



TRUE PROFESSIONAL

Actor Yami Gautam says she always makes sure to remain true to herself while choosing a project

LEISURE P2



MATTER OF CONCERN

Srinagar has become the new epicentre of terror activities in the last one year

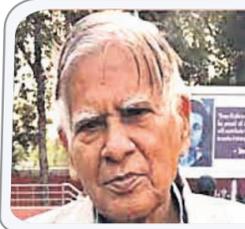
TWO STATES P8



DJOKO IN QUARTERS

Novak Djokovic continues his Calendar Slam quest as he moves into US Open quarters beating Jenson Brooksby

SPORTS P12



Hate speech: Ch'garh CM's dad jailed

Raipur: Raipur police have arrested Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's father Nand Kumar Baghel from Delhi in a case registered against him for allegedly making derogatory remarks against a community, an official said here Tuesday. The CM had strongly disapproved of the remarks allegedly made by his 86-year-old father and said nobody is above law. "Nand Kumar Baghel was arrested and brought from Delhi to Raipur Tuesday," Raipur Additional Superintendent of Police Tarkeshwar Patel said.



Bitcoin official currency in El Salvador

San Salvador: El Salvador Tuesday became the first country to adopt bitcoin as legal tender, a real-world experiment proponents say will lower commission costs for billions of dollars sent from abroad but which critics warned may fuel money laundering. The change means businesses should accept payment in bitcoin alongside the US dollar and will remain legal tender. President Nayib Bukele, who has pushed for adopting the cryptocurrency, says it will help Salvadorans save about \$400 million the government calculates is spent annually on commissions. P11

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Searching him in his constituency was a mistake. Nobody here has seen him since elections

2nd low-pressure around Sept 11

Bhubaneswar: Low pressure-induced heavy rainfall lashed 11 districts as the MeT Department forecast the formation of a fresh depression over the Bay of Bengal around September 11. The weatherman issued a 'yellow' warning for 14 districts in south and coastal Odisha and warned fishermen against venturing into the sea Wednesday. Banki in Cuttack district and Khandapara in Nayagarh received very heavy rainfall of 140 mm and 117.4 mm respectively till 8.30 am Tuesday. P4

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	58279.48 ↓ 17.43
NIFTY	17362.10 ↓ 15.70
DOLLAR	73.76 ↑ ₹0.34
EURO	87.32 ↑ ₹0.42
GOLD	₹47,005 ↓ ₹420
SILVER	₹64,574 ↓ ₹718

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	31.4°C	31.2°C
TEMP. MIN	25.0°C	24.5°C
Humidity	89%	85%
Rainfall	5.3mm	1mm
Forecast	Light rain very likely	



RALLYING AGAINST FARM LAWS: Over 20,000 farmers gather to attend Kisan Mahapanchayat against the Centre's farm reform laws in Karnal, Tuesday (REPORT 9)

Schools shut after 34 pupils test Covid +ve

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh/Dhenkanal, Sept 7: A total of 34 students from two high schools in Dhenkanal and Bargarh districts have tested positive for Covid-19.

The Kanapura High School in Kamakhyanagar locality was shut down for a week after 20 persons tested positive for Covid-19. Among those hit by the Covid-19 virus 14 were students, officials said Tuesday. Officials stated that 334 random samples were collected from students and staff of the school including teachers. When reports came it was found that 14 students (all hostel residents), five teachers and one person have been infected by the virus. The management decided to shut down the school for seven days. The students have been sent to their homes.

The Bargarh administration shut down the hostel of the private school after 19 inmates tested positive for Covid-19 over past four days. All the affected inmates are within 14 to 16 years of age. Initially, seven students tested positive. Later, seven more students tested positive September 6 and five students Tuesday.

Amended PR Bills passed

■ Passage of the PR bills in the Assembly Tuesday has removed the hurdle before holding of elections to the long-pending urban local bodies in the state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Paving the way for elections to various urban local bodies (ULBs), the State Assembly Tuesday passed the Odisha Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021 to keep the overall reservation in the ULBs at 50 per cent.

Housing and Urban Development Minister Pratap Jena introduced the bill Tuesday evening which was then passed in the house.

Article 243T of the Constitution provides for reservation of seats in municipalities. Accordingly, the Orissa Municipal Act 1950 and the Orissa Municipal Corporation Act 2003 provide for reservation of seats for elections to the extent of 27 per cent in favour of BCC in the state, Jena said in his statement. Similarly, for SCs & STs, as per

provision of the Constitution, reservation of seats has been made in urban areas of Odisha in proportion to their population in the respective urban areas. In view of the above statutory provisions, in some of the ULBs the reservation of seats for SC, ST and backward classes exceeds 50 per cent.

In 2013, the Orissa High Court had directed the state government to make reservation of seats for SC, ST and BCC within 50 per cent in accordance with the judgment passed by the Supreme Court in the K Krishna Murthy case. Challenging the order, the state moved to the Supreme Court which had upheld the decision of the HC.

In order to comply with the decision of the courts, the government has amended the laws to limit the total extent of reservation for election in ULBs to 50 per cent.

With this amendment, the upper ceiling of reservation of seats for SC, ST and BCC will be 50 per cent and the upper limit of reservation of seats for BCC will not exceed 27 per cent.

The government will first give priority to ST and SC population



■ The upper ceiling of seat quotas for SC, ST and BCC will be 50 pc and the upper limit of seat quota for BCC will not exceed 27 pc

■ The Assembly has also passed the Odisha Repealing Bill, 2021 to repeal 206 obsolete laws that cover the year from 1974 to 2015

in reservation. The remaining seats, if left, will be reserved for the backward class citizens with a maximum ceiling of 27 per cent, sources said.

Making a similar provision, the state government has also introduced the Odisha Panchayat Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021

\$1bn offer acceptable, will drop cases: Cairn

■ Following Centre's legislation last month to drop ₹1.1 lakh crore in outstanding claims against MNCs including Cairn, the latter has accepted the offer and announced it will drop cases against India within days

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 7: UK-based Cairn Energy PLC Tuesday said it will drop litigations to seize Indian properties in countries ranging from France to the US, within a couple of days of getting a USD 1 billion refund resulting from the scrapping of a retrospective tax law.

The firm, which gave India its biggest onland oil discovery, termed "bold" the legislation passed last month to cancel a 2012 policy that gave the tax department power to go back 50 years and slap capital gains levies whenever ownership had changed hands overseas but business assets were in India.

The offer to return money seized to enforce retrospective tax de-

mand in lieu of dropping all litigations against the government "is acceptable to us," Cairn CEO Simon Thomson told PTI in an interview from London.

Cairn will drop cases to seize diplomatic apartments in Paris and Air India airplanes in the US in "a matter of a couple of days" after the refund, he said adding Cairn's shareholders are in agreement with accepting the offer and moving on.

"Some of our core shareholders likes BlackRock and Franklin Templeton agree (to this). Our view is supported by our core shareholders (that) on balance it is better to accept and move on and be pragmatic. Rather than continue with something negative for all parties," he said.

Seeking to repair India's damaged reputation as an investment destination, the government last month enacted new legislation to drop ₹1.1 lakh crore in outstanding claims against multinationals such as telecom group Vodafone, pharmaceuticals company Sanofi and brewer SABMiller, now owned by AB InBev, and Cairn.

Hasan to head Taliban govt

AGENCIES

Peshawar, Sept 7: Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund, the chief of the Taliban's powerful decision-making body 'Rehbari Shura', has been named as Afghanistan's new head of state by the insurgent group's top leader Mullah Hebatullah Akhundzada, according to a Pakistani media report.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, Chairman of Taliban's Political Office in Doha, and Mullah Abdus Salam will work as deputies of Mullah Hasan in the new Taliban government, which is likely to be announced next week, The News International reported, citing multiple sources. Mullah Hasan is

presently head of the Taliban's powerful decision-making body - Rehbari Shura or leadership council - which serves much like a government Cabinet running all the group's affairs subject to the approval of the top leader.

Mullah Hebatullah himself proposed Mullah Hassan's name to head the government. Mullah Hassan belongs to Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taliban, and was among the founders of the armed movement. He worked for 20 years as head of Rehbari Shura and remained close to Mullah Hebatullah. He had served as foreign minister and deputy prime minister during the Taliban's previous government. More P10



Infections better immunity booster than vax: Study

■ With cases surging globally and deaths driven by delta variant, waiting for infection - and risking long-term health problems, severe illness and death - to achieve immunity is as fruitless as it is dangerous

AGENCIES

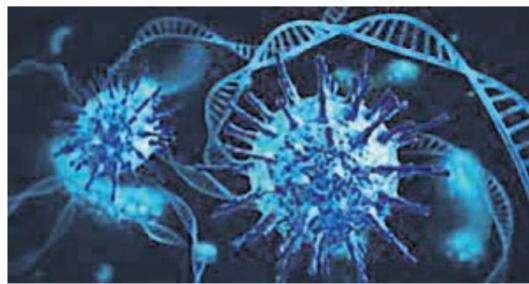
Solna (Sweden), Sept 7: Israel was way ahead of the rest of the world when it came to COVID vaccination, so it's not surprising that data from this corner of the Mediterranean causes a lot of excitement - it's a glimpse into the future.

Researchers at Maccabi Healthcare Services in Tel Aviv released a preprint suggesting people who had been infected with

COVID had greater protection than vaccinated people against becoming reinfected with the delta variant. Unfortunately, some took this to mean that getting COVID is a better idea than getting vaccinated.

First, the possibility that a COVID infection leads to longer-lived immunity than vaccination is not far-fetched. Infection exposes our immune system to several viral proteins, whereas the most commonly used COVID vaccines introduce a single antigen: the spike protein. This results in a more directed but also a more restricted immune response than after infection.

Although people who have had COVID can get reinfected, naturally acquired immunity continues to evolve over time and antibodies remain detectable for longer than



was first anticipated. New evidence suggests that immunity following both severe and mild infection protects against both symptomatic and asymptomatic reinfection.

However, apart from the danger of drawing conclusions from data

that other scientists have not yet reviewed, it is also crucial to put the data in the right context. Although the study draws attention to the potency of naturally acquired immunity, it does not consider the risks involved in achieving natu-

ral immunity through infection. Nor does it cast a shadow on vaccine-generated immunity. In fact, the benefit of vaccination is not even addressed in the study since unvaccinated people without prior infection were not included for comparison. The low rate of COVID-related hospitalisations among vaccinated participants (eight out of 16,000) would probably be strikingly lower than among non-vaccinated people without prior infection, but this group was not included in the analyses.

A common reason to remain unvaccinated is the misconception that waiting for natural immunity by choosing infection over vaccination is an option. But infection-acquired immunity may come at a heavy cost.

leisure



ZENDAYA SAYS THERAPY IS 'A BEAUTIFUL THING'

Hollywood star Zendaya would 'recommend' therapy to anyone who can afford it as she calls it a 'beautiful thing'. Zendaya shared: "Of course I go to therapy. I mean, if anybody is able to possess the financial means to go to therapy, I would recommend they do that. I think it's a beautiful thing."

KATIE PRICE WANTS BABY VIA SURROGACY

Former glamour model and singer Katie Price, who is already a mother of five children, wants to have a baby via surrogacy and is determined to have as many as she can. Katie has Harvey with Dwight Yorke, Junior and Princess with first husband Peter Andre and Jett and Bunny with third spouse Kieran Hayler.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will be quite circumspect throughout the day, predicts Ganesh. Your spirits will soar high as you will be invited to join parties and socialise a bit. You will find the correct balance between work and having fun.

TAURUS
You are likely to be in a mood to get away from the daily grind and take a much needed break. You would naturally try to stay free from future concerns and commitments and keep all your woes and worries aside for the day.

GEMINI
A long and hectic day awaits you. You will be in the mood to finish off long-pending projects at work or at home. There is a chance that your personal life may get affected due to the extra attention you pay towards work.

CANCER
Today, you will strictly follow your plan book. All Ganesh needs to do to predict your day is take a peep into the book. However, this is only one of those rare days when things go according to plan. You are likely to keep your views to yourself, and will hardly betray what's on your mind.

LEO
Most battles are fought and won inside our head. Hence, Ganesh urges you to maintain a positive outlook today. The stars grant you the ability to double your efforts, and allow your imagination to take flight and chart new routes to success.

VIRGO
A day to look inside and contemplate. Find peace and prosperity, says Ganesh. Clam up like those oysters and discover the pearl within you. A fine helping hand you shall lend today to those who need it, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that today in your office you should be very careful in your work. It is likely that your superiors will not be happy about your work or your ability today. Those of you who are businessmen should try and delay sending off tenders today.

SCORPIO
It is about time you learn to deal with frustration in a more healthy manner. The right choice is always the hardest to make. Do not let sentiments sway you into hasty choices because they may feel right, but might also be extremely impractical. There may some strain on your relationship with near and dear ones. Learn to be patient and calm in the face of adversity, advises Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Going to private parties is a high probability today. All in all, make the most of it as you get nostalgic with old friends and make plans with new ones. Moreover, relatives will be pleased to meet you after a long time.

CAPRICORN
It's time to prove your extraordinary skills as a professional, says Ganesh. You will go out of your way, and even double your efforts to accomplish set goals, and chances are that you might succeed. Family and friends will be glad that could take out time to spend some happy hours with them.

AQUARIUS
It's a day you may want to spend with yourself. But it may still not bring the desired peace and tranquility. An unpleasant situation may force you to deal with reality, says Ganesh. You now realise how much strength you derive from your devotion to God.

PISCES
While you will need loads of moral support to keep your spirits up, you are also likely to be blessed with the company of a person who is equipped to provide just that. Positive results will come your way as long as you do not give up. Use your imagination and creativity to surge ahead of the competition, says Ganesh.

The script needs to speak to me: Yami

Mumbai: Yami Gautam has a slew of films lined up such as *Bhoot Police*, *Lost*, *Dasvi* and *A Thursday*. The actress says she never wants to let go of the importance of judging a project based on its writing and that she always makes sure to remain true to herself while choosing a project.

Talking about her process before choosing a project, Yami said: "While reading a script, I always make sure to perceive it as a reader as well. If it can keep the audience inside me engaged, I know it will work on the screen."

She added: "As an actor, I never want to let go of the importance of judging a project basis its writing because you are as good as your script."

"I always make sure to remain true to myself while choosing a project."

The newly-wed actress says the "script needs to speak" to her:

"Following the first instinct, you get after reading a script always works," added the actress, who is married to filmmaker Aditya Dhar.



Sattriya dance, Hindustani vocal recital win hearts on third day

POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: Yet another laudable day of dance, music and organisational precision marked the third evening of the 27th Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award Festival, Tuesday.

After a digital message delivered by Sachin Ramachandra Jadhav, Director, Odisha Tourism, Chief Guest for the evening, the event, organised by *Srjan*, witnessed the breathtaking performance by Sattriya exponent Anwesa Mahanta, followed by a soulful Hindustani vocal recital by Manjusha Patil.



Hindustani vocalist Manjusha Patil

One of the oldest dance traditions of India, Sattriya dance was introduced in the 15th century by Srimanta Sankaradeva. In Mahanta's presentations, the viewers saw a glimpse of the *Prakriti* and *Purusha* repertoire of the Sattriya dance tradition. Dedication and grace were reflected in the performance of Mahanta, a disciple of maestro Bayanacharya Ghanakanta Bora and a member

of Vaisnava monastery of Assam. A recipient of the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar, she commenced her performance with a *Vandana* with music by Hari Prasad Saikia Barbayan.

This was followed by an Abhinaya sequence representing the rich Natya vocabulary of the tradition, *Rukmini Katha*, inspired by Sankardeva's play, *Rukmini Harana*. Set to the rhythm composition of Bora and Barbayan and choreography of Bora, the music of the presentation was scored by Prabhat Sarma. Her concluding appearance was a representation of the Purusha aspect of the tradition through the choreographic narrative of Markandeya Stuti.

The second half of the event witnessed Manjusha Patil's soulful renditions of various Hindustani compositions. Currently training under



Sattriya dancer Anwesa Mahanta

Pt. Ulhas Kashalkar, Patil has established a Gurukul in Sangli, Maharashtra under Sangeetacharya D. V. Kanebuva Pratishtan. She commenced her recital with *Raag Nand*, presenting renditions of *Dhundu Baare Saiyya* in *Vilambit Teen Taal* and *Ajahu Na Aye* in *Drut Teen Taal*. She then explored *Raag Basant*, presenting *Kanha Ranagawaa Na Daro* in *Addha Teen Taal*, and concluded her recital with the Marathi Abhang, *Aga Vaikunthichya Raya*.

The Wire star Michael K Williams found dead in his NY apartment

New York: US actor Michael K. Williams, one of television's most memorable stars of recent years for his role as Omar Little in *The Wire*, has been found dead in his New York City apartment, police said Monday.

News of the death of the 54-year-old triggered an outpouring of grief among fans and former colleagues.

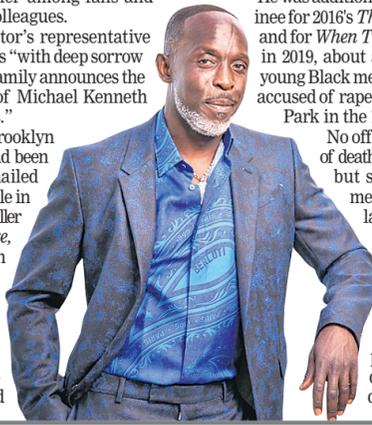
The actor's representative said it was "with deep sorrow that the family announces the passing of Michael Kenneth Williams."

The Brooklyn native had been widely hailed for his role in gritty thriller *The Wire*, in which he played a gay armed robber who specialised

in holding up drug dealers. Williams was also well-known for the role of Albert "Chalky" White on the HBO series *Boardwalk Empire*. He received multiple Emmy nominations for his work, including for his turn in the series *Lovecraft Country*, ahead of the 2021 ceremony that will take place in just under two weeks.

He was additionally a nominee for 2016's *The Night Of* and for *When They See Us* in 2019, about a group of young Black men wrongly accused of rape in Central Park in the 1980s.

No official cause of death was given, but several US media quoted law enforcement sources as saying they suspected a possible drug overdose. AGENCIES



Odia filmmaker's Hindi film Phool nominated for IOFF

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Hindi short film *Phool*, shot extensively in Odisha, has been nominated for Indian Online Film Festival (IOFF). The film has been directed and produced by Mayurbhanj-based filmmaker Rudra Ranjan Sejapada, who earlier had earned kudos at festival circuit for his short films *Ek Idiot* (Hindi) and *Identity* (English).

Ek Idiot bagged Best Film awards at International EduDoc Film Festival and International Shobhana Film Festival, New Delhi in 2018 while *Identity* won Best Child Actor award at International Shobhana Film Festival, New Delhi in 2020.

Rudra says, "Farmers, who

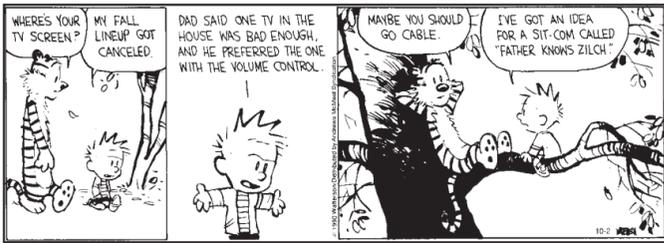


feed the nation, are ending lives frequently. *Phool*, a one-character film depicts the relationship between soil and a farmer. It starts with death of a farmer. However, he, before dying, had conserved some soil and kept it at his house. His widow is seen using that soil to grow a marigold tree and offering flowers to her late husband." Pratyasha says, "Though the film has no dialogue, it shakes you up and asks the viewers to treat farmers with respect. It also creates awareness about conservation of soil."

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

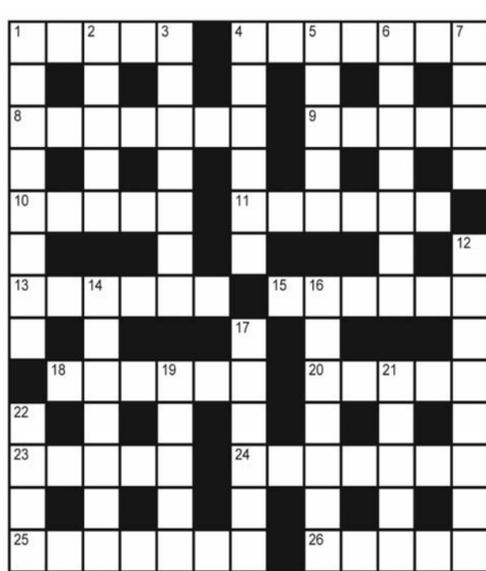


BREVITY



FUN post

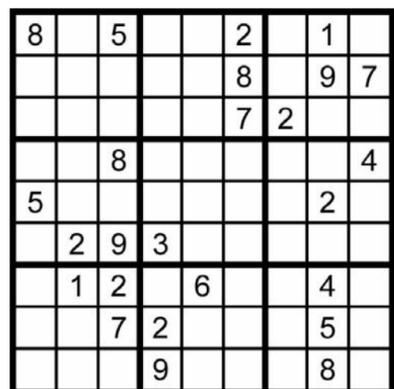
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Espresso shops
 - 4 Get ready to deal
 - 8 Fatty
 - 9 Bring upon oneself
 - 10 Stun gun
 - 11 To-do list
 - 13 Harvested
 - 15 Crumb
 - 18 Gloomy
 - 20 Waste pipe
 - 23 Grassy plain
 - 24 Ben Hur's ride
 - 25 Hotel employee
 - 26 Part of a joint
 - Down**
 - 1 Book parts
 - 2 Fencing swords
 - 3 Attila the Hun, for one
 - 4 Playground equipment
 - 5 Bring together
 - 6 Building fronts
 - 7 Brown shade
 - 12 Whale food
 - 14 Popular salad ingredient
 - 16 Seasoned sailor (3,4)
 - 17 Guiding light
 - 19 Janitor's tool
 - 21 Set straight
 - 22 Dressed

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.

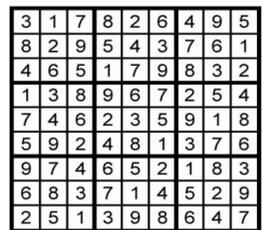


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

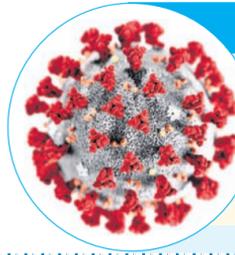


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



FOR A GRAND PUJA
Members of various social outfits offer earthen lamps near Chandhi temple in Cuttack, Tuesday, urging the state government to ease curbs on Dussehra celebrations



COVID-19 TRACKER			
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	22,22,62,640	19,88,82,734	45,93,598
India	3,30,58,843	3,22,24,937	4,41,042
Odisha	10,12,805	9,98,591	8,062

Oppn corners govt over law & order

Three Maoists were killed and 25 were arrested while 15 laid down their arms this year, govt tells House

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Opposition BJP and Congress Tuesday claimed that the law and order situation has collapsed in the state.

Participating in a debate on an adjournment motion moved by the BJP members in Assembly, BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi said the law and order situation has deteriorated in Odisha while citing the Mahanga triple murder case.

This is a politically-motivated crime as Law Minister Pratap Jena has named in the FIR. However, police have dropped Jena's name from the chargesheets. The Salipur JMFC court has ordered an investigation into the involvement of the minister in the case, he said.

"To ensure a free and fair probe, Jena should resign from his post. Because, a police inspector may not be able to interrogate the minister," Majhi added. The BJP leader also attacked the government over Paralkhemundi ACF Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra death case and Manavbad Sangathan chief Manas Das case.

Congress legislature party leader Narasingha Mishra alleged that "Talibani rule" is prevailing in some places of the state. He criticised the government for initiating police action against around 2,000 people of Kendrapara who agitated against a water supply project.

"The number of crimes has gone up in Odisha. The atrocities against women and minor girls are on the rise. Odisha will be the Number 1 state in crimes against women, if we consider the size of our population vis-à-vis other states," Mishra lamented. The situation is alarming and the police are unable to control it. There is no doubt on the ability of police officers but the state has vacancy of around 11,000 posts in the police department, claimed the



BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi and Congress legislature party leader Narasingha Mishra speak in the Assembly, Tuesday



IN THE HOUSE

Congress legislator. In his reply, MoS for Home, Dibya Shankar Mishra said the law and order situation is under control in Odisha. The state police was able to control the Covid-19 situation. A total of 62 police personnel have been martyred on the line of Covid duty, he said. The government is implementing emergency response support system (ERSS) to control crime and provide emergency services with its command centre in Bhubaneswar. All emergency services will be delivered on dialing 112, the minister added.

Sensitive crimes against women have been categorised as Red Flag cases for proper monitoring. In 2021 (till July), 81 Red Flag cases have been taken up, the MoS said.

Mishra said no terrorist activities

have been reported in the state and the Left-wing extremism (LWE) situation has improved significantly. Out of the 15 Naxal-hit districts, five districts— Angul, Boudh, Deogarh, Nayagarh and Sambalpur – were removed from the security related expenditure list of the Centre.

He claimed that due to strong police action, three Maoists were killed and 25 were arrested while 15 laid down their arms this year.

On Mahanga murder case, Mishra said a chargesheet has been filed against 13 accused and three were shown as absconders. One of the accused was killed in a road accident. He said the Salipur JMFC Court has ordered the police to reinvestigate the allegations made against Jena. Meanwhile, the opposition Congress created a ruckus in the House over the state government's decision of capping the maximum height of Durga

ADJOURNMENT MOTION

Citing the Mahanga triple murder case, BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi said the law and order situation has deteriorated in Odisha

Cong MLA Narasingha Mishra criticised the govt for initiating police action against around 2,000 people of Kendrapara who agitated against a water supply project

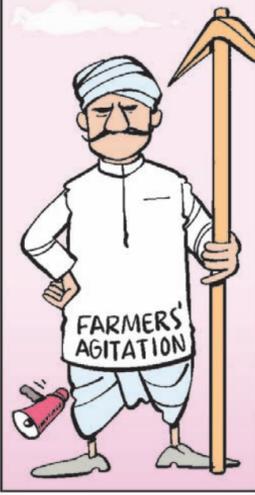
MoS for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra said no terrorist activities have been reported in the state and the LWE situation has improved significantly

282 jumbos, 2 tigers killed since 2018

Bhubaneswar: At least 282 elephants, two tigers and 15 leopards have been killed in Odisha due to poaching, electrocution, train accidents and several other reasons since 2018-19. Forest and Environment Minister BK Arukha informed the Assembly Tuesday. Replying to a question raised by BJD member Prafulla Samal, the minister said 93 jumbos died in 2018-19, 82 in 2019-20, 77 in 2020-21 and 30 till August 31 of 2021-22. The minister said the elephant population in the state is on a rising trend as there were 1,930 jumbos in 2012 and the number rose to 1,976 in 2017. According to the last tiger census in 2018, 28 were detected in Odisha, he said. The number of tigers found in 2014 was the same.

idols at four feet for community pandals. The issue was raised in the House during the Zero Hour by Mohammed Moqim, Congress MLA from Barabati, Cuttack and supported by his senior in party Suresh Routray. The BJP legislators also opposed the BJD government's Durga puja norms and shouted slogans against it. Normalcy returned to the House after the Speaker said that the Covid guidelines for Durga Puja may be reconsidered.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



EOW nabs Andhra ex-MLA for fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of the state Crime Branch arrested a former MLA of Visakhapatnam (west) in Andhra Pradesh on charges of duping investors of crores of rupees promising lucrative returns. The YSR Congress leader Malla Vijay Prasad was arrested from his residence at Seethammadhara in Visakhapatnam Monday.

Sources in EOW claimed that Prasad, MD of Welfare Building & Estates Pvt Ltd, in connivance with other directors, cheated gullible investors through various sham deposit schemes between 2009 and 2014. The company operated in Odisha through its offices at Bhubaneswar, Narsinghpur in Cuttack and Nayagarh.

Sources claimed that Prasad's firm duped depositors of around Rs 1,200 crore. A case (12/2019) was registered by EOW in this regard based on a complaint lodged by



Accused ex-MLA Malla Vijay Prasad

Samir Kumar Sahoo of Kanpur area in Cuttack July 17, 2019.

In 2008, Sahoo came to know through leaflets that the firm had launched a number of highly-profitable schemes. Later, he met the staff of the firm at its regional head office at Saheed Nagar. The company promised its investors to pay high returns or landed plot at Visakhapatnam.

The company initially paid the promised amount in the account of

Sahoo to gain his trust. Following the payment, Sahoo, along with some of his relatives, reportedly invested around Rs 11 lakh in various schemes of the firm in 2012. However, they did not receive the promised amount from the company.

The EOW sleuths, during the course of investigation, found that the company, which was initially registered with ROC in Hyderabad, later shifted to Kolkata in 2011. The company's head office was located at Visakhapatnam and registered office at Kolkata.

"The company collected huge amount running into crores from a large number of investors and vanished from the locality after closing its offices," said EOW officials.

The accused MLA was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Visakhapatnam who allowed the EOW to bring Prasad on transit remand Monday. The sleuths Tuesday produced him before the OPID court at Cuttack Tuesday.

Woman's decomposed body found at City slum

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Commissionerate Police Tuesday recovered the decomposed body of a woman under suspicious circumstances from a house at Mahaveer slum in Baramunda area under Bharatpur police limits here.

An investigation has begun into the matter after an unnatural death case was registered with Bharatpur police.

Locals claimed that the deceased along with a youth had been staying on rent at the slum for the last few days. The landlady informed the media that they had identified themselves as a married couple.

Prima facie, it appears to the police that the woman was murdered by the youth she was staying

Locals claimed that the deceased along with a youth had been staying on rent at the slum for the last few days

The landlady informed that they had identified themselves as a married couple

Prima facie, it appears to the police that the woman was murdered by the youth

with four/five days back. The accused left her body inside the house by locking it from outside.

The house owner and locals informed the police following the stench emanating from decomposed body.

Police are yet to ascertain the identity of the woman and the youth.

Urban forest parks in twin cities on the cards

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: If things go well, twin city residents will have recreational space amid lush greenery with the state government Tuesday deciding to develop urban forest parks in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

This was revealed during a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, on digital mode here Tuesday. Mahapatra asked the officials of Odisha Forest Development Corporation (OFDC), city forest divisions, Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) and Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) to work in harmony for developing urban forest parks in phases in the twin cities.

In the first phase, at least seven such facilities would be developed and thrown open to the public. Besides providing recreational



PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

space and contributing to a reduction in heat stress, urban forest parks can create islands of relatively clean air in the twin cities, Mahapatra said.

The Chief Secretary said that it would infuse a sense of responsibility in the citizens towards protecting the forest parks.

The Chief Secretary applauded the way Ekamra Kanan and

Jayadev Batika were being managed.

Additional Chief Secretary (Forest, Environment and Climate Change) Mona Sharma said that the urban forest parks would be managed by OFDC on a self-sustaining model. While BMC and CMC would facilitate infrastructural support like pathways, drinking water, electricity and picnic pandals

BOOST TO RECREATION

At least seven urban forest parks would be developed and thrown open to the public in the first phase

Besides providing recreational space and contributing to a reduction in heat stress, urban forest parks can create islands of relatively clean air in the twin cities

The urban forest parks would be managed by OFDC on a self-sustaining model

at urban forest parks, OFDC would take care of the maintenance issues, Sharma added.

BMC commissioner Sanjay Kumar Singh assured to extend Mo Bus services to the locations so as to maximise footfall at the forest parks. Tickets for the sites can be booked through BMC website. The civic body will also promote the

forest parks through its website, Singh pointed out.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Harishankar Upadhyay informed the meeting that six urban patches here, including Ekamra Kanan, Medicinal Plant Knowledge Centre, Smruti Van, Ekamra Van and Jayadev Batika, have been developed in line with the requirements. Another such facility—Nagar Van—is being developed in the Temple city, he added. He also said that two urban patches—Nandan Van and Arogya Van—have also been developed in the Silver city. These spots could be transformed into urban forest parks with basic infrastructure, parking and amenities.

The meeting decided that a joint committee comprising senior officers from departments concerned would soon identify the sites to be taken up for the urban forest parks in the first phase.

Provide drought aid to farmers pronto: BJP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Tuesday slammed the state government over its alleged inaction in terms of prevailing drought-like situation in the state and demanded timely announcement of drought assistance to farmers so as to prevent farmers' suicides.

BJP leader and former Revenue Minister Manmohan Samal Tuesday held a presser here and demanded timely intervention of the government to ensure that no farmer commits suicide due to agrarian crisis triggered by drought.

"The state government does not seem to have taken the drought situation seriously. The response from the revenue minister in the Assembly hints at the apathy of the government towards the farm-



ers. The Chief Minister has not uttered a single word on the issue. Farmers in the state have started committing suicide due to drought and other farm related issues," he said.

The BJP leader said that the party has visited several parts of the state and took stock of the drought situation. The party was told that even the revenue inspectors are not visiting the affected farmlands.

"The government discussed the issue when our party moved an adjournment mo-

tion in the House. If drought sets in for one year, the impact could be felt in the coming years too," Samal said.

He also added, "The government needs to announce drought aid for affected areas promptly. We should now have a long-term action plan to mitigate drought. The situation is grim in 27 districts which needs immediate intervention from the government."

The BJP leader said that the state government should enquire about the crop damage caused by dry spell and provide timely compensation to the affected farmers of the state to ensure that farmers do not end their lives owing to distress and government apathy.

"The government had earlier boasted of giving irrigation facilities to each block but the ground reality is open to all," he said.

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Heavy rain lashes 11 dists; more showers in store

Two places – Banki in Cuttack and Khandapara in Nayagarh– received very heavy rainfall of 140 mm and 117.4 mm respectively in 24 hours



Vehicles negotiate a waterlogged road in Bomikhal area of Bhubaneswar as rain lashes the Capital city

joining #Central #BayofBengal around #11th September, 2021.” The MeT Centre in Bhubaneswar tweeted.

The Met Centre also forecast heavy rainfall over Nuapada, Nabarangpur, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Keonjhar districts Wednesday.

Squally weather condition with surface wind speed reaching 40 to 50 kmph is likely off the Odisha coast, it said.

Keeping in view the weatherman’s forecast, the state government put the districts on alert to deal with the situation arising out of heavy rain that may damage communication infrastructures and cause landslides in some areas.

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Pradeep Kumar Jena, in a letter to the district Collectors, asked the district administrations to remain vigilant and take steps as deemed necessary, implement advice issued to fishermen and report incidents, if any, to the state government.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Sudam Marndi had informed the Assembly that Odisha received 29.3 per cent less rainfall during the peak monsoon period from June 1 to September 2.

Crops were cultivated in 56.33 lakh hectares of land this year, 1.19 lakh hectares less than last year.

Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Ganjam’s Sorada and Daspalla in Nayagarh also received rainfall above 100 mm as heavy showers lashed Ganjam, Balasore, Angul, Gajapati, Khurda Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal and Kalahandi districts.

“Under the influence of the movement of the low-pressure area, light to moderate or thundershowers are very likely at most places over the districts of interior Odisha and at many places over the districts of coastal Odisha,” an IMD release said.

A fresh #Low Pressure Area is likely to form over #North and ad-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Low pressure-induced heavy rainfall lashed 11 districts of the state as the MeT Department forecast formation of a fresh depression over the Bay of Bengal around September 11.

The weatherman issued yellow warning (be updated) for 14 districts in south and coastal Odisha and warned fishermen against venturing into the sea Wednesday.

Two places – Banki in Cuttack district and Khandapara in Nayagarh district– received very heavy rainfall of 140 mm and 117.4 mm respectively in 24 hours till 8:30am Tuesday, the India

HE dept seeks life certificates from pensioners

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: The Higher Education (HE) department Tuesday directed the principals of non-government aided colleges and Sanskrit colleges in the state to submit the non-engagement/life certificates of the provisional pension holding retired teachers.

In a letter, accounts officer of the HE department Surya Kumar Nayak said that as per report so far 756 pension holders have not submitted their certificates.

The government and insurance companies insist on this certificate before making pension or annuity payments. The department sent the list of the non submitters to the colleges and asked them to submit the certificate either directly or through the principals by 18 September. Failing to submit the certificate, their provisional pension will be halted. The certificate must be mailed to provisionalpensiondhe@gmail.com by the principals. Earlier, the state had requested pensioners to avoid visiting treasuries and banks for submission of ‘life certificates’ due to Covid-19.

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LOST

Original sale deed of Sanjukta Pradhan bearing document number 573 dated 22.05.1998 in respect of land situated at Mouza Sipasaraballi, Tahasil Brahmagiri, Dist: Puri, Khata No.- 314/410, Plot No.- 1068/1395. Area-2 Acre (200 dicmil) has been lost. FIR is lodged at Baseli Sahi Police Station, vide SDE No.-8 dated 31.08.21. Contact No.- 9438451799.

Varsities, colleges told to implement Mo Sarkar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: The Higher Education (HE) department Tuesday directed all universities and colleges of the state to implement Mo Sarkar initiative.

HE department additional secretary Rajashree Mohanty said the department has adopted Mo Sarkar initiative since March 4, 2020. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, the initiative could not be implemented properly as most of the educational institutions were either closed or asked to function with less number of staff, she added.

As the situation has improved a little and the institutions and offices have started to function with full

strength, it has been decided to revive the Mo Sarkar initiative from September this year, she said.

In view of this, the HE department has requested the institutions to follow the guidelines regarding the implementation of Mo Sarkar initiative. The educational institutions are directed to register the telephone numbers and other details of the persons, who visited the institutions, in the SAMS portal, she added.

The objective of the Mo Sarkar initiative is to provide service with dignity to people visiting government offices.

It mandates that anyone visiting these offices would have his mobile number registered.



Youth Congress members clash with police as they agitate at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, to press for fulfillment of their demands, including resignation of Law Minister Pratap Jena

Coastal Odisha shares 70% of fresh cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Odisha’s eight coastal districts continued to report a high number of fresh Covid-19 cases and fatalities as the region accounted for nearly 70 per cent of the 638 new cases detected Tuesday and five of the seven deaths recorded during the day, a Health department official said. The region accounts for over 65 per cent of the state’s caseload of 10,12,805.

The coastal districts reported 445 of the 638 new cases or 69.74 per cent of the daily spike. Khurda, under which state Capital Bhubaneswar falls, recorded the highest number of fresh infections at 245, followed by Cuttack (66) and Balasore (33).

Other districts in the region such as Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Kendrapara and Bhadrak reported 32, 22, 18, 15 and 14 cases respectively. Similarly, five of the seven fresh fatalities were registered in coastal Odisha - two each in Cuttack and Khurda, and one in Puri - while two were recorded in Angul district i.e. in the central part of the state.

The state’s coronavirus death toll stood at 8,062.

As many as 372 new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while 266 infections were detected during contact tracing. The daily test positivity rate stood at 1.11 per cent.

The state now has 6,900 active cases, while 9,97,790 people have recovered from the disease so far, including 727 Monday.

Fifty-three coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities to date.

Odisha has thus far tested over 1.85 crore samples for Covid-19, including 57,303 Monday. The cumulative positivity rate stood at 5.46 per cent.

The state has so far inoculated

over 2.36 crore people, of whom 58.37 lakh have been fully vaccinated, he added.

93 CHILDREN AMONG 638 NEW INFECTIONS

The 0-18 age group accounted for 14.57 per cent of the daily infection Tuesday down from 20.03 per cent Monday.

Even though the rate of infection among the 0-18 age group remained high, none of them were in a critical condition, the official said, adding that all the 179 beds with ventilator support that have been kept ready for children are vacant till now. However, two babies were in the ICU out of the 674 ICU/HDU beds available for children.

Of the 1,585 general beds available for children, only 13 were occupied.

HC SEEKS INFO ON VAX AT OLD-AGE HOMES

CUTTACK: The Orissa High Court Tuesday directed the state government to file a fresh report detailing the status of Covid-19 vaccination among the inmates of old-age homes.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice S Muralidhar expressed displeasure as an earlier affidavit filed by the government lacked the details as asked for.

The bench asked the government to file a fresh affidavit providing details of the number of old-age homes in the state, inmates in each home and the percentage of the vaccinated people in the facilities.

The court was adjudicating on a writ petition seeking introduction of doorstep vaccination facilities for the elderly and differently-abled persons in the state.

Lockdown if nCoV norms flouted: CM



Representational image

The lockdown has now been relaxed, keeping in view the interests of the common man. But that does not mean we loosen up on the rules. The state government would be forced to impose lockdown again for the collective interest, if necessary

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday reviewed the Covid situation in the state and warned that the state government will be forced to impose lockdown if the Covid guidelines are not followed.

Naveen said, “We have to follow the Covid rules strictly in order to be safe from a possible third wave.” He cautioned that minor negligence could pose a major threat to all.

“The lockdown has now been relaxed, keeping in view the interests of the common man. But that does not mean we loosen up on the rules. The state government would be forced to impose lockdown again for the collective interest if necessary,” he said.

Describing the Covid appropriate as the strongest weapon to fight the pandemic with, the Chief Minister stressed that proper com-

pliance of the guidelines is important for all.

“The children are yet to get the vaccine. So we have to be more careful for them,” he said. The CM directed educational institutions to conduct regular checks by setting up special teams.

Naveen has directed the administration to keep a close watch on markets, religious institutions, and healthcare institutions in order to ensure strict compliance of Covid rules.

In view of the festive season, the CM advised the citizens to be more cautious. He urged the commoners to wear masks, wash hands, maintain social distance and not go into the crowd during the coming festivals. Fearing congregation during the festivals ahead and an impending possible third wave of the pandemic, Naveen said, “Our responsible behaviour during this festive season will be decisive in controlling the third wave.”



People under the aegis of ‘Kharasrota Banchao Sangram Samiti’ stage a demonstration near PMG Square in Bhubaneswar, Monday, demanding protection of Kharasrota river and Bhitarkanika National Park

Centurion University awarded for research & innovation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Centurion University, India’s first ever skill university which always prioritises research and innovation along with teaching and hands-on training, has been awarded with the best university tag in the category of research and innovation learning by News18 Odia.

Vice Chancellor Supriya Pattanayak received this award on the occasion of Education Eminence 2021 held September 5. In this event,

the university was praised for its commendable efforts in imparting education during the Covid-19 pandemic. Along with Higher Education Minister Arun Sahoo and State Home Minister Dibaya Shankar Mishra, many eminent personalities were present during the event.

To take the spirit of research and innovation to a different level, the university dedicatedly works not only on research and training but also on product development, content development, and multi-disciplinary patient.

Employee held for duping his own company of ₹1.50L

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: An unscrupulous employee has fallen into his own trap while trying to mislead the police by narrating a fake snatching plot in the City. The accused was Tuesday arrested by the Commissionerate Police for stealing around Rs 1.50 lakh from a private company.

The accused employee was identified as Amar Mohanty, 25, of Dasarathipur in Jajpur district. Mohanty has been residing at Samantarapur here on rent for the past few years.

Saheed Nagar house of Manas Das raided

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, Sept 7: The police Tuesday raided the house of Manavbad Sangathan chief Manas Das at Saheed Nagar in Bhubaneswar.

Das was earlier arrested in connection with the murder of Satyabrata Nayak of Abhimanpur under Begunia block. Police had also arrested his son Manoranjan Das in connection with the thrashing of father-son duo— Maguni and Anand—of Kadaba village.

A team of Khurda police along with Saheed Nagar police raided the residence of Das in the Capital



The police have also initiated a probe into the financial dealings of the Manavbad Sangathan

city and seized some documents, sources said.

The police have also initiated a probe into the financial dealings of Manavbad Sangathan. Das has several accounts in various nationalised banks. A summan has been

issued to the branch managers of the banks as part of the probe, said Khurda Sadar SDPO Sushil Mishra.

The SDPO further said they will soon take Das and his son on remand to collect more evidence.

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Andhra police hold grievance redressal camp in Kotia

Kalahandi celebrates Saptapuri Amabasya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Andhra Pradesh Police stirred up the hornet's nest again by conducting a grievance redressal camp at Neradivala village of Kotia panchayat under 'Spandana' programme



POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, Sept 7: Even as the Supreme Court advised Odisha and its neighbouring state Andhra Pradesh to resolve the dispute over Kotia panchayat and similar other issues between them amicably, the latter is still resorting to inducement tactics to establish their hold over Kotia.

The apex court has given around six weeks' time to bring out a political resolution to Kotia dispute but the Andhra Pradesh government has defied the order and strayed into Kotia panchayat again and conducted grievance redressal programme.

Andhra Pradesh Police stirred up the hornet's nest again by conducting a grievance redressal camp at Neradivala village of Kotia panchayat under 'Spandana' programme.

A team of police officials from Andhra Pradesh led by SI Rohini Preeti addressed the villagers in the

ANDHRA-ODISHA BORDER ROW

AP bid to reopen AWC in Gajapati

Aggressive meddling into Odisha's affairs by the Andhra Pradesh government was witnessed again Tuesday after Andhra officials accompanied by police visited a temporary Anganwadi centre they had set up at Manikpatna village, under Gangabada Panchayat in Gajapati district after the district administration sealed it two days back. Reports said that Andhra officials had established a temporary Anganwadi centre in the tribal dominated village of Manikpatna under Gangabada panchayat of Raigarh block in Gajapati district. However, the Gajapati district officials shut down the centre after conducting an enquiry two days back. Tension prevailed in the village as the officials of the Andhra government visited the village to reopen the centre and had a face-off with the district officials of Gajapati who were already there. A meeting was held where officials of both Odisha and Andhra governments decided to demarcate the border areas so that the jurisdiction of Anganwadi centre could be established.

camp and received their complaints in writing. Residents of Neradivala and

neighbouring Dhulipadar, Uparsembi, Talasembi villages participated in this camp.

The villagers demanded a passenger bus service from Salur in Andhra Pradesh to the panchayat as they had to commute to the area on a regular basis for work.

They also demanded documents like ration cards, Aadhaar cards, drinking water facilities and caste certificates besides raising other issues of their locality at the camp. They also demanded to organise health camps every week at least for two to three days as the people living on the bordering areas frequently fall ill. They were reportedly assured of speedy action by the Andhra Pradesh team.

SI Preeti also met two poor elderly women (both sisters) at Neradivala village and gave away some financial assistance after she learnt that Odisha government

had given ₹10,000 as assistance. The house of the two old women was damaged after a tamarind tree fell on their house. She said that she will prepare a report and submit it to Vizianagaram district police for action from their end.

Andhra government has started the programme to ensure that the villagers will be benefited with the government's welfare schemes, an official of Andhra police said. "The public grievance redressal camp at Neradivala village was successful. Such camps will continue every Monday," said a police official.

It is worth mentioning that August 31, the Supreme Court had advised the governments of both the states to resolve the border dispute involving Kotia region by en-

gaging in bilateral discussions. A constitution bench comprising Justice Ajay Khanwilkar and Justice Sanjiv Khanna had granted a period of six weeks to both the states to hold political discussions and resolve the issue through talks at the political level.

Earlier February 10 this year, the state government had knocked the doors of the Supreme Court seeking contempt of court proceedings against the Andhra Pradesh government over Kotia border dispute.

Kotia dispute is a long pending border issue between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. Both the states have been claiming sovereign rights over the area, which consist of 27 small tribal hamlets on the border.

Bhawanipatna, Sept 7: Saptapuri Amabasya is being celebrated with traditional gaiety in Kalahandi district.

The two-day festival, which began Monday, is known as the 'pora uans' in the Kalahandi dialect as wildflower 'pora' or flame lily is used on the occasion.

Earlier, it was celebrated across Kalahandi with grandeur and treated as the traditional children's day but is now limited to rural pockets. Family members prepare different types of delicacies like 'khaja' and other traditional sweets for the children.

Children traditionally pull terracotta and wooden bullocks, horses, and elephants laden with different types of dry foods and 'pora' flowers.

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Whereas the Authorized Officer of Sundaram Home Finance Limited, formerly known as Sundaram BNP Paribas Home Finance Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Section 13(2), issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of notice.

The Borrower and Co-Borrower having failed to repay the amount within the statutory period, the Authorised Officer in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act in accordance with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, had taken the actual possession of the property described herein below.

Public are hereby informed that the property more fully described in the table hereunder will be sold under Rule 8 & 9 of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" CONDITION, by inviting sealed tenders from the public up to 17.00 hrs on 25.10.2021. Those who want to participate in the auction sale can forward their bids only by RPAD in sealed covers to the undersigned on or before 17.00 Hrs. on 25.10.2021. Tenders received after 17.00 Hrs. on 25.10.2021 and thereafter will be rejected. The sealed tenders received by RPAD up to 17.00 Hrs. on 25.10.2021 will be opened on 25.10.2021 at 17.30 hrs. at the place mentioned hereunder. The successful bidder has to pay the balance amount within 15 days from the date of receipt of intimation. The sale shall be completed only on deposit of the Balance amount as stated above.

S. No.	Name and Address of the Borrower & Co-Borrower	Secured Debt (Rs.)	Reserve Price (Rs.)	Place for Title Verification
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Note: The intending purchasers are requested to verify the documents and participate in the auction after satisfying about the title to property. Refund will not be given after sale confirmation in case if there arises any dispute regarding the title or nature of the property.

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale of Property of Mr. Lalitendu Sahoo Loan Account No.66200020, please refer to www.sundaramhome.in/uploads/files/sale_notice/66200020.pdf

Date: 08-09-2021 for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD., AUTHORISED OFFICER

SACRED DUTY



Women of chief priest's family separating paddy from the chaff for preparation of 'Navanna' as offering for Devi Samaleshwari on the temple premises in Sambalpur

BUCB to recover ₹130cr from 35K defaulters

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Sept 7: Baripada Urban Cooperative Bank (BUCB) in Mayurbhanj district has finally started repaying deposits to its customers and initiated process to recover loans worth ₹130 crore from defaulters, a report said. The bank said, 90 percent of the customers have received their funds by furnishing necessary documents.

It may be noted here that the licence of BUCB had been cancelled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2014 as its NPA grew exponentially. The bank had gone bankrupt and was not in a position to refund over ₹68 crore to the depositors. Loans amounting to over ₹130 crore are pending with over 35,000 loanees. In the initial phase, 437 customers have been paid ₹7.07 crore. Till date, ₹1.62 crore has been paid to its customers. Bank sources said that notices

will be issued to 4500 people who have defaulted loans worth ₹130 crore. In the initial phase, ₹83.04 crore will be recovered from 20 defaulters. If the defaulters fail to clear their dues, their immovable properties will be confiscated and auctioned, said Amarendra Kar, chief manager of BUCB.

According to sources, over 72,000 depositors had kept money in the bank. Baripada cooperative bank was told to return depositors' money after RBI had cancelled the licence after a statutory inspection revealed that the bank was in deep red, ceased to be solvent and any chance of its revival was next to impossible.

In June, 2020, the High Court had directed the management in-charge of Baripada Urban Cooperative Bank to disburse the money of its depositors. The order had brought a ray of hope for 72,324 depositors, who have been left high and dry since the RBI cancelled

licence of BUCB had been cancelled by RBI in 2014 as its NPA grew exponentially. The bank had gone bankrupt and was not in a position to refund over ₹68 crore to its depositors

the bank's licence October 16, 2014.

The bank had filed an interlocutory application (IA) seeking the Court's direction for refund of money to the depositors during pendency of its main petition challenging the Centre's order rejecting its appeal against the RBI direction.

A single judge bench had issued the order after considering the acute financial plights of the depositors in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic along

with submissions made on behalf of RBI and the state government.

RBI counsel DN Mishra had submitted that after the cancellation of licence of the bank, it is the responsibility of the liquidator/management in-charge to look into the grievances of depositors.

The Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS) directed the Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies (DRCS) Baripada to ensure strict execution of order of the Orissa High Court in this regard which had directed the liquidator in September last year to disburse the money within next eight weeks.

The cooperative bank was set up in 1960. It was operating in Baripada with three branches at Udala, Karanja and Rairangpur areas in Mayurbhanj district. A large number of customers of the bank had moved the High Court seeking refund of their deposits from the bank.

Villagers host crab-catching contest

THE MATTER CAME TO THE FORE AFTER A VIDEO OF THE INCIDENT WAS POSTED ON SOCIAL NETWORK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 7: The popular harvest festival of Nuakhai provides the perfect opportunity for people in western Odisha to celebrate the communal harmony and brotherhood.

Andhari village under Jujumura block has become the buzz of Sambalpur district after villagers hosted a unique crab-catching tournament in which the winner was awarded ₹5,000 as prize money.

Residents say that a youth of the village named Sanjev Biswal started the competition for the first time this year when he and other villagers had gone for a picnic to Tangar nallah in the area.

With festive fervour around the corner, Biswal decided to organise a crab-catching competition among the villagers to develop and strengthen

AHEAD OF NUAKHAI



the bond and amity among them.

The matter came to the fore after Biswal shot a video of the incident and posted it on a social networking platform.

This unique competition has been able to bring the villagers together on the eve of Nuakhai, western Odisha's most popular mass agrarian festival. According to sources,

around 35 people participated in the competition this year that was held in the vicinity of the village.

Villager Keshav Mirdha emerged as the winner and was rewarded with ₹5000 for catching maximum number of 18 crabs from the water body.

Once the competition got over, locals came together to feast on the collected crabs.

When contacted, Biswal said that many traditional and indigenous games of the past have faded into oblivion after the advent of the mobile phone.

However, he will strive hard to bring them again into limelight and unite the local youths for the purpose.

He said that the reason behind in organising such a competition is to bridge the gap between the locals and particularly the youths of the area.

FOCUS AFGHANISTAN

THE COLONIAL TRAP



US President Joe Biden knew what British Prime Minister Clement Attlee knew in 1947: Once you make local elites dependent on the power and money of a foreign occupier, it becomes almost impossible to leave without causing mayhem. And the longer the foreign power stays, the worse the mayhem often becomes

February 20, 1947, Clement Attlee, the socialist British prime minister, informed parliament that India would become independent no later than June 1948. Attlee could not wait for the British to withdraw from a country whose leaders, Muslim and Hindu, had long been clamouring for independence. But India was seething with violent unrest. Muslim leaders were afraid of Hindu dominance. Worried that a civil war might land the British in an uncontrollable situation, Attlee decided to end the British Raj even earlier.

Indian independence began August 14, 1947. Pakistan broke away. Horrendous violence between Hindus and Muslims claimed a half-million lives. Many more lost their homes. The wounds of partition are yet to heal.

Attlee was widely blamed for getting out too soon and leaving the former colony in chaos. If only a better police force had been organised. If only the army could have kept order. If only the British could have left once the country was stable.

US President Joe Biden now finds himself in the same situation. American troops have left Afghanistan in a bloody mess. Critics of Biden's decision to withdraw claim that the United States should have stayed longer. In the opinion of Robert Kagan, a well-known American promoter of robust military policies, the US should have promised to stay at least 20 years, instead of being non-committal. After all, the US military presence was minimal and could easily be afforded. But in that case, why just 20 years? Why not 40? Why not forever?

The question is whether Attlee, or Biden, could ever have left India or Afghanistan in a stable condition. At least Attlee knew that India, and even Pakistan, would be governed by responsible, mostly moderate men. Jawaharlal Nehru and Mohammed Ali Jinnah were nothing like the Taliban. Both were widely regarded as legitimate leaders – and still there was a civil war. Biden didn't even have the luxury of leaving Afghanistan in capable hands.

It is easy to blame Attlee and Biden for the violence that followed their decisions. Perhaps

they made mistakes. In hindsight, it may be possible to see how they could have mitigated some of the damage. But both leaders were caught in the same colonial trap that ensnared so many other imperial powers. Once you make local elites dependent on the power and money of a foreign occupier, it becomes almost impossible to leave without causing mayhem. And the longer the foreign power stays, the worse the mayhem often becomes.

Harold Macmillan, the Conservative prime minister who, sensing "the wind of change" blowing through colonial Africa in 1960, managed the withdrawal of British rule, was once asked by the very conservative American journalist William F. Buckley Jr. whether Africans were ready to rule themselves. Macmillan didn't think so. But he added that this was all the more reason why they should be free to try. These were their countries. They had to learn how to govern by governing. For the British to hang on and throw the best and brightest anti-colonial activists in prison would only make that harder.

Empires are rarely established by design. Most European empires started as trading posts. Local rulers were cultivated, bribed, and set against one another. For a long time, great chunks of India

were ruled by a British trading company. Colonial governments then took over to protect the commercial interests of the home countries. Imperial rule was often justified by Christian missionary zeal, or, very late in the game, around the very end of the nineteenth century, by high-minded ideals of educating native elites to mimic the West.

The US has been more half-hearted about its colonial enterprises. After all, Americans are supposed to be against imperialism. Their stated justification for fighting communism in Vietnam, or dictatorships in Iraq or Afghanistan, has been to enlighten the benighted populations through free-market capitalism and democratic government, often with disastrous consequences.

Whatever the justification for foreign intervention, the results are the same. Local elites, such as the Afghans who governed Kabul and other cities, might do well. But dependency – not just on another state, but on NGOs and other well-meaning institutions that do what governments should be doing – fuels corruption. Money flows too easily into ever deeper pockets. And the very presence of foreign military force and political tutors, who may have little understanding of how things work in the

countries they occupy, makes it ever harder for the local people to rule themselves.

The colonial elites, bloated with free money, have no legitimacy in the eyes of their compatriots. Rebels and revolutionaries may have more, but only know how to rule by force. The imperial power is trapped. Leaving is almost always bad. Staying is worse.

Attlee and Biden understood this. That is why they wanted to get out. Biden is accused of naivety and seen as a hapless old man who had no idea what he was unleashing. This is unlikely. I think he decided it was time to leave without delay precisely because he knew it would be a big mess; better to get it over with than become further ensnared by the colonial trap.

This might seem callous. But Biden can't be blamed for the rise of the Taliban, or the fragile state of a country that has seen far too many wars and invasions. The US should not have been there in the first place, but that is a lesson that great powers never seem to learn.

The writer is the author, most recently, of The Churchill Complex: The Curse of Being Special, From Winston and FDR to Trump and Brexit.

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War is a dangerous teacher and physical victory leads often to a moral defeat.

SRI AUROBINDO



After Panjshir's 'Fall'

In the midst of conflicting reports on the Taliban's success September 6 in getting control of the Panjshir Valley, the last bastion of resistance against Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, comes a strongly-worded message from Iran warning 'foreign powers' against meddling in Afghanistan affairs. Iran, which shares a 900 kilometre border with Afghanistan, has announced it would probe whether Pakistan, as reports strongly suggest, aided the Taliban in overrunning the resistance in Panjshir. The presence of ISI chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed in Kabul from September 4 was indication of the key role that Rawalpindi played in the fall of Panjshir.

Pakistan is believed to have helped the Taliban with its air power to neutralise the National Resistance Front led by Ahmad Massoud, the son of former anti-Taliban commander Ahmed Shah Massoud killed by the Al-Qaeda two days before the 9/11 attack on the twin towers in the USA. Ahmad Massoud has reportedly fled Afghanistan, though in a video message he exhorted anti-Taliban forces to keep up resistance. Apparently, there are pockets in Panjshir Valley where the NRF is still holding out.

This is the first time that Iran has criticised the Taliban for taking control of Panjshir by force and it assumes significance since it has, over the years, developed good relations with the Taliban. Pakistan's reported involvement seems to be causing concern to Iran which is keen on maintaining a workable relation with the Taliban in the management of the country. Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh denounced violence in the northern Afghan valley, where two senior figures of the NRF were killed. He told reporters Iran was investigating reports about the presence of foreign forces in the valley. Iran has trained tens of thousands of Afghan Shia fighters, known as the Fatimiyoun who fought in Syria and Libya. Having returned to Afghanistan, it is rumored, they can take on the Taliban also if need be.

Iran's position on the developments in Panjshir, publicly articulated for the first time since the fall of Kabul August 15, shows the struggle among foreign powers – Pakistan, Iran, China and Russia – to fill the vacuum created in Afghanistan following the US' withdrawal of troops from the country. Afghanistan occupies a highly important position in the geopolitics of central, south and west Asia. The economic and political interests of China, Iran and Russia hinge on the stability in Afghanistan and the ability of the Taliban to ensure counter-insurgency operations don't pose any threat to their respective internal affairs. Though the new Iranian government has not yet indicated whether it will recognise the new political dispensation in Kabul, many Iranian officials have, in recent weeks, called for a peaceful transfer of power and the formation of an inclusive government.

The Taliban have formidable challenges ahead as they are positioning themselves to begin their new regime in Afghanistan. To deliver what they promise, they need technocrats and foreign assistance, both advisory and on the ground. If they resort to the brutal methods they had used during their first rule two decades back, international actors will maintain and intensify sanctions. Currently, the Taliban regime faces the loss of billions of dollars frozen by the US government. The country's illegal and informal economies can only offset a part of those losses. The Taliban cannot augment the country's poppy economy as the global market is already saturated with opioids. They can't ban poppy cultivation on which a large part of the Afghan population depends. While the country is reeling under COVID-19, nearly 90 per cent of the population lives in poverty and 30 per cent faces acute food insecurity. The Taliban will struggle to find jobs for the many now-unemployed soldiers of the Afghan security forces whom the United States paid. They will have to trade with Iran, China, and Central Asia for the country's economic rejuvenation. For this they will have to accommodate Tehran, Beijing, and Moscow's principal counterterrorism interests. Apart from the West only China and the Gulf countries have potentially deep aid pockets. Pakistan has been providing military and intelligence aid, but its own economy is in shambles. Despite Pakistan's triumphalism over catapulting the Taliban into Afghanistan, the latter may try to free themselves from its control. Already, top Taliban leaders, such as Abdul Ghani Baradar and Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, have indicated their interest in the new trade routes being developed by Iran and India connecting the Central Asian countries bypassing Pakistan.

It all now depends on whether the Taliban truly want Afghanistan's economic growth and development. If so, then they will have to ensure peace and stability with the help of an inclusive government. If religious bigots take control of the government and dance to the tunes of Pakistan and China, as observed with the Haqqani Network's actions, Afghanistan and the region will be plunged into further chaos.



Ian Buruma

BIDEN CAN'T BE BLAMED FOR THE RISE OF THE TALIBAN, OR THE FRAGILE STATE OF A COUNTRY THAT HAS SEEN FAR TOO MANY WARS AND INVASIONS

IN JEST THIS

Celebrities too deserve some privacy

Neeraj Chopra was fairly well-known before this year's Olympic Games, but winning a gold medal in Tokyo propelled him to stratospheric stardom. He became a national hero and legendary athlete with a single throw of the javelin, and everyone wanted to know everything about him. Where did he grow up? Who were his childhood idols? What did he eat for breakfast? Did he wear briefs, boxers or trunks?

Almost every media outlet in India wanted to interview Chopra and every Indian with the slimmest of journalism credentials wanted to pepper him with questions. It was only a matter of time before someone asked a question that seemed inappropriate to some people. The first person to ask such a question was Navika Kumar of *Times Now*, who asked the 23-year-old athlete if he has a girlfriend. A girlfriend! "No, I don't have a girlfriend," Chopra responded, adding that he was keeping his focus on sports right now. He seemed unfazed by the question, but others on social media found it inappropriate, wondering

what the reaction would be if a sportswoman were asked the same question by a male interviewer. Indeed, a male interviewer would be widely denounced for asking Mirabai Chanu or PV Sindhu, "Do you have a girlfriend?"

In this day and age, we should not be making any assumptions about sexual orientation. We should ask questions such as "Are you dating someone right now?" and "Do you have a significant person in your life other than your coach?" Otherwise, we risk making some people uncomfortable.

But are questions about relationships always inappropriate? Not necessarily. Many athletes are eager to talk about their significant others. It all depends on context. A press conference immediately after an athlete wins a competition is not an appropriate setting for relationship questions, unless you are asking Neeraj Chopra about his relationship with his javelin.

Reporter: "Can you tell us more about your relationship with your javelin?"

Chopra: "Yes, it's a Valhalla javelin, made by the Swedish company Nordic Sport. It helped me win gold. I love it. It will always have a special place in my heart."

Reporter: "Do you let other people hold it and throw it?"

Chopra: "Yes, we have an open relationship. We are there for each other, but we are not clingy."

While many people would consider Navika Kumar's question fairly innocuous and not an invasion of privacy, the same can't be said about a question posed to Chopra during a virtual event hosted by *The Indian Express*. The question came from art historian Rajeev Sethi. Prefacing his question with a compliment ("What a handsome young man you are!"), Sethi said he wanted to ask a question on the minds of crores of Indians: "How do you maintain a balance between your sex life and athletic training? I know this is a weird question."

It wasn't just a weird question. As far as I know, it was the weirdest question that has ever been posed to an Olympic gold medalist

by an art historian.

Art historians do not usually get the opportunity to question Olympic athletes. The social circles of art historians and Olympic athletes usually do not overlap. Historians generally hang around with other historians, and athletes hang around with other athletes. And now we know why.

Chopra, to his credit, responded politely: "Sorry, sir. I have said sorry, you can know my answer from that."

Sethi did not give up. He tried to explain why he was asking his question, but that only made things worse. "My heart is overwhelmed by your question," Chopra said, which was a polite way of saying, "You have pierced my heart with your weird question."

As the only Indian to ever win an Olympic gold medal in athletics, Chopra has become a celebrity, but even celebrities deserve some privacy. Do we really need to know about Chopra's sex life? No, but perhaps the art historian would like to volunteer some details about his.

WISDOM CORNER

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work. THOMAS A. EDISON

Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not. RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Destiny is no matter of chance. It is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

WORDSWORTH

Paraproisdokian

Dorothy Parker once quipped about a Yale Prom, "If all the girls attending it were laid end to end, I wouldn't be at all surprised." Herman Mankiewicz said of Orson Welles: "There, but for the grace of God, goes God". (It has also been attributed to Sir Winston Churchill, as a put-down of Sir Stafford Cripps, but Herman Mankiewicz got there first.) Some unknown comic has written: "Where there's a will, I want to be in it" and another has created "Mary had a little lamb; the midwife was surprised." What connects these witticisms is that their endings are unexpected, a violation of expectations whose surprise provokes laughter. It's a useful trick for comedy writers. Paraproisdokian is the term for it that has become moderately well known in recent decades; it's particularly widely used online, probably because mentioning it is a good excuse for repeating choice quotes from witty writers. The word hasn't yet reached any dictionary that we know of and that includes the recent revision of the letter P in the Oxford English Dictionary, though the editor of the Macquarie Dictionary of Australia says that it will be in its next revision. That's led some, including the Canadian broadcaster and writer Bill Casselman, to argue that it's not a proper term in rhetoric: "The word paraproisdokian was made up by some semiliterate doofus late in the 20th century." He challenged those who thought otherwise "to show me one single citation for the word paraproisdokian earlier than 1950 CE". The phrase paraproisdokian occurs in classical Greek literature, meaning "contrary to expectations," but at some point the two words have been run together. Who first did this is untraceable, but as the earliest recorded use was in Die Sprache als Kunst by Gustav Gerber, dated 1884. Paraproisdokian looks odd to us because the -ian ending is more commonly found in adjectives in English than in nouns (though a few, such as comedian and tragedian, do contain it). In the Greek phrase, prosdokian is an inflected form of prosdokia, "expectation" – whether for good or ill, hence Sir Compton Mackenzie's comment – where the final n is the marker of the accusative case that conventionally followed the preposition para. The English word would be better as paraproisdokia, using the root form of the noun. That does occasionally appear in scholarly literature, though like the other form it's not in any of our dictionaries, and the established use of paraproisdokian means it's too late to convince anybody to change.



Melvin Durai

INDEED, A MALE INTERVIEWER WOULD BE WIDELY DENOUNCED FOR ASKING MIRABAI CHANU OR PV SINDHU, "DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?"

Pathetic state

Sir, The pathetic state of Indian higher education is discernible in the fact that even the best Indian higher education institutes (HEIs) do not get a top place in international rankings. It is worrisome that not a single Indian HEI appears among the top 200 in the latest Times Higher Education (THE) global rankings. In fact, the rankings are not done based on the excellence in teaching, research or reputation. THE considers parameters such as knowledge transfer that measures participation in exchange programmes and collaboration with other international universities and measures progress against the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Several Chinese universities figure among the top 100. In contrast, only three Indian HEIs figure in the 300-400 category. Criticism can be levelled against the parameters used for rankings but it must be understood that HEIs that wish to be globally competitive must strive for it. If India wants to be an academic superpower, it needs to do a lot. While India's National Education Policy 2020 is considered a game changer, pathetic performance of HEIs is a matter of concern. India must take a leaf out of the book of China and overcome the drawbacks in the higher education sector.

Venu GS, KOLLAM (KERALA)

Nipah nightmare

Sir, The Nipah nightmare is taking the country by storm. After a gap of three years, the zoonotic infection was reported in Kozhikode district of Kerala. When Kerala suffered such an epidemic during the floods three years ago, then Health Minister KK Shailaja managed the situation very well. However, Shailaja was shown the door by CM Pinarayi Vijayan after he formed government in the state for the second time. A 12-year-old boy recently died after getting infected by Nipah virus, while two health workers, who attended to the boy, are under treatment at the Kozhikode Medical College and Hospital. The virus is transmitted to people from animals and can also be passed on through contaminated food or directly from person-to-person. Fruit bats are considered to be a natural reservoir of the virus. Symptoms include acute encephalitis and respiratory illnesses. An alert has been sounded in Kozhikode and surrounding districts of Malappuram and Kannur. Health Minister Veena George has said the government has contacted the Indian Council of Medical Research to procure monoclonal antibodies for treatment of the disease. The medicines would be made available from Australia in a week.

MR Jayanthi, MUMBAI

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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Land acquisition on fast track for Subarnarekha port project

THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAD ANNOUNCED SETTING UP OF THE RIVER-BASED PORT ABOUT 14 YEARS AGO. CHIEF MINISTER NAVEEN PATNAIK HAD, HOWEVER, LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE PORT IN 2019



Kirtania. However, just two days after this announcement, the location of the port was changed. The state government signed an agreement with the Chennai-based Creative Port Development Limited to set up this port at Choumukh.

In 2018, Tata Steel proposed to pump in about 51 per cent of the total investment. The Chief Minister, while addressing a youth rally February 13, 2019 in Balasore claimed the port project will create scope of employment for 12,000 people with development of roads and railway connectivity in the region.

"The port will usher in development in south Baliapal region. A huge scope of employment and income generation will be created around the river-based port. All are requested to help in the project," said Satpathy.

Initially, locals united under the Bhitamati Surakhya Committee used to oppose the project saying that it would displace a large number of people while their livelihood depends on paddy farming, fishing, betel leaf and betel nut farming in the region.

Four camp offices were opened at different places to look after the land acquisition. A special office has been opened for examining land records. Land acquisition officers have been appointed. 197 acre of land is to be acquired for these projects.

The state government had announced setting up of the river-based port about 14 years ago. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had, however, laid the foundation stone for the port in 2019. Addressing a public rally in Bhograi in December 2006, the Chief Minister had announced the port project at an estimated cost of Rs 5,000 crore at

Langaleswar, Sept 7: The government has set a target to complete the infrastructure works of the Subarnarekha port project at Choumukh under Baliapal block in Balasore by 2024. "Land acquisition for the railway project and road for the proposed port project is in full swing," said Ranjan Satpathy, social scientist of Tata Company.

According to reports, a four-lane road will be laid from Gandhi Chowk to Choumukh. A special office has been opened in Baliapal. A railway line will be laid from Amarda station to the port site.

DENGUE AWARENESS



A van meant for creating awareness on prevention of dengue being flagged off in Malkangiri, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Maoist leader Sabyasachi Panda produced in court

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Sept 7: Maoist leader Sabyasachi Panda was produced in the local court here Tuesday for hearing in three cases relating to violence before his arrest.

He was brought under tight security and produced in the court of district and sessions judge in the town. The judge was scheduled to record the statement of wit-

nesses in cases relating to landmine explosion at Jhiliki village in Gajapati district, 2012 Bhaliaguda encounter and the encounter in Mukhi jungle.

However, he was taken back to jail after the witnesses failed to appear in the court, his lawyer Swaroop Pal said. Wednesday, the judge will record the statements of the witnesses in other cases for which the police have to again produce Sabyasachi in the court.

PANCHAYAT POLLS IN SIGHT

BJD lays focus on Gopalpur assly seat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 7: As the three tier panchayat elections are approaching, the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has given special focus on the party organisation in Gopalpur Assembly constituency in Ganjam. The assembly segment was represented by Pradip Panigrahi, who has been sacked from the party.

The BJD is scouting for an alternative and acceptable leader who can look after the party organisation in the constituency. The number of aspirants to lead the part from here is rising, but the party has not taken any decision till date.

In the current scenario, Gopabandhu Das, the political secretary to the Chief Minister is looking after the field responsibilities in the constituency.

There are 37 panchayats, a block,

four zilla parishad (ZP) zones and an NAC under the assembly segment. In 2017, BJP had managed to win in two zilla parishad seats in panchayat polls. ZP zone-53 was won by BJP. Five panchayats like Nimakhandi, Lochapada, Borigaon, Guranthi and Hugulapata are under this zone.

The 2022 panchayat elections are in the focus of the BJD. Gopabandhu Das is regularly reviewing the progress of projects in the area, apart from making strategies with help of local leaders and workers.

In the 2019 elections, BJP candidate Bibhuti Jena had given a tough fight to BJD's Pradip Panigrahi. Pradip had won the poll by a margin of only 2300 votes. In view of this, the BJD has been working hard to strengthen the base here ahead of the panchayat polls.

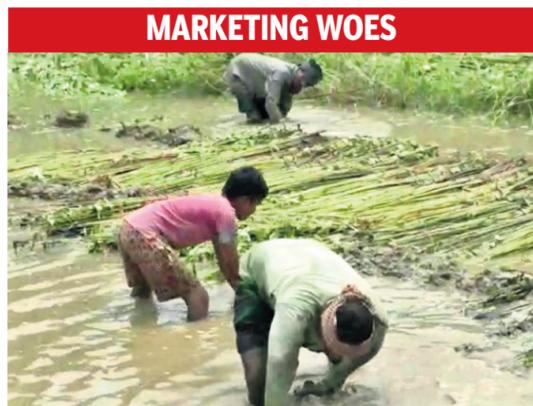
Farmers in Baliapal fight shy of growing jute

As the use of single-use plastics and other non-biodegradable materials has been banned, it is high time the state government gave special attention to promote jute farming

POST NEWS NETWORK

Langaleswar, Sept 7: At one point in time, thousands of farmers living in the riparian areas of the Subarnarekha river under Baliapal block in Balasore used to cultivate jute on a large scale. Jute farming then was lucrative for them and they earned a healthy sum to manage their families.

However over the years, the extent of jute farming in the region has declined as farmers say that they fail to get profitable prices for the crops compared to the labour and cost inputs. Many farmers



MARKETING WOES

have shunned jute cultivation over the years. They also lamented that they are turning away from this crop as no government support is coming in.

Jute is a biodegradable material and many useful items like carpets, sacks, ropes and other household articles are

made from it. "Distress sale of raw jute, inadequate marketing facility for jute fibre products and lack of government support have led to the crop losing its profitability and charm among the farmers in Baliapal," local farmers and agriculture experts lamented.

Jute used to be widely cultivated in Asti, Kumbhari, Nijhira, Srirampur, Debhoga, Bishnupur, Madhupura and Jankundi panchayats. Baliapal was once the highest producer of jute in the state. Jute was also being exported outside the state from this area.

30 years ago, the Central government used to procure jute through a cooperative society. Farmers earned a lot then by selling jute.

However, 8 years ago, the society was closed down. Farmers had to resort to distress sale of their crop. Jute was being supplied to jute mills in Rupsa, Dhanmandal (Jajpur), Dhenkanal and Kolkota.

"Traders are now buying jute from us at cheaper rates. We have to incur losses. Why should we do jute cultivation when we have to face losses," farmers like Bhagirathi Panda, Narayan Sethi and Amulya Gangai lamented.

They demanded that the cooperative society should be revived so that they can sell their crop at right prices. Farmers will be encour-

aged to do this cash crop in the region.

They said, "The state government has not done anything substantial to promote jute cultivation in the area. As a result, jute production has gone down substantially in the state."

Jute was cultivated in around 2,000 hectares from 1970 to 1995, but it came down after 2000.

Jute was once widely cultivated in other districts like Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Puri, Khurda and Nayagarh. In some of these districts, jute cultivation has now completely stopped.

As the Centre and state governments have banned the use of plastics and other non-biodegradable materials, it is high time the state government gave special attention to jute, they said.

Experts say, the district has favourable climatic conditions and land resources for jute cultivation but little government support led to a sharp decline in its cultivation. Hence, farmers are turning to other crops to earn a living.

No water in Bankashala dam; Jamankira farmers distressed



Farmers demanded that the administration take stock of the farming condition and declare the region as drought zone

have come to a halt.

Post-plantation activities have failed to progress due to scanty rainfall in July and August, they said.

The amount of rainfall came down in July. In August, there was hardly any rain, leading to possibility of drought.

"Paddy saplings have wilted. The situation is worse even in irrigated areas like ours," some farmers said.

There is an urgent need for a survey over paddy farming and immediate provision of financial help to farmers, who have already been left high and dry due to prolonged pandemic related difficulties.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jamankira, Sept 7: Paddy cultivation in most parts of Jamankira block in Sambalpur has been largely affected by insufficient rainfall. In the current year, Bankashala dam in Gundurucha panchayat has little water in the reservoir to feed the paddy fields, farmers lamented.

Farmers in the region held a meeting over possible drought situation as the monsoon has done a vanishing

1.5 tonne cannabis seized, 5 arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhawanipatna/Jeypore, Sept 7: Over 1.5 tonne of cannabis worth Rs 1.22 crore was seized and five suspected drug peddlers were arrested in Kalahandi and Koraput districts, police said Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, the Jeypore Sadar police station in Koraput busted a drug-smuggling racket Monday and recovered cannabis weighing 1,008 kg from a truck that was intercepted, police said.

The market value of the drugs is estimated to be over Rs 1 crore. The driver was arrested and later two suppliers were also nabbed, an officer said.

Rs 1.65 lakh in cash, the truck, a car

and a motorcycle were seized, he said. The contraband was going outside the state from Jalaput, he said, adding that more suspects would be arrested. In Kalahandi district, two persons were arrested after cannabis with an estimated value of Rs 22 lakh was found in a pumpkin-loaded truck, police said.

The truck was intercepted in Kesinga town Sunday and the cannabis was found in 280 packets, wrapped in polythene bags and concealed inside a pumpkin shipment, they said. The contraband, weighing 573.46 kg, was being transported from Padampur in Rayagada district to Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, Superintendent of Police Saravana Vivek M said.

UCO BANK ZONAL OFFICE : UCO BANK BUILDING, 2ND FLOOR, C-2, ASHOK NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR-751009

TENDER INVITING NOTICE FOR CASH VAN

Sealed Tenders / Applications are invited from reputed Private Security Agencies (PSA) for providing hired services of Cash Vans for remittance of cash to and from between our various Branches, Offices and Currency Chests located at Bhubaneswar Zone. Only those firms which fulfill criteria as mentioned in our Bank's website will be considered for empanelment. Please refer to Bank's website www.ucobank.com for details. Last date of receipt of sealed tender is 30.09.2021 upto 15.00 hrs.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 07.09.2021 Zonal Manager

PURI KONARK DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, PURI

V.I.P. ROAD, PURI

Auction notice No. 735 / PKDA, Puri, dtd. 03.09.2021

1 (one) no of flat of 'D' category in Nandighosh Enclave Goudabada Sahi, Puri Town, Dist: Puri is for sale through auction. For details please visit www.pkdapuri.in or www.puri.nic.in. The last date of receipt of sealed application is fixed to 07.10.2021.

By Order of Vice-Chairman
Sd./- Secretary

OFFICE OF THE BALASORE MUNICIPALITY, BALASORE

No. : 5558 Date: 06.09.21
C-923

E-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. BM_05_2021-22

Bid Documents consisting of Work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, time of completion, Class of contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. <https://tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgg/app>

- Name of the work : Civil Const works as mentioned in DTCN
- No. of works : 3 nos.
- Estimated Cost : As per Work List
- Period of Completion : As per DTCN
- Date and Time of Bidding : 07-09-2021 to 21-09-2021
- Last date and time for receipt : 21-09-2021 up to 5.00 P.M.
- Technical Bids received online shall be opened on : 22-09-2021 from 11.00 A.M. onwards
- Financial bids received online shall be opened on : 24-09-2021 from 11.00 A.M. onwards
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Officer, Balasore Municipality

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal i.e. <https://tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgg/app>.

Sd./- Executive Officer
Balasore Municipality

OIPR-13154/11/0020/2122

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

UI Left Canal Division No-1, Kusumkhunti, Dist: Kalahandi

E-Procurement Notice No. SE-LCD-1/02(01-13)/ 21-22 Dt. 03.09.2021

Lr.No:2071 Bid:03.09.2021

No. A-439: Bid document consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms and condition of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

- Type of the work : Canal Work
- No. of works : 13 (Thirteen)
- Class of contractor : 'D' & 'C' & 'B' class
- Bid identification No. : SE-LCD1-02(01 to 13)/2021-22 dtd.03.09.2021
- Estimated cost : Rs. 8.92 lakh to 40.28 lakh (excluding GST)
- Period of completion : 06(Six) calendar months
- Cost of tender paper : Rs.4000/- (from Sl. No. 03 to 13) (On-line payment mode).
- Bid Security/EMD : Bid Security Declaration to be furnished as per Works Department, Government of Odisha, No. 07556900052021(pt.-) 5964/VV, dated 27.04.2021.
- Date & time of availability of bid Documents in the portal : From 09.09.2021 10.00 A.M. to 23.09.2021, 5.00 P.M.
- Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal : 23.09.2021 up to 5.00 P.M.
- Date of opening of Bid : 24.09.2021 at 11.00 A.M. in the O/o. the Superintending Engineer, UI Left Canal Division, No.-1, Kusumkhunti, Dist-Kalahandi.
- Name of the officer inviting Tender : Superintending Engineer, UI Left Canal Division, No.-1, Kusumkhunti, Dist-Kalahandi

(A) Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said Website.

(B) Further details can be seen from Government Website - <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, UI Left Canal Division No-1, Kusumkhunti
OIPR-32126/11/0002/2122

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-650

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, RAYAGADA

E-mail: eerwssrgd@gmail.com, Phone- 8280408061

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-Procurement

Tender Identification No.02/RWSS/RGD/2021-22

- Name of Works : 1) Supplying & Laying of rising main and distribution system pipe line of UPVC/DI/GI, construction of Compound wall RCC OGR/ ESR, SV/NRV Chamber, Air Valve Pillar stand post etc for different PWS projects & Spring Based Water Supply Projects in Rayagada District.
- Total Number of Works : 3 Nos. (Detailed list available in the website)
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 19.02 Lakhs to 52.52 Lakhs
- Class of Contractor : D, C, B & A
- Period of completion : 8 months respectively

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding
1	2	From To
Superintending Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Rayagada	Online Tender/02/RWSS/RGD/2021-22	14.09.2021 at 12.00 hours upto 17.00 hours

N.B.: Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Sd./- 04.09.2021
Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Rayagada
OIPR-25007/11/0005/2122

Srinagar becomes new epicentre for militant activities

Srinagar alone recorded 16 terror-related incidents, 21% of the total of 75 incidents reported from across the Valley till so far this year



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 7: Despite the number of terror incidents has gone down by 40 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir as compared to the last year, the capital city Srinagar, has become the new epicentre of terror activities in the last one year, leaving behind some south Kashmir districts.

A source in the security set up said that Srinagar alone recorded 16 terror-related incidents, 21 per cent of the total of 75 incidents reported from across the Valley till so far this year, leaving behind the traditional hotbed of terrorism of Pulwama, Anantnag and Shopian.

These revelations are part of an internal assessment of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) which has been playing a crucial role in anti-terror operations in the UT and also intelligence agencies which were sent to the government.

According to the report, "Srinagar emerges as the hotspot of terrorists. Incidents (are) being driven by TRF and the capital town has also reported the maximum security forces' casualty in action this year. Out of the 15 casualties reported across the Valley this year, eight came from Srinagar."

Srinagar has also recorded the

highest number of recoveries of IEDs and out of 8 IEDs recovered so far, three are from Srinagar.

"Reflective of increasing violence, out of 75 terrorist incidents reported in the Valley this year, Srinagar accounts for the maximum number of incidents (16, 20 per cent) which is significantly higher than its share in the previous years (2019-6 per cent, 2020-5 per cent). This year, however, a shift in focus is clearly discernible," the report revealed.

"Another worrying trend is the propensity of terrorists to use IEDs in Srinagar. Out of 8 IEDs recovered this year, 3 were in Srinagar. It is assessed that 8-10 terrorists are active in the district (Srinagar)," it added.

The security forces have assessed that increased terror activities in Srinagar is a result of the recruitment drives initiated by the Pakistan based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)'s front - The Resistance Front (TRF). Its commander Abbas Sheikh is named as one of the top 10 terrorists by the J&K Police and has been frequently spotted in Srinagar with an aim to recruit militants and develop a strong network of hardcore OGWs (overground workers), an official in the security forces said.

MEHBOOBA PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 7: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti was put under house detention Tuesday and she claimed that the decision of Jammu and Kashmir authorities to restrain her movement had "exposed the government's claims of normalcy".

She also hit out at the Centre alleging that while the government was expressing concern for the rights of the people in Afghanistan, the same were being denied to Kashmiris.

"GOI expresses concern for the rights of Afghan people but willfully denies the same to Kashmiris," she added.

Mehbooba posted pictures of a security forces' vehicle blocking the main gate of her Gupkar residence. According to officials, Mehbooba had expressed a desire to attend a family function in South Kashmir's highly volatile Kulgam district.

The authorities persuaded her not to go for the function as some anti-nationals were still trying to vitiate the atmosphere in the valley following the death of pro-Pakistan separatist Syed Ali Shah Geelani. Mehbooba has been vocal since

I've been placed under house arrest today because according to administration the situation is far from normal in Kashmir. This exposes their fake claims of normalcy

MEHBOOBA MUFTI
PDP PRESIDENT

his death and Monday she accused the administration of turning the valley into "an open air prison" where "the dead aren't spared".

"A family isn't allowed to mourn and bid a final farewell as per their wishes. Booking Geelani sahab's family under UAPA shows GOI's deep-rooted paranoia and ruthlessness. This is New India's Naya Kashmir," she tweeted.

However, hours later, the Jammu and Kashmir Police released videos of the funeral of Geelani, who died on September 1 at his home after a prolonged illness. He was 91.



A statement was also released by the police clocking events after his death saying that its officers were made to wait for three hours at the separatist's home when they went there for his burial.

Refuting rumours allegedly being floated from across the border, the Jammu and Kashmir Police also released four videos through

its Twitter handle to show that Geelani was laid to rest as per rituals in the intervening night of September 1 and 2.

"After the death of SAS Geelani, IGP Kashmir Shri Vijay Kumar met both of his sons at their residence at 11 pm, consoled them and requested for burial in the night for the larger interest of the general

public due to potential major L&O (law and order) situations. Both agreed and asked to wait for two hours until relatives reached," the police said on its Twitter handle.

The IGP Kashmir personally spoke to a few relatives and assured them of safe passage, they said.

"However, 3 hours later, probably under the pressure from Pakistan and miscreants, they behaved differently and started resorting to anti-national activities, including wrapping the dead body in Pakistani flag, making loud sloganeering in favour of Pakistan and instigating neighbours to come out," the police said.

"They said that after persuasion the relatives brought the body to the graveyard and performed all rituals "with due respect in presence of members of Intizamia Committee and local Imam".

"The refusal of both his sons to come to the graveyard indicated their loyalty to the Pakistani agenda rather than their love and respect for their departed father," they added. The sons offered Fathia (prayers offered at the funeral) at 11 am September 2.

EFFORTS ON



Fire and emergency services personnel attempt to douse the fire inside a Mosque in Srinagar

PTI PHOTO

DOOR-TO-DOOR COVID SURVEY IN UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Sept 7: The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has launched a state-wide surveillance drive from Tuesday, under which the health officials will be going door-to-door and identify people with viral fever, Covid symptoms, and other diseases arising out of the seasonal vagaries.

This is designed to contain water-borne diseases in the state.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, while addressing a high-level meeting on Tuesday, asked concerned officials to admit only serious patients in the OPDs/IPDs of hospitals. Health teams have been directed to spray anti-larva and undertake fogging drives in the areas where more than one dengue patient is found. People have also been advised to take precautionary measures to check the breeding of mosquitoes in and around their houses. He said that source reduction activities should be conducted regularly in rural and urban areas as per the prescribed guidelines.

2013 MUZAFFARNAGAR RIOTS CASES

Eight years on, over 1,100 acquitted, just 7 convicted

Over 60 were killed and more than 40,000 displaced during the Muzaffarnagar riots of 2013

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Muzaffarnagar (UP), Sept 7: Eight years since the Muzaffarnagar riots of 2013, 1,117 people accused in 97 cases related to murder, rape, robbery and arson among others connected to the violence have been acquitted over lack of evidence.

Seven people were convicted in a single case related to the murder of two youths, Sachin and Gaurav, in Kawal village in the district. This, together with the stabbing to death of another person, Shahnawaz, August 27, 2013 by six people had triggered the riots, according to police. A special investigation team (SIT) was set up by the state government to look into the riots cases.

According to officials of the SIT, police had registered 510 cases



against 1,480 people and filed chargesheets in 175 cases. An official of the SIT said that over the years, 97 cases have been decided

by a court which has acquitted 1,117 people accused in those due to lack of evidence.

The prosecution has not filed

an appeal in any of these cases, he said. The seven people convicted in the Kawal village double-murder case were sentenced to life imprisonment. The SIT could not file chargesheets in 20 cases under sections 153A and 295A of the IPC since it did not get permission for prosecution from the state government.

Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to withdraw 77 cases related to the riots, but the court has given permission for withdrawal in just one case which is against 12 BJP leaders, including Uttar Pradesh minister Suresh Rana, BJP MLA Sangit Som, former BJP MP Bhartendu Singh and Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Sadhvi Prachi. SIT officials said 264 accused in the riots cases were facing trial at present.

Mayawati woos Brahmins

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Sept 7: Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati Tuesday asserted that the BSP would form the next government in Uttar Pradesh with the support from the 'Prabuddha Varg' (Brahmin).

Addressing a meeting at the BSP headquarters here to mark the culmination of the party's Prabuddha Varg Sammelans', Mayawati said, "We have always respected all castes. This party does not belong to any one caste but to all."

"As Chief Minister in all my terms, I have ensured that everyone got due respect. The interests of Brahmins and other communities are secure in the BSP."

She further said that she had never made false promises to people like the BJP does, but has worked for the development and welfare of all.

In her first public appearance in the pandemic, Mayawati clarified that she did not hold meetings during the pandemic because that would have given the state gov-



ernment a chance to target her party members.

"Even for the Prabuddha Sammelans, the state government had set a limit for participants. They would have put my party workers in jail if the numbers exceeded the limit and that would have impacted the party campaign for elections," she explained.

She said that after the BSP started Prabuddha Varg Sammelan, other parties followed suit. "But the 'Prabuddha Varg' is intelligent enough to know where their interests are safe," she said.

Mayawati also asked her party leaders to enrol a minimum of 1,000 Brahmins in each Assembly constituency in the state.

UP TO PROMOTE DIGITAL AGRICULTURE

THE MOVE WILL OFFER PROACTIVE AND PERSONALISED SERVICES TO FARMERS

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Sept 7: The Uttar Pradesh government plans to promote digital agriculture in the state in order to increase farmers' income and improve the efficiency of the agriculture sector.

The move will offer proactive and personalised services to farmers.

According to a state government spokesperson, the plan is expected to be launched as a pilot project in Mathura, Mainpuri and Hathras. Under the concept, the data of farmers in around 10 villages of these districts will be collected.

Along with linking the farmers to the welfare schemes of the government, personalised services to farmers such as soil and plant



health advisories, real-time weather advisories, irrigation facilities, seeds, fertilisers and pesticide related information, nearby logistic

facilities and market access information will be made available to them.

Apart from this, arrangements

PLASTIC WASTE TO BE RECYCLED

MATHURA: Plastic waste here will be disposed responsibly and recycled into useful products, including tables and chairs, under a new initiative. The initiative by PepsiCo India in partnership with united way Delhi aims to encourage and empower locals to keep their environment clean and set an example to inspire members of different communities. "Preparing benches and chairs from recycled waste plastic is a great initiative," said Durga Shankar Mishra, Secretary Housing and Urban affairs while inaugurating the programme on Sunday. Under the plan, a dedicated mobile van has been deployed for regularly visiting over 400 shops to collect plastic waste, said Rahul Sharma, Associate Director, Public Policy and Government Affairs, PepsiCo.

will also be made for proper marketing for the products cultivated by the farmers.

The government has entrusted the responsibility of preparing the database to the district magistrates of Mathura, Mainpuri and Hathras.

Along with this, instructions have also been issued that a nodal officer must be appointed for smooth execution of the proposed project. The work of preparing the database will be completed by coordinating with the officials of Government of India and NIC, Delhi.

AGENCIES

Srinagar, Sept 7: Hardline Hurriyat Conference has elected incarcerated leader Masrat Alam as its chairman following the death of Syed Ali Shah Geelani last week.

In a statement issued to media Tuesday, the hardline faction of the Hurriyat said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir look up to the amalgam's leadership with great expectations.

Shabir Ahmad Shah and Ghulam Ahmad Gulzar were elected as vice chairmen. The amalgam said the appointments were temporary till elections are held according to the Hurriyat constitution.

Geelani, who died last week, was elected as the lifetime chair-

man of the amalgam, but he stepped down and dissociated from it last year. He was avowedly a Pakistan supporter and had spearheaded the separatist movement in Jammu and Kashmir for over three decades.

JK police release Geelani's funeral videos: To dispel rumours about the alleged desecration of senior separatist leader, Syed Ali Geelani's body, Jammu and Kashmir Police have posted video clips of his burial during which all Islamic rites were observed.

Video clips posted by the police have shown that the body of Geelani was given proper ablution, was wrapped in white shroud and lowered into the grave amid recitation of verses from the holy Quran.

national

of the day quote

Last year, we launched the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign to minimise vehicular pollution. Set up a 'Green War Room' to monitor and coordinate anti-pollution efforts

Whatever is happening (in Afghanistan) will benefit Pakistan more. This should be understood

Through the scrapping of Article 370 and bifurcating the state into two union territories, not only has the BJP government undermined the basic structure of the constitution but the relationship between Jammu and Kashmir and the union itself

SHORT TAKES

Protests continue in J'khand House

Ranchi: Unrelenting BJP MLAs disrupted Jharkhand Assembly proceedings Tuesday for the third consecutive day as they protested against the allotment of a Namaz room by the speaker and demanded allocation of 30 minutes every week for reciting the Hanuman Chalisa. The saffron party members chanted 'Jai Shri Ram' and snatches of the Hanuman Chalisa. Many lawmakers of the party, which is the main opposition in Jharkhand, sported saffron outfits and saffron angavastram with 'Jai Shri Ram' printed on them.

Assam flood situation improves

Guwahati: The flood situation in Assam continued to improve as the number of affected population halved over the last 24 hours and that of the districts reeling under the deluge went down by one, a government bulletin said Tuesday. More than 20,000 people are now affected by the flood in 11 districts of the state, with the death toll remaining unchanged at eight, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said in its bulletin.

Kerala lifts night curfew

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Tuesday said that it has been decided to forthwith do away with the night curfew and the "stringent intensified" restrictions Sundays. The move comes as the state Tuesday reported 25,772 fresh Covid-19 cases. The CM said the decision to do away with restrictions was taken in the Covid review meeting as the TPR in the state, which was around 18.49 per cent in the last week of August, fell to 17.91 in the first week of September. On Tuesday, the TPR was 15.87 per cent. Vijayan said if people continue to be more vigilant, the number of cases can be brought down. After daily cases rose to more than 30,000 following the Onam celebrations, the state had brought in night curfew from 10pm to 6am from Monday to Saturday to check the increasing numbers.

11K-volt wire falls on house

Dhanbad: A man was killed and three members of his family critically injured as an 11,000-volt overhead wire fell on them when they were sleeping on the roof of their house in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district, police said Tuesday. The incident happened around midnight in Pandarpala in the Bhuli outpost area, they said.

AGENCIES

Karnal (Haryana), Sept 7: Police used a water cannon near the district secretariat here as thousands of farmers marched towards the complex demanding action over a police lathi-charge last month.

Farm unions had warned that protesters would lay siege to the mini-secretariat if action was not taken against officials involved in the lathi-charge in Karnal August 28.

Swaraj India chief Yogendra Yadav claimed that protesters -- marching to the secretariat from the venue of a mahapanchayat five kilometres away -- had already begun a gherao there.

Farmers reached the New Anaj Mandi for a mahapanchayat in the morning, riding tractors and motorcycles. As they gathered there, an 11-member delegation was invited by the local administration to discuss their demands and dissuade them from marching towards the secretariat.

"Our talks with administration failed as they did not agree to our demands," senior farm leader Joginder Singh Ugrahan said about three hours later.

Farm union leaders then urged the large gathering at the mahapanchayat to march peacefully towards the mini-secretariat, five kilometres away. The leaders told the farmers not to enter into any confrontation with policemen, and squat

Half-naked body of woman thrown from moving car

AGENCIES

Chennai, Sept 7: Police in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore have set up two special teams to probe the death of a woman, whose body was found half-naked on the city road and rendered nearly unidentifiable after it was run over by several vehicles.

Peelamedu Police Station House Officer Muthumani and team reached Chinniyampalayam in Avinashi road after a passerby on Monday morning informed the police of a woman's body lying there.

The body was taken to the Coimbatore Government Medical college and a post-mortem examination conducted. Police suspect this to be a case of murder but are tightlipped on the post-mortem report.

"We are studying the post-mortem report and there are not many leads as of now regarding the identity of the deceased woman. I can't also reveal much on the details of the body as it was beyond recognition as several vehicles had run over the body," Muthumani told IANS.

CCTV visuals from a commercial establishment at Peelamedu revealed that the half-naked body was thrown out of a SUV early on Monday. The body was beyond recognition as it was run over by several vehicles before the police could reach the spot and retrieve it.

Police have registered a case under Section 174 of the CrPC and Coimbatore's Superintendent of Police constituted two special teams to probe the matter, as well as to ascertain the identity of the woman.

'Average Indian diet provides only 70% nutrition'

WITH COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAVING RESET PRIORITIES, HEALTH AND WELLNESS HAVE RISEN TO THE TOP OF MINDS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 7: Nearly nine out of 10 doctors and nutritionists believe that the average Indian diet fulfills only 70 per cent or even lower nutritional needs of a person, according to a survey released Tuesday.

The findings are based on a nationwide survey of 220 healthcare practitioners (doctors and nutri-



The Karnataka government will spare no effort in the next 20 months for the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP-2020)

CN ASHWATH NARAYAN | K'TAKA HIGHER EDU MINISTER

KARNAL KISAN MAHAPANCHAYAT

Standoff between farmers and cops



in protest wherever they are stopped.

Thousands of protesters walked towards the secretariat carrying farmer union flags. Several barricades have been put up on the route.

Earlier, BKU leader Rakesh Tikait told reporters that they had demanded the suspension of the IAS officer who was caught on tape allegedly telling policemen to "break heads" of protesting farmers.

Rakesh Tikait, Balbir Singh Rajewal, Joginder Singh Ugrahan, Darshan Pal and Yogendra Yadav were among the senior Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) leaders who had reached Karnal for the rally, being held days after a huge mahapanchayat in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar.

Farmers from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have been protesting for months over the three farm laws enacted at the Centre, claiming that the legislation

will lead to the erosion of the minimum support price (MSP) system.

Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav, Karnal's Inspector General of Police Mamta Singh and Superintendent of Police Ganga Ram Punia, were among the officials who took part in the talks with farm leaders. Addressing the mahapanchayat earlier, Yogendra Yadav said, "We have come to ask the government which Constitution, which law gives an IAS officer permission to give orders to break the farmers' heads."

"Under which law are police allowed to carry out brutal lathi-charge resulting in the death of one and injuries to several others," he added. The authorities have, however, denied that any farmer died due to the violence August 28.

The Haryana Police had that day lathi-charged a group of farm-

ers disrupting traffic on the national highway while heading towards the venue of a BJP meeting.

Over 10 protesters were injured. The SKM had said a murder case should be registered against IAS officer Ayush Sinha over his alleged "break heads" remark. Sinha, who was later transferred in a reshuffle also involving some other IAS officers, has now been posted as the additional secretary in the Citizen Resources Information Department.

Farm leader Gurnam Singh Chaduni said a meeting with district administration officials was held here on Monday as well. After failing to get any satisfactory response on their demands the farmers decided to hold a mahapanchayat on Tuesday, he added.

He had earlier sought the registration of a case against those involved in the lathi-charge. Security arrangements had been beefed up in Karnal a day ahead of mahapanchayat and central forces deployed.

Mobile internet services were suspended in Karnal and the four adjoining districts of Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind and Panipat until Tuesday midnight. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC banning gathering of people were imposed in Karnal district. Traffic on the Delhi-Karnal-Ambala National highway was not disrupted while the panchayat continued, officials said.

FEVER SCORE



A child suffering from viral fever being carried by a relative outside a hospital in Firozabad

PTI PHOTO

'GOA ON ALERT LIKE KERALA, MAHA'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panaji, Sept 7: Goa needs to be on the alert like the states of Kerala and Maharashtra in wake of increasing number of Covid cases in the two states in recent times, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said Tuesday.

Sawant also said that the state government was 100 percent prepared for the third wave in case it strikes in terms of human and infrastructural resources to combat the next phase of the pandemic.

"We are fully prepared, but people also have to be fully prepared. No one had thought that the second wave would strike to such a de-

COVID RESURGE



gree. We need to be alert," Sawant told a government function here.

"Our neighbouring states of Maharashtra and Kerala have alerted their people, because the maximum cases at present are in Kerala and

big way," Sawant also said. Speaking about Goa's readiness to handle the third Covid wave, should it strike, Sawant said: "Whatever infrastructure and human required for Covid management, we have fully prepared. We are 100 percent prepared for both".

"I am mentioning human resources, because in case the third wave strikes, then whatever training required as far as human resources go, like doctors, staff for para medical staff, even as far as ambulances go, we are ready. The network which needs to be readied in this sector, we have prepared throughout Goa," Sawant also said.

Maharashtra. Maharashtra has started imposing the curfew in a



tionists) by multivitamin supplement brand Supradyn.

The survey brought to light an alarming gap in meeting the body's

NUTRITION FOR EYES

As Covid wreaked havoc throughout the world, working professionals and students moved to remote work and learning which resulted in increased dependence on various screens, leading to several eye problems. Proper nutrition for the eye is, thus, imperative, said health experts Tuesday



PEGASUS ROW

Apex court grants more time to Centre for filing response



An international media consortium has reported that over 300 verified Indian mobile phone numbers were on the list of potential targets for surveillance using Pegasus spyware

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 7: The Supreme Court Tuesday granted more time to the Centre to decide on filing a further response to a batch of pleas seeking an independent probe into the alleged snooping of certain people in India through the use of Israeli spyware Pegasus and slated the matter for further hearing September 13.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana had issued a notice to the Centre on the pleas on August 17, while making it clear that it did not want the government to disclose anything which compromised national security. The Centre had earlier filed a short affidavit on the matter.

As soon as the matter came up for hearing before the bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Aniruddha Bose, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said that due to some difficulties he could not meet the officials concerned to take a decision on filing of the second affidavit and sought listing of the cases either on Thursday or Monday. "My Lords, I need to take a call

on filing a second affidavit. It could not be decided due to some difficulties. Kindly give me time till Thursday or Monday," the law officer said. The CJ said the Centre's affidavit is there.

To this, the law officer said that the Centre was to take a decision on filing of a second affidavit in the matter. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for senior journalist N Ram, said that he does not have any objection to the request.

"List it Monday," the bench said. The Centre had earlier filed a limited, short affidavit in the apex court saying that the pleas seeking an independent probe into the Pegasus snooping allegations are based on "conjectures and surmises or on other unsubstantiated media reports or incomplete or uncorroborated material". It said the position on the issue has already been clarified in Parliament by IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. With a view to dispelling any wrong narrative spread by certain vested interests and examining the issues raised, the government will constitute a committee of experts, it had said.

Sibal, on behalf of some of the petitioners, had responded by saying that the security of the state is as important to the citizens of this country as it is to the state. "We don't want the state to give us any information about any security aspect in respect of use of any device. That is not our intention and that is not even the petition," he had said. The top court, while issuing notice on the pleas, had said that it did not want the government to disclose anything related to the national security and had asked the Centre what is the "problem" if the competent authority files an affidavit before it on the issue.

India administers 70 crore Covid vax doses so far



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: The cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country has crossed 70 crore, with the last 10 crore doses being given in just 13 days, the fastest so far, the Union health ministry said Tuesday. More than 67 lakh (67,43,698) doses have been administered till 7 pm, it said. The daily vaccination tally is expected to increase with compilation of final reports for the day by late night.

The coronavirus has to be defeated and vaccination is the way to victory, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said, while congratulating the country and healthcare workers for the achieving the 70-crore landmark. "Soaring higher on COVID-19 vaccination under PM (Prime Minister) @NarendraModi ji's leadership. 70,00,00,000 vaccine doses administered to date," he tweeted.

Congratulations to all health workers and people for this momentous achievement, he said.

India took 85 days to touch 10 crore vaccinations, 45 days to cross the 20-crore mark and 29 more days to reach 30 crore, Mandaviya said.

international



Citizens have the choice in a few days: either a government that accepts the support of the (far-left) Linke party with the SPD and the Greens, or at least does not exclude it

JILL BIDEN HEADS BACK TO CLASSROOM

After months of teaching writing and English to community college students in boxes on a computer screen, the first lady resumes teaching in person Tuesday from a classroom at Northern Virginia Community College, where she has worked since 2009



of the day quote

The US should come to Vienna with a real agenda for continuing the talks over the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal and completely fulfill its commitments under it. This is the sole way contributing to the restoration of the JCPOA

For a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery, all countries must implement measures in line with the principles of international solidarity, collaboration and equity, ensuring access for all people to vaccines against Covid-19

Our friends at the ministry are meeting (Egyptian officials). If we decide together after the meetings, we will take the necessary mutual steps to appoint an ambassador

Taliban fire shots to scatter anti-Pak rally

THE DEMONSTRATORS HAD GATHERED OUTSIDE THE PAKISTAN EMBASSY TO ACCUSE ISLAMABAD OF AIDING THE TALIBAN'S ASSAULT ON NORTHERN PANJSHIR PROVINCE

Kabul, Sept 7: Hundreds of Afghan protesters, including women, took to the streets of Kabul Tuesday, chanting "death to Pakistan" and denouncing Islamabad's interference in Afghanistan and airstrikes by its jets in Panjshir province in support of the Taliban, according to a media report.



that Pakistan Air Force jets conducted airstrikes in Panjshir province, Khaama news reported. Chanting "death to Pakistan",

"Freedom", "Allah Akbar" and "we do not want captivity" among many other slogans, the protesters gathered at the gate of the Pakistani embassy in Kabul and asked its staff to leave Afghanistan, it reported.

"Pakistan, Pakistan, Leave Afghanistan," a slogan on a huge banner read.

The agitators said they do not want a puppet government in Afghanistan and asked for an inclusive government, it said.

The Taliban fighters reportedly fired gunshots in the air to disperse the protesters but they were still agitating, the report added.

Several Afghan journalists covering the demonstration were arrested, witnesses and Afghan media outlets said.

The Taliban forces prevented some journalists from filming the protest, it added.

The demonstrators gathered after Ahmad Masoud, the co-leader of the resistance front in Panjshir province, in a voice clip called on people of Afghanistan to resurrect against the Taliban.

UK PM hikes tax to tackle health crisis

AGENCIES

London, Sept 7: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson set out plans Tuesday to raise taxes on workers, employers and some investors to try to fix a health and social care funding crisis, angering some in his governing party by breaking an election promise.



It would be wrong for me to say that we can pay for this recovery without taking the difficult but responsible decisions about how we finance it. It would be irresponsible to meet the costs from higher borrowing and higher debt

After spending huge amounts of money to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, Johnson is returning to an election pledge to address Britain's creaking social care system, where costs are projected to double as the population ages over the next two decades.

He also moved to try to tackle a backlog in Britain's health system, which has seen millions waiting months for treatment from the state-run National Health Service, after resources were re-focused to deal with Covid-19.

British politicians have tried for years to find a way to pay for social care, though successive Conservative and Labour prime ministers have ducked the issue because they feared it would anger voters and their own parties.

Ignoring disquiet in his party, Johnson outlined what he described as a new health and social care levy that will see the rate of National Insurance payroll taxes paid by

both workers and employers rise by 1.25 percentage points, with the same increase also applied to the tax on shareholder dividends.

He said the increases would raise 36 billion pounds (\$50 billion) over three years.

Johnson has tried to cool anger within his party, which has for decades positioned itself as a defender of low taxes, over the hikes, which some lawmakers fear could lose them support at an election due in 2024. Parliament will debate the measures further Wednesday.

New Af leader calls to uphold Sharia law

The Taliban Tuesday unveiled a hardline interim government led by Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund, with key roles being shared by high-profile members of the insurgent group, including a specially designated global terrorist of the dreaded Haqqani Network as the interior minister. The Taliban had promised an "inclusive" government that represents Afghanistan's complex ethnic makeup, but there is no Hazara member in the Cabinet. In a written statement, Acting Prime Minister Mullah Hasan congratulated Afghans for the "withdrawal of all foreign forces, end of the occupation and complete liberation of the country", Dawn reported. A caretaker and "committed" cabinet had been announced which will start working at the earliest, he said, adding that the leaders will "work hard towards upholding Islamic rules and Sharia (Islamic law) in the country," the paper reported. "All governance and life in the country will henceforth be in accordance with Islamic law," said Mullah Hasan. The announcement of the interim government comes days after Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Director General Lt Gen Hameed dashed to Kabul on an unannounced visit last week.

Table with 2 columns: Name, Position. Includes Mohammad Hasan Akhund (Acting Prime Minister), Abdul Ghani Baradar (Acting Deputy PM), Amir Khan Muttaqi (Acting Foreign Minister), Mullah Yaqoob (Acting Defence Minister), Sirajuddin Haqqani (Acting Interior Minister), Zahirullah Mujahid (Acting Deputy Information Min).

Pak navy inducts spy plane to track Indian submarines



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, Sept 7: Pakistan has inducted a new long-range spy plane to keep an eye on Indian submarines similar to what the Indian Navy is doing with China, The EurAsian Times said in a report.

A Rawalpindi-based defence journalist and researcher said seven to eight more are expected to be pressed into service after the completion of the project. However, he did not disclose how long it will take

for the aircraft to be operational. Speaking on the occasion, Admiral Niazi commended the remarkable transition of Pakistan Navy Air Arm from prop to jet age of Long Range Maritime Patrol Operations. He said that the navy is fully cognizant of prevailing challenges and is committed to upgrade its combat inventory to generate swift response.

Joseph P Chacko, an Indian defence analyst, said it could be anywhere between two and three years before the Sea Sultan can be operational, the report said.

He said the procurement was in response to the order of 18 Poseidon P-8 LRPMPAs placed by the Indian Navy and claimed that the induction of the Sea Sultan's could have far-reaching implications for the Indian submarines, which have long remained an active threat to Pakistani warships.

MARITIME PARTNERSHIP



INS Tabar with ENS Alexandria, a frontline frigate of the Egyptian Navy, during an exercise in the Mediterranean Sea

SL APPROVES STATE OF EMERGENCY

THE MILITARY AND THE AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN SEIZING FOOD STOCKS AND CONFISCATING WAREHOUSES WITH PADDY AND SUGAR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Colombo, Sept 7: The Sri Lanka Parliament Monday passed the 'state of emergency' with claims to seize hidden food stocks amid soaring prices of food and essential items.



SOARING FOOD PRICES

emergency with majority votes, with the opposition parties complaining that the law is a danger to democracy, rights and freedom of expression as the same law could be used to suppress dissent voices against the government.

Rajapaksa had August 30 gazetted state of emergency as a means to maintain food supplies and essential services during the Covid-

19 pandemic. The regulations had to be passed by the Parliament within 14 days.

The President also appointed a senior military official in a new post titled Commissioner General of Essential Services to control the distribution of essential consumer goods, including paddy, rice and sugar. Amid the price hike, traders were hoarding essential goods like

sugar and rice. The price control imposed by the government also led to a shortage of food items like milk powder.

However, the opposition alleged that the state of emergency has been imposed not only to control essential food prices, but also to silence the dissent against the government.

Tamil National Alliance (TNA) lawmaker M A Sumanthiran said there is no guarantee that the law will not interfere with the freedom of expression.

He argued that the existing laws are sufficient to control the prices of food and their supplies. The law will not confine only to the essential services but it would threaten the human rights as well, Sumanthiran argued.

Myanmar Oppn calls for nat'l uprising

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, Sept 7: The main underground group coordinating resistance to Myanmar's military government issued a sweeping call for a nationwide uprising Tuesday, raising the prospect of spiraling unrest.

The shadow gov't's PM, said that the new decision was taken due to "changing circumstances" that required the complete abolition of Junta

The National Unity Government, which views itself as a shadow government, was established by elected legislators who were barred from taking their seats when the military seized power in February.

The group's acting President Duwa Lashi La declared what he called a "state of emergency" and called for revolt "in every village, town and city in the entire country at the same time." A video of his speech was posted on Facebook.

Maj Gen Zaw Min Tun blamed exile media for exaggerating the op-

position's strength, in a statement posted on the Telegram app by state television MRTV.

There has been more serious combat in rural areas, especially in border regions where ethnic minority militias have been engaging in heavy clashes with the government troops.

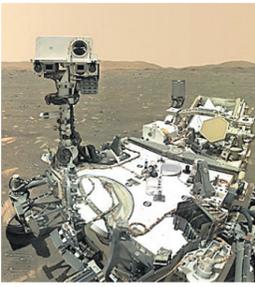
The call for an uprising came a week ahead of the convening of the UN General Assembly.

Perseverance rover collects first Martian rock sample

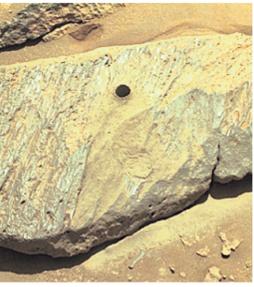
THE SAMPLE-TAKING PROCESS BEGAN SEPTEMBER 1, WHEN THE ROTARY-PERCUSSIVE DRILL AT THE END OF PERSEVERANCE'S ROBOTIC ARM CORED INTO A FLAT, BRIEFCASE-SIZE MARS ROCK NICKNAMED ROCHETTE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Washington, Sept 7: NASA's Perseverance rover Tuesday completed the collection of the first sample of Martian rock, a core from Jezero Crater slightly thicker than a pencil.



September 1, after failing in its first attempt in early August. While Perseverance, using its 2-metre-long robotic arm, drilled a hole on



Mars, it could not collect and store as intended in its first attempt.

perform so well on Mars and take the first step for returning samples to Earth, said Larry D James, interim director of JPL.

After completing the coring process, the arm maneuvered the corer, bit, and sample tube so the rover's Mastcam-Z camera instrument could image the contents of the still-unsealed tube and transmit the results back to Earth.

After mission controllers confirmed the cored rock's presence in the tube, they sent a command to complete processing of the sample.

Tuesday, at 12:34 am EDT, Perseverance transferred sample tube serial number 266 and its Martian cargo into the rover's in-

terior to measure and image the rock core. It then hermetically sealed the container, took another image, and stored the tube.

Getting the first sample under our belt is a huge milestone, said Ken Farley, Perseverance Project Scientist at Caltech. When we get these samples back on Earth, they are going to tell us a great deal about some of the earliest chapters in the evolution of Mars.

The Mars 2020 Perseverance mission is part of NASA's Moon to Mars exploration approach, which includes Artemis missions to the Moon that will help prepare for the first human exploration mission to the Red Planet.

of the day quote

Today, the returns that can be earned with battery production are high. It is a demand-driven market and stays a demand-driven market for the foreseeable future

HERBERT DIESS | VOLKSWAGEN GROUP CEO

The Modi government has given birth to twins in the name of development. One is called demonetisation and the other monetisation. Both have the same behaviour

AJAY MAKEN | EX-UNION MINISTER

MSMEs taking their local products to global customers will play a critical role in supporting the local economy and display the strength of the state's manufacturing and innovation prowess

VIJAY RUPANI | GUJARAT CM

SHORT TAKES

TAFE's tractors for Odisha, WB

Bhubaneswar: Indian tractor major and world's third-largest tractor manufacturer, Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE), launched the Massey Ferguson 244 & 246 Dynatrack - four wheel drive (4WD) tractors in its extremely popular and revolutionary Dynatrack Series. TAFE launched the Dynatrack 4WD series for West Bengal and Odisha to cater the demand. The new 4WD variants of the MF Dynatrack Series are tailor-made to deliver maximum productivity, extraordinary operational comfort, great mileage and unmatched durability. The superior DynaLIFT hydraulics, Quadra PTO, 24 Speed Super Shuttle Gearbox, Dual Diaphragm Clutch, Ultra Planetary Plus, Maxx Oil Immersed Brakes, Cerametallic clutch plate and higher PTO placement are some of the key features in this new range of tractors. The 4WD option is available in both Standard and Hi-Lug tyre variants. The segment-highest lift 2050 kilograms force (kgf).

Mi India launches new products

New Delhi: Mi India, the country's number one smartphone and smart TV brand, announced the launch of a wide range of smart home products at their annual IoT event - Smarter Living 2022. As part of its growing ecosystem portfolio, Mi India also announced the launch of Mi Smart Band 6, an upgrade to the bestselling Mi Band fitness wearable in the market, Mi 360° Home Security Camera 2K Pro and Mi Router 4A Gigabit Edition. With Smarter Living 2022, the brand is bringing newer products as well as the much-requested upgrades across categories. With new devices, the company is confident that it will help improve the quality of consumers' lives as it strives to bring in the best of smart technology to India.

Byju's acquires exam platform

New Delhi: Edtech major Byju's Tuesday announced the acquisition of Gradeup, one of India's largest online exam preparation platforms, for an undisclosed amount. The partnership will bolster BYJU'S presence in the fast-growing online competitive examination preparation category along with harnessing Gradeup's pedagogy and student reach, a statement said. Gradeup will be rebranded as Byju's Exam Prep and will cater to students preparing for over 150 exams over 25 categories covering government jobs and PG entrance exams such as IAS, GATE, CAT, Bank PO/Clerk, Defence, and UGC-NET.



EU's intention to issue up to 250 billion euros in green bonds between now and end 2026 will make us the largest green bond issuer in the world

JOHANNES HAHN | COMMISSIONER, EU

AUGUST VEHICLE SALES UP

Dealers registered a 14.48% rise in total retail sales of vehicles in August 2021, compared to the same month last year. Total retail vehicle sales for last month stood at 13,84,711, against 12,09,550 in August 2020, according to data released by Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations Tuesday



El Salvador: World's first adoption of bitcoin hits snags

REUTERS

San Salvador, Sept 7: El Salvador Tuesday became the first country to adopt bitcoin as legal tender, although it suffered teething problems when the government had to unplug a digital wallet to cope with demand. President Nayib Bukele, who pushed for adoption of the cryptocurrency, says it will help Salvadorans save \$400 million a year on commissions for remittances, while giving access to financial services to those with no bank account.

Doubters say the move may fuel money laundering and financial instability. It has already muddled the outlook for more than \$1 billion in financing that El Salvador is seeking from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The 40-year-old president is Latin America's most popular leader but has been accused of eroding democracy, not least by the administration of US President Joe Biden.

Last week, top judges appointed by his lawmakers ruled that he



could serve a second term.

Early Tuesday, Salvadorans trying to download the Chivo digital wallet, which the government has promoted, promising \$30 of bitcoin for each user, found it was unavailable on popular app stores. Then Bukele tweeted that the government had temporarily unplugged it, in order to connect more servers to deal with demand.

Bukele blamed Apple Inc, Google and Huawei's app download platforms for the delay. "Release him! @Apple @Google and @Huawei," Bukele wrote in one of his tweets,

which was accompanied by a red-faced "angry" emoji. The wallet was later available from Huawei.

Polls indicate Salvadorans are wary of the volatility of the cryptocurrency, which can shed hundreds of dollars in value in a day.

Ahead of the launch, El Salvador bought 400 bitcoins, Bukele said, helping drive the price of the currency above \$52,000 for the first time since May. Hours later, however, it had weakened about 4% to \$50,516. The change means businesses should accept payment in bitcoin alongside the US dollar, which

Global crypto exchange enters India despite policy uncertainty

MUMBAI: US-headquartered digital currency exchange CrossTower has set up a local entity in India and launched a trading platform to capture the growing domestic crypto market, even as the fate of cryptocurrency in India is still unclear. The company said that CrossTower India has already hired 35 people and plans to increase the workforce to 100 in six to nine months. The company is following in the footsteps of market leader Binance, which entered India in 2019. According to blockchain data platform Chainalysis, India's digital currency market has grown from \$923 million in April 2020 to \$6.6 billion in May 2021. Among 154 countries, India ranks 11th in cryptocurrency adoption, it said. "India will play an important role and we plan to use the country as a hub to expand into other geographies," Kapil Rathi, co-founder and CEO of CrossTower, told BusinessShala.

has been El Salvador's official currency since 2001 and will remain legal tender.

Some citizens were optimistic. "It's going to be beneficial... we have family in the United States and they can send money at no cost, whereas banks charge," said Reina Isabel Aguilar, a store owner in El Zonte Beach, some 49 km (30 miles) south-

west of the capital, San Salvador. Known as Bitcoin Beach, El Zonte aims to become one of the world's first bitcoin economies. However, uptake across the rest of the country may be slowed by a lack of internet penetration. It remains unclear whether businesses will be penalised if they do not accept bitcoin.

Vi hopes govt will bail it out of crisis

AILING TELECOM OPERATOR IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT FLAGS THE INDUSTRY'S UNSUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL DURESS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: Ailing telecom operator Vodafone Idea has flagged the industry's "unsustainable financial duress" in its latest annual report and hoped that the government would provide the necessary support to address "all structural issues" faced by the sector.

In the Chairman's letter to shareholders, Himanshu Kapania cited persistent challenges in the operating environment, amid "unsustainable pricing" and "hyper-competition" during FY21. Kapania expressed hope that government will support efforts to generate reasonable returns on massive investments.

"As the industry continues to remain under unsustainable financial duress, your company is hopeful that the government will provide the necessary support to address all structural issues faced by the sector," said Kapania who was elected by the VIL board as non-executive Chairman after Kumar Mangalam Birla stepped down from the position, in early August.

VIL with a history of providing 25 years of mobile services to



the country "is hopeful that the government will support its efforts to generate reasonable returns on their massive investments," he said.

Through the course of FY21, the operating environment continued to remain challenging due to unsustainable pricing and hyper-competition, which were further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Kapania noted.

While the operating challenges remain, increasing digital penetration that has got a further boost during the pandemic remains a massive opportunity for the telecom industry especially when the pricing revives in future, said the company.

VIL "believes the government recognises the criticality of the

sector and the importance of retaining healthy competition amongst private sector operators." "...While the company awaits the final Government's decision, it will continue to remain focused on providing quality service to the customers and sustain intensity in the market," Kapania added.

The longer-term prospects for the Indian economy continue to be robust, as initiatives such as privatisation of public sector enterprises, monetisation of assets, implementation of National Infrastructure Pipeline, Production-Linked Incentives Scheme and the new Labour Code, is expected to spur a virtuous cycle of investments and growth in the medium-term.

'Local industries lack adequate bauxite'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Odisha Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (OASME), a state-level apex MSME association, appealed to the state government to provide adequate bauxite ore to local industries rather than selling it outside the state.

In a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, OASME Chairman Gaurisankar Dash writes, "Your Government has always been sensitive to public opinion. Now the public and state's industries are humbly appealing for stopping the bauxite going outside Odisha. Our humble appeal is for immediate imposition of creation of value



addition facility as condition for taking bauxite."

"Aluminium demand may reach around 12 MnT by 2030. 8 MnT additional capacity and ₹4 lakh crore of investments are likely to be achieved. Odisha with bauxite & coal is eminently placed to get 70% of this investment i.e., around ₹3

lakh crore and employment opportunity for 1 million. Such high investment with thousands of small scale industries and huge employment is possible only if adequate bauxite resource is available in Odisha," Dash added.

The shortage of bauxite has led local traders to bring bauxite from outside the state through bauxite block auction.

The association requested for urgent action for immediate imposition of at least 70% value addition in Odisha.

OASME also urged the state government to take appropriate steps keeping in view the larger interests of the general public as well as the MSME sector of Odisha.

MCL supplies 5.18L tonne coal to state's power plants

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Raising the bar in supply of coal to power plants, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) dispatched over half-a-million tonne coal to consumers from its mines in Odisha.

MCL exceeded 5 lakh tonne off-take target by dispatching 5.18 lakh tonne dry fuel to coal consumers.

MCL dispatched an overall 85 rakes of coal to the power plants, as against target of 84 rakes. The supply of coal through road-mode was at 1.32 lakh tonne, up against the target of 99,000 tonne. Earlier August 30, the company had created a record

of highest ever coal dispatch by rail-mode in a single day. MCL had dispatched 102 rakes from Ib Valley and Talcher Coalfields to various consumers. MCL supplies about 150 million tonne coal to consumers across the country every year.

The company is aggressively implementing FMC (First Mile Connectivity) projects with a capital outlay of ₹3,600 crore by 2024 for rapid movement of coal to the consumers.

MCL, the first coal company to introduce environment-friendly Surface Miner technology in 1999, is operating a fleet of 66 Surface Miners.

'Proposed coal power plants could jeopardise India's RE goals'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: The proposed new coal-based power plants totalling 27GW could 'jeopardise' India's target of 450GW renewable energy by 2030, says a report by Ember and Climate Risk Horizons.

As per the report, 27GW of pre-permit and permitted new coal power plant proposals in India are now 'superfluous' to its electricity requirements.

"These coal project proposals could jeopardise the achievement of India's widely-praised RE target of 450 GW by 2030," it said.

It said these surplus 'zombie' plants - assets that would be neither

dead nor alive - would require ₹247,421 crore (USD 33 billion) of investment, and yet are projected to lie idle or operate at uneconomic capacity factors due to surplus generation capacity in the system.

"As India recovers from the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, how the country uses scarce public resources will be absolutely crucial. By avoiding these unnecessary 'zombie' coal plants, India can not only save lakhs of crores of rupees, but also lower power costs and reiterate its commitment to the success of its clean energy transition goals," Aditya Lolla, Ember's senior analyst, said.

The analysis by energy experts



at Ember and Climate Risk Horizons demonstrates that India doesn't require new coal capacity beyond the 33 GW of new coal

plants already being built, to meet demand growth by FY2030.

Even with aggressive projections of 5 per cent annual growth

in power demand, the analysis shows that coal-fired generation in FY 2030 will be lower than in FY2020, as long as India achieves its 450 GW RE and other non-coal targets, it stated.

The report finds that over 300 GW of renewable energy (RE) commitments have already been made by India's public and private power generators. Furthermore, it stated that India can meet peak demand in FY2030 even if it retires its old coal plants and stops building new coal beyond those under construction.

By FY2030, India will have a total firm capacity of about 346 GW in addition to 420 GW of variable renewables capacity to meet an es-

India continues to 'lag way behind' in vaccination: Fitch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: Fitch Ratings Tuesday said India continues to 'lag way behind' in COVID vaccination, and the negative outlook on sovereign rating signifies the rising debt-to-GDP ratio.

In April 2021, Fitch affirmed India's sovereign rating at 'BBB-' with a negative outlook. The outlook was changed to 'negative' from 'stable' in June last year on grounds that the pandemic had significantly weakened the country's growth outlook and exposed the challenges associated with a high public-debt burden.

Addressing the Global Sovereign Conference 2021, Asia-Pacific, Fitch Ratings Senior Director, Head of Asia-Pacific Sovereign Ratings, Stephen Schwartz said vaccination is the key to economic recovery across the world.

"The (APAC) region which was so successful in containing the virus early on, got behind the curve when it came to rollout of vaccines. Singapore really stands out now with 80 per cent of its population being vaccinated. But many countries in the region like Vietnam, Thailand and India continue to lag way behind and as a result continue to have periodic restrictions," Schwartz said.

Over 70 crore vaccine doses have been administered so far in India. The country has administered more than 1 crore doses daily in 3 out of the last 11 days.

Schwartz further said the negative outlook in India's ratings is on account of rise in debt-to-GDP ratio and uncertainty about the 'trajectories.'

The debt-to-GDP ratio stood at 72 per cent in 2019 and the agency expects it to rise above 90 per cent of GDP over the next five years.

Bank of India celebrates 116th foundation day



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Bank of India (BoI) Bhubaneswar Zone celebrated its 116th foundation day, Tuesday. As a part of the celebrations, the bank planted 116 saplings at Kalinga Nagar, Bhubaneswar under its CSR programme.

The event was participated by Zonal Manager Priyabrata Pattanayak, DZM Kamal Lochan Sethi, AGM Srijit Behera, AGM Pradeepa Ranjan Ray, AGM Gayatri Kampa and other staff members. All 91 branches under Bhubaneswar Zone participated in the celebrations.

Moreover, the bank adopted 180 tribal girl children and will bear their education expenses. BoI, Sum Hospital branch was shifted to new premises inaugurated by Zonal Manager Priyabrata Pattanayak. BoI also conducted a customer meet under staff engagement programme. The purpose of the celebrations was to create collective enthusiasm to have quality credit growth, increase IT enabled products, reduce NPA, achieve good performance in various government-sponsored schemes and create a niche in the banking sector.

BOPANNA, DODIG GO DOWN FIGHTING

NEW YORK: Veteran Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna and his Croatian partner Ivan Dodig fought their hearts out before losing their men's doubles third round to fourth seeds Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury at the US Open here. Bopanna and Dodig, seeded 13th, lost 7-6(7-4), 4-6, 6-7(3-7) to the Australian Open runners-up in a gruelling contest that lasted two hours and 30 minutes Monday night. With this defeat, India's challenge has ended at the last Grand Slam of the season. Sania Mirza lost her both women's doubles and mixed doubles first rounds and Ankita Raina also lost in the women's doubles.



ON A ROLL: Novak Djokovic reaches for a low shot during his victory over Jenson Brooksby at the US Open, Monday

DJOKO EXTENDS SLAM BID

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 7: For one-and-a-half sets, including one particularly compelling and competitive 24-point game, Novak Djokovic's fourth-round opponent at the U.S. Open — Jenson Brooksby, the last American left in singles — gave him fits amid a raucous atmosphere at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

That let Djokovic, above all, and everyone else, know that Brooksby — a 20-year-old wild-card entry from California who is ranked 99th and never before had been on this sort of stage — belonged.

And then, not surprisingly, Djokovic showed why he is who he is and how he's managed to move within three victories of the first calendar-year Grand Slam in men's tennis in 52 years.

Settling in and sending messages, to the fans with roars and to Brooksby with some staredowns, the World No.1 Djokovic improved to 25-0 in majors this year by winning 1-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 Monday night.

He extended his pursuit of a true Grand Slam and a record-breaking 21st major championship, while also making this the first time in the history of the U.S. Open, an event that dates to the 1880s, with zero men or women from the host country in the quarterfinals.

Djokovic hopes to add a fourth US Open title to a collection that's been boosted by his ninth at the Australian Open in February, second at the French Open in June and sixth at Wimbledon in July. He next meets No.6 Matteo Berrettini of Italy in a rematch of the final at the All England Club.

One key to Monday's turnaround: Djokovic broke in Brooksby's initial service game in each of the last three sets.

Affected by a left hip that bothered him earlier in the tournament, Brooksby was visited by a trainer after the second set and again after the third. Still, for someone who never had set foot on Ashe's blue court until about two hours before the match, when he got a chance to practice there, Brooksby never seemed overwhelmed by the setting or the circumstances.

Brooksby's 6-foot-4 strides and reach, his anticipation, his variety that includes a well-disguised two-handed backhand slice, his think-steps-ahead point construction, his commitment to patterns drawn up by his coach at home in Sacramento since age 7, Joe Gilbert — all left Djokovic a tad discomfited early.

The other quarterfinals on the

men's side:

No.4 Alexander Zverev of Germany vs. Lloyd Harris of South Africa, No.12 Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada vs. 18-year-old Carlos Alcaraz of Spain, and No.2 Daniil Medvedev of Russia vs. Qualifier Botic van de Zandschulp of the Netherlands.

The women's round-of-eight matchups: No.2 Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus vs. No.8 Barbora Krejčíková of the Czech Republic, No.5 Elina Svitolina of Ukraine vs. 19-year-old Leylah Fernandez of Canada, No.11 Belinda Bencic of Switzerland vs. 18-year-old qualifier Emma Raducanu of Britain, and No.4 Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic against No.17 Maria Sakkari of Greece.

Sakkari beat 2019 champion Bianca Andreescu 6-7(2-7), 7-6(8-6), 6-3 in a match that ended at 2:13 am, making it the latest-finishing women's match in tournament history.

Brooksby's exit — certainly no shame in losing to Djokovic, of course — followed the fourth-round departures earlier Monday by No.22 seed Reilly Opelka from the men's draw with a 6-7(6-8), 6-4, 6-1, 6-3 loss to Harris, and by unseeded Shelby Rogers from the women's draw with a 6-2, 6-1 loss to Raducanu.

Rogers upset Ash Barty, a two-time major champion who is ranked No.1, in the third round, but was unable to produce the same level of tennis in what she termed a "pretty embarrassing" performance Monday. The brackets began with 43 Americans in the singles fields.

Vaughan takes a dig at England

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 7: Battle-hardened India exposed shortcomings of England in all departments with their famous win in the fourth Test, reckons former skipper Michael Vaughan.

India were on the backfoot initially but conjured up a comprehensive 157-run win at the Oval Monday to take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series. Vaughan found faults in every department of the game.

"The deficiencies of England's Test team were laid bare this week in batting, bowling and fielding. They were beaten by battle-hardened opponents who know how to win the key moments," Vaughan wrote in his column for 'The Telegraph'.

"It started with their catching on day one, continued through their batting in the first innings before their bowling was exposed on a flat wicket over the weekend.

"I would like to know why in the last couple of years this fielding team has not improved. They continue to drop chances and should have bowled India out for 125 in the first innings," he said.

Vaughan said England did not make enough runs in their first innings and also questioned the shot selection of the batsmen. "England played some poor strokes through lapses in concentration. Haseeb Hameed chased a wide ball, for example, and Moeen Ali top-edged one in the air when England were strolling the game. Those were poor cricket shots.

"England lack pace and variation to make things happen in flat conditions. This England Test team are dependent on the pitch helping them. When that happens they look like taking 20 wickets like they did at Headingley, otherwise they struggle."

Vaughan also found "lack of intent" among England batsmen. "The run out of Dawid Malan was a prime example. If you are busy from ball one you are alert to singles but Malan was on his heels because he was not expecting that call from Hameed. That is a lack of



England lack pace and variation to make things happen in flat conditions. This England Test team are dependent on the pitch helping them. When that happens they look like taking 20 wickets like they did at Headingley, otherwise they struggle

MICHAEL VAUGHAN

intent. It was an insight into England's mindset. They were just batting."

The former captain also did not like the way England chose their combination for the Oval Test. "Not that long ago England were saying they always wanted one pace bowler in the team. Why did they not go back to Mark Wood for this game? Not for the first time, they selected the team that did well the week before in different conditions. The mindset needs to change. They have to be smarter. England have to work out how to become battle-hardened when the pressure is on. I always question some of their thinking. Why did they appoint Moeen as vice-captain?"

"He has barely been in the side for two years. It would have been a nice little boost for (Rory) Burns, who is a regular in the side, to be made vice-captain this week on his home ground. It was a decision that puzzled me and perhaps put more pressure on Moeen who is still making his way back in the game."

Police investigates 4 Argentines over chaos

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sao Paulo, Sept 7: Four Argentina footballers are being investigated by Brazil federal police for allegedly providing false information upon arrival here for a World Cup qualifying match.

The Brazil-Argentina qualifier Sunday was interrupted after seven minutes when agents of Brazil's health agency, Anvisa, insisted they should take England-based players Emiliano Martinez, Emiliano Buendia, Giovanni Lo Celso, and Cristian Romero to the airport for breaching coronavirus protocols.

Anvisa said Argentina soccer officials knew since Saturday that the four players — three of whom were on the field — should not play because they were in the UK 14 days before their arrival, but did not inform authorities as required. Visitors from the UK must undergo a mandatory 14-day hotel quarantine.

Brazil federal police confirmed to this agency Monday the four players received a notification to leave the country Sunday night, and had to give written statements to authorities. They flew with the rest of the Argentina squad to Buenos Aires shortly after. The match was abandoned without a score.

Argentina tweeted Monday that Martinez and Buendia were authorized to return to England so they could rejoin their club Aston Villa. It did not discuss the situation for Tottenham's Lo Celso and Romero.

Anvisa director Alex Campos said Argentina "repeatedly ignored the agency's recommendations." "They were first informed Saturday



morning about the players entering the country with false information," Campos told SporTV.

"We could have deported them at once. But we recommended the quarantine. There was another meeting in the afternoon, same message. And then Sunday morning we saw they had attended a training session.

"We never meant to interrupt the match. We were stopped from acting until the time the match began. Our only goal was to take the players who were challenging Brazilian regulations," Campos added.

"The match could have continued, the interruption was a decision by sports executives. Argentina tried to put pressure on Brazilian

authorities and chose to leave if they didn't have those players."

Campos also said the four players refused to sign a notification of the incident before leaving. The agency also had access to two documents of the Brazilian Football Confederation dated July 5 and September 2 in which it mentions new government restrictions issued June 23 for travelers who were in the UK two weeks before their arrival.

FIFA has also started an investigation. It said it has received official match reports and has passed them on to disciplinary bodies. No date for a decision has been offered, nor a date for a rematch. FIFA added it "regrets the scenes preceding the suspension of the match."

STOP WORRYING, APPRECIATE THE GAME: DE VILLIERS TO INDIAN FANS

DUBAI: Former South Africa captain AB de Villiers has urged spectators to forget about "team selection and other nonsense" and appreciate the game in its purest form after premier India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin was controversially excluded for the fourth consecutive Test against England. "As 'spectators' of Test Cricket, just stop worrying about team selection and other nonsense and start appreciating the competition, passion, skill and patriotism unfolding in front of your eyes. You're missing a good game!" de Villiers tweeted. "Well played India, well Captained @imVkohli and amazing skill and guts from a few individuals. Also well played @root66 & England! Great ad for our beautiful game! Excited for the finale," he added.

BUTTLER, LEACH RETURN TO SQUAD

MANCHESTER: Wicketkeeper-batsman Jos Buttler and left-arm spinner Jack Leach Tuesday returned to the England squad for the fifth and final Test against India as the hosts gear up save the series. Buttler had missed the fourth Test due to the birth of his second child. India lead the series 2-1 after a famous win at The Oval Monday. England, who have not lost a Test series to India at home since 2007, are under pressure to save the five-match rubber here. The squad: Joe Root (C), Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Jonathan Bairstow, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler, Sam Curran, Haseeb Hameed, Dan Lawrence, Jack Leach, Dawid Malan, Craig Overton, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson, Chris Woakes and Mark Wood.

PRAMOD 'ENJOYING' HIS FEAT

Showing a great determination and grit in the entire campaign, ace para shuttler **Pramod Bhagat** won gold medal in the men's singles SL3 category in Tokyo Paralympics. In a conversation with **Kuldeep Singh, OP**, the Odisha lad opens up on his post-Para Games life and his next step. Excerpts...



What would you say about your splendid feat in Tokyo?

I'm very happy after winning the gold in Tokyo. This journey was difficult. I'm happy that I could make my country and state proud. This is a big achievement for me.

What was going through your mind when you entered the court for the final?

People always think of wins when India play England in cricket. Same thing was in my mind, I wanted to win. I lost a match against a player from Great Britain a couple of years ago. I was a little confused about what to do in the final. But the moment I won the first set, I thought that I would win this game. The second round was tough but I kept my plans intact and secured the win.

From Attabira (Bargarh district) to gold in Tokyo. How would you describe this journey?

Every athlete struggles throughout his/her life. But I would say that as a para-athlete, the struggle becomes more rigorous. I was lucky to have a lot of support from my loved ones, people of my village, coaches as well as the governments. With the help of love and support I got from these people, I achieved my dreams.

You have achieved what you have dreamt for all these past years. However, you seem to be missing something despite achieving such a priceless feat?

It's true. I'm missing my parents today. They had dreamt that I should become a world-class athlete and win a gold medal in the Paralympics. I won the gold but today they are not with me to live or cherish this moment. I wish they would be here

with me. But I know that their blessings are always with me.

When you were conferred the Arjuna Award, you told us that you were focusing on the Paralympics. But now you have crossed that finish line on a high, what's next?

I achieved my dream but you know human nature is like - you keep dreaming for one after another. Well, currently I'm enjoying my feat. After this my eyes are on the Paris 2023. And I'm hopeful that I will always have the support of the people of Odisha.

You're going to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Do you have any specific thing to ask for?

They have always supported and motivated me in my journey. It's because of their support that I achieved my dreams. I'm excited to meet them and learn more things from them which would definitely help.

