,416 crore and ₹2,57,544 crore, respectively higher by 8.5 per cent, 9.4 per cent, 13.4 per cent, and 16.3 per cent from their respective AUMs in December 2020.

Backed by a low base, smaller fund houses have also witnessed a higher growth rate in their AUMs during the period. In tandem with the rise in the equity market, small players made giant strides during the year.

PRAMOD MISSES A SECOND MEDAL AS HE AND PALAK KOHLI LOSE IN BRONZE MEDAL PLAYOFF MATCH

Shuttlers sign off in style

A PARALYMPIC GAMES LIKE NEVER BEFORE

Indian athletes bag record 19 medals in Tokyo

AGENCIES

Tokyo, Sept 5: Inspirational, incredible and indomitable. This is how India's performance at the Paralympics Games here can aptly be described. India's paralympians finished off with a historic 19 medals, including five gold. It helped them finish 24th in the medals' table. The tally also included eight silver and six bronze medals.

Even on the last day of competitions, the medal rush did not stop and Krishna Nagar won a gold after Suhas Yathiraj signed off his brilliant run with a silver to complete a remarkable badminton show. The duo's performance was like icing on the cake for the contingent.

In all, 54 came here and 17 of them left with medals around their necks. For the first time, the attention in India will definitely turn to paralympic sports.

It was an improved performance no doubt but calling it just improvement would be an understatement given that India's overall Games haul was a mere 12 before this edition.

"Phenomenal Rise of Indian Paralympians! A New Era has begun," Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said Sunday.

There were several firsts to celebrate and the euphoria lasted the entire duration of the Paralympic Games. Two shooters Avani Lekhara and Singhraj Adana, finished off a 10m air pistol bronze and 50m pistol silver to ensure that



MEDALS TALLY (TOP 3 AND INDIA)				
	G	S	B	Total
China	96	60	51	207
Great Britain	41	38	45	124
USA	37	36	31	104
India(24th)	5	8	6	19

ing their own legacies in their debut Paralympic Games.

The 19-year-old Lekhara became the first Indian woman to win a Games gold (10m air rifle) and later added a bronze in 50m rifle 3 positions to ensure that her name would now be part of every India-centric Paralympic quiz. The 39-year-old Adana, on the other hand, knocked off a 10m air pistol bronze and 50m pistol silver to ensure that

India had more than one double-medallist in the same Games.

There was the first medal in archery through Harvinder Singh (bronze), impaired after wrong medication for dengue and the first medal in table tennis by waist-down paralysed Bhavinben Patel (silver), and also a remarkable two gold medals in badminton won by Pramod Bhagat and Krishna Nagar.



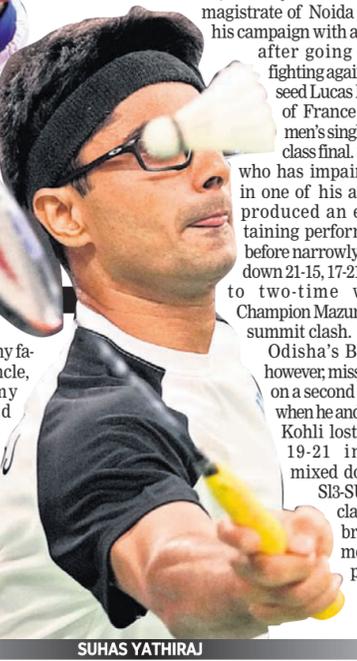
KRISHNA NAGAR

gold in badminton in SL3 class Saturday. "This is a

Paralympics and I hope that India will keep winning and doing their best at upcoming Games," he added. Suhas, the 38-year-old district magistrate of Noida ended his campaign with a silver after going down fighting against top seed Lucas Mazur of France in the men's singles SL4 class final. Suhas, who has impairment in one of his ankles, produced an entertaining performance before narrowly going down 21-15, 17-21, 15-21 to two-time world Champion Mazur in the summit clash.

dream come true. I want to thank my father, mother, uncle, auntie, God, my coaches," said Nagar after winning India's fifth gold at the Games. "This is the first time that badminton has been added to the

to the



SUHAS YATHIRAJ

Odisha's Bhagat however, missed out on a second medal when he and Palak Kohli lost 21-23, 19-21 in the mixed doubles SL3-SU5 class bronze medal playoff.

AGENCIES

Tokyo, Sept 5: Krishna Nagar secured a second gold medal in badminton after Suhas Yathiraj claimed a silver as it turned out to be a Super Sunday for the Indian badminton contingent at the Paralympic Games here.

The 22-year-old Nagar, seeded second, defeated Hong Kong's Chu Man Kai 21-17, 16-21, 21-17 in the men's singles SH6 class final to retain his unbeaten run at the Games and join compatriot Pramod Bhagat in the gold medal-winning list. Bhagat had claimed India's first

SHORT TAKES

Sindhu rested

New Delhi: Star Indian shuttlers Saina Nehwal and B Sai Praneeth will lead the women and men's teams in the Thomas and Uber Cup Finals, scheduled to be played in Denmark, October 9-17. The Badminton Association of India (BAI) also named Sunday a 12-member Indian team for the Sudirman Cup, which is slated to take place from September 26 to October 3 in Finland. Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist PV Sindhu has been rested for both the events. Odisha's Rutuparna Panda has been selected to the team as a doubles specialist. The 10-member men's team also comprise of four singles players and three doubles pairs. Former World No.1 Kidambi Srikanth has been included in the team.

Exuding confidence

Karachi: Pakistan captain Babar Azam is confident that familiarity of playing many matches in Dubai gives his team an advantage over India when they face-off in their opening league game of the ICC World T20, October 24. Pakistan have had very little success against India in ICC tournaments. However, they have played 36 T20 Internationals at the Dubai International Stadium winning 21 of them. "The side that will execute their plans better and cash in on most of the opportunities will come out the winner. UAE is like our second home. We have won many T20 matches there. So, yes, this is an added advantage for us," Babar stated here Sunday.

India beat Nepal

Kathmandu: Farukh Choudhary and skipper Sunil Chhetri struck in the second half to guide India to a 2-1 win over Nepal in their second International friendly here Sunday. Choudhary (62nd) put India in the lead while Chhetri (80th) doubled the tally. Tej Tamang (87th) found the net for the hosts in dying minutes of the match at the Dasharath Stadium here. The first match had ended in a 1-1 draw. India were dominant in the first half, but were kept at bay by Nepal goalie Kiran Limbu. Even then Chhetri and Anirudh Thapa missed golden opportunities to put India ahead. The introduction of Choudhary in the second session paid dividends for India as he scored off a through ball provided by Chhetri.

Shastri tests positive, isolated with 4 others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 5: India head coach Ravi Shastri has tested positive for Covid-19. It has resulted in Shastri's isolation along with three other support staff members who were deemed his close contacts. Giving this information Sunday the BCCI however, asserted that there is no threat to the ongoing fourth Test against England here.

The 59-year-old Shastri returned positive in a lateral flow test (Rapid Antigen Test) and will stay in isolation till his and others' RT-PCR Test reports come clear. The others who have been isolated are bowling coach Bharath Arun, fielding coach R Sridhar and physiotherapist Nitin Patel.

Rahul fined

Dubai: India opener KL Rahul was fined 15 per cent of his match fee Sunday for showing dissent at the umpire's decision when he was adjudged caught behind following a DRS review on the third day of the fourth Test against England in London. The incident occurred in the 34th over of India's second innings Saturday. It was a breach of Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct. In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to the disciplinary record of Rahul, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period.



The playing members have, however, tested negative in two lateral flow tests conducted Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

"The BCCI medical team has isolated Ravi Shastri, head coach, B Arun, bowling coach, R Sridhar, fielding coach and Nitin Patel, physiotherapist as a precautionary measure. This happened after Shastri's lateral flow test returned positive last (Saturday) evening," BCCI secretary Jay Shah stated in a release.

It is understood that Shastri may have got the symptoms after attending the launch of his book in the team hotel where outside guests were also allowed. Arun, Patel and Sridhar attended that function in person. "Since there are no restrictions in the UK, outside guests were allowed during Shastri's book launch party," a BCCI source said. The team is set to travel Tuesday to Manchester for the fifth Test.

OPENERS BURNS, HAMEED GRIND DOWN INDIAN BOWLERS

Solid start by England

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 5: England began strongly chasing a victory target of 368 runs in the fourth Test against India at the Oval here Sunday. At stumps on day four, the hosts were 77 without loss. Both openers Rory Burns (31 batting) and Haseeb Hameed (43 batting) showed admirable temperament to thwart the Indian bowlers. The hosts need another 291 runs to take a 2-1 lead in the series.

If England manage to negotiate the opening session Monday without losing too many wickets, then Virat Kohli will certainly rue keeping out Ravichandran Ashwin from the playing XI. England bat deep and it certainly has not been a good decision to keep a man on the bench who has 413 Test wickets.

Earlier India were bowled out for 466 after they suffered a mini collapse and were reduced to 312 for six just before lunch. However, a seventh wicket partnership of exactly a 100 runs between Shardul Thakur (60, 72b, 7x4, 1x6) and Rishabh Pant (50, 106b, 4x4) took them to a position of comfort. Some good use of the long handle by Umesh Yadav (25) and Jasprit Bumrah (24) helped India go past the 450-run mark. Chris Woakes (3/83) was the best bowler for England.

Shardul continued in his attacking vein to get his second half century of the Test. He was severe



TWO TO TANGO: Shardul Thakur and Rishabh Pant have something to talk about during their 100-run partnership Sunday

on anything pitched up to him. Pant, on the other hand curbed his attacking instincts, and played responsibly.

In the morning session Chris Woakes got rid of Ravindra Jadeja (17) and Ajinkya Rahane (0) while Moeen got the prized scalp of Kohli

(44) having him caught in the slips. **Brief scores:** India 191 and 466 (Shardul Thakur 60, Rishabh Pant 50, Chris Woakes 3/83), England 290 and 77 without loss (Haseeb Hameed 43 batting, Rory Burns 31 batting). Match to continue.

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Ukraine hold fancied France

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Sept 5: Reigning champion France missed the injured Kylian Mbappé in a 1-1 draw at Ukraine in World Cup qualifying but still stayed atop Europe's Group D points table.

Mykola Shaparenko scored his first international goal Saturday for Ukraine just before half time by smashing in a shot from 20 metres.

Anthony Martial levelled after the break following a set up from Kingsley Coman and Adrien Rabiot. It was Martial's second international goal and it came five years and three days after the Manchester United forward's previous strike in a friendly against Italy.

Mbappé was left out of the French squad with a calf problem after playing Wednesday most of a 1-1 draw with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

France have nine points from five matches and Finland are next with five points from three games after a header from Joel Pohjanpalo earned a 1-0 win over Kazakhstan.

Ukraine also have five points from five matches, while Bosnia and Kazakhstan have two points each. Only the group winners directly qualify for the World Cup. Second-place finishers face a playoff.

France were definitely the better side, but Ukraine always looked good on the counter-attack.

CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE PARALYMPIC GAMES HELD WITH MUCH FANFARE, BONHOMIE

Tokyo's Olympic saga finally ends

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, Sept 5: The final act of the delayed Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics came Sunday. It was almost eight years to the day after the Japanese capital was awarded the Olympic Games.

The Paralympics ended a 13-day run in a colourful, circus-like ceremony at the National Stadium overseen by Crown Prince Akishino, the brother of Emperor Naruhito. The Olympics closed almost a month ago.

These were unprecedented Olympics and Paralympics, postponed for a year and marked by footnotes and asterisks. No fans were allowed during the Olympics, except for a few thousand at outlying venues away from Tokyo. A few thousand school children were allowed into some Paralympic venues. "There were many times when we thought these Games could not



COLOURFUL FAREWELL: Fireworks illuminate the night sky during the closing ceremony of the Tokyo Paralympic Games, Sunday

happen," Andrew Parsons, president of the International Paralympic Committee, said Sunday. "There were many sleepless nights. But finally it's done," Parsons added.

The closing ceremony was entitled 'Harmonious Cacophony' and involved both able-bodied actors and others with disabilities. The theme was described by organisers

as a 'world inspired by the Paralympics, one where differences shine'. "I believe that we have reached the end of games without any major problems," said Seiko Hashimoto, the president of the Tokyo organising committee.

The Paralympics involved a record number of athletes - 4,405 - and a record number of coun-

tries won medals. They also saw two athletes from Afghanistan compete, both of whom arrived several days late after fleeing Kabul.

The costs also set records. A study by the University of Oxford found these to be the most expensive Games on record. Japan officially spent USD 15.4 billion to organise the Olympics and Paralympics, double the original estimate. Several government audits suggested the real costs are twice that. All but USD 6.7 billion is public money.

But there was fallout, however, and lots of it.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga announced Friday that he would not continue in office. Suga hoped to get a re-election bump from the Olympics. He got the opposite as his approval rating plummeted after a slow vaccine rollout in Japan, and a contentious decision to stage the Games during the pandemic.

ROGERS SHOCKS TOP SEED BARTY

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 5: Shelby Rogers lingered on the court and panned her phone around at the fans at Arthur Ashe Stadium for a snapshot souvenir of the scene after she beat Ashleigh Barty for the first time. Not just at the US Open tennis tournament, but for the first time in her career.

Rogers was winless in five meetings - four this year - against the No. 1 player, forcing the last American left in the women's draw to mix up her methodology.

Urged on by a raucous crowd at the Flushing Meadows here, Rogers smacked winners, stayed patient - and waited as a rattled Barty hit a slew of unforced errors that led to another early exit here for the reigning Wimbledon champion. Rogers rallied from 2-5 down in the third set to upset Barty 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (7-5) Saturday night for the biggest win of the 28-year-old's career.



That incredible feeling: Shelby Rogers wears an incredulous expression on her face after beating top seed Ash Barty at the US Open Saturday

"I just tried to get the crowd into it. I said, 'You know what, if I'm going to go down, I'm going to give a last dying effort!'" Rogers said after the match. "You find ways to stay in the present and stay not thinking about I'm down 2-5," Rogers added.