



**AARYA NOMINATED FOR EMMY**  
Sushmita Sen-starrer Aarya has been nominated at the 49th International Emmy Awards in the 'Drama Series' category **LEISURE P2**



**NORTH KOREA OFFERS TALKS**  
The sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said her country is willing to resume talks with South Korea if conditions are met **INTERNATIONAL P10**



**EVES LOSE SERIES**  
India Women suffer defeat in the second ODI against Australia as well as lose the three-match series **SPORTS P12**

**USHA TRAVELS**  
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**DIESEL PRICE HIKED BY 20 PAISE PER LITRE**  
New Delhi: Diesel price Friday was hiked by 20 paise per litre - the first increase in rates in over two months - as international oil prices neared their highest since 2018. Price of diesel was hiked to ₹88.82 per litre in Delhi and to ₹96.41 in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. Petrol price was not changed. It costs ₹101.19 a litre in Delhi and ₹107.26 in Mumbai. State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) hadn't revised fuel rates since September 5 despite a surge in international oil prices. Friday, global benchmark Brent crude rose to USD 77.50 a barrel as crude inventories shrank from Europe to the US. Oil rates are up 2 per cent for the week and this is the fifth weekly gain.

**DELHI COURT SHOOTOUT LEAVES 3 DEAD**  
New Delhi: Jailed gangster Jitendra Gogi was shot dead Friday inside Delhi's Rohini court by two assailants dressed as lawyers, who were also killed in a swift police counter-fire, officials said. In video footage of the shootout involving the two attackers, who were from the rival gang, gunshots could be heard and policemen and lawyers seen in a scramble, but officials said there were no further injuries or deaths. Delhi Police spokesperson Chinmoy Biswal said both assailants were dead along with Gogi. Delhi Police said in a tweet, "Two gangsters killed in immediate counterfire by Police as they opened fire in lawyers' attire at a gangster UTP (under trial prisoner) in Rohini court premises this afternoon. All 3 gangsters dead. No other injury or death occurred." **MORE ON P9**

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**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**

Sir, you know we are specialised only in tackling journalists, activists, farmers, etc. These guys are just goons.



**PANGS OF POVERTY:** A man carries his belongings on his head after his house was demolished during an eviction drive at Gorukhuti in Darrang district, Assam, Friday. The drive was carried out to evict illegal encroachers from government land. **PTI PHOTO**

**MARKET WATCH**

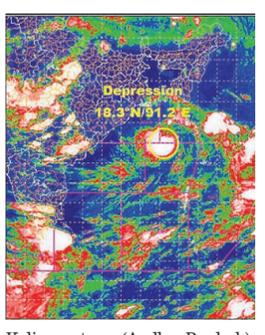
INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	60048.47 ↑ 163.11
NIFTY	17853.20 ↑ 30.20
DOLLAR	73.99 ↑ ₹0.04
EURO	86.58 ↑ ₹0.20
GOLD	₹46,041 ↓ ₹15
SILVER	₹60,032 ↓ ₹757

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	33.7°C	34.2°C
TEMP MIN	25.4°C	25.5°C
Humidity	91%	88%
Rainfall	0.7mm	Nil
Forecast	Light rain very likely	

## Pre-cyclone alert for state, Andhra

The system is located about 670 km east-southeast of Gopalpur and 740 km east of Kalingapatnam. It is likely to intensify into a deep depression during the next 12 hours and intensify further thereafter



Kalingapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). It is likely to intensify into a deep depression during the next 12 hours and intensify further thereafter, the bulletin said. The IMD further said it is likely to move initially west-northwestwards during next 24 hours and west-southwestwards thereafter and cross south Odisha-north Andhra Pradesh coasts between Visakhapatnam and Gopalpur around Kalingapatnam by evening of September 26, 2021. Squally wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph is likely along and off Odisha coast from September 25 morning. It will gradually increase, with gale speed reaching 70-80 kmph gusting to 90 kmph from afternoon of September 26 till midnight along and off north Andhra Pradesh and adjoining south Odisha coasts, it said. As sea conditions would be rough, fishermen are advised not to venture into sea, along and off Odisha coast northwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal from September 25 to 27. Under its impact, many parts of Odisha will receive heavy rainfall during next five days. Heavy rainfall would occur in some places of Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh and Ganjam districts Saturday. Parts of Odisha had experienced flood after a deep depression-induced rainfall lashed the state earlier this month.

### Jubin Mohapatra of state ranks 46th in civil services exam



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** A total of 761 candidates have cleared the coveted civil services examination 2020, with engineering graduates Shubham Kumar and Jagrati Awasthi bagging the first and second ranks respectively. UPSC declared the results Friday. Jubin Mohapatra of Bhubaneswar ranked 46th. A computer science engineer and an MBA, he worked in the corporate sector for about six years. He had previously joined the IPS in Jammu and Kashmir. Other candidates from Odisha are - Ashish Kumar Mishra 52nd rank; Subhankar Bala 79th; Rina Pradhan 194th; Purvi Nanda 244th; Navjyoti Mishra 395th; Babitarani Swain 464th; Ankit Mishra 522nd; and Sudhanshu Nayak 620th.

## Modi, Biden discuss Covid, climate, Quad

AGENCIES

Washington, Sept 24: US President Joe Biden said Friday that the relationship between India and the US, the world's two largest democracies, is destined to be "stronger, closer and tighter," as he hosted Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the White House for the first bilateral meeting and discussed a wide range of priority issues, including combating Covid-19, climate change, trade and the Indo-Pacific.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden interact during their first bilateral summit at the White House, Friday. **PTI PHOTO**

Modi, who is visiting the US for the 7th time after assuming office in 2014, described Friday's bilateral summit with Biden as 'important' as they're meeting at the start of the third decade of this century. "Your leadership will certainly play an important role in how this decade is shaped. The seeds have been sown for an even stronger friendship between India and the US," Modi told Biden.

starting with a shared commitment," he said. Biden said he and Prime Minister Modi would talk about what more they can do to fight COVID-19, take on the climate challenge that the world face, and ensure stability in the Indo-Pacific, including with their quiet partners. India, the US and several other world powers have been talking about the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the region.

Biden said the relationship between India and the US is "destined to be stronger, closer and tighter." "I've long believed that the US-India relationship can help us solve a lot of global challenges. In fact, back in 2006, I had said that by 2020 India and the US will be among the closest nations in the world," Biden told Modi.

Noting that the world would celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's birthday next week, Biden said, "We're all reminded that his message of non-violence, respect, tolerance, matters today maybe more than ever had."

"Today, we're launching a new chapter in the history of US-India ties, taking on some of the toughest challenges we face together,

On this, Modi said, "Gandhi Ji spoke about trusteeship, a concept which is very important for our planet in the times to come."

## Vansadhara dispute: SC notice to Andhra

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Sept 24:** The Supreme Court Friday issued notice to Andhra Pradesh on a special leave petition filed by Odisha against the orders of the Vansadhara Water Dispute Tribunal and posted the matter for final disposal in November. The apex court granted four weeks time to Andhra Pradesh to file its counter affidavit in response to the petition filed by Odisha. A two-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices DY Chandrachud and BV Nagarathna said that they will hear the matter for final disposal November 11 and asked both states to prepare a common compilation, bookmarked with the entire relevant documentary. It asked the counsels of both states to submit brief skeletons notes of submission, additional documents related to the water dispute and relevant case law if any. During the hearing, senior advocate Gopal Subramaniam, appearing for Odisha, apprised the court that another petition against the order of the tribunal passed in June 2021 has also been filed in the Supreme Court.

**WAR FOR WATER**

- In June, the Vansadhara Water Dispute Tribunal had permitted AP to construct the Neradi barrage
- The tribunal had said the barrage can have a right head sluice of 8,000 cusecs of design capacity for meeting requirements of Andhra Pradesh and have a left head sluice to cater to the requirements of Odisha

### Scribe drowns during elephant rescue act



Arindam Das  
POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** Popular television journalist Arindam Das Friday died when an ODRAF powerboat engaged in the rescue of an elephant in Mahanadi capsized at Mundali barrage near Cuttack. He along with ODRAF personnel and a camera journalist had boarded the powerboat which overturned due to the strong current in the river, the police said. He along with other journalists and three ODRAF personnel were fished out of the water in a critical state and rushed to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. "Arindam was received dead. We tried to revive him for over an hour," SCB emergency officer Bhubananda Moharana told reporters. His associate, camera journalist Pravat Singha is admitted to the ICU of the medicine department of the hospital. "Condition of one of the ODRAF personnel is critical," Moharana said. Das, 39, who started his career in Odia daily Dharitri, was the chief reporter of a TV news channel. He is survived by his son, wife and mother. He had covered all major events - from natural calamities like cyclones Phailin, Fani anti-naxal operations, crime as well as forest and wildlife. Das had gone to the bank of Mahanadi to cover the rescue of the elephant trapped in the swollen river as part of his assignment. **MORE ON P3**

## Hotel told to pay ₹2cr to woman for 'shoddy haircut'

The woman who aspired to become a top model was shattered as staff at the ITC Maurya Salon not only gave her a bad haircut but also exhibited medical negligence in hair treatment

at ITC Maurya Salon in the capital. A bench of President Justice RK Agrawal and member SM Kantikar said: "There is no doubt that the women are very cautious and careful with regard to their hair. They spend a handsome amount on keeping the hair in good condition. They are also emotionally attached with their hair." The commission directed ITC to pay ₹2 crore to complainant Aashna Roy within eight weeks for deficiency in service under the Consumer Protection Act. "The Opposite Party No 2 is also guilty of medical negligence in hair treatment. Her scalp was burnt and still there is allergy and itching



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

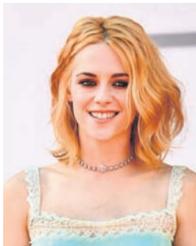
**New Delhi, Sept 24:** The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has awarded a whopping ₹2 crore compensation to a woman whose dream to be a top model was shattered due to a haircut gone wrong by ill-trained staff

activities. "She is a communication professional and required to be involved in meetings and interactive sessions. But she lost her self-confidence due to little hair. She has also suffered loss of income due to mental breakdown

after the shoddy haircut and thereafter the torturous hair treatment. She left her job also," noted the bench. The bench said Roy has been a model for hair products because of her long hair and she has done modelling for big brands. "But due to hair cutting against her instructions... she lost her expected assignments and suffered a huge loss which completely changed her lifestyle and shattered her dream to be a top model," it added. The commission said: "There is no doubt that realising the mistake done by its staff, the Opposite Party No 2 offered the free hair treatment to the complainant and complainant was not attended to for

a gesture. Hence, we are of the considered view that the complainant is a consumer." Roy, in her plea, submitted that she went to the salon, which she used to visit since 2004, April 12, 2018, for "hairstyling to have a clean and groomed appearance before the interview panel." However, the hairdresser, chopped off her entire hair leaving only 4 inches from the top and barely touching her shoulders - which she had not instructed. She was again called May 3, 2018, after complaining to the management, for hair treatment. However, during treatment, her hair and scalp got completely damaged with excess ammonia.

# leisure



## KRISTEN FOLLOWS PRINCESS DIANA'S ACCENT IN SPENCER TRAILER

The trailer of Kristen Stewart-starrer *Spencer* has been unveiled and the actress looks every bit as Princess Diana from her grand outfits to the hairstyle and even the late British royal's accent.

## TOM FELTON COLLAPSES ON GOLF COURSE

*Harry Potter* star Tom Felton collapsed on a golf course while taking part in the Ryder Cup celebrity tournament, and was carried away on a cart by tournament staff. Felton was then taken away to seek further medical treatment.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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#### ARIES

If you are aiming to marry soon, you can start making preparations today. However, before you take the final decision, it would be better to look at both sides of the coin, advises Ganesha. Activities related to such an alliance will dominate today, and by the end of the day you may feel very elated.

#### TAURUS

This day appears to be earmarked for a long shopping spree. Ganesha sees you doing the rounds of malls, markets, dollar stores and bargain counters. You are likely to be happily busy in haggling over prices, trying to get the best deals for your purchases.

#### GEMINI

A progressive day awaits you. However, you need to keep yourself in check when enjoying yourself. You will spend time with your friends and family and bond emotionally. Do not neglect your family members in the group activities that you take up, says Ganesha.

#### CANCER

A string of domestic responsibilities awaits you; today, you are about to realise that it is a long, long string. Chances are that this sudden rise in work pressure may also lead to blood pressure problems. Ganesha advises you to stop presuming how people may react to everything; also, avoid being too proud to avoid excess heartache.

#### LEO

Nothing will overshadow your love for your kids today, and they will be the number one priority for you. It seems like a good day to take time out and monitor their progress in school; so, do not skip that PTA meeting.

#### VIRGO

You will begin your journey on the long, hard road to success, predicts Ganesha. Hard work will be the key to any progress that you make. Avoid short cuts, and all the toil and trouble will pay off with rich returns as recognition and rewards will come your way.

#### LIBRA

Today promises a definite sense of pride and joy from children who bring home glory, says Ganesha. Fiscal gains are also on the cards, and you may consider it worthwhile to put your money into lucrative businesses. Money-lenders and stock brokers are likely to make handsome earnings on this charming and enchanting day.

#### SCORPIO

In all probability, your mood is extremely hawkish today. Your belligerence may even put off Lady Luck for the time being. Ganesha advises you to stay away from confrontations and troubles of any kind. The evening, however, promises to be relaxing.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Your business is all set to expand with you making the most of your overseas contacts. Effective communication skills will help you sail through your tasks. And you are making all the right moves to become the leader of your pack.

#### CAPRICORN

Success never comes easy, but in your case, it will make an exception, says Ganesha. You will meet with success in social as well as professional life, and this will also make heavy your treasure box. At work, prepare to get loaded with new assignments and simultaneously deal with existing work pressure.

#### AQUARIUS

Get ready for a gala evening as you will party at the smallest excuse! You may toast a friend's success, or may be ecstatic about finding your lost pet. Otherwise it's the usual, says Ganesha. You plan a bit and march ahead successfully in your business or profession.

#### PISCES

The apple of your eye is what you will have your sights set on today. It is likely that you will find yourself attending a Parent-Teacher meet, says Ganesha. However, fortunately, it is likely only to receive news about how proud your children are making you.

# Sushmita's Aarya nominated at International Emmy Awards

New Delhi: The Sushmita Sen-starrer *Aarya* has been nominated at the 49th International Emmy Awards in the Drama Series category.

Sushmita said: "It is surreal to know that *Aarya* has been recognised globally amongst the Best Drama series in the world and to be nominated at a platform as prestigious as the International Emmy Awards is phenomenal."

She added: "I am overwhelmed with the love and faith viewers across the world have put into our labour of love and want to thank each one from the bottom of my heart for the encouragement."

Helmed by director Ram Madhvani, the Hotstar Specials show succeeded in weaving a narrative around a dynamic woman who gives her all to save her kids and family. It marked the debut of the former beauty queen in the digital space.

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whelmed with the love and faith viewers across the world have put into our labour of love and want to thank each one from the bottom of my heart for the encouragement."



Mumbai: Tabu will be back in action as Inspector Meera Deshmukh, in the upcoming sequel of the super-hit film *Drishyam*.

Months after the Malayalam original was declared a 'runaway hit', with critics saying it was even better than the first part, it looks like the Hindi remake is ready to go on floors. According to the latest reports, Tabu, Ajay Devgn, Shriya Saran and Ishita Datta will soon commence the shoot

# Tabu to commence Drishyam 2 shoot

Buzz is that the team will get the cameras rolling by December 2021, as Ajay is currently busy with his other filming commitments and so is Tabu, who has been shooting for *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*. She is also expected to start working on 'Kutney' which marks the directorial debut of Vishal Bhardwaj's son, Aasmaan Bhardwaj.

Amidst all the hype and buzz around the Hindi remake of *Drishyam*, reports state that Abhishek Pathak, son of Kumar Mangat Pathak, will be directing the sequel. Despite Jeethu Joseph denying reports that he might return to direct the project, following the demise of Nishikanth Kamath, rumours are rife that the director will take over the lens.

*Drishyam* saw a family trying to cover up the murder of a boy who happened to be the son of the Inspector. Tabu continues her role as the tough cop and mother who leaves no stone unturned in order to get justice.

# 'When we see a love story it just feels like home'

New Delhi: Radhika Madan is gearing up for the release of her upcoming romantic film *Shiddat*. The actress has talked about what makes a love story a popular genre universally.

"Somewhere down the lane we love Love and that is something we all connect to and we all want in our life. The reason we do our job is because we are finding love in that," Radhika in a candid chat told IANS.

The 26-year-old actress added: "Every aspect has love and I think that 'what hits the chord in our hearts. So when we see a love story it just feels home and that's the reason maybe people are attracted to it."

*Shiddat* also stars Sunny Kaushal, Radhika Madan, Mohit Raina and Diana Pentz. It will stream on Disney+ Hotstar from October 1.



# Nawazuddin opens up about the true meaning of success

Mumbai: Siddiqui is riding high on the success of his project and made it to the nominations of the prestigious 2021 International Emmy Awards from India. This recognition came after his first English feature film *No Land's Man* bagged a nomination for the Kim Jiseok Award at the Busan International Film festival.

Talking about his achievement, the actor recently told a news portal that the definition of success has now changed for him. While buying a house or getting a break in the film industry or achieving superstardom might bring some amount of success for others, however, for Nawazuddin starring in an English feature film is no more a benchmark of success.

He concluded that things don't matter to him as long as he can project a certain emotion in a way he wants it to for a particular scene.

Meanwhile, Nawazuddin is currently in London for his next action entertainer *Heropanti 2*, in which he essays the role of a villain. Sharing details of the shoot, he said, "We have been shooting for a train sequence here and we needed rain for that specific shoot. We shot it on three different days".

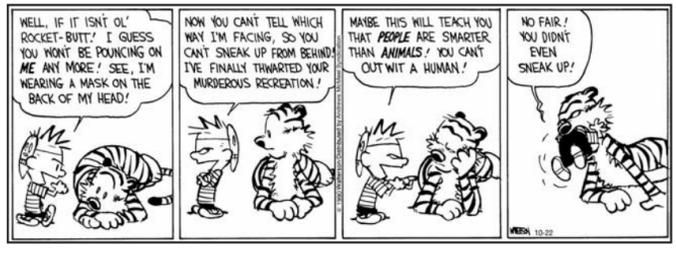


### FUN post

#### PEANUTS



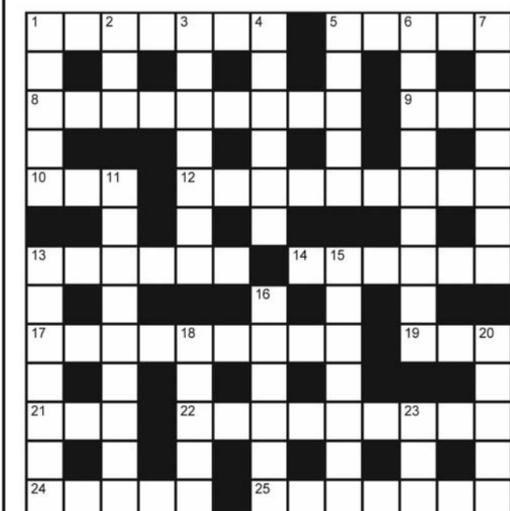
#### CALVIN AND HOBBS



#### BREVITY



#### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Opts
  - 5 Clean, as a spill (3,2)
  - 8 Laundry item (5,4)
  - 9 \_\_\_ de cologne
  - 10 Total
  - 12 What not to do in a family argument (4,5)
  - 13 Rebounds
  - 14 Land on Lake Victoria
  - 17 Tidy
  - 19 Certifiable
  - 21 Hot time in Haiti
  - 22 Unpleasant person
  - 24 Ravi Shankar's instrument
  - 25 Emblematic staff
  - Down**
  - 1 Wine holders
  - 2 Flowery verse
  - 3 Doctor's clue
  - 4 Union call
  - 5 Long tresses
  - 6 Nom de guerre
  - 7 Former
  - 11 Happiness
  - 13 They're nuts
  - 15 Small explosive
  - 16 Foot or finger growth
  - 18 Cut off
  - 20 Not too swift
  - 23 Believer's suffix

#### SUDOKU

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



#### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



The rescue operation underway soon after the boat mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Union Minister for Education and Skill Development Dharmendra Pradhan and several others condoled the untimely demise of Arindam Das, the Chief Reporter of OTV in a boat tragedy Friday.

Arindam died by drowning in river Mahanadi at Mundali barrage in Cuttack while covering an operation by an ODRAF team to rescue a wild elephant stuck in the strong current of the river.

He boarded an ODRAF boat deployed to rescue the elephant along

with his cameraman Pravat Sinha.

The boat overturned in the strong current of the river and capsized.

Arindam died on the spot and his cameraman Pravat is admitted to ICU in the SCB Medical College and Hospital Cuttack and fighting for his life.

In a condolence message, the Chief Minister tweeted, "I am saddened to learn the death of young working journalist Arindam Das. It is an irreparable loss for the world of journalism in Odisha. I pray for the salvation of his soul and the speedy recovery of the injured."

Governor Ganeshi Lal also con-

## Naveen, Governor condole scribe's death at Mundali

doled the tragic death of the young journalist.

Union Minister for Education and Skill Development Dharmendra Pradhan in a Twitter message said, "I am personally saddened to learn the untimely death of OTV journalist and my friend Arindam Das. We have met on many social and political programmes. He has created a niche for himself for his courageous reporting at different

times. His death has created a void in the world of Odia journalism that cannot be filled."

Pradhan prayed for the salvation of his soul and conveyed his sympathies to the bereaved families. He prayed to Lord Jagannath to give his family members limitless courage and patience to bear with the loss.

The National Vice President of BJP Bajajayanta Panda said, "Deeply anguished by the boat tragedy which despite safety precautions, took the life of @OTVNEWS' intrepid Chief Reporter Arindam Das while covering an ODRF elephant rescue. He was and is a hero. My deepest condolences to his family & prayers for the injured and missing."

Editor of Dharitri and Orissa POST Tathagata Satpathy tweeted, "Saddened to learn about the death of Arindam Das today. He had started his journalist career with Dharitri and

**The all-encompassing greed for TV publicity these days, especially by govt executives all over, must have encouraged Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force personnel to take Arindam on board**

TATHAGATA SATPATHY | EDITOR OF ORISSA POST & DHARITRI

## Jumbo still stuck in Mahanadi

**Cuttack:** Despite a 15-hour long joint operation by the Forest department, fire brigade and ODRAF, an elephant that got stuck in Mahanadi near Mundali barrage here, Friday, could not be rescued till the last report came in. "We rushed some food to the distressed elephant. The pachyderm was trying to reach the riverbank on its own. But, the presence of large number of onlookers on the riverbanks perhaps discouraged the elephant. It is still stuck near pillar no. 43 of the barrage," said an official of the Forest department. According to sources, a herd of 18 elephants from Sukana forest near Athagarh tried to cross Mahanadi river near Mundali barrage on their way to Damapada-Chandaka forests in the wee hours of Friday. One elephant from the herd swept away in the strong current while the others made it to the riverbanks.



## Forest dept sought help from ODRAF: Sharma

Bhubaneswar: Senior IPS officer and ADG (Law & Order), RK Sharma said, "We have started an investigation to know the circumstances that led to the tragedy. The rescued personnel involved in the operation are undergoing treatment. The ODRAF team along with a scuba diver was sent to the spot after we received a requisition from the Forest department to assist them in the rescue operation."

He further said that the personnel are not specifically trained in rescuing wild animals. But, as the pachyderm was stuck in river water the Forest department sought the help of the ODRAF team.

He also denied having any knowledge whether the personnel engaged in the operations are insured or not. Replying to a query on carrying the scribes on boat during operation, he said that they are not normally allowed to take any non-staffer with them but the scribes might have requested them to do so. The exact reason can only be ascertained after the personnel who are undergoing treatment recover completely.

later moved to a TV Channel."

He was reporting about an elephant stuck in flood water sitting on an ODRAF boat that capsized.

Satpathy wrote, "The all-encompassing greed for TV publicity these days, especially by govt executives all over, must have encouraged Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force personnel to take Arindam on board."

## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	23,15,33,277	20,82,18,044	47,45,154
India	3,35,94,803	3,28,48,273	4,46,368
Odisha	10,23,133	10,09,582	8,163

## FOCUS ON INTERNAL SECURITY

# CM to attend meet on Maoist menace



The Home Ministry has called the meeting to review the current status of Maoist menace in the affected states and discuss future road map for security and development issues

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Sept 24:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will Sunday attend a high-level meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah along with the chief ministers of nine Maoist-hit states on Maoist menace.

After reaching New Delhi Friday, the Chief Minister told the media that he will attend the meeting with the Union Home Minister.

Significantly, the Union Home Ministry has called the meeting to review the current status of Maoists menace in the affected states and discuss future road map for security and development issues, said official sources.

Sources said that an invitation was sent from Union Home Minister Shah's office earlier this week to the affected states to take stock of Maoist activities and discuss measures on tackling Naxalism.

The meeting will be held at Vigyan Bhawan and attended by the chief ministers of the ten Naxal-affected states namely Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar,

The meeting will be held at Vigyan Bhawan and attended by the chief ministers of the 10 Naxal-affected states namely Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh- or their representatives will apprise about the current situation in their states and the progress of developmental projects

Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh- or their representatives will apprise about the current situation in their states and the progress of developmental projects.

Officials said that the meeting will be attended by the Director Generals of Police (DGPs) along with chief secretaries of these 10 states and heads of paramilitary forces will also attend the meeting where Intelligence Bureau (IB) is expected to make a presentation on the issue. Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, IB Director Arvind Kumar and senior Home Ministry officials will be attending the meeting.

## Lokayukta orders probe into challan fee bungling

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** The Odisha Lokayukta has directed its investigating wing to conduct a probe into alleged misappropriation of challan fee in Keonjhar district. The anti-corruption ombudsman, while hearing a petition filed by an activist, asked the director of inquiry to

conduct a preliminary investigation into the allegations and submit a report in this regard within two months.

The complainant claimed that the owner of a tractor Jitendra Routray of Hatadilhi block was intercepted by the then tehsildar and other revenue staffers while he was on his way back home July 12, 2019. The officials found Routray carrying

murram without licence and imposed a fine of around Rs 40,000 on him.

However, Routray claimed that he was carrying the murram brought from a contractor to lay the same on his village thoroughfare which had been damaged due to regular traffic of various vehicles. But, officials did not listen to him.

### Central Bank of India

Regional Office: Plot No.: 108-B, 1st Floor, Unit - VII, Surya Nagar, Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003

### POSSESSION NOTICE

(For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of the Central Bank of India** 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 Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the following Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notices. The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **Central Bank of India** for an amount stated and interest thereon. **The Borrower's/Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

BRANCH/ Name of the Account / Borrowers & Address	Name and Address of Borrowers/Guarantors/ Mortgagors	Amount demanded in Securitisation Notice/ Possession Notice	Date of Securitisation Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of Mortgaged / Charged Properties
<b>PIRBAZAR BRANCH/ 1) Mr. Santosh Kumar Rout, S/o.: Mr Prasant Kumar Rout, At: Atoda, P.O.: P.S.: Jagatpur, Dist.: Patapur, P.S.: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack-754200, 2) Mr. Prasant Kumar Rout, S/o.: Raj Kishore Rout, At: Atoda, P.O.: Patapur, P.S.: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack - 754200</b>	<b>Borrower/Mortgagor: Mr. Santosh Kumar Rout, At: Atoda, P.O.: Patapur, P.S.: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack- 754200</b>	<b>₹11,32,055/- as on 06.05.2021</b>  <b>₹ 11,60,775/- as on 17.09.2021</b> plus interest thereon & other expenses etc	<b>07.05.2021 / 20.09.2021</b>	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Atoda, P.S.: Jagatpur, Tahasil: Salipur, District: Cuttack, Khata No.: 205, Plot No.: 2246, 2209, 2210, 2216, Area: Ac.0.065 Dec., standing in the name of <b>Mr. Santosh Kumar Rout</b> , Bounded by East: Mangala Temple, West: Bhagirathi Rout, South: Public Road, North: Pravat Kumar Rout
<b>PIRBAZAR BRANCH/ Mr. Nakula Mallick, S/o.: Late Suneil Mallick, At: Champati, P.O.: Bhaipur, Via: Bahugram, Dist.: Cuttack - 754200</b>	<b>Borrower/Mortgagor: Mr. Nakula Mallick, S/o.: Late Suneil Mallick, At: Champati, P.O.: Bhaipur, Via: Bahugram, Dist.: Cuttack - 754200</b>	<b>₹7,04,835/- as on 04.10.2019 / ₹ 7,98,982/- as on 17.09.2021</b> plus interest thereon & other expenses etc	<b>04.10.2019 / 20.09.2021</b>	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Champati, P.S.: Salipur, Tahasil: Salipur, District: Cuttack, Khata No.: 566/358, Plot No.: 468, Area: Ac.0.063 Dec., standing in the name of <b>Mr. Nakula Mallick</b> , Bounded by East: Akshya Panda and Others, West: Sarat Chandra Barik, South: Vendee, North: Sarat Chandra Barik
<b>PIRBAZAR BRANCH/ Firoz Khan, S/o.: Kunwar Khan, At: Gunjarpur, P.O.: Bhairpur, P.S.: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack - 754200</b>	<b>Guarantor: Mahamad Khan, S/o.: Kuanra Khan, At: Gunjarpur, P.O.: Bhaipur, P.S.: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack - 754200</b>	<b>₹8,14,443/- as on 06.05.2021</b>  <b>₹ 7,96,267/- as on 17.09.2021</b> plus interest thereon & other expenses etc	<b>07.05.2021 / 20.09.2021</b>	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Gunjarpur, P.S.: Salipur, Tahasil: Salipur, District: Cuttack, Khata No.: 747/281, Plot No.: 2048/2432, Area: Ac.0.03 Dec., standing in the name of <b>Firoz Khan</b> , Bounded by East: Mehemoor Khan, West: Kunu Sarif, South: SK Raikun, North: Mustak Khan
<b>PIRBAZAR BRANCH/ Mr. Biren Kumar Jena, S/o.: Biswanath Jena, At: Paschimakachha, P.O.: Champati, P.S.: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack - 754200</b>	<b>Guarantor: Mrs. Laxmipriya Jena, S/o.: Biren Jena Guarantor/Mortgagor: Mr. Basudev Jena, S/o.: Late Kashinath Jena</b>	<b>₹19,63,613/- as on 05.05.2021 / ₹ 20,22,782/- as on 17.09.2021</b> plus interest thereon & other expenses etc	<b>06.05.2021 / 20.09.2021</b>	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Paschimakachha, P.S.: Thana No.: 5, Tahasil: Salipur, Area: Ac.0.170 Dec. & Ac. 0.112 Dec., <b>Total Area: Ac. 0.282 Dec.</b> , standing in the name of <b>Mr. Biren Kumar Jena, Mr. Basudev Jena &amp; Mr. Bhaskar Jena</b> , Bounded by East: Rajkishore Pradhan, West: Chintamani Jena, South: Road, North: Biren Jena
<b>Mortgagor: Mr. Bhaskar Jena, S/o.: Late Mani Jena, All are At: Paschimakachha, P.O.: Champati, P.S.: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack - 754200</b>				
<b>KHANDAGIRI BRANCH/ Mr. Ashok Kumar Jena, S/o.: Late Banshidhar Jena, At: Plot No.: 280, Niladri Nagar, Jagamar, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar</b>	<b>Borrower/Mortgagor: Mr. Ashok Kumar Jena, S/o.: Late Banshidhar Jena, At: Plot No.:280, Niladri Nagar, Jagamar, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar</b>	<b>₹44,29,217/- as on 30.06.2021 / ₹ 45,60,857/- as on 22.09.2021</b> plus interest thereon & other expenses etc	<b>01.07.2021 / 23.09.2021</b>	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Jagamar, P.S.: Bhubaneswar, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, District: Khurda, Khata No.: 432/2225, Plot No.: 280, Area: Ac.0.826.07 Dec. out of Area: Ac.0.875 Dec., standing in the name of <b>Mr. Ashok Kumar Jena</b> , Bounded by East: Plot No.: 108, West: Rest part of the plot, South: Plot No.: 110, North: Plot No.: 2019
<b>KHANDAGIRI BRANCH/ M/s. Swati Boutique, Prop.: Mr. Ranjan Kumar Rout, At: Plot No.: 2299, Bhotapada, Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar- 751007</b>	<b>Guarantor/Mortgagor: Mrs. Swagatika Rout, At: Plot No.: 2299, Bhotapada, Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar - 751007</b>	<b>₹35,86,682/- as on 30.06.2021 / ₹ 39,68,338/- as on 22.09.2021</b> plus interest thereon & other expenses etc	<b>01.07.2021 / 23.09.2021</b>	All that part & parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Nijagarh Kuruki, P.S.: Pipli, P.S. No.: 4, Tahasil: Pipli, District: Puri, Khata No.: 240/424 and 240/417, Plot No.: 73/1091 and 84/670, Area: Ac.0.027 Dec. and Ac.0.028 Dec., <b>Total Area: Ac. 0.055 Dec.</b> , standing

in the name of **Mrs. Swagatika Rout**, Bounded by East: Vendor and Plot No.: 92, West: Vendor and Road left by vendor, South: Road left by the Vendor and Plot No.: 92 & 93, North: Vendor and Sub Plot No.: 6

**Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 24.09.2021** **Authorised Officer, Central Bank of India**

## ATTENTION CONSUMER!

TEST-FAIL

**POWER SAVINGS GUIDE**

**ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION**

**170\***

UNITS PER YEAR

Label Period: 1st Jan 2017 - 31st Dec 2019

Appliance/Type	: Refrigerator
Brand	: Whirlpool
Model/Year	: DC 215 F/2019
Type	: Direct Cool
Gross Volume	: 200 Liters
Storage Volume	: 182 Liters

\*Under test conditions, when tested in accordance with relevant standards. Actual electricity consumption will depend on how the appliance is being used.

**Bachat Ke Sitare Dost Hamare**

*Every appliance with a BEE certification must meet the efficiency requirements specified on the label.*

### Whirlpool refrigerator DC 215 F model failed in check testing

The following are the specifics of the certified model's check test result.

S.No.	Manufacturer Logo	Brand	Model	Star Rating	Measured Energy Consumption (units/year)	Declared Energy Consumption on Label(units/year) as per BEE record	Result
01		WHIRLPOOL	DC215F	4	191	170	FAIL

\*CEC represents Comparative Energy Consumption; PAEC represents Projected Annual Energy Consumption. This notice has been issued in compliance with the provision of Regulation 7 of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (Particulars & Manners of their Display of Labels of Household Frost Free Refrigerators), Amendment Regulations 2013.

**BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY (BEE)**  
A statutory body under Ministry of Power, Government of India  
4th Floor, Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066 (INDIA),  
Ph: 011-26766730, 011-26194771, 772 | Fax: +91 11 26178352  
www.beeindia.gov.in | @beeindia | #beeindia

# Covid invades Judicial Complex again

BMC seals offices for three days as more than 15 employees and advocates test positive for the highly infectious disease

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Friday, sealed the Judicial Complex in City for three days after a series of Covid-19 positive cases were detected.

Sources in the BMC said that about 15 judicial employees and many advocates were found positive for Covid-19 recently. The civic authority sealed the complex following a request by the registrar of the District Court, Khurda to the



Commissioner.

"In larger public interest and with a view to containing further spread of virus, the office of the Judicial Complex, Bhubaneswar i.e. District Court, Khurda, which

includes office of the Endowment Commissioner and office of the Bar Association, is hereby sealed for a period of three days from September 24 to September 26, 2021," said BMC in an order.

"The detected positive cases are directed to remain in isolation at their respective residences. Further, if any positive case needs medical attention, the head(s) of the office(s) are to intimate the same to BMC immediately. An RT-PCR test camp shall be conducted for all officials and staff of the Judicial Complex, Bhubaneswar, September 27, in which all officials, staff, housekeeping and security personnel shall be tested invariably," the order further stated.

It can be mentioned that a week ago, the BMC had sealed offices of the Sub-Collector and tehsildar for two days after several employees had tested positive for Covid-19. Moreover, this is second time within a year when the premises of the Judicial Complex and offices of Sub-Collector and tehsildar have been sealed due to Covid infections.

## State sees dip in daily cases

**Bhubaneswar:** The Covid-19 caseload in Odisha dipped a little in comparison to a day before with 539 people testing positive for the viral infection during the last 24 hours, a Health official said Friday. Information and Public Relations (I&PR) department sources said that the 539 fresh cases included 316 from quarantine and 223 local contacts. It also included 77 children in the age group of 0 to 18 years. Khurda district, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported 254 Covid cases, the highest in the state, followed by Cuttack (48) and Balasore (23). Five districts reported no cases. The Capital city Bhubaneswar reported 218 positive cases during the last 24 hours. The death toll in the state due to Covid rose to 8,163 Friday with the report of six more deaths— three each from Cuttack and Sundargarh— in the last 24 hours. The state has now 5,829 active cases and 10,23,133 total positive cases.

## BGU's certificate course on Applied Data Analytics

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** The Birla School of Management of Birla Global University (BGU) has launched a certificate course on 'Applied Data Analytics, Edition-II' recently.

Debasis Kundu from IIT Kanpur graced the occasion as the chief guest. Vice Chancellor of the university PP Mathur, Registrar BK Das, Birla School of Management Dean P Nayak, Deans of other Schools, faculty members and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Kundu appreciated the initiative of the university towards imparting technical education with a high focus on data analytics. Mathur said the BGU will continue promoting such skill-oriented courses for the benefit of the society.

The Birla School of Management is also going to launch online certification course in Statistics for Decision Making by December this year. This three-month certification course is meticulously designed to provide participants with an understanding of the statistical data analysis and its relevance in business decision making.

## CLASSIFIED

### AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of affidavit I Subhasmita Patasahani, W/o Saumesh Patasahani, Badagada Village, Bhubaneswar, changed my name as Subhasmita Patasahani instead of Lilirani Sa for all purposes.

### LOST

I, Shri Dolagobinda Sahoo, S/o- Dukhbandhu Sahoo, Village- Khandatiri, P.O.- Giridharprasad, P.S.- Rasol, Dist.- Dhenkanal, inform that, the Title Deed No.10531700629, Dtd.14.09.2017 corresponding to Khata No.- 847/171, Plot No.- 1406, 1407, 1408, 1408/14119 for the land recorded in my name has been lost during my travel to home. If the document has been found by any kind-hearted person, they are requested to kindly contact me on the following number. Dolagobinda Sahoo, Mob.: 9937460143, 8456936378.

# Battle of the bulge

## BHUBANESWAR CLUB



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** Even as the two-day election for office-bearers of Bhubaneswar Club is all set to begin September 25, many in the Capital city are curious to know what big interest is involved in this entire exercise.

Two former Chief Secretaries of Odisha have entered the fray for president's post of the club. Former Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy, who is the chairman of Western Odisha Development Council and president of Bhubaneswar Golf Club, will take on former Chief Secretary Bijay Patnaik for the top post of the club.

Both the sides have left no stone unturned to win the election. The manner in which the campaigning is being carried out gives an impression that the poll will bring a humongous change in Odisha. They are reportedly holding reg-

ular cocktail parties and dinner meets at some hotels in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar to garner support from the members of the club. Both the sides are spending huge amounts to win the poll.

But this huge euphoria and expenses by the two groups have raised several questions.

It is learnt that the club's late president Priyabrata Patnaik was not holding elections for the office bearers regularly which is why many wealthy and influential people have come forward to

try their luck this time. Many others claim that there was some hidden agenda behind the election.

A purported list of candidates from Tripathy's camp was doing the rounds in social media but there was no information on the associates of Patnaik.

In the meantime, a senior journalist and a social activist have reportedly sent WhatsApp messages to several members of the club and urged them to remain vigilant regarding a powerful group.

Patnaik's camp is claiming that the former Chief Secretary had arranged a huge plot for the club during his tenure. But, his opponents are questioning the motive behind allotting the plot.

The contestants for Bhubaneswar Club's managing committee are: Asit Tripathy and Bijay Kumar Patnaik for president; Deba Shankar Tripathy, Jayant Kumar Hota, Mahendra Kumar Bhukta and Tapesh Rao for vice president; Ashok Chinchela, Damodar Pradhani, Jyotsnamayee Parida, Parthasarathi Panigrahy and Vishal Deb for secretary; Ashok Kumar Mishra, Jyotirmay Mohanty and Kaushik Mohapatra for joint secretary; and Aditya Tripathy, Alok Saraf, Arun Kumar Verma, Bhubanmohan Khadenga, Debabrata Biswal, Debendra Kumar Panda, Debesh Das, Gadadhar Mohapatra, Kalyan Sundar Chhotray, Manoj Kumar Sahoo, Parthajit Patnaik, Pragati Kumar Mohanty, Pramod Chandra Patnaik, PV Mohan, Sanjeev Kumar Bala, Sanjit Patra, Sarat Chandra Bhadra, Satyaranjan Satpathy Surajit Pratap Singhdeo, Satyasmruti Mohanty, Tutul Kishore Das and Usasi Mishra for member posts.

## CJI IN ODISHA



Chief Justice of India NV Ramana being received by Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar upon his arrival at Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar, Friday

## CJI to unveil OSLSA new building today

**Cuttack:** Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana will inaugurate a new building of Odisha State Legal Services Authority (OSLSA) here Saturday, an official said Friday. The CJI, who is also the Patron-in-Chief of National Legal Services Authority, is also scheduled to inaugurate the digitisation centre of Orissa High Court and Odisha Judicial Academy, added the official. The CJI is on a two-day visit to Odisha beginning Friday. Supreme Court Justices UU Lalit and Vineet Saran will also attend the inaugural occasion.

## STF busts illegal firearm unit, arrests two

**Bhubaneswar:** The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police sized nine country-made firearms and one locally made revolver, and arrested two persons in this connection, an officer said Friday. Based on intelligence input regarding illegal manufacturing/possession/sale of illegal firearms by some criminals, the STF conducted a raid on the public road near Bapur village in Dhenkanal district and apprehended two persons. A case has been registered in this regard and probe is on. The accused were identified as Kalandi Nayak of Radhakrishnapur under Khuntuni police limits, Cuttack, and Shyam Sundar Sitha of Baliamba under Sadar police limits in Dhenkanal district Thursday, the officer said.

## OPSC postpones OCS 2019 personality test

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** The Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) Friday announced postponement of the viva-voce test and document verification for Odisha Civil Services Examination (OCS)-2019 in view of the nationwide shutdown September 27 called by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) against the Centre's three farm-laws.

The viva-voce test and verification of original documents of the candidates, which were earlier scheduled to be held September 27, has been postponed to October 5. The commission shared programme details for test and verification October 5. Candidates have been told to appear for the personality test in two sittings at 11 am and 3 pm.

## State notifies amended Panchayat poll laws

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** The state government has issued gazette notification of the amended Panchayat Acts to cap the reservation of seats in the three-tier Panchayati Raj system at 50 per cent for all the three categories comprising STs, SCs and OBCs.

After receiving assent from the Governor, the Law department has issued the notification of the Odisha Panchayat Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021. The Assembly had passed the Bill September 8 this year.

The Act amended relevant provisions of Odisha Grama Panchayat Act, 1964, the Odisha Panchayat Samiti Act, 1959 and Odisha Zilla Parishad Act, 1991,

Panchayati Raj and Law Minister Pratap Jena said while piloting the Bill. The amendments in the above three Acts have been made to fix the upper ceiling of reservation of seats for SCs, STs and OBCs at 50 per cent.

As per Article 243-D of the statute, the state government has the discretion of reserving seats for OBCs and accordingly, the Odisha Grama Panchayat Act, 1964, the Odisha Panchayat Samiti Act, 1959 and Odisha Zilla Parishad Act, 1991 have been amended to provide 27 per cent of reservation for OBCs in the elections to PRIs.

Similarly, quota for SCs and STs, as per provision of the Constitution, has been fixed in proportion to their population in Odisha.

# Govt employees to reach office by 9.30am Sept 27

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** In view of the nationwide strike called by various farmers' unions September 27, the state government Friday asked employees of its major offices in the city here to report for duty by 9.30am on the day.

In a letter, Home department Special Secretary Santosh Bala directed secretaries of different departments to advise officers and employees working at Lok Seva Bhawan, Kharavela Bhawan, Rajiv Bhawan and the Heads of Department building in the city here to report for duty by 9.30am September 27 to facilitate their

smooth entry into the office complexes. The direction was issued amid apprehensions that the agitators might stop vehicular traffic, rail traffic and picket before government offices, banks and educational institutions.

As part of precautionary measures, the front gates of Lok Seva Bhawan will be closed at 10.15am on the day and all the passages will be regulated through the rear gates, Bala said. "Identity cards and passes of the employees and visitors will be thoroughly checked at the entrance. Travelling in a vehicle having a car pass will not be permitted without a valid authority for entry," the letter added.

Entry of visitors to these office buildings will be restricted on the day of the strike. People having prior appointments and emergency work will be given entry passes on the recommendations of the concerned departments. Visitors will leave immediately after the meeting, she mentioned. Employees have been advised to remain in their seats and attend to their duties without undue movement.

Demanding withdrawal of the three farm laws brought by the Centre, Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella organisation of over 40 farm unions, has given the call for Bharat Bandh from 6am to 4pm September 27.

# PLI TO BOOST STEEL OUTPUT

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** The newly-inducted production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for speciality steel will help improve the production capacity to 60 MTPA from 18 MTPA in Odisha, said Industries Principal Secretary Hemant Sharma Friday, while inviting steel companies to set up their units in the coastal to produce speciality steel.

Speaking at a webinar on 'PLI scheme for speciality steel industry of Odisha', which was jointly organised by FICCI and IPICOL, Sharma highlighted the strategic importance of the coastal state for steelmakers like abundance of mineral and human resources, high quality industrial and logistic infrastructure, advanced policy framework and, most importantly, the



stable governance.

Sources said that the Union Cabinet had in July this year approved Rs 6,322 crore PLI scheme for speciality steel in a move that is expected to attract an additional investment of about Rs 40,000 crore and capacity addition of 25 million tonne in the segment.

"Being a leader in the steel sector, Odisha will further extend the necessary help to the downstream industries to multi-fold the production," Sharma added.

Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Limited (Ipicol) managing director Bhupendra Singh Poonia said that the state government has been bringing reforms and taking adequate measures to make Odisha more industry-friendly.

Poonia invited steel majors to visit and explore the investment opportunities in the eastern state.

Sources in the Industries department said that Odisha has been consistently adding to its steel

manufacturing capacity, which has gone up from 2MT in 2000 to 20MT in 2020. Several steel and downstream projects are in various stages of implementation, they added.

With the new opportunities in the downstream sector, the state will soon become, the Steel Hub of India, a senior official who attended the webinar said.

The objective of PLI scheme for speciality steel is to promote manufacturing of speciality steel grades within the country by providing financial incentives.

Presently, the country operates at the low end of value chain in steel manufacturing.

Speciality steel can be used in various strategic applications like defence, space, power, automobile sector, specialised capital goods, among others.

## Book on Indian Railways released

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** East Coast Railway (ECoR) General Manager Vidya Bhushan Friday unveiled a book titled "Bharatiya Rail Jiban Ki Kahaniya" at the Railway Officer's Club. The book, authored by Indira Dash, is a collection of 18 short stories depicting various facets of

life in Indian Railways. Bhushan said Dash is a prolific writer and her book describes the incidents, expressions, feelings, observations and sensitivities very lucidly in the form of stories she came across being in the Indian Railway family. Padma Bhushan poet Ramakant Rath was the special invitee on the occasion.

## Two Odias get NSS awards

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** President Ram Nath Kovind presented the National Service Scheme Awards for the year 2019-20 in a virtual ceremony Friday. Two from Odisha, Bikram Bisoi and Janmejay Giri received the award in Volunteers' category.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the edifice

of a human life is often built on the foundation of student life. Although learning is a life-long process, personality development starts during the student life.

"So, NSS is considered as a visionary scheme through which students get an opportunity to serve the society and country during their school and college days itself," he said.

## FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemana-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

NUTRITION DRIVE



Schoolchildren taking part in a programme creating awareness on nutrition improvement in Bargarh

STEEL PROJECT IN LEGAL TANGLE

HIGH COURT ORDERS STAY ON PUBLIC HEARING TILL NOV 24 IN KEONJHAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 24: The Orissa High Court has ordered a stay on the public hearing by the administration about a steel project proposed by the state government at Karakhendara under Barbil teshil of Keonjhar district. This has pushed the project into uncertainty, reports said.

Some people to be affected by the steel plant project have been opposing it for a long time. They alleged that a grama sabha was organised for the project January 16, 2021, seeking people's approval for the project, but the grama sabha was in violation of some guidelines.

"The grama sabha was held in the absence of the local sarpanch. People opposing the project were not allowed to express their views. It was in violation of the guidelines," locals said. Upset, they had also taken up the issue with the district administration.

However, despite all this, the administration did not scrap the public hearing, they lamented. Later,



THE HIGH COURT RECORDED THE CASE (4322) IN FEBRUARY, 2021. HEARING THE CASE, THE HC HAS RECENTLY EXTENDED ITS STAY ON THE PUBLIC HEARING BY ADMINISTRATION TILL NOVEMBER 24. AS THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROJECT IS CAUGHT IN A LEGAL TANGLE, THE FATE OF THE PROJECT HAS PLUNGED INTO UNCERTAINTY

the administration brought out a notification for another public hearing on environment impact of the project.

Locals apprehended that the administration may hold the public hearing in favour of the steel project.

Hence, the project opponents filed a writ petition (WPC-IPL-4322) in 2021 against the way the public hearing was held for the project.

The High Court recorded the case (4322) February, 2021, for hearing. Hearing the case, the HC or-

SOME PEOPLE TO BE AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT HAVE BEEN OPPOSING IT FOR A LONG TIME. THEY ALLEGED THAT A GRAMA SABHA FOR THE PROJECT WAS HELD JANUARY 16, 2021, BU THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK ON THE ISSUE

THEY APPREHENDED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION MAY HOLD THE NEXT PUBLIC HEARING IN FAVOUR OF THE STEEL PROJECT. HENCE, THE PROJECT OPPONENTS FILED A WRIT PETITION (WPC-IPL-4322) AT THE HC AGAINST THE WAY THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS EARLIER CONDUCTED FOR THE PROJECT

dered stay till September 22. Now, the HC has extended its stay on it till November 24. As the public hearing on the project is caught in a legal tangle, the fate of the steel project has plunged into uncertainty.

GOVT GIVES GO AHEAD TO 13 INDOOR STADIUMS IN GANJAM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Sept 24: Elections to civic bodies in Ganjam district have been overdue. The government is bracing up for holding elections even as the district administration has been looking after development instead of people's representatives. Ahead of polls, the government has given a go ahead to Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadiums in 13 towns.

The chief engineer (Construction) of the road and buildings (Southern Circle) has received a letter in this regard, a report said Friday.

The chief engineer (Building) of the state has directed the R&B chief engineer to float tenders for these indoor stadium projects by September 27.

It was learnt that the government has sanctioned ₹6.20 crore for an indoor stadium at Digapahandi NAC; ₹6.15 crore for the same in Chikiti; ₹6.45 crore for Rambha NAC; ₹6.22 crore for Ganjam NAC; ₹6.24 crore for



The chief engineer (Building) has directed the R&B chief engineer to float tenders for these projects by Sept 27

Purusottampur NAC; ₹6.17 crore for Kodala NAC; ₹6.52 crore for Khallikote NAC; ₹6.19 crore for Gopalpur NAC; ₹6.28 crore for Polsara NAC; ₹6.23 crore for Kabisuryanagar NAC; ₹6.34 crore for Bhanjanagar NAC; ₹6.30 crore for Belagantha NAC and ₹6.28 crore for Aska NAC.

Notably, MLAs, sportspersons and people's representatives had earlier talked to 5T Secretary VK Pandian about indoor stadiums.

No end to plight of oustees

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Sept 24: Even as 25 years have passed since the Satiguda reservoir in Malkangiri district was constructed, the wait by over 50 displaced families of Munusha village for the promised benefits has not ended yet.

The government constructed Satiguda reservoir to provide irrigation facility to farmers and end water scarcity in the area. At the dam site, there were lands of Munusha villagers. Before the starting of the dam construction, innocent tribal residents were promised compensation and other benefits.

They were displaced and the dam was constructed. As was envisioned, the lands are being irrigated. Besides this, people of nearby villages earn their livelihood by catching fish from the reservoir and selling it in nearby markets.

They said, 25 years have gone by. But the state government has forgotten the displaced Munusha villagers who are still waiting for the promised compensation. What



Malkangiri tehsildar said they will form a team very soon. It will visit the village, identify the lands and measure them

they received was only 3.05 acres of farmlands and lands to construct houses.

What makes the matter worse for them is that the 3.05 acres of land given to the displaced families has not been identified by the government. The families who have nothing

but a piece of paper as land documents don't know whether the lands still exist or have been encroached upon.

"Since we don't know anything about our lands, we are unable to carry out any agricultural activities. We are forced to go to Andhra Pradesh looking for work. We urged the administration to identify our land, but to no avail," fumed the villagers. Contacted, Malkangiri tehsildar said they will form a team very soon which will visit the village, identify the lands and measure them.

COUPLE FOUND DEAD IN FARM; MURDER ALLEGED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kalimela, Sept 24: Decomposed bodies of a couple were found on a farmland in suspicious circumstances at MV-69 village under Kalimela police limits in Malkangiri district Friday.

The couple was identified as Bhima Madhi (38) and his wife Bhime Madhi (30) of Chudiguda village. It was alleged that the couple was murdered and dumped in the farmland.

On being informed, IIC Jagdish Chara and other police officials started an investigation into the matter. Given the condition of the bodies, it was suspected that the couple might have been killed about

three to four days ago.

Bhima's wife had been staying at a hut near a farmland for some days. The only son of the couple has been staying in Andhra Pradesh.

The kin of the couple said that Bhima's wife had come to her house three days ago and returned to the hut later. Police found stains of blood at different spots in the farmland.

Police called in a forensic team from Koraput and the investigation was under way. Police inquired members of the couple's family, relatives and villagers.

"It will be clear only after the post mortem report comes in. The bodies have been completely decomposed," said the IIC.

Hinjili: Plant set up to recycle fish waste

AGENCIES

Berhampur, Sept 24: Fish waste will no longer be useless in Hinjili town of Ganjam district as the civic body authorities have set up a processing plant to recycle it into value-added products, mainly liquid fertiliser, an official said Thursday.

The composting unit will process the waste and produce fish amino acid, an organic compound used by farmers to increase yield, Hinjili Municipality executive officer Manoranjan Sahu said.

"Around 20-25 kg of waste is collected from fish markets in the municipality area every day, and its processing has been started on an experimental basis," he said.

The fish amino acid would be produced after 21 days of processing of the waste, he said, adding that around ₹5 lakh has been invested to set up the unit and install two grinding machines.

Single building, 3 project plaques



POST NEWS NETWORK

Buguda, Sept 24: Construction work of a building is under way at Bhamisiali panchayat under Buguda block in Ganjam. However, what is strange about the building is that it has information plaques about three projects on its wall. It allegedly points to possible bungling of funds meant for various projects, reports said.

One plaque says, ₹2 lakh has been spent for renovation of the panchayat office post the Titili cyclone.

The under-construction building is meant for a facility centre on the premises of Bhamisiali High school. ₹10 lakh has been mentioned as project cost for the building in its plaque.

Another plaque reads, fund to the tune of ₹5 lakh has been provided under the Ama Gaon Ama Bikah scheme for a library and information centre in 2020-21.

Besides, yet another plaque reads ₹2 lakh has been spent in 2018-19 for renovation of the panchayat building.

ing post Titili cyclone. Various quarters and locals sought to know why information plaques have been put on the wall of the building instead of their respective project sites.

When local sarpanch was asked about the renovation of the panchayat building, he was surprised. He said the panchayat building had neither suffered damage due to the cyclone nor any renovation work was done for it.

Junior engineer Bihudatt Mishra, who is looking after the works in the panchayat pleaded ignorance.

However, assistant engineer Gopal Krushna Gouda explained that the building is being constructed with funds from two schemes. He added that someone has wrongly put the plaque of Titili renovation fund on the building wall.

Villagers demanded a high level investigation into such projects to bring out the alleged irregularities.

Farmers collect rain water, ward off drought

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Sept 24: At a time when farmers in most parts of the state are complaining about the drought-like situation in the state courtesy shortage of rainfall during the initial stage of agricultural activities, 22 farmers of Dumuria panchayat under Kalahandi district are sitting pretty cool.

Instead of depending on rain, what they did is they with the help of the Soil Conservation and Watershed Development department dug up a pond. They have been irrigating over 50 acres and have become successful at keeping the spectre of drought at bay.

The drought-like situation due to scarcity of rain during every kharif season is a recurring feature associated with Dumuria panchayat.

Every year, farmers of this panchayat begin paddy cultivation by



taking pain and borrowing money. Later, due to lack of rain, paddy saplings go waste, breaking the economic backbone of the farmers.

The farmers of this panchayat solely depend on rain for agricultural activities inasmuch as the panchayat is a non-irrigated area.

This year, 22 farmers decided to do

something so that they would no longer have to depend on rain water. They sought help from the Soil Conservation and Watershed Development department and dug up a pond. With the rain water collected in this pond, they now irrigate 50 acres and besides cultivating paddy; they also rear fish and grow vegetables.

Instead of depending on rain, what the farmers did is they with the help of the Soil Conservation and Watershed Development department dug up a pond. They have been irrigating over 50 acres and have become successful at keeping the spectre of drought at bay

Farmers of nearby villages are all praise for 22 farmers of Dumuria panchayat. It is learnt that they have decided to take a leaf out of the book of these farmers

The pond was dug up under the government's Farm Pond Scheme and over 300 job card holders were engaged in the work under MGNREGS.

Farmers of nearby villages are all praise for these 22 farmers and it is learnt that they have decided to take a leaf out of the book of these farmers.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 16/ET/SBP/ENGG/2021-22 Dtd.: 21.09.2021 e-Tender No. 15-eT-DENG-SBP-21

Name of work : IMPROVEMENT TO ROADWAY INCLUDING WIDENING UNDER ROAD UNDER BRIDGE NO. 67 CONNECTING SAMBALPUR STATION TO RAILNAGAR COLONY. Approx cost of the work : ₹ 59,98,676/- Completion period of the work : 09 Months. Tender closing date & time : at 1500 hrs. of 06.10.2021.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-19-21 Description of work : IMPROVEMENT OF ILLUMINATION IN PLATFORMS AND CIRCULATING AREA OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION WITH UP GRADATION OF POWER SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT. Approx cost of the work : ₹ 1,50,38,513.33

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(2) e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-20-21 Description of work : IMPROVEMENT OF LIGHTING AT 17 RAILWAY STATIONS IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY. Approx cost of the work : ₹ 1,75,89,439.73

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(3) e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-21-21 Description of work : POWER SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT TO NEWLY CONSTRUCTED SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT OF CAPACITY 100 KLD AT RAILKUNJ, BHUBANESWAR. Approx cost of the work : ₹ 3,61,038.99

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(4) e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-22-21 Description of work : ELECTRIFICATION IN CONNECTION WITH PROVISION OF STATION SECURITY PLAN AT KHURDA ROAD, BHADRAK, BRAHMAMUR & PALASA RAILWAY STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION. Approx cost of the work : ₹ 9,34,749.88

Cost of tender document : ₹ 5,900/- (for Sl. No. 1 & 2), ₹ 1,180/- (for Sl. No. 3), ₹ 2,360/- (for Sl. No. 4). Completion period : 6 Months (for all tenders).

Tender closing date & time : at 1500 hrs. of 13.10.2021 (for all tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website http://www.irps.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-764 OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KUCHINDA E-mail: eerw\_kuchinda@yahoo.com "e" Procurement Notice for Roads Works Identification No Online Tender/03/RWD, Kuchinda/2021-22

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-I, BHADRAK E-mail: ee\_rwbdk@yahoo.com "e" Procurement Notice for Road Works Bid Identification No. Online Tender 12 of 2021-22

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, BONTH At: Bonth, P.O.: Bonth, Dist.- Bhadrak, PIN - 756114 e-mail: ori-bonth@nic.in Adv. No. 01/2021-22 Date: 23.09.21 TENDER CALL NOTICE



## Govt bends to SC

Government watchers are keenly watching the ongoing crosstalk between the Supreme Court and the Central government over the latter's delay in filling the vacancies in the National Company Law Tribunals (NCLT) and the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). The vacancies have slowed down the insolvency proceedings thanks to the huge backlog of pending cases. The current strength of the former is only 30 members against a sanctioned strength of 63, while the latter is functioning with only eight members against the sanctioned 11 members. Further, both tribunals have functioned without a full-time chairperson for most of this year.

Stung by sharp criticism from the apex court on the delay, the government hastily announced the appointment of 18 more members to NCLT and also announced another acting chairperson for NCLAT. Unfortunately for the government, the SC remains unmoved. None else than Chief Justice NV Ramana has expressed displeasure at these new appointments, stating that the government ignored the candidates recommended by the selection committee. Now the government has agreed to reconsider these appointments within two weeks, essentially going back to the starting point.

Meanwhile, the apex court also wasn't equally harsh on the government for prematurely terminating the tenure of the acting chairperson of NCLAT Justice Ashok Iqbal Singh Cheema. It forced the government to reinstate Justice Cheema to be able to deliver the verdicts he was writing or face the event of the new law on tribunals being stayed suo motu.

The Centre has been forced to concede, but the Supreme Court is unlikely to take its eye off the issue. Watch this space for updates.



**BABUDOM BYTES**  
Dilip Cherian

### The indispensable babu

Retirement age is only a number if you can make yourself indispensable. Gujarat cadre babu K Kailashnathan knows this well. Though the 1979-batch IAS officer retired from service in 2013, he has since continued to work as Chief Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of the state. Since then, several CMs have come and gone, including but Kailashnathan seems to have become a fixture in the Chief Minister's Office. After the new Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel was sworn in, among the first things the new dispensation did was to renew Kailashnathan's contract, yet again.

Clearly no rolling stone, the babu has found a way to make himself irreplaceable to whoever becomes the CM of Gujarat. He has been a constant in the tenures of former Chief Ministers Narendra Modi, Anandiben Patel and Vijay Rupani and is now going to serve Patel. Even for the BJP government, which is quite generous in giving extensions to its favourite babus, this is a rare extravagance, which may puzzle many – unless some insiders choose to spill the beans on the babu's extraordinary longevity in the corridors of power.

### Gaping holes and now less hope

An unprecedented new situation has developed at the secretary-level in the Modi sarkar. The 'babu shortage' at the Centre and also in multiple states, pointed out in this column in detail, now threatens to become a full-blown crisis if the government does not act fast. Fortunately we know, it can, at times.

There are 13 secretary-level vacancies, including in the all-important PMO, and with seven secretaries poised to retire at the end of the month, the number will shoot up to 20! The empty big rooms at the top mean that Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba and Personnel Secretary Deepak Khandekar are under immense pressure to end this peculiar situation swiftly if it is in their hands to do so.

Currently, sources inform DKB, at least 11 secretaries are holding a dual charge, and one is holding three responsibilities. SK Singh who is secretary of the Department of Administrative Reforms is also overseeing the Department of Pensions and the Ministry of Development of the North-East Region. At least two of those functions are critical. Meanwhile, the newly created Cooperation Ministry is still awaiting its first-ever secretary.

What makes all this more intriguing is that even as these vacancies grow, many officers of the 1989 batch who were empanelled for Secretary-level posts back in February are still waiting and hoping that they may be summoned for these vacant slots. All these positions are critical ones, but the decision-making has increasingly become painfully slow.

The gradual loss of their hallowed turf during the NDA regime has been a sore point for the IAS lobby. But further delay in filling vacancies will reduce hope even among the promoted ones.

Share a babu experience! Follow [@dilipthecherian](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian) on twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

### WISDOM CORNER

No one is to blame for your future situation but yourself. If you want to be successful, then become "successful."  
JAYMIN SHAH

Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle.  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Every successful person in the world is a hustler one way or another. We all hustle to get where we need to be. Only a fool would sit around and wait on another man to feed him.  
K'WAN

### WORDSWORTH

#### Camelion

People have been confused about the names and natures of exotic animals for millennia. The camel's name in medieval English was offend, a word that has been defunct for eight centuries. This was known in earlier Germanic languages and also in Old Church Slavonic (where it was taken to mean "great wandering beast"), but it can be traced back to the Latin elephantus. Basically, people confused the camel with the elephant, not so surprising when you've never seen either and you have to rely on travellers' descriptions relayed many times. Another confusion led to the camelopard, a linguistic cross formed in classical Greek between a camel and a pard or panther. The camelopard wasn't thought to be a hybrid but the name was given to it because its body looked like that of a camel with spots like those of the leopard. We prefer to call it a giraffe (from Arabic zarāfa). The animal called a leopard is the result of yet another confusion – its name is lion + pard, because the ancients believed it was a cross between the two. A camelion, however, has nothing to do with camels. The first part comes from a Greek word meaning "on the ground, dwarf", so the animal was a "ground lion" or "earth lion", which you may feel is an odd way to describe a small lizard. In the fourteenth century, the word became confused with camelopard because of a scribe's error in a text read by the Bible translator John Wyclif and for a while it became identified with the giraffe. It was only a couple of hundred years ago that its name changed from camelion to chameleon under the influence of the Latin version of its name.

# TALK ABOUT GEOENGINEERING

## FOCUS CARBON REMOVAL

There ultimately is no way to stabilise the climate without addressing the fact that humans are emitting far too much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, year after year. But cutting emissions is not the only response to the climate crisis, nor was it the one that scientists proposed over half a century ago in the first-ever government report on climate change.

To address the problem of "Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide," noted US President Lyndon B. Johnson's Science Advisory Committee; the "solution" could not be to emit less of the stuff, because that apparently seemed unimaginably costly and difficult to do. Instead, the committee suggested that the effects of excessive CO2 in the atmosphere might be mitigated by brightening the world's oceans to radiate more heat back into space.

Since then, many additional methods of "geoengineering" have been proposed by both scientists and science-fiction authors alike. Some ideas are more realistic than others, and none can substitute for the top-order priority of severing the link between economic activity and CO2 emissions. Nonetheless, emissions represent only the first of many links in the long causal chain from economic activity to climate crisis.

Economic activity produces emissions that drive up atmospheric concentrations, which in turn increases temperatures, thereby creating new conditions that are damaging to human welfare. Whereas cutting CO2 and other greenhouse-gas emissions addresses the first part of the chain, climate adaptation concerns the latter end – from changing temperatures to the impact on society. But the tail end should not necessarily come last in the sequence of our response. If anything, we should have introduced more aggressive adaptation measures a long time ago.

This delay owes much to a previous, longstanding fear among environmentalists that the mere mention of adaptation would undermine the primary aim of cutting carbon emissions. According to this argument, adaptation would



Many additional methods of "geoengineering" have been proposed by both scientists and science-fiction authors alike. Some ideas are more realistic than others, and none can substitute for the top-order priority of severing the link between economic activity and CO2 emissions

create a "moral hazard": the idea that insulating people from the consequences of their actions will lead them to engage in even riskier behavior.

Most environmentalists have since changed their tune, however. In the mid-1990s, then-US Vice President Al Gore avoided discussing adaptation lest it detract from carbon-cutting efforts. Yet, by the early 2000s, he and yet others had begun to include it as a point of emphasis alongside mitigation. And by 2013, adaptation was a key tenet in a climate-policy blueprint issued by President Barack Obama's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology.

But mitigation and adaptation do not exhaust all the options. Carbon removal specifically breaks the second link in the chain, from emissions to concentrations. Technically, emissions could stay the same, while removal sucks enough carbon out of the atmosphere to decrease concentrations, lessening the net effect and giving rise to many a "net-zero" climate commitment.

That sounds like a win-win. But it turns out to be a rather expensive proposition, especially when looking beyond trees and other "nature-based" solutions. While these remove carbon from the atmosphere, they retain it in the bios-

phere and are vulnerable to deforestation and natural disasters alike.

As with adaptation in earlier decades, the prospect of carbon removal brings moral hazard to the fore, raising many difficult political questions. With so many opportunities for mitigation available, can we really justify subsidies for expensive carbon-removal technologies? Moreover, why should big polluters be let off the hook?

That second question goes to the heart of many political debates around climate and economic policy more broadly. Is climate change caused by too much pollution, or is it a problem of economic growth itself? Those who believe it is the latter argue for a full-scale reining in – or rechanneling – of economic activity and market forces; some even call for "degrowth" and other more sweeping societal transformations.

The political dynamics driving the carbon-removal debate are even stronger in discussions of solar geoengineering. By reflecting more of the sun's radiation, this potential intervention aims to break the link between atmospheric CO2 and rising temperatures. It would not address ocean acidification and other problems directly tied to higher atmospheric concentrations, but it could have

its own advantages. Chief among these is that the effects could be virtually immediate, reducing temperatures within months and years, rather than decades and centuries.

Serious discussions of solar geoengineering have long since moved on from the Johnson White House's ideas about brightening the world's oceans. The most-discussed method today envisions the seeding of small reflective particles into the lower stratosphere to mimic the global cooling effects of large volcanic eruptions.

Some describe this scale of geoengineering as a "last-ditch" option that should be reserved only for a planetary emergency. Others emphasise that it should be viewed only as a potential complement to serious emissions reductions and other interventions – from adaptation to carbon removal – with each addressing climate risks differently.

But, again, those who merely argue for more research into solar geoengineering usually meet with strident "moral-hazard" objections, as if simply studying the issue will distract from emissions cuts. We must move beyond that argument. Remember, adaptation measures used to be viewed the same way.

Regardless of whether one believes that solar geoengineering is inherently dangerous, potentially useful, or both, one should support more careful, open, and transparent research into the matter. We are not in a position where we can peremptorily reject potential solutions to the climate crisis. If nothing else, geoengineering research could help to educate those who are still dragging their feet on emissions reductions.

After all, by failing to break the other links in the climate chain, we are making it more likely that either carbon removal or solar geoengineering will become a key element in the twenty-first-century climate-policy portfolio – whether one likes it or not.

The writer, Clinical Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at New York University, is author of the forthcoming 'Geoengineering: The Gamble' (Polity, 2021).

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## SPECTRUM DOMESTIC AVIATION

# Focus on long distance air travel



Bharat Jhunjhunwala

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN FOCUSING ON IMPROVING REGIONAL AVIATION WHILE THE OPPORTUNITY LIES IN LONG DISTANCE FLIGHTS

Domestic aviation has not been able to fly in the past decade. Air India has been running in loss for many years, Jet Airways has gone bankrupt, Spice Jet nearly went under and the profits of Indigo Airlines have taken a hit. All these took place before the Covid-19 pandemic which has only made things much worse. The reason is that the government has been focusing on improving regional aviation while the opportunity lies in long distance flights.

The cost of AC 2-Tier train travel from Delhi to Bangalore in an express train is ₹2,925. In comparison, an air ticket purchase one-month ahead is available at ₹3,170 – which is nearly equal to the AC2 fare. The difference is that AC2 travel takes two nights and one day and involves expenditures of food during this period. The cost becomes more when the food expenditure is added. In comparison air travel from home-to-home takes only about seven hours. Therefore, air travel is successful both in terms of time and cost. However, short notice air travel becomes less competitive. In that case, air travel may cost

₹7,000-plus while train travel would cost the same ₹2,925 if tickets are available. This shows that air travel is basically successful for long distances.

Compare this with medium distance travel, say, between Delhi and Lucknow. AC2 ticket fare is ₹1,100, while an air ticket purchased one-month before costs ₹1,827. The time taken in home-to-home rail travel is 10 hours against only 5 hours for air travel. However, train travel can be undertaken during the night while air travel has to be undertaken during the daytime and cuts into working hours. The productive day time is lost in air travel. Thus, medium distance travel is successful by train. Only those reluctant to undertake night travel; say for health reasons, train tickets not being available, or having some urgency to reach the destination, may undertake air travel for medium distances.

Another policy being pursued by the government is to improve air connectivity with tourist places like Assam and Andaman Islands. Here the problem is systemic to the tourism sector that is beset with

problems of law and order, lack of social cohesion and lack of investment in marketing. Tourism-oriented civil aviation will succeed only if tourism succeeds, but it shows no signs of happening in the near future.

It appears that these factors have been ignored by various agencies repeatedly. The government had set up a working group to suggest policies for the expansion of domestic aviation in 2012. The group recommended that subsidies may be given to regional aviation. Subsequently, the government formulated a National Civil Aviation Policy after which the government started providing subsidies for three years to regional flights. Recently in 2018, Deloitte Consultants have suggested expansion of aviation to smaller towns. All these reports have not delivered because an equally efficacious, if not better alternative of train travel, is available. The improvement of roads in the recent time has made available yet another alternative to air travel for medium and short distances. Travel from Delhi to Dehradun by road or air; for example, would take about the

same 4 hours. However, road travel would not require standing in queues at check-in counters, security check, boarding the aircraft and collecting baggage. Thus, the policy of promoting regional civil aviation is a failure and will continue to be so. The government must instead focus on making long distance air travel more convenient.

The recent proposal to expand the Indira Gandhi International Airport at Delhi is thus a step in the right direction. Further, road connectivity to the airports must be improved. The time taken for security check and baggage check-in must be cut. I know of travelers who arrive at airports in London merely 15 minutes before take-off and board the flight seamlessly.

The government must improve the road and metro connectivity to the airports and sort out the kinks in the security checks and other harassments faced by the passengers. These steps could possibly help in jumpstarting regional aviation as well.

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

### Gender neutrality in cricket

Sir, The Marylebone Cricket Club's (MCC) decision to remove the term "batsman" and replace it with the term "batter" is a significant move towards bringing gender neutrality in cricket. It will definitely help reinforce cricket's status as an inclusive game for all. In fact, the change was considered earlier, but ultimately rejected in 2017. The word "batter" aligns with the terms such as "bowler" and "fielder". True, several gendered terms like "maiden over", "night watchman" and "third man" are used in the game but none of them are officially sanctioned. A large number of women play cricket and many countries have women's cricket teams as well. Further, the term "batter" is a natural evolution in cricketing language. A lot of people involved in the sport have already started using the term. The language used in cricket can develop right perceptions in people from an early age. However, there are many who think that the word "batter" is awkward. **Venu GS, KOLLAM**

### Peasants' stir

Sir, The Sanjukta Kisan Morcha has called a 'Bharat bandh' September 27 demanding the repeal of the three pro-monopoly, anti-peasant controversial farm laws. The peasants' movement is continuing, defying all oppression and suppression of the BJP-led Central government and disdaining severe cold, storm and scorching heat. In this struggle, more than 600 lives have been sacrificed and the peasants are ready to sacrifice more. Their only demand is: "Repeal the three pro-monopoly, anti-peasant farm Acts, the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2021 and legalise Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all agricultural produce." Their slogan is: "We shall fight, we will win". Their conviction is: "We shall continue our struggle, till the goal is reached." The peasants are creating history. They are convinced from the core of their heart that the three controversial farm Acts are in the interest of the monopolists, both domestic and foreign. If those are implemented, then their land and agricultural produce will go completely in the hands of the monopolists. Peasants will become paupers. At the same time, all the essential commodities would be controlled by the monopolists, as result of which, hoarding and black marketing will soar and the sky-rocketing of prices of all essential commodities would continue. The lives of 136 crore people will be ruined. So, it's not only the struggle of the peasants, but it's the struggle of every common people. It is our bounden duty to support this call. **Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR**

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

# NABARD aid to select beneficiaries riles Jaipur artisans



FILE PHOTO

**Rasulpur, Sept 24:** Non-inclusion of artisans other than weavers by NABARD for monetary assistance has triggered resentment among people of Gopalpur village under Prathamakhandi panchayat in Rasulpur block in Jajpur district. During the recent visit of NABARD chairman GR Chintala to the village, only 250 weavers were picked for assistance. This sparked dissatisfaction among other artisans in the village. It was alleged that the role of NABARD in the development of rural areas has knowingly been squeezed.

During the chairman's visit, a programme was held where it was announced that 250 weavers from Gopalpur village will receive assistance of ₹50 lakh as loan from NABARD. The money will be utilized for procuring raw materials, weaving clothes, designing them and creating a proper market for their products.

NABARD plays a vital role in the progress of agriculture and rural areas. Besides this, one of its objectives is also to find out those families involved in the non-farm sector and make them self-reliant by providing them loans.

But the inclusion of only 250 weavers has not gone down well with the rest of the weavers and those associated with non-farm sectors. There are over 5,000 weavers and over 4,000 families who earn their livelihood by making brass and bell metal wares, terracotta products, bamboo articles, wooden and cane furniture and other products.

These families are now passing through a very difficult phase. The outbreak of Covid-19 has dealt a severe blow to their business. "Some of these artisans should have been included in the programme," some villagers observed.

NABARD has also been playing a crucial role in providing them assistance in the farm sector. Rasulpur block is known as the hub of vegetables. Vegetable growers here have many problems. But these farmers were also sidelined.

It has been alleged that the district administration carried out the programme clandestinely. As a result, the village artisans and farmers were deprived of the NABARD benefits.

Expressing concern, working president of Odisha Bunakar Mahasanga Sridhar Behera said, "The visit of NABARD's chairman to our village is a great thing. But it would have been better if all the artisans had been given a chance to attend the event. I think it would not have been a big problem if they were invited" he said.

Terracotta artisan Parshuram Behera said he has no information about the visit of NABARD's chairman. Organising an event with artisans from a particular stream is not acceptable at all.

NABARD's development manager for Jajpur district said he is not authorized to say anything about the event. The programme was conducted by the district administration. He suggested collecting information from the DIPRO.

Collector Rathore said the program is a pilot program of NABARD. In the first phase, with weavers from Chaka Gopalpur, a non-farm producers' community has been formed. They will be provided with financial assistance and their progress will be monitored. Considering the success of the programme, others will be included in phases. The meeting was attended by MD of NABKISAN Finance Limited Susela Chintala, chief general manager of NABARD (Odisha) C Uday Bhaskar, Collector Chakravarti Singh Rathore.

## Locals allege RBT presence in Rajbahal forest

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sundargarh/Lefripada, Sept 24:** Locals alleged that a royal Bengal tiger is on the prowl in Rajbahal forest under Sundargarh forest division. The animal had allegedly attacked cattle at Amatpani Khalpada in Rajbahal panchayat Thursday night. The big cat has killed a cow of Harun Kerketa, a local resident.

The tiger fed on the cow and left its remnants near the forest, locals alleged. This has created panic among locals. They said that since last night, they have been keeping them indoors.

However, the forest department has no clue about the presence of an RBT in the forest. Following allegation from the villagers, the forest department has started an investigation into it based on pugmarks around the carcass.

Locals demanded immediate step by the forest department to drive away the big cat.



People commute on a country boat in a flood-affected area in Langaleswar area in Balasore, Friday

OP PHOTO

# Smart connectivity for Silk City

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOCATED ₹20-CR FOR BUILDING SMART ROADS, RENOVATION OF CREMATION GROUNDS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, Sept 24:** Berhampur, the Silk City of the state, will see good connectivity as the authorities have decided to build 20 smart roads in the city. This decision was taken in view of the fact that the Silk City lags behind in the race for Smart Cities in the country, a report said.

Besides, the old Gandhi and Nehru parks will be shaped as smart parks while renovations of the some cremation grounds will be carried out. The Berhampur Municipal Corporation has many such proposals to make the city smart on various sectors.

Cremation grounds at City Bus Stand, Gosaninugaon, Ramnagar and Teli near Fast Gate will be renovated. Meanwhile, the civic body authorities have completed the tender process for some of the major projects.

A group of engineer has received training at Bangalore on the building of smart roads.

Notably, after the 2013 civic body polls, the state government had made proposals to make the major cities as smart ones. The central govern-



ment has organised a workshop in June, 2015, in New Delhi on the need of smart cities in the country.

Former BeMC mayor L Madhabi and then BeMC commissioner attended the workshop. K Madhabi had presented a paper on the existing infrastructure necessary for a smart city in Berhampur.

At the competition for smart city during the workshop, Rourkela succeeded while Berhampur failed to score. Ahead of 2019 general elections, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated Janibili drinking water project, which was then incomplete.

At a public meeting, the Chief

Minister had announced that over 200 smart parks would be developed at a cost of ₹200 crore in the state. Besides, ₹200 crore will be spent to renovate cremations grounds in the state.

However, it was alleged that the civic body authorities have delayed its efforts for development of the

Gandhi and Nehru parks will be shaped as smart parks while renovations of the some cremation grounds will be carried out. The Berhampur Municipal Corporation has many such proposals to make the city smart on various sectors

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smart parks and cremation grounds in Berhampur. In the first phase, 20 major roads in the city will be identified while the civic body authorities have allocated ₹20 crore in its budget for 2021-22.

A smart road will be 30-ft wide with provision of pavements and good drainage systems.

# Waste treatment plants in tardy pace

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhanjanagar, Sept 24:** Work on the solid and liquid waste treatment plants to be set up in all 12 panchayats under Bhanjanagar block in Ganjam district is progressing at a snail's pace. Locals are deprived of the benefits of a clean environment.

Launched by the block administration, the project is moving at a slow pace because of several reasons including poor management and lands for the plants not being identified as yet.

However, setting a target of completing the construction of these plants in 12 panchayats within coming 100 days, the block administration has already started preparation. In this regard, a meeting was convened at the block conference hall Tuesday where block development officer Anil Kumar Sethi, who presided over the meeting, discussed about how the project



will succeed.

As per discussions, self-help groups (SHGs) will manage the plants in the panchayats. This will not only benefit SHGs but help improve rural sanitation. There will be dustbins for the people. Instead of throwing household garbage here and there, they will put it into them. These dustbins will be provided to them by the panchayats.

Among others, the meeting was attended by block assistant executive officer Ghanashyam Dakua

and engineer of the rural piped water supply department Aswini Kumar Malla.

But the reality is that people of the identified panchayats are yet to get dustbins. On the other hand, the battery operated vans provided to the panchayats to collect wastage are lying unused. While the work on the mini treatment plant at Kulad is in its last stage, the same at Badakodanda has been left half-completed.

With the plant construction work

not yet completed, people are throwing household garbage here and there, resulting in the government's objective dashing to the ground and people being forced to live in an unhygienic atmosphere.

The panchayats that have been identified to get the treatment plants in first phase are Kulad, Badakodanda, Laisingh, Mujagarh and Gallery. Similarly, in the second phase, Golapeda, Dihapadhal, Baunsalundi, Dadaralunda, Lembehi, Turum and Baibali are the panchayats to get the plants.

When engineer Malla was contacted, he said work on the plants has not been completed because of several reasons. "However, the project will complete by March 31, 2022," he said.

While the block administration has set a target to complete the project within next 100 days, engineer Malla said it will complete by March 31, 2022. This has created a lot of confusion.

# Cashew orchard disappears in one year, action demanded

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kutra, Sept 24:** Many a developmental activity is underway in Kutra block of Sundargarh district. But most of them are in pen and paper only.

The case in point is a cashew orchard developed by the horticulture department on eight beneficiaries' lands at Sialjore under Kutra block.

The department prepared the orchard with 1,800 hybrid cashew plants in the financial year 2020-21. A fence was also erected to protect the plants from straying cattle. While the project is yet to com-



plete a year; there is not a single tree in the orchard. And there is no sign of the fence either.

Horticulture officer Chinna Sethi said the orchard is devoid of trees and the fence is missing. However, he ascribed it to people stealing the fencing materials, saplings and setting the orchard on fire.

When approached, senior officer Duma Hembram denied commenting on this, saying ask the ones who are in charge of the orchard. Scores of plans and schemes are being launched in villages. But these projects invariably fail as concerned officials hardly show interest for their success. These days Sialjore village is infamous for corruptions in digging up ponds and preparing orchards.

Local residents demanded that the Sundargarh Collector order an enquiry and take action against those who are found responsible for the failure of such profitable projects.

# 'Hilsa' lovers make do with baby 'Hilsa'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhograi, Sept 24:** The very mention of 'Hilsa' fish makes the non-vegetarians' mouths water. But this silver-scaled fish, specifically the big ones, is fast disappearing from their plates as the big size of this variety is getting scarce.

As the demand for the fish is high, the fishermen are making do with baby Hilsa. And so are the 'Hilsa' lovers.

Because of low pressure-induced rains, Hilsa fish is heading towards coasts. For a week now, baby Hilsa is caught abundantly at places like Udaypur, Talasari, Bichitrapur, Kirttania, Choumukha, Dagara, Bahabalapur and Kashaphal along the Balasore coast and at fishing harbours at neighbouring Digha, Shankarpur, Tazpur, Mandaramani and Junaput.

During monsoon, Hilsa from Myanmar and Bangladesh do come from deep sea to coasts and estuaries in large numbers to get sweet water and lay eggs. Now being the



favourable time to catch 'Hilsa', fishermen are sailing into deep sea and return with 'Hilsa'. Hundreds of trawlers are leaving from the fishing harbours on a daily basis. But the plight is that big size Hilsa is eluding their nets. At the end of the day, they have to make do with baby 'Hilsa'.

The demand for baby 'Hilsa' is not so high in the market. As of now, since the market is glutted with this fish, its price has witnessed a fall. While a 'Hilsa' fish weighing below 500 grams is currently selling at ₹200 to ₹300 a kilogram, the

same fish weighing over 500 grams is fetching something between ₹500 to ₹1,000 per kg.

Regarding the reason why big-size 'Hilsa' is disappearing, the experienced fishermen and oceanographers are sharing a theory that the harsh sound produced by the fishing trawlers and wastewater discharged into the sea by the industries are the two main reasons why big size Hilsa is not available.

The fishermen say the big size 'Hilsa' has been elusive for the last three years. This year it seems the climate is favourable, they added.



SCAM ALLEGED

Woman stage protests in Dhamnagar are of Bhadark, accusing two SHGs of indulging in irregularities in various schemes

OP PHOTO

# Calcutta HC reserves order on Bhabanipur by-poll

ELECTION TO BHABANIPUR SEAT, WHERE WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE IS A CONTESTANT, IS SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER 30

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Sept 24:** The Calcutta High Court Friday reserved judgment on a PIL questioning the Election Commission's contention of a "constitutional exigency" for holding by-election to Bhabanipur assembly seat in Kolkata.

A division bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj concluded hearing in the matter on Friday and reserved judgment on it.

Election to Bhabanipur seat, where West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is a contestant, is scheduled September 30.

The petitioner claimed that the EC had said in a press note that it decided to hold by-election to Bhabanipur constituency "considering the constitutional exigency and special request from State of West Bengal".

He pleaded the commission cannot be doing so, and as such the court should interfere into the issue.

The EC, on its part, said the petitioner is attempting to mischaracterise the meaning of the term constitutional exigency, maintaining that there can be no possibility of the same being construed as an influence on voters.



Claiming that the state has no role in the decision to hold the by-poll in Bhabanipur and that it is the sole preserve of the EC, the West Bengal government had September 13 submitted before the court that

the chief secretary had only written to EC requesting that the by-election be held and that the commission had accepted the request.

By-poll to Bhabanipur seat, earlier represented by Banerjee in 2011 and 2016, was necessitated following the resignation of TMC MLA Sovandeb Chattopadhyay to facilitate the party's election to the Assembly.

Banerjee lost to BJP's Suwendu Adhikari in Nandigram in the March-April Assembly polls, EC results have shown. She has however, moved the court challenging the result. According to the Constitution, a person has to get elected to the legislature within six months of taking oath as a minister.

The feisty TMC boss took oath as Chief Minister for the third consecutive term in West Bengal May 5.

# Mamata vows to prove Nandigram poll was rigged

Mamata Banerjee has to win to the Bhabanipur Assembly by-election to stay on as Chief Minister



AGENCIES

**Kolkata, Sept 24:** Raking up her defeat from Nandigram in the Assembly elections earlier this year, Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee has again claimed that the vote was rigged.

Banerjee, who is her party's candidate for the Bhabanipur Assembly by-poll, has to win to stay on as Chief Minister.

Addressing a public meeting ahead of the September 30 by-poll at Chakraberia in Bhabanipur, she said, "I will prove it in court that the Nandigram vote was rigged. From day one, they (BJP) conspired against me. They injured my leg as a result of which I had to campaign all through the Assembly election in a wheelchair. But I wasn't ready to accept defeat."

She claimed that the BJP wouldn't even have got 30 seats if the polls were held free and fair. In the run-up to the polls, which were held between March and April, Banerjee took everyone by surprise with her announcement that she would contest the Nandigram constituency against East Midnapore against onetime lieutenant-turned-BJP candidate Suwendu Adhikari.

The outcome of the polling April 1 literally came down to the last round of counting and was eventually decided in favour of Adhikari by a margin of 1,956 votes. He was subsequently made the Leader of

Opposition in the state Assembly. She yet again exhorted all voters to step out and exercise their franchise, come rain or shine. Rain is forecast for September 30. "I request everyone to go out and vote even if it rains."

Flashing the victory sign at voters in Chakraberia, the Trinamool supremo said it was destiny that brought her back to Bhabanipur for a by-poll that will decide if she remains chief minister. "B" stands for Bhabanipur and also for Bharat. Remember that," the CM said.

"Vote even if it rains. I will stand to suffer if I don't get every single one of your votes. Don't be complacent in assuming that my victory is guaranteed. Please don't do that. If you want to see me as chief minister, you must vote for me. Every vote is crucial. If I do not win, someone else will become the chief minister as we are in majority," Banerjee said.

While campaigning for the Assembly polls, the BJP had claimed that Durga Puja couldn't be organised peacefully under the Trinamool regime. To that, the CM retorted, "Those who talk about Durga Puja have imposed Section 144 (of CrPC) in (BJP-ruled) Tripura. So how will they organise Durga Puja?"

Tripura Police did not permission to Trinamool national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, citing imposition of Section 144.

# SC stays proceedings in Kerala HC on plea challenging EWS quota

The Centre contended that the transfer of the petition is necessary, as a similar plea and other connected petitions are pending before the top court

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 24:** The Supreme Court Friday stayed the proceedings before the Kerala High Court on a plea against Centre's decision granting 10 per cent reservation in jobs and admissions to candidates belonging to economically weaker sections (EWS).



Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, asked a bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana to stay on proceedings be-

fore the high court and also sought direction to issue notice to Nujaim PK, who had filed the plea there.

After hearing brief arguments in the matter, the bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, issued notice on the Centre's plea seeking transfer of the case from the high court to the top court. Earlier, the top court had referred similar case to a five-judge Constitution bench.

The Centre's plea said the writ petition involves an identical question of law to one pending before the top court, whether the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019 violates the basic structure of the Constitution and it is also against its basic principle. The 10 per cent quota will be over and above the existing 50 per cent reservation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

The Centre contended that the transfer of the petition is necessary, as a similar plea and other connected petitions in connection with the validity of the Act, is pending before the top court. The transfer of the petition would enable all these cases to be clubbed and heard together, it said.

The top court had refused to stay the Centre's decision. Both the Houses of the Parliament cleared the bill in January 2019, and it also received President Ram Nath Kovind's assent.

## NARCOTIC JIHAD IN KERALA

# Prakash Karat accuses BJP of whipping up Islamophobia

Love jihad and narcotic jihad were being waged against youngsters belonging to non-Muslim communities, said Karat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 24:** Senior CPI (M) leader Prakash Karat Friday accused the BJP of creating a communal divide by whipping up Islamophobia in Kerala and urged the Catholics, whose bishop has alleged love and narcotic jihad in the southern State, to be aware of the true character of the saffron outfits.

Referring to the recent speech made by the bishop of Pala diocese of Syro-Malabar Catholic Church Joseph Kallarangat alleging that love jihad and narcotic jihad were being waged against youngsters belonging to non-Muslim communities, Karat said this sweeping allegation has caused alarm and misgivings in Kerala society.

In an article written in the party mouthpiece Desabhimani, a daily, the CPI(M) politburo member said while across the political spectrum the alleged jihadist conspiracy was discounted, the BJP came forward to support the bishop's stand and called upon the Central government to bring a law against the activities of the alleged jihadists.

"For the BJP, this seemed a good opportunity to drive a wedge be-



tween the Muslim and Christian communities and to whip up Islamophobia," he wrote.

He said as far as the alleged love jihad is concerned in Kerala, some years ago there was a disturbing incident of 21 people leaving their homes and families and going to Afghanistan to join the ISIS-Khorasan, a terrorist outfit.

Noting that among them were two Christian women who had converted to Islam and joined their husbands to make the trip to Afghanistan, one of them had actually married a Christian and both of them converted, Karat said, "The jihadist network was behind recruiting these people and indoctrinating them in the extrem-

ist ideology."

He said the concern of the Catholic church about these two young women getting converted and being influenced by extremism was understandable.

"It was also correct on their part to warn their congregation against falling prey to such extremist influences. However, these were isolated instances," Karat said.

He said investigations both by the State police and the NIA showed no organised effort such as the alleged love jihad to lure non-Muslim women. Karat alleged that the BJP-RSS combine has been concentrating their fire on Muslims and tactically trying to rally the Christian clergy onto their side.

"The Catholic Church, which is the biggest denomination among Christians in Kerala, should be aware of the true character of the BJP-RSS. The Hindutva forces are carrying on a relentless campaign against religious minorities - whether they are Muslims or Christians.

"According to a report of 'Persecution Relief' from 2016 to 2019, there were 1,774 cases of hate crimes against Christians across the country," he pointed out.

# 'TMC to contest 2022 Goa polls'

AGENCIES

**Panaji, Sept 24:** The Trinamool Congress is contesting the upcoming Goa Assembly polls, but the party's eyes are actually on the 2024 general elections in which party chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will be projected as the Prime Ministerial candidate, award-winning Konkani writer N Shivdas said Thursday.

Shivdas, who met IPAC head and ace political strategist Prashant Kishor in Kolkata earlier this week, along with an independent MLA from the state, also added that the Trinamool was in touch with sitting and former MLAs and several other aspirants. "Now they are coming with full preparations. They were not serious that time (2012 Assembly

**The TMC is contesting the upcoming Goa Assembly polls, but the party's eyes are actually on the 2024 general elections in which party chief and West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee will be projected as the PM candidate**

polls). Now they are very serious. They are introducing themselves in Goa as a national party. Their aim is the 2024 elections," Shivdas, who has served as the president of the

Goa Konkani Academy and has also been a general secretary of the Goa Congress in the recent past.

"She (Mamata) can be PM candidate (in 2024). They are preparing that way. They want to spread across the country. Their people have been fanning out in Goa for some time now." "I met Prashant Kishor in Kolkata for half an hour. He wants good people in Goa, untainted persons. They want to start afresh," Shivdas said, adding that Kishor expressed confidence about Banerjee becoming the Prime Minister in 2024.

Earlier Thursday, Trinamool MPs Derek O'Brien and Prasun Banerjee arrived in Goa and are expected to meet leaders of several political parties, along with some eminent personalities in the state.



Tourists at the new Digha beach in East Midnapore district, Friday

PTI PHOTO

# Man hacks child to death, ends life

AGENCIES

**Kannur, Sept 24:** In a shocking incident, a six-month-old child was hacked to death by his father in their house at Eruvessy near Sreekandapuram in this district Friday.

The child's mother also suffered serious stab injuries on her neck in the attack by her husband Satheeshan with a lethal weapon.

Satheeshan also committed suicide by slitting his throat after the incident.

**The child's mother also suffered serious stab injuries on her neck in the attack by her husband Satheeshan**

According to police, Satheeshan (38) of Muiypra hacked to death his child Dhyana and attacked his wife Anju (28). Anju, who suffered serious stab injuries on neck in the attack, has been admitted at a private hospital in Kannur.

Nearby residents rushed to their house hearing the scream and forcibly broke open the doors and took the child and Anju to a nearby hospital at Sreekandapuram and later shifted to a private hospital at Kannur, but doctors declared the child as brought dead.

Anju's health condition is now 'stable', hospital sources said.

Kudiyannamala police said Satheeshan had some mental disorders and was undergoing treatment.

# Electrocution deaths: A cause of worry for Bengal

IN THE LAST TWO DAYS, 13 PEOPLE DIED OF ELECTROCUTION IN THE WATERLOGGED STREETS OF KOLKATA AND ITS ADJOINING AREAS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kolkata, Sept 24:** The death of two minor girls - 13-year-old Anushka Nandi from Bandhab Nagar Colony and 12-year-old Sneha Banik from the Motijheel area, who were electrocuted after coming in contact with an electric pole, a portion of which was submerged in a waterlogged area, has exposed the state government's inability to protect lives from unsafe and faulty electric supply system.

In the last two days, 13 people died of electrocution in the waterlogged streets of Kolkata and its adjoining areas.

"There are many open ends of wires inside the uncovered boxes at the base of electric lamp posts. When the streets are waterlogged,

these live wires remain submerged under the water and the posts become electrified. People - unaware of this - touch the lamppost and get electrocuted," an official of the state electric supply corporation said.

That was the case of Anuska and Sneha. Anushka inadvertently touched an electric pole while crossing a waterlogged street, Sneha, too, got electrocuted while trying to save her friend. The minors, both students of Class VI, were rushed to the state-run RG Kar Medical Hospital, but were declared dead on arrival.

The death of the duo is not an isolated example. On Wednesday evening, Deepak Chowdhury (65) got electrocuted in the waterlogged streets in the Agarpara-Tarapurur



area in North 24 Parganas district. He had accidentally touched an exposed electrical wire submerged in the waterlogged street in front of his house.

On Tuesday three residents of the

same family died at Khardah in North 24 Parganas district - Raja Das, his wife Poulomi Das and their son Subho Das - died after they touched the electric pole in an effort to support themselves while

crossing the road. Senior Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Roy visited the bereaved families of the minor girls Thursday and announced financial assistance of ₹2 lakh each. However, Anushka's mother refused to accept the compensation amount, saying they were willing to pay ₹4 lakh to the government instead, if it would bring her daughter back.

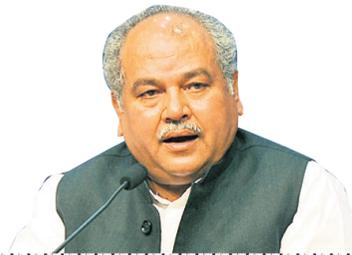
Minister for Power Arup Biswas did not make any comment on the issue.

An official of the state Power Department, on condition of anonymity, claimed that generally, the department takes precautions before every monsoon. "This year we took precautions. But at certain places, there was excessive rainfall without any forecast. But

we are trying to stop such mishaps. But people will also have to be careful," he said.

The death of 13 people has triggered political controversy as well. Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari asked the CESC to give ₹50 lakh each to the families of the victims. The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation (CESC) is a private body that is solely responsible for supplying power to Kolkata and suburbs.

"The Chief Minister has given charges of electricity to private bodies who are not bothered about anything. The CESC has crores of turnover annually and they should give ₹50 lakh to the affected and Mamata Banerjee should offer them a job and apologise in public," said Suwendu.



**Madhya Pradesh is ahead of many other states in the country in developing infrastructure in the farm sector**  
NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR | UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER

## VARANASI TO HAVE ROPEWAY SERVICE

Varanasi will soon become the first Indian city to use the ropeway services in the public transportation. About 220 cable cars will be available between Cantt railway station (Varanasi Junction) and Godowlia



## of the day quote

No end to GOIs farmaans for disempowering people of J&K. Contrary to GOIs tall claims of getting investment to create employment they are deliberately laying off gov(ernment) employees despite knowing that people in J&K rely on government jobs for their livelihood

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

RSS, nationality, nation are all same. 'RSS' stands for nationalism. There is nothing wrong if it is Education Policy. We need to prepare our children for the 21st century. NEP provides an opportunity for students to compete at the international level

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

People have chosen a capable government and the glory of the nation could be seen worldwide unlike previous governments when cases against terrorists were withdrawn

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

# Delhi court shootout leaves three dead

ONE OF DELHI'S MOST WANTED GANGSTERS WAS BEING PRODUCED IN THE COURT WHEN MEMBERS OF A RIVAL GANG ENTERED THE PREMISES DRESSED AS LAWYERS AND OPENED FIRE

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 24:** Jailed gangster Jitendra Gogi and his two assailants posing as lawyers were killed inside a crowded Rohini courtroom Friday in a dramatic fire shootout that also saw the police fire bullets in retaliation, officials said.

Video footage of the incident, which exposed security lapses in the system, showed policemen and lawyers rushing out in panic as gunshots rang out inside courtroom number 207.

The two gunmen dressed as lawyers belonged a rival gang, officials said.

Witnesses said a woman lawyer also received a bullet injury in her leg and one claimed that the gang members pumped 10 bullets into Gogi.

Police said the incident happened around 1.15 pm when Gogi was taken to the courtroom for a hearing.

Advocate Sunil Tomar, who was present in the courtroom for his client's bail matters, said there were 15-17 people in the court of judge Gagandeep Singh when the



Security personnel during a shootout at the Rohini Court, where gangster Jitendra Gogi was being produced

gangsters opened fire.

"As Gogi entered the courtroom, two persons, who were dressed as lawyers, whipped out their pistols and suddenly opened fire upon him. After hearing gunshots, people started running to save their lives and the judge also went back to his office just behind the courtroom," Tomar told PTI.

"For the first 15 minutes, I could not figure out what was happening there." Advocate Manoj Kumar Nigam, who was also there, said a woman lawyer has received a bullet injury in her leg.

A senior police officer said that Gogi was escorted by members of the counterintelligence unit of the Delhi Police's Special Cell.

"When Gogi entered the courtroom, the two assailants in lawyers' uniform opened fire on him. Immediately, the personnel from the counterintelligence team retaliated and the two assailants died on the spot," he said.

The joint commissioner of police (northern range) has been asked to enquire into the incident and submit a report. Some lawyers claimed this is not the first such shootout

incident at the Rohini court.

"I was stepping out of the court when the incident happened. I heard firing and later more rounds were fired...This (incident of firing) has happened for the fourth or fifth time at Rohini. So, the situation has not improved," said advocate Rajiv Agnihotri.

Jitender Maan alias Gogi, who carried a reward of ₹6.5 lakh on his head, was arrested along with his three accomplices - Kuldeep Naan alias Fajja, Kapil alias Gaurav and Rohit alias Koi -- from Gurgaon by a team of Special Cell in March last year, according to police.

The Special Cell was on the lookout for Gogi, Fajja and Gaurav for a long time before tracing them to their hideout in Gurgaon.

A few months ago, Fajja had managed to escape from the police custody when he was being produced in the Karkardooma court, another senior police official said.

Since that incident, the counterintelligence team of the Special Cell escorted Gogi and his associates to the court for hearings, he said.

## UPSC ALLOWS UNMARRIED WOMEN TO APPLY FOR NDA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 24:** The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has allowed unmarried women to apply for the national defence academy (NDA) and naval academy exam, an official statement said Friday.

### The move follows a Supreme Court directive on the issue last month

In compliance with the apex court's interim direction, the UPSC has decided to open the application on upsonline.Nic.In for this exam to enable "unmarried women candidates only" who are otherwise eligible in terms of nationality, age, educational qualification etc., the statement said.

Physical standards and the number of vacancies for women candidates would be notified after it is received from the Ministry of Defence, it said.

The application window will remain open for women candidates from September 24 to October 8 (till 6 PM), said the statement issued by the UPSC. No application will be accepted beyond the prescribed last date/time, i.e., 08.10.2021 (till 6 PM) or through any mode other than the aforesaid online mode, it said. "Women candidates are not required to pay fee for their application for this examination," the statement said. The examination is scheduled to be held November 14, an official said.

The admission of the women candidates in the national defence academy and naval academy examination (II), 2021, will remain provisional and subject to the final outcome of a writ petition pending in the court or such other order(s) as may be passed by the Supreme Court and action by the government of India in the matter, the statement said.

## CBI REGISTERS FIR IN MAHANT NARENDRA GIRI DEATH CASE

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 24:** The CBI filed an FIR Friday in connection with the death of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad president Mahant Narendra Giri in Allahabad.

The agency has invoked Section 306 (abetment of suicide) of the IPC in the FIR.

The seer, who was the president of the largest organisation of sadhus in India, was found hanging by his disciples at the Baghambari Mutt in Allahabad on Monday.

Earlier in the day, the Centre gave its approval for a CBI probe with the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) issuing a notification. The Uttar Pradesh government on Wednesday had said that a recommendation for transferring the case to the CBI was made "on the instructions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath...In the incident pertaining to the sad death of chairman of Akhara Parishad Mahant Narendra Giri".

The Uttar Pradesh Police on Tuesday had constituted an 18-member SIT to probe the death of the seer and arrested one of his disciples, Anand Giri, from Haridwar in Uttarakhand. Another disciple Aadiya Prasad Tiwari was also arrested by the UP Police and both of them are in judicial custody at present.

## SHORT TAKES

### ■ BJP, Nishad Party to fight polls together

**Lucknow:** The BJP and the Nishad Party will contest the upcoming assembly polls together in Uttar Pradesh and will work towards forming the next government in the state, Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan said Friday. Pradhan, who is BJP's in-charge of Uttar Pradesh polls, made a formal announcement of the alliance at a press conference here in the presence of Nishad Party, or Nirbal Indian Shoshit Hamara Aam Dal, chief Sanjay Nishad.

### ■ Schools to reopen in Maha from Oct 4

**Mumbai:** Physical classes in schools would resume across Maharashtra from October 4, the state government said Friday. "All the schools in rural areas will resume physical classes for standards 5th to 12th," said school education minister Varsha Gaikwad. Physical classes for standards 8th to 12th would resume everywhere in urban areas too, she added. Until now schools were conducting physical classes only in those areas which were reporting relatively fewer Covid-19 cases. Physical classes would not resume yet for standards 1st to 7th in urban areas and standards 1st to 4th in rural areas.

### ■ 10 militants held in Assam

**Kokrajhar:** Ten militants of a newly formed insurgent group, United Liberation of Bodoland (ULB), were arrested from different places in Assam's Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) Friday, police said. Among those arrested was self-styled district commander Ringkhang Basumatary, nabbed in a joint operation by the state police and CRPF from Chirang district, Inspector-General of Police (BTR) LR Bishnoi told reporters. Twelve mobile phone handsets, 21 extortion notes, one hand grenade and other incriminating documents were seized from their possession, he said.

### ■ Victim identifies rapists in ID parade

**Mysuru (Karnataka):** In a major development in the Mysore gang rape case, the victim has identified her attackers, a month after the assault, during an identification parade in the district prison here in Karnataka. The victim recorded her statement before the magistrate in open court under IPC Section CrPC 164 September 22.

# Govt seals mega deal with Airbus

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAS SIGNED A ₹22,000-CRORE CONTRACT WITH AIRBUS FOR 56 C-295 MEDIUM TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT FOR THE INDIAN AIR FORCE

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 24:** Indian Defence Ministry signed contract worth around ₹22,000 crore with Airbus Defence and Space, Spain Friday for procurement of 56 C-295MW transport aircraft for the Air Force.

The C-295MW aircraft is a transport aircraft of five to 10 tonne capacity with contemporary technology. It has a rear ramp door for quick reaction and para dropping of troops and cargo.

Of these 16 aircraft are to be delivered in flyaway condition from Spain and 40 are to be manufactured in India. These 56 C-295MW transport aircraft will replace the ageing Avro aircraft of the Indian Air Force. On September 8, the government had approved procurement of 56 transport aircraft from Airbus Defence and Space S.A for the Indian Air Force. The Cabinet Committee on Security approved the procurement of 56 C-295MW transport aircraft. Sixteen aircraft will be delivered in flyaway condition from Spain within 48 months of signing of the contract and 40 will be manufactured in India by TATA Consortium within ten years of signing of the contract.

This is the first project of its kind in which a military aircraft

will be manufactured in India by a private company. All 56 aircraft will be installed with indigenous Electronic Warfare Suite. "The project will give a boost to the aerospace ecosystem in India wherein several MSMEs spread over the country will be involved in manufacturing parts of the aircraft," the ministry had said. This will provide a major boost to the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' (Self-Reliant India Campaign) as it offers a unique opportunity for the Indian private sector to enter into technology intensive and highly competitive aviation industry. The project will augment domestic aviation manufacturing resulting in reduced import dependence and expected increase in exports. A large number of detail parts, sub-assemblies and major component assemblies of aero structure are scheduled to be manufactured in India.

The programme will act as a catalyst in employment generation in the aerospace ecosystem of the country and is expected to generate 600 highly skilled jobs directly, over 3000 indirect jobs and an additional 3,000 medium skill employment opportunities with more than 42.5 lakh man hours of work within the aerospace and defence sector of India.



BSF soldiers participate in a bicycle rally for Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration in Bikaner

# GALWAN CONFLICT

## India snaps back at China

The brutal clash in Galwan Valley June 15 last year, the Indian side lost 20 soldiers while China has acknowledged four deaths

AGENCIES

**New Delhi/Beijing, Sept 24:** India Friday lashed out at China for blaming Delhi for the clashes in Galwan Valley last year in which 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers were killed, stating that unilateral attempts were made by the Chinese side to alter the status quo in Eastern Ladakh.

In response to a statement made by Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Zhao Lijian in Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said that the Indian position with regard to the developments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh last year has



been clear and consistent.

"It was the provocative behaviour and unilateral attempts of the Chinese side to alter the status quo in contravention of all our bilateral agreements that resulted in serious disturbance of peace and tran-

quility," he asserted.

He further said that the unilateral attempts of the Chinese side to alter the status quo has also impacted the bilateral relations.

"As emphasised by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in his meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi earlier this month, it is our expectation that the Chinese side will work towards an early resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh, while fully abiding by the bilateral agreements and protocols," he pointed out.

Zhao Lijian had said earlier that the "Galwan Valley incident took place because India violated all the treaties and agreements and encroached upon China's territory illegally and crossed the line".

Lijian was replying to a query in Beijing on the reorganisation of the Indian military into theatre commands.

# '44% millennials skipped breakfast during pandemic'

CONCERNED ABOUT WEIGHT GAIN, OVER 70 % OF URBAN MILLENNIALS LEANED TOWARDS 'FAD DIETS'

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 24:** A special study, conducted in the age group of 18-50 years, across four cities, has shown that 44 per cent of the urban millennials skipped breakfast during Covid times.

The study was done between March 2020 and February 2021 by London-based market research major Euromonitor International and PepsiCo India through its brand Quaker.

According to an official release, the study highlighted that 44 per cent of urban millennials skipped breakfast and delayed meals due to

increased household chores and late start to the day.

Further, 64 per cent of urban millennial respondents were driven towards a healthy immune system.

The study further pointed out that increased consumption of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, including oats, emerged as the key trend during the pandemic.

Titled "Changing lifestyles and dietary habits of Urban Indian consumers post Covid", the study was conducted involving 1,000 respondents in the age group of 18-50 years, focusing on urban millennials in Delhi, Mumbai,



Bangalore, and Kolkata. The study analysed the changing lifestyle

and dietary patterns of people post-Covid to understand consumer behaviour.

It tracked a changing pattern, particularly amongst urban millennials towards dietary habits for a healthy immune system and maintaining weight.

The study also mapped if changed behaviours would sustain in the future and outlined the fact that weight watchers must understand the significance of having meals on time and consuming nutrient-rich breakfast.

Further, it found that 71 per cent of urban millennials leaned towards the popularity of fad diets,

including keto, intermittent fasting, and weekly detox plan, among others to maintain weight.

Vidhi Sharma, consultant, Euromonitor International said, "While millennials acknowledge the importance of breakfast and believe that it should have wholesome nutrition, they often tend to skip breakfast due to their work schedules or tend to just grab a quick snack in the morning. Popular fad diets are supporting this behaviour of skipping breakfast."

Talking about the study findings, Sonam Vij, Associate Director and Category Lead - Quaker

Portfolio, PepsiCo India said, "Urban millennials are now increasingly focusing on improving their physical and mental health that constitutes an active lifestyle. We also see that they are shifting to food choices for a healthy immune system as shown by the study."

Further, according to the report, with immunity emerging as one of the top concerns among the urban millennials, nearly "60 per cent" of them admitted of starting doing "yoga and walking/running" during the COVID-19 pandemic for their physical and mental wellness.

# international

## of the day quote

Sri Lanka is working to address the post-ethnic war issues, including releasing LTTE prisoners and revisiting a controversial anti-terror law

G L PEIRIS | SRI LANKAN FOREIGN MINISTER

The Taliban's relationship with the international community is going to be defined by the actions the group takes

ANTONY BLINKEN | US SECRETARY OF STATE

There is a lot of political instability (in Haiti), let's not forget that the president was assassinated and that there is a lot of conflict

ANDRES MANUEL LOPEZ OBRADOR | MEXICAN PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### Former US trooper charged

Louisiana (US): An American trooper has been charged with a civil rights violation for pummeling a Black motorist 18 times with a flashlight — the first criminal case to emerge from federal investigations into troopers' beatings of at least three Black men. A grand jury on Thursday indicted former Louisiana State Police trooper Jacob Brown for the 2019 beating following a traffic stop that left Aaron Larry Bowman with a broken jaw, broken ribs and a gash to his head. Brown was charged with one count of deprivation of rights under color of law, federal prosecutors said.

### Woman held

Redding (US): A San Francisco Bay Area woman has been arrested on suspicion of starting a wildfire that spread rapidly through a rural area, prompting evacuations orders in a Northern California community, authorities said. Workers at a nearby quarry reported seeing a woman acting strangely and trespassing in the area in Shasta County where the fire started Wednesday afternoon, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said in a statement Thursday. Later Wednesday, Alexandra Souverneva of Palo Alto walked out of the brush near the fire line and approached firefighters and told them she was dehydrated and needed medical help, Cal Fire said.

### One arrested

Miami: A South Florida man has been arrested in connection with a shooting that killed three people and injured 20 others outside a banquet hall in May. Davonta Barnes, 22, of Miami Gardens, was arrested late Thursday. He is charged with three counts of first-degree murder and 20 counts of attempted murder. He remained in the Miami-Dade County Jail early Friday, where he was being held without bond, according to jail records. Miami-Dade police believe Barnes acted as a suspected lookout for the men who opened fire on the crowd gathered at the El Mula banquet hall in Miami Gardens on May 30, the Miami Herald reported.

### Two jailed

Mogadishu: A Military Court in Somalia has sentenced two foreigners each to 15 years in jail after being found guilty of recruiting foreign nationals for the al-Shabab terror group in the country. Thursday, Hassan Ali Nur Shute, chairman of the Court, ruled that Darren Anthony Byrness, a Briton, and Malaysian Ahmed Mustaqim Bin Abdulhamid will serve 15 years each in prison, Xinhua news agency quoted a report by Radio Mogadishu.

## Modi meets Harris; discusses bilateral ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Sept 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has described India and America as "natural partners" as he held the first in-person meeting with Vice President Kamala Harris at the White House during which they decided to further cement the Indo-US strategic partnership and discussed global issues of common interest, including threats to democracy, Afghanistan and the Indo-Pacific.

"India and America are natural partners. We have similar values, similar geopolitical interests," Modi said in a joint media appearance with Harris on Thursday, the first-ever person of Indian origin to be elected as the vice-president of the United States.

Noting that India and the US are the largest and oldest democracies, Modi said the two countries share values and their coordination and cooperation is also gradually increasing. Both the leaders appreciated that the bilateral relationship is on a sound footing, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla told reporters here while giving details of the meeting that lasted for an hour.

This is the first meeting between the two leaders. Harris had earlier spoken to Modi over the phone in June during the COVID-19 crisis in India. "You are the source of inspiration for so many people across the world. I am completely confident that our bilateral relationship will touch new heights under President Biden

"India and America are natural partners. We have similar values, similar geopolitical interests," Modi said in a joint media appearance with Harris on Thursday

Noting that India and the US are the largest and oldest democracies, Modi said the two countries share values and their coordination and cooperation is increasing

and your leadership," Modi told Harris.

Later in tweet, Modi said, "Glad to have met @VP@KamalaHarris. Her feat has inspired the entire world. We talked about multiple subjects that will further cement the India-USA friendship, which is based on shared values and cultural linkages."

The two leaders were wearing masks as they both spoke in front of a battery of pool reporters from both India and the US. Modi invited the 56-year-old Democratic leader and Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff to visit India.

"Both President Biden and you assumed office at a time when our planet faced very tough challenges. In a short time you have had many achievements to your credit be it COVID-19, climate change or the Quad," Modi said.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said the two leaders exchanged views on recent global developments, including in Afghanistan and reaffirmed their commitment towards a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.



PTI PHOTO

## China seeks security of projects

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Sept 24: China has asked Pakistan to further upgrade the security of Chinese personnel and projects under the bilateral economic corridor in the country, a media report said Friday.

The Chinese demand came after the July 14 bus blast in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in which 13 people, including nine Chinese personnel, were killed.

Pakistan's Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar, speaking to the press after co-chairing the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said both sides agreed to "arrest those guilty of heinous crime and get them sentenced by



PTI PHOTO

courts at the earliest", the Dawn newspaper reported.

On July 14, a bus carrying Chinese engineers and construction workers exploded before falling into a deep ravine in Dasu area of Upper Kohistan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The

The Chinese demand came after the July 14 bus blast in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in which 13 people, including nine Chinese personnel, were killed

Chinese nationals were engaged in building a dam, which is part of the USD 60 billion CPEC.

At least 13 people, including nine Chinese nationals and two Frontier Corps soldiers, died and 39 others were injured. China termed the incident "a bomb attack".

## 'Quite terrifying'

# Closest known relatives of Covid virus found in Laos

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, Sept 24: Scientists have found three viruses in bats in Laos that are more similar to SARS-CoV-2 than any other known virus, media reports said.

The study, posted on the preprint server Research Square and not peer-reviewed yet, showed that the similarity of parts of the new viruses' genetic code with SARS-CoV-2 reinforces claims that Covid-19 has a natural origin. At the same time, their discovery means there are numerous coronaviruses with the potential to infect people, Nature reported.

The finding is both "fascinating, and quite terrifying", David

Robertson, a virologist at the University of Glasgow, the UK, was quoted as saying. According to researchers at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, and the National University in Laos, the new-found viruses contain receptor binding domains that are almost identical to that of SARS-CoV-2, and can therefore infect human cells, Nature reported.

To find the virus, the team took saliva, faeces and urine samples from 645 bats in caves in northern Laos. They found viruses in three horseshoe (Rhinolophus) bat species, which were each more than 95 per cent identical to SARS-CoV-2. The new viruses have been named BANAL-52, BANAL-103 and BANAL-236, the report said.

Further, the scientist with the discovery of bats living in caves in Laos carrying a similar pathogen to Covid suggests a natural spillover rather than a lab-leak.

"When SARS-CoV-2 was first sequenced, the receptor binding domain didn't really look like anything we'd seen before," Edward Holmes, a virologist at the University of Sydney in Australia, was quoted as saying. This caused some people to speculate that the virus had been created in a laboratory. But the Laos coronaviruses confirm these parts of SARS-CoV-2 exist in nature, he said.

"I am more convinced than ever that SARS-CoV-2 has a natural ori-



gin," said Linfa Wang, a virologist at the Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore. Relatives of SARS-CoV-2 have previously also been discovered in Thailand, Cambodia

## NEW RULE

The UK government said Friday that it will make it illegal for employers to withhold tips from workers under new regulations for the country's hospitality industry



An activist holds a banner during a Fridays for Future global climate strike in Berlin, Germany, Friday

AP/PTI PHOTO

## N Korea open to talks with South

Kim Yo Jong's statement came days after North Korea performed its first missile tests in six months, which some experts said were intended to show it will keep boosting its weapons arsenal if the US-led sanctions continue while nuclear diplomacy remains stalled

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Sept 24: The influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said Friday her country is willing to resume talks with South Korea if conditions are met, indicating it wants Seoul to persuade Washington to relax crippling economic sanctions.

Kim Yo Jong's statement came days after North Korea performed its first missile tests in six months, which some experts said were intended to show it will keep boosting its weapons arsenal if the US-



led sanctions continue while nuclear diplomacy remains stalled.

She offered the talks while mentioning South Korean President Moon Jae-in's call, issued in a speech at the UN General Assembly, for a political declaration to end the 1950-53 Korean War as a way to bring peace to the peninsula.

She said North Korea is willing to hold "constructive" talks with South Korea to discuss how to improve and repair strained ties if the South stops provoking the North with hostile policies, far-fetched assertions and double-dealing standards.

South Korea's Unification Ministry said it's carefully reviewing Kim Yo Jong's statement. It said South Korea will continue its efforts to restore ties with North Korea. Nam Sung-wook, a professor at Korea University in South Korea, said North Korea is put-

ting indirect pressure on Seoul to work to arrange talks on easing the sanctions as it pushes for the declaration of the war's end.

"It's like North Korea saying it would welcome talks on the end-of-the-war declaration if lifting the sanctions can also be discussed," Nam said. The US-led sanctions have been toughened following North Korea's provocative run of nuclear and missile tests in 2016-17, and Kim Jong Un has said the sanctions, the coronavirus pandemic and natural disasters were causing the "worst-ever" crisis in North Korea.

Earlier this year, he warned he would enlarge the country's nuclear arsenal if the United States refuses to abandon its "hostile policy" toward North Korea, an apparent reference to the sanctions.

North Korea and the United States are still technically at war because the Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

North Korea has consistently wanted to sign a peace treaty with the US to formally end the war as a step toward subsequent improved relations.

## UK MPs debate Kashmir motion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 24: Members of Parliament from the UK's All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Kashmir have tabled a motion on "Human rights in Kashmir" for a debate in the House of Commons, drawing a strong reaction from India which said any assertion made in any forum on a subject related to an integral part of the country needs to be duly substantiated with authentic verifiable facts.

The Minister for Asia in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Amanda Milling, responded to the debate on Thursday by reiterating the UK government's unchanged stance on Kashmir as a bilateral issue.

"The government takes the situation in Kashmir very seriously but it's for India and Pakistan to find a lasting political solution, taking into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. It's not for the UK to prescribe a solution or to act as a mediator," said Milling. The Indian government expressed its dismay at some of the language used by participating MPs in the Backbench Debate, specifically Pakistani-origin Labour MP Naz Shah.

A minister from the Indian High Commission in London condemned the attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and highlighted Kashmir's status as an integral part of India. "It is with sadness that the High Commission of India notes that an august institution of a fellow democracy has been misused today to level abuse against the elected leader of the largest practising democracy in the world," the minister said, referring to Shah's remarks on the 2002 Gujarat riots.

"As on previous occasions, the High Commission of India reiterates that any assertion made in any forum on a subject related to an integral part of India needs to be duly substantiated with authentic verifiable facts," the minister added. The debate, which was scheduled to be held in March 2020 but had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, was opened by Opposition Labour Party MP Debbie Abrahams who recounted her visit to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in February 2020.

## Ex-Catalan leader detained in Sardinia

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barcelona, Sept 24: Former Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont, who fled Spain after a failed secession bid for the northeastern region in 2017, has been detained in Sardinia, Italy, his lawyer said.

Puigdemont, who lives in Belgium and now holds a seat in the European Parliament, has been fighting extradition to Spain, which accused him and other Catalan independence leaders of sedition. Lawyer Gonzalo Boye said Puigdemont was detained when he arrived in Sardinia on Thursday, where he was due to attend an event this weekend.

The circumstances under which Puigdemont was taken into custody were not immediately clear. Boye wrote on Twitter the ex-regional president was de-

tained under a 2019 European arrest warrant, even though it had been suspended.

Police at the airport in northern Sardinia didn't answer phone calls Thursday night, while police in the city of Alghero said they weren't aware of his detention.

The European Parliament voted in March to lift the immunity of Puigdemont and two of his associates.

In July the three EU lawmakers failed to have their immunity restored after the European Union's general court said that they did not demonstrate they were at risk of being arrested.

Sardinian media reported earlier in the week he was due to attend an event in Alghero on Sunday, so his presence on the Mediterranean island had been expected.

# business

## of the day quote

The depth of this alternative investment market is shallow. There is a chance of mispricing of risks. But I feel there will be no compromise on underwriting standards as the banking system has learned the hard way due to huge NPAs

DINESH KR KHARA | CHAIRMAN, SBI

All infrastructure, including road, electricity, internet connectivity and water supply requirement will be cleared by March 2022

PRAMOD SAWANT | CM, GOA

Disinvestment doesn't mean that the companies are making losses, but the government has different plans to increase their income and to increase jobs

BHAGWAT K KARAD | MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE

## SHORT TAKES

### Ford India head Mehrotra quits

**Chennai:** Ford Motor Co's India head Anurag Mehrotra has quit the company to pursue other career opportunities, days after the US automaker said it would stop making cars in the Asian nation, taking a hit of \$2 billion. It is learnt from sources that Balasundaram Radhakrishnan, Director (Manufacturing), Ford India Private Ltd, has been appointed as the Transformation Officer. Ford's decision to stop making cars in India ends its more than two-decade long presence in a market it no longer sees as profitable.

### Addition invests \$125M in Delhivery

**New Delhi:** Logistics firm Delhivery Friday announced an investment of USD 125 million (about 920 crore) from Lee Fixel's venture capital firm Addition. Delhivery CEO Sahil Barua in a statement said, "We have a long-standing relationship with Lee and are delighted to welcome him to our cap table again. This investment reinforces the trust that institutional investors have placed in Delhivery and is a validation of the strength of our business." Addition is the latest global fund to invest in the company, following earlier rounds from other marquee global investors.

### 3 NBFCs get \$55M from USAID, DFC

**Mumbai:** Three mid-sized rural-focused domestic NBFCs are getting USD 55 million (around ₹400 crore) from two US developmental finance institutions, DFC and USAID, to help address the economic impact of the pandemic on farmer producer organisations, agri-tech companies, and those engaged in clean energy solutions for the farm sector. Loans to farmer producer organisations will be provided by Avanti Finance, Samunnati Financial, and Maanaveeya, Avanti said in a statement.

### ONGC puts 2nd well in KG basin

**New Delhi:** Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), India's biggest oil and gas producer, has put a second well in its promising KG basin block into production, its chairman Subhash Kumar said Friday. ONGC had achieved first gas from the USD 5 billion KG-DWN-982 or KG-D5 project in the Krishna Godavari basin in the Bay of Bengal in June last year. Augmenting production from the project thereafter got hit by supply disruption world over caused by the Covid pandemic.



I can see very clearly signs of revival and good signs of revival. Otherwise my revenue collection would not be where it is, both the GST and direct taxation

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | UNION FINANCE MINISTER

## AFTER 31 YEARS Journey of Sensex: From 1K to 60K

Interestingly, both the 50K and 60K mark have been breached in 2021, showing the resilience of the market amid Covid-19 devastation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, Sept 24:** India's 30-scrip S&P BSE Sensex gained a whopping 2.4 times or 135 per cent from the lows of 2020 lockdown to its latest peak of more than 60,300 points, and the rise seems to have just started, cited experts.

The 30-scrip sensitive index touched an intra-day low of 25,638.9 points March 24, 2020, the first day of the Covid-induced lockdown. Friday, it reached an intra-day high of 60,333 points.

On a closing basis, it gained 125 per cent from 26,874 points on March 24, 2020 to 60,048.47 points Friday.

Even the NSE Nifty50, which nearly missed touching the 18,000-mark Friday, rose 138 per cent from the lows of March 24, 2020.

"There was a massive global economic response from the government, central banks and the corporate world against the disruption caused by the pandemic," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head, Retail Research, Motilal Oswal



Financial Services.

According to V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services said, "India is presently the best performing market with Nifty outperforming both MSCI World Index and MSCI EM Index. The economic news is positive with impressive tax collections, booming exports and rising FPI inflows, which have touched

₹64,655 crore so far in 2021."

BSE Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ashish Kumar Chauhan said that, "In May 2019, I had said that we should be able to reach 60,000 in the next five years. But, it happened in just two-and-a-half years instead of five. India's Sensex story is here to stay. 60,000 is not the end, it's just the beginning of the Sensex story."

## China's Central Bank rules against crypto

BITCOIN FELL AS MUCH AS 5.5 PER CENT FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT, HITTING \$42,232 AROUND 330 PM BEFORE STABILISING

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 24:** China's central bank Friday said all financial transactions involving cryptocurrencies are illegal, sounding the death knell for the digital trade in China after a crackdown on the volatile currencies.

The global values of cryptocurrencies including Bitcoin have massively fluctuated over the past year partly due to Chinese regulations, which have sought to prevent speculation and money laundering.

"Virtual currency-related business activities are illegal financial activities," the People's Bank of China (PBOC) said in an online statement Friday, adding that offenders would be "investigated for criminal liability in accordance with the law."

The notice bans all related financial activities involving cryptocurrencies, such as trading crypto, selling tokens, transactions involving virtual currency derivatives and illegal fundraising.

The central bank said that in recent years trading of Bitcoin and other virtual currencies had become "widespread, disrupting economic and financial order, giving rise to money laundering, illegal

fund-raising, fraud, pyramid schemes and other illegal and criminal activities."

"This was seriously endangering the safety of people's assets," the PBOC said.

While crypto creation and trading have been illegal in China since 2019, further crackdowns this year by Beijing warned banks to halt related transactions and closed much of the country's vast network of bitcoin miners.

Analysts say China fears the proliferation of illicit investments and fundraising from cryptocurrency in the world's second biggest economy, which also has strict rules around the outflow of capital.

The crypto crackdown also opens the gates for China to introduce its own digital currency, already in the pipeline, allowing the central government to monitor transactions.

In June, Chinese officials said more than 1,000 people had been arrested for using the profits from crime to buy cryptocurrencies.

Several key Chinese provinces banned the operation of cryptocurrency mines since the start of this year, with one region accounting for eight per cent of the computing power needed to run the global blockchain - a set of online ledgers to record bitcoin transactions.



## RBI issues Master Direction on loan transfer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 24:** The Reserve Bank Friday issued Master Direction on loan transfer, requiring banks and other lending institutions to have a comprehensive board-approved policy for such transactions.

Loan transfers are resorted to by lending institutions for various reasons, ranging from liquidity management, rebalancing their exposures or strategic sales. Also, a robust secondary market in loans will help in creating additional avenues for raising liquidity, the RBI said.

The Master Direction has also prescribed a minimum holding period for different categories of

The provisions of the direction are applicable to banks, all non-banking finance companies, including housing finance companies, NABARD, NHB, EXIM Bank, and SIDBI

loans after which they shall become eligible for transfer. The direction, the RBI said came into effect immediately.

As per the direction, a loan transfer should result in immediate separation of the transferor from the



risks and rewards associated with loans to the extent that the economic interest has been transferred.

In case of any retained economic interest in the exposure by the transferor, the loan transfer agreement should specify the distribution of the principal and interest income from the transferred loan

between the transferor and the transferee(s), it added.

It further said a transferor cannot re-acquire a loan exposure, either fully or partially, that had been transferred by the entity previously, except as a part of a resolution plan.

Further, the transferee(s) should have the unfettered right to transfer or otherwise dispose of the loans free of any restraining condition to the extent of economic interest transferred to them.

Meanwhile, the RBI also issued Master Direction on the securitisation of standard assets to facilitate their repackaging into tradable securities with different risk profiles.

## BIZ BUZZ

### Amazon to host 'Great Indian Festival 2021' from Oct 4



its annual 'The Big Billion Days' sale from October 7-12 this year and Mynta will host its 'Big Fashion Festival' from Oct 3-10 with an expectation of 1.1 mn first-time shoppers to participate.

**New Delhi:** Amazon India Friday said it will kick off its festive season sale - The Great Indian Festival (GIF) - from October 4, that will see participation from lakhs of small sellers, including over 75,000 local shops. "This year's Great Indian Festival is a celebration of the resilience of local shops and small and medium sellers. We are humbled by their spirit and delighted with the opportunity to partner and enable their growth, especially in view of recent challenges owing to the pandemic," Amazon India Vice President Manish Tiwary told reporters. He added that the company continues to innovate and offer the widest selection, value and convenience, while ensuring fast delivery as customers gear up for the festive season. Rival, Flipkart will host

### Odisha's first-ever Tussar silk yarn production centre opens

**New Delhi:** The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has set up Odisha's first ever Tussar silk yarn production centre at Choudwar in Cuttack district with an aim to create jobs and reduce the production cost, the MSME ministry said Friday. Tussar silk is one of the finest varieties of silk that is distinguished by its coarseness and porous weave that give it a rugged and rustic appearance. Set up at a cost of ₹75 lakh, the centre is capable of producing 200 Kg of silk yarn worth ₹94 lakh annually, it said. The production capacity of this unit will be gradually increased to meet the increasing demand. This silk yarn production centre is equipped with advanced machinery like silk reeling machine, re-reeling machine, spinning machine and others.



## Silicon Valley state seeks to ban online gaming

The Karnataka government has said the bill is needed as youngsters from rural areas, mostly idle in the city during the Covid-19 pandemic, have shown a tendency of becoming habitual gamblers

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Sept 24:** The Indian state of Karnataka, home to India's Silicon Valley, has proposed a ban on online games involving betting and wagering, sparking concerns that growing state regulations could hit the nascent but booming sector.

Karnataka is proposing an amendment to the Karnataka Police Act to include such online games, seeking to ban any act or risking money, or otherwise on the unknown result of an event including

on a game of skill, according to the bill seen by agencies. Many offences under the law already attract prison time, and the bill proposes to increase these penalties.

It comes as online fantasy gaming platforms such as Tiger Global-backed Dream11 and Sequoia Capital-funded Mobile Premier League (MPL) that offer fantasy cricket and football games have become increasingly popular in India.

Karnataka, home to some of the world's biggest tech companies and India's tech capital Bangalore, is the fourth Indian state to seek to



ban online games involving prize money after Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Business of MPL, Dream11 and everyone in the sector will suffer, said one gaming industry source,

who declined to be named because the person was not authorised to speak to the media.

The online gaming industry in India has grown over the past few years. Foreign investors have shown growing interest in backing Indian gaming startups since last year as the Covid-19 pandemic drove people stuck indoors towards such games.

India currently has more than 400 online gaming startups and, as of 2020, had around 360 million gamers, according to an EY-All India Gaming Federation report. Online gamers are expected to grow to 510 million by 2022 and the industry will be worth \$2 billion by 2023, the report said.

# Super Kings humble RCB



## Royal test awaits Capitals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Sept 24: Operating like a well-oiled unit, Delhi Capitals will be eager to consolidate their top spot when they clash with a resurgent Rajasthan Royals, who will be keen to keep the winning momentum going in the IPL here Saturday.

The Rishabh Pant-led side had a sensational first leg, winning six games in eight outings. They started the second phase on a high by handing laggards Sunrisers Hyderabad an eight-wicket thrashing Wednesday to maintain their top spot on the points table.

On the other hand, Rajasthan, who were struggling to find their feet in the first leg, will take a lot of confidence after snatching a two-run victory from the jaws of defeat against Punjab Kings.

With the win, they have bridged the gap on the playoff spots. A victory against Delhi will take them to the fourth. For Rajasthan, youngsters Yashasvi Jaiswal and Mahipal Lomror rose to the occasion with the bat against Punjab but skipper Sanju Samson will be expected

**TODAY'S MATCHES**

DC v RR  
Time: 03:30 pm

SRH v PBKS  
Time: 07:30 pm

TELECAST  
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to take more responsibility. In the bowling department, pacers Kartik Tyagi and Bangladesh's Mustafizur Rahman did the job in the end.

With Punjab needing eight runs to win of the final two overs, Rahman gave away just four in penultimate over before rookie Tyagi bowled a sensational final six balls, picking up two wickets while conceding just one run to seal the side's fourth win of the season.

The former champions will look to keep the winning momentum going and bag two more points but that's easier said than done.

Come Saturday, the Royals will face a tough task against the Delhi team with openers Shikhar Dhawan, the leading run scorer of the tournament this season, and Prithvi Shaw looking in good touch.

Dhawan (422 runs) and Shaw (319 runs) have provided flying starts to their side with six half-centuries between them along with 88 fours and 21 sixes. For any bowling unit, facing the Dhawan-Shaw duo is a scary proposition.

Shreyas Iyer made a stunning return with an unbeaten 47 after missing the first leg due to injury, which is a big positive for the side.

DC also boast of a strong middle-order comprising, skipper Rishabh Pant (248 runs), Australian Steve Smith and Shimron Hetmyer, who can be highly destructive on their day.

In the bowling department, Delhi is unlikely to tinker with their pace attack, as Avesh Khan has been impressive and South African Kagiso Rabada can do the damage early while Anrich Nortje provides the express speed.

**I just strive to be competitive. Some days it works for me, some days it doesn't. But the pride and love I have for this game keeps me going. Wanted to just keep it simple - variations, yorkers, slower balls... just stuck to my basics**

WAYNE BRAVO | MAN OF THE MATCH



Dwayne Bravo (R) gets a high-five from Josh Hazlewood after dismissing Kohli (not in pic)

RCB managed only 45 runs in the remaining 6.4 overs after being in a position from where they could have pushed for a score in the vicinity of 200.

Bravo's bowling made a huge difference to the conclusion of the RCB innings as he conceded only 24 runs in his four overs and also added the wickets of Maxwell (11) and Harshal Patel (3).

CSK had no dearth of quality bowlers with Deepak Chahar (1/35) and Josh Hazlewood opening the attack but Bangalore openers - Kohli and Padikkal - went about striking the ball cleanly.

The breakthrough eventually came when Bravo sent back Kohli, who struck the ball clean and hard but was caught near the boundary ropes. That wicket stemmed the run flow and while trying to break the shackles, both AB de Villiers (12) and Padikkal became victims of Shardul Thakur (2/29).

**BRIEF SCORES**

RCB 156/6 (Devdutt Padikkal 70, Virat Kohli 53; Dwayne Bravo 3/24, Shardul Thakur 2/29) lost to CSK 157/4 (Ruturaj Gaikwad 38, Ambati Rayudu 32, Faf du Plessis 31, Harshal Patel 2/25) by 6 wickets.

# MORGAN PRAISES 'SUPERSTAR' BOWLERS

ABU DHABI: Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) skipper Eoin Morgan has hailed his bowlers as 'superstars' of the team, saying their 'outstanding performance in the last two IPL games has allowed the openers to play with freedom.'

"I don't think it's one player that's changed the outlook of the team. I think in the last two games, the superstars in our side have been the bowlers, they have been outstanding on really good wickets to bat on here at Abu Dhabi," Morgan said at the post-match media conference.

"And I think that allowed our opening pair in (of) Shubman Gill and Venkatesh Iyer to go out and



play their natural game."

Morgan lavished praise on the lanky south-paw Iyer for his "imposing" innings at the top of the order. "I think Venkatesh played an innings today that would match a guy who's played possibly 50 IPL games. The freedom in which he has played with has really... It was quite imposing as a batsman at the top of the order to be able to do that and today was no different," he said.

"He's continued on his form from the first day. So, I don't think it's one player, I think it's collectively, I think it is set up by our bowling line-up which was magnificent again."

Morgan also lauded the bowlers

for executing the plans "unbelievably well". "I don't think it's a massive gamble, I think there is a lot of preparation and strategy that go into the decisions that are made on the field," he said.

"Obviously, when you are on the field, you need to adjust to what's happening with the pitch and conditions here at Abu Dhabi. And I think we had good games both with strategy and planning because the bowlers have executed unbelievably well. They have been in fine form, they have managed to do that and make the rest of our preparation look really good."

Morgan also singled out the contribution of the spinners, who have

been able to show their "high-quality" skills despite not getting much help from the wickets.

"I think, the quality of our spin bowlers means that they can bowl in conditions that aren't friendly to spin bowling and I don't particularly think that Abu Dhabi is, yes, the boundaries are bigger, but the two games that we have played, the ball hasn't turned pretty much at all. So far, they haven't played a massive part, it is just the high-quality that they are producing."

Morgan was also pleased to see his team play an "aggressive brand of cricket" that he along with KKR head coach Brendon McCullum have been advocating.

# Struggling Barca held to draw against Cadiz



Barcelona players argue with referee after the on-field official showed Frenkie de Jong (3rd from L) the marching order against Cadiz, Thursday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Sept 24: Barcelona's ongoing crisis keeps getting worse, with the team unable to win on the field and the club's players, coach and president growing increasingly at odds.

Barcelona was held to a 0-0 draw by Cadiz in the Spanish league Thursday, extending its winless streak to three matches and adding pressure on coach Ronald Koeman.

Koeman a day earlier surprisingly read from a prepared statement in the pre-match news conference and downplayed the team's chances of winning titles this season.

President Joan Laporta, who said he was caught by surprise by Koeman's statement ahead of the match, has been at odds recently with the coach who was hired by former president Josep Bartomeu.

Barcelona, without Lionel Messi after nearly two decades, had to hold on in the end against Cadiz after midfielder Frenkie de Jong was sent off with a second yellow card in the 65th minute. Koeman also was sent off for complaining to the referee in the final minutes.

The draw left Barcelona in seventh place in the league standings, seven points behind leader Real Madrid with a game in hand. Madrid routed Mallorca 6-1 at the Santiago Bernabeu Wednesday to stay two points ahead of defending champion Atletico Madrid, who won 2-1 at Getafe Tuesday.

Barcelona were coming off two consecutive setbacks at home - a 0-3 defeat against Bayern Munich in the Champions League and a 1-1 draw against Granada in the Spanish league, when it needed a 90th-minute equaliser to escape defeat.

Cadiz nearly opened the scoring through Alvaro Negredo's shot from outside the area in the 46th, forcing Marc-Andre ter Stegen to make a difficult save by the top corner.

One of Barcelona's best chances was a low shot by Memphis Depay that was stopped by Cadiz goalkeeper Jeremias Ledesma a few minutes later. The Dutch striker missed an opportunity to score the winner deep into stoppage time when his shot from inside the area went wide in a one-on-one situation.

# Odisha's Sohini wins singles title

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: Budding tennis player Sohini Mohanty won Friday the Asian U-14 girls' singles titles at the Asian U-14 tennis tournament organised by the AITA in Sonapat, Haryana. It was an overall good show from the Odisha girl who has been playing consistently in the national circuit in her age group.

Sohini played very well in the summit clash of the tournament to defeat Priyanka Rana of Gujarat 6-4, 7-5. It was an even match, but the student of Farhan Ali was better in the crucial points and that helped her to win the tie and the title in straight sets.

It should be stated here that only a few days back Sohini had won an AITA Super Series doubles title in another tournament in Hyderabad.



Sohini Mohanty with her title

India have already confirmed two medals by entering the compound women and mixed finals slated in the early hours of Saturday.

In the individual recurve event, Ankita produced the biggest upset Thursday when the 23-year-old

# INDIA TRIO SAILS INTO QUARTERS



ABHISHEK VERMA

ANKITA BHAKAT

JYOTHI SUREKHA VENNAM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Yankton (USA), Sept 24: Indian archers Ankita Bhakat, Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam kept medal hopes alive in the individual competition by advancing to the quarterfinals of their respective events in the World Championships here.

Ankita dropped just one set to defeat the Korean heavyweight 29-28, 28-28, 27-27, 24-29, 29-28 and set up a quarterfinal clash with Casey Kaufhold of the USA later in the day.

Ankita started off in spectacular fashion, shooting two 10s en route to 29 out of 30, mounting early pressure on the reigning Olympic team champion. Thereafter, both the archers had a neck and neck battle tying two sets as Ankita held on to

a slender 4-2 lead. The Indian was wayward in the fourth set shooting in the red ring thrice (8, 8, 8) while Chae-Young was at her best (X, 10, 9) to bring the match on an even keel.

Locked 4-4, Ankita showed fine composure to fire in two 10s to clinch the issue.

Abhishek and Jyothi also advanced into their respective last eight rounds. Reigning World Cup gold-medallist Verma had two perfect rounds as he beat Jozef Bosansky of Slovakia 145-142 (29-28, 30-27, 28-29, 30-29, 28-29).

The former Asian Games team champion Verma will face

American world number one Mike Schloesser later in the day.

Jyothi also capped a memorable outing showing the door to Chaewon So of Korea 146-142 (30-29, 29-29, 28-30, 29-29, 26-29).

Trailing 59-58 after first two series, Jyothi drilled in five perfect 10s in a row that included one X (arrow closest to the centre) to claim a 117-116 lead going into the final set of arrows. The Korean buckled under pressure and shot an 8 as Jyothi clinched the issue with two 10s including one X. Jyothi will face Croatian Amanda Milinaric, the reigning U-21 World Champion.

# INDIA EVES LOSE NERVE TO CONCEDE SERIES TO AUSSIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mackay (Australia), Sept 24: India and their premier bowler Jhulan Goswami failed to keep their nerves in a dramatic final over as Beth Mooney's (125 n o, 133b, 12x4) brilliant unbeaten hundred ensured a five-wicket win for Australia - their 26th on the trot - in the second women's ODI here Friday.

Australia thus took a 2-0 lead in the three-match WODI series and India's fragile bowling attack will now come under the scanner.

It was a match that was in India's pocket till the 25th over of the Australian innings but Mooney



Beth Mooney reacts after the win

stunned the visitors in the third highest chase of all-time in women's cricket by knocking off a target of 275.

In fact, the Indian team prematurely celebrated when Goswami's waist high full-toss was hit straight to mid-wicket by Mooney but, to their horror, it turned out to be a no-ball. It was marginal as Goswami's last ball was sent towards wide long-on for a couple to finish the match.

With 13 needed off the last over, old guard Goswami was handed the ball with Mooney and Nicola Carey (39 n o) on the rampage on a dew-laden night.

Keeper Richa Ghosh and Poonam

Yadav were put under extreme pressure as they got five off first two and Goswami accidentally bowled a beamer that hit Carey flush on the helmet with the umpire rightly signalling a no-ball.

Ghosh's inexperience was once came through as she missed a run-out when five were required off last two balls as the no-ball drama changed the course of the game.

But it was more about poor show from Indian spinners Deepti Sharma and Poonam Yadav that led to Australia making a comeback after being 52/4. Mooney and Tahlia McGrath (74, 77b, 9x4) consolidated in style during their 126-run fifth-

wicket stand.

It was the highest total scored against Australia since their winning streak started in 2018 but Indian bowlers undid all the good job by the batters.

Earlier, Mandhana hit a fluent 86 (94b, 11x4) to guide India to a competitive 274/7 as India batters gave a far better account of themselves compared to the first WODI. She was ably supported by Richa Ghosh (44), Deepti Sharma (23), Pooja Vastrakar (29), Jhulan Goswami (28 n o) and Shafali Verma (22).

For the hosts, McGrath (3/45) and Sophie Molineux (2/28) bowled brilliantly.