

SHORT TAKES

Plus II classes to begin Sept 22

Bhubaneswar: School and Mass Education (S&ME) department Minister Samir Ranjan Dash Tuesday said that the physical mode of teaching for Plus II first year, also called Class XI, will begin September 22, 2022. According to Dash, around 3.5 lakh students have so far taken admissions in Class XI this year.

'Chhello Show' India's entry for Oscars 2023

New Delhi: Gujarati coming-of-age drama 'Chhello Show' is India's official entry for the 95th Academy Awards, the Film Federation of India (FFI) announced Tuesday. Titled 'Last Film Show' in English, the movie, directed by Pan Nalin, will release in theatres countrywide October 14. "Chhello Show is India's official entry for Oscars 2023," FFI Secretary General Supran Sen said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



He's more powerful than many of our Gods. He can really fulfill our wishes. He's a CM too!

Hijab row: K'taka blames it on PFI



● Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Karnataka, told the SC that the PFI started the social media campaign over the Islamic headscarf earlier this year and there were continuous social media messages asking students to start wearing hijab

● The SC was hearing arguments on pleas challenging the Karnataka HC verdict refusing to lift the ban on hijab in educational institutions of the state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: The Karnataka government order that kicked up a row over hijab was 'religion neutral', the state government told the Supreme Court Tuesday, launching a strong defence of the state and blaming the PFI for the controversy it claimed was part of a 'larger conspiracy'. Insisting that the agitation in support of wearing hijab in educational institutions was not a 'spontaneous act' by a few individuals, it said the state government would have been 'guilty of dereliction of constitutional duty' if it had not acted the way it did.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Karnataka, told the

court the Popular Front of India (PFI) started a campaign on social media which was designed to create an agitation based on 'religious feelings of the people'.

The PFI is widely viewed as a hardline Muslim organisation and has been blamed for several incidents of communal violence, provoking calls for imposing a nationwide ban on it. The organisation itself has rejected the allegations.

Mehta told a bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia that the PFI started the social media campaign over the Islamic headscarf earlier this year and there were continuous social media messages asking students to 'start wearing hijab'.

"In 2022, a movement started on the social media by an organisation called the Popular Front of India and the movement, as an FIR which was lodged subsequently suggested and now culminated into a charge sheet, was designed to create a kind of an agitation based on religious feelings of the people and as a part there were continuous social media messages that start wearing hijab," Mehta said.

The top court was hearing arguments on a batch of pleas challenging the Karnataka High Court verdict refusing to lift the ban on hijab in educational institutions of the state.

"This is not a spontaneous act of few individual children that we want to wear a hijab. They were a part of a larger conspiracy and the children were acting as advised," Mehta told the bench.

➤ Continued on P4



RAIN AHEAD: Tourists visit the Taj Mahal as dark clouds fill the sky in Agra, Tuesday

PFI PHOTO

KABADDI PLAYERS SERVED FOOD STORED IN TOILET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Saharanpur/Lucknow (UP), Sept 20: Kabaddi players at a state-level tournament in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur were allegedly served food that was stored in a toilet, prompting the authorities to suspend the district sports officer (DSO) for laxity and blacklisting the caterer.

The incident drew criticism, with ruling BJP's Pilibhit MP Varun Gandhi asking if Indian sports should be cleansed of politicians and their representatives to reach its zenith.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal too took a swipe at the incident, asking how Indian sportspersons would win gold at the Olympics if they are treated this way.

A purported video of the incident that surfaced on social media showed the athletes, who took part in the sub-junior girls' kabaddi tournament at Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Stadium in Saharanpur, being served rice and 'poori' stored in the toilet. The tournament was hosted from September 16 to 18 in which over 300 players from 16 divisions of the state took part.

Additional Chief Secretary (Sports) Navneet Sehgal said that Saharanpur DSO Animesh Saxena has been suspended and the District Magistrate (DM) will probe the matter.

DM Akhilesh Singh said, "The rice and 'poori' were kept in a toilet. The video, which went viral on social media, showed the players taking the food kept inside the toilet."

"It had also come to our notice that the food was cooked on the swimming pool premises and then stored in the toilet. The 'pooris' were spread on a piece of paper while rice was half-cooked," Singh pointed out.

Youth beats brother to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: A 21-year-old youth was allegedly beaten to death by his elder brother for neglecting his studies in Nayapalli area here, an official said Tuesday.

According to Nayapalli police, they received information from the outpost at Capital Hospital late Monday night that Rajmohan Senapati of Baramunda area was brought to hospital for treatment and he was declared 'received dead'.

Upon reaching Capital Hospital, police learnt that Rajmohan, who hailed from Itamati area of Nayagarh district, was brought to the healthcare facility by his elder brother—Biswamohan Senapati, 24—around 11:30pm in an unconscious state.



Biswamohan Rajmohan

Nayapalli IIC Biswaranjan Sahoo said Rajmohan's body bore multiple injuries. "And when questioned about the injuries, Biswamohan confessed to his crime," said Sahoo.

During interrogation, Biswamohan, an MBA graduate who stays at Nua Sahi under Nayapalli police limits here, said that he was very disturbed as his brother, who stayed with his friends

in Baramunda area, was neglecting his studies for a long.

"On Monday night, Biswamohan asked his brother to meet him at his Nayapalli residence. Upon reaching, Rajmohan was reprimanded by his elder brother over studies. Soon, a mountain was made out of a molehill and Biswamohan beat him mercilessly. An injured Rajmohan left his brother's house for Baramunda where his health deteriorated," the IIC said, quoting the statement of the accused.

After learning about Rajmohan's deteriorating health, his brother reached Baramunda and rushed him to Capital Hospital.

"We've registered a case (629/22) under Section 302 (murder) of IPC and Biswamohan has been taken into custody," said Sahoo.

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ADAM LEVINE REPORTEDLY CHEATS ON PREGNANT WIFE

Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine has reportedly been accused of cheating on his pregnant wife Behati Prinsloo. A woman named Sumner Stroh spilled the tea on TikTok about her alleged affair with the pop star recently.

JULIA SHARES GOOD OFF-SCREEN CHEMISTRY WITH CLOONEY

Hollywood star Julia Roberts has admitted that she shares an impeccable off-screen chemistry with fellow star George Clooney. The two will soon be seen in the upcoming romantic comedy Ticket To Paradise.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You may get all nostalgic and wistful today, predicts Ganesh. You will go out of your way to improve your relationships. To you, your commitment is an investment for the future. The result is loving life-long bonds.

TAURUS
Financial gains are on the cards today, predicts Ganesh. Happiness will fly in as you receive some good news from an overseas friend. If you have feelings that you haven't expressed to someone you dearly love, today is a good day to go ahead and let them know.

GEMINI
Today, you may be busy purchasing food supplies or penning an inventory. In your spare time, which you are likely to have in plenty today, you will try to befriend strangers or tread into unfamiliar territories. Such activities will not bring you any harm.

CANCER
You will be in high spirits today, foretells Ganesh. It is a favourable day to engage in household activities, like gardening, cooking or even washing laundry. In the evening, work will be eclipsed by the pleasures of love.

LEO
Time is one thing that you have in short change today, says Ganesh. There is every possibility that you shall remain extremely busy. The tasks may be small – like writing a letter to revive old contacts – but it is important that you do them. Chances are that you may also end up giving a few interviews over the phone. Just remember that your ability to make things work and do your best make you the prime candidate for organising and conducting urgent meetings.

VIRGO
Ganesh predicts that your writing skills will possibly help you vent your feelings without offending others. You will successfully complete your pending assignments. Great success will knock at your door in anything and everything you undertake today, predicts Ganesh.

LIBRA
Your concern for your family surmounts all else, that much Ganesh knows. Today, you will fulfil your filial duties in all that you undertake. As Ganesh rightly points out: All good things begin at home, including your fortune and good luck.

SCORPIO
A healthy and hectic day is in store for you today. You are likely to finish your pending tasks with new zeal. But the chaotic day will blossom into a fabulous evening when you hang out with your sweetheart, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Appreciation for all that excellent work you have put in is a no-go for you! Yet, you stand to gain nothing by losing heart. While the acknowledgement you look for has been delayed, Ganesh says it has not been denied and is in the offing already.

CAPRICORN
Your accomplishments may take you on cloud nine today. Success may come easily to you, but don't try your luck too much, advises Ganesh. Make the most of today as tomorrow may not be the same as today. You will be popular today, especially in your social circle as you'll impress everyone with your wit and humour.

AQUARIUS
You will prove yourself today by staying ahead of your rivals in all ways. You will conquer your frustrations, and will soon be raring to go. Your pleasing demeanour endears you to others and you win admiration from all quarters, says Ganesh.

PISCES
An action-packed day awaits you, busy as you will be corresponding with old contacts, telephonic interviews, organising meetings and scheduling tasks, says Ganesh. Do not forget to breathe!

PRIYANKA ADVOCATES CHILD RIGHTS AT UN

Mumbai: Actress Priyanka Chopra, who became the Global UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador in 2016 and has been associated with the organisation for almost 15 years, recently spoke about children's rights at a recently held conference at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

She took to her Instagram to share the pictures and videos from the event where she can be seen advocating for the cause and posing with Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai and US poet Amanda Gorman.

She captioned the set of pictures and videos with a long note: "Walking through the gates of the United Nations this morning to speak at UNGA for the second time, as a proud representative of @unicef, gave me real pause."

Shedding the light on the agenda of the UN for the year 2022, she further wrote in her note: "At the top of this year's agenda are the Sustainable Development Goals. Today was all about action, ambition, and hope. It was about what we must do together to make the SDGs a reality, and we don't have a moment to lose. A special thank you to Secretary-General @antonioguterres for having me today."

She concluded her note with the words of Gorman, with whom she posed along with Malala, "And as the incredible Amanda Gorman said, 'I dare you to shape our fate. Above all, I dare you to do good, so that the world might be great.'"

AGENCIES



Radhika Apte on her comfort level with Saif

Mumbai: Actress Radhika Apte, who will be seen sharing screen space with Saif Ali Khan for the third time in the upcoming film *Vikram Vedha*, says she is very comfortable working with the actor, with whom she has previously worked in *Sacred Games* and *Baazaar*.

Vikram Vedha, which also stars Hrithik Roshan, is directed by Pushkar-Gayatri. Speaking about her collaboration and why she decided to do this film, Radhika said: "I chose Vikram Vedha because I really enjoyed the subject, I saw the original one, the south one. Also working with

Saif is great, it's my third project with him."

"I feel very comfortable working with him, and I really like him as a person, he's very funny and whenever I've met him had interesting conversations."

Vikram Vedha is an action-thriller written and directed by Pushkar-Gayatri. The story is full of twists and turns, as a tough cop Vikram (Saif Ali Khan) sets out to track and chase a dreaded gangster Vedha (Hrithik Roshan).

What unfolds is a cat-and-mouse chase, where Vedha - a master storyteller helps Vikram peel back layers through a series of stories leading to thought-provoking moral ambiguities.

AGENCIES



Pankaj wants to direct a movie

Mumbai: Acclaimed actor Pankaj Tripathi loves telling a story, and he wants to try his hands at directing movies.

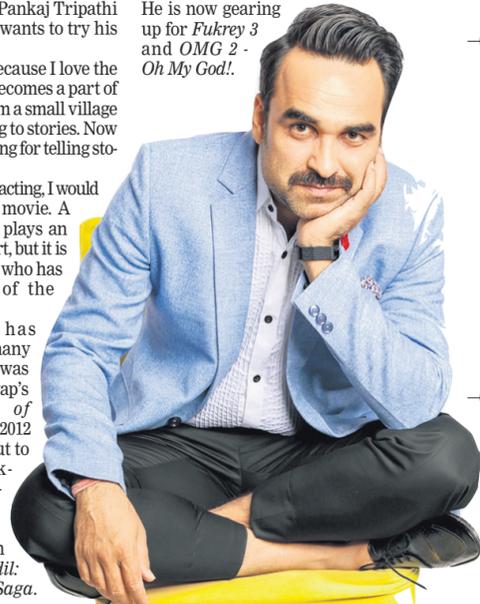
Pankaj said: "I came in because I love the process and how the actor becomes a part of the story telling. Coming from a small village in Bihar, I grew up listening to stories. Now I have developed a liking for telling stories too."

"So, apart from acting, I would like to direct a movie. A producer also plays an important part, but it is the director who has the vision of the story."

The actor has been part of many movies, but it was Anurag Kashyap's *Gangs of Wasseypur* in 2012 that turned out to be his breakthrough performance.

The actor was last seen in the film *Sherdil: The Pilibhit Saga*.

He is now gearing up for *Fukrey 3* and *OMG 2 - Oh My God!*.



Yohani: Didn't know how to make melodies

Mumbai: Recently, actress Nora Fatehi left everyone mesmerised with her moves in *Thank God's* song *Manike*, which is a Hindi version of *Manike Mage Hithe*. Not only the Hindi version, but the original track itself had charmed everyone and the Sri Lanka-based singer Yohani Diloka de Silva became a sensation in India overnight. Yohani, in a recent interview with an entertainment portal, opened up about the initial days of her career.

When asked to share the

biggest struggle during the initial days of her career, Yohani reveals, "I didn't know how to make a melody". She continued and added, "I used to be like proper pissed off about it because I didn't know how to make a melody like how do people come up with melodies".

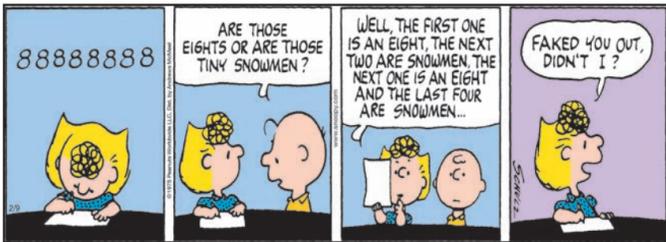
Quizzed if there is anything she wants to change one thing about her journey, she immediately responded with "nothing". As the round progressed further, she also revealed that she wants to collaborate with Badshah.

Currently, Yohani is enjoying the success of the Hindi version of her popular song *Manike Mage Hithe*. The song is featured in Ajay Devgn and Sidharth Malhotra starrer *Thank God*. The film, releasing October 24, 2022, also stars Rakul Preet Singh in the lead.

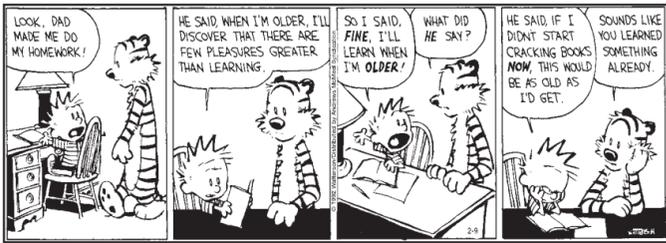
AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

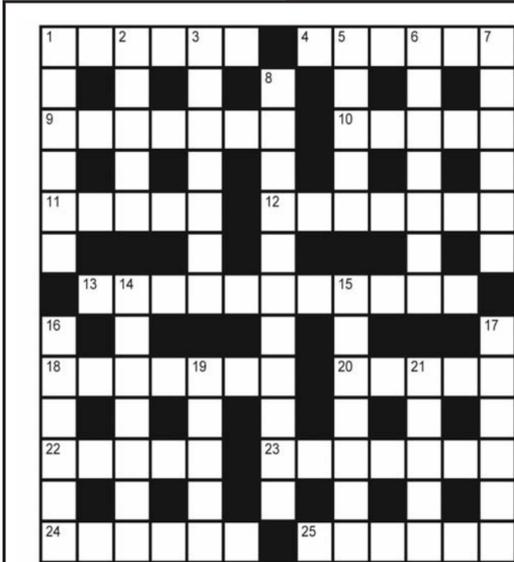


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

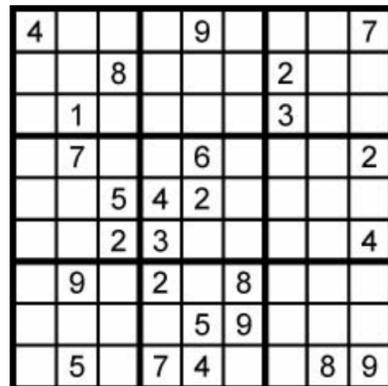


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- Across**
- 1 Shade provider
 - 4 Gopher's job
 - 9 Rich Middle Eastern pastry
 - 10 Kitchen apparel
 - 11 Roundup need
 - 12 Suppress necessity (6,5)
 - 13 Slapshot
 - 18 Fishing boat
 - 20 Persona
 - 22 Waters the lawn?
 - 23 As a group (2,5)
 - 24 Fortified wine
 - 25 Caerphilly, e.g.
 - Down**
 - 1 Silver-white metallic element
 - 2 Warheads
 - 3 European butterfly or fancy bird
 - 5 Attain
 - 6 Type of exercise
 - 7 Be generous
 - 8 Generations of kin (6,5)
 - 14 Iridescent
 - 15 Victory
 - 16 Gawks
 - 17 Erase
 - 19 Modern surgical tool
 - 21 Bridal path

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

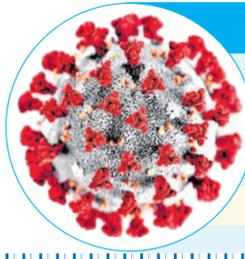


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



CUB BULBUL UTSAV

Dignitaries unveiling jerseys at Cub Bulbul Utsav organised by Bharat Scouts and Guides at the state office in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	61,78,02,926	59,76,59,938	65,32,400
India	4,45,40,502	4,39,67,340	5,28,370
Odisha	13,32,082	13,21,594	9,186

SPARKLING PUJA OFFER BY KHMJJI



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: Khimji Jewellers, the most trusted jewellery destination of Odisha, has announced exciting offers on this Durga Puja to bring joy and happiness to its customers.

To mark the occasion, the jewellery major announced a lucrative offer of flat 25 per cent off on making charges of gold jewellery and up to 20 per cent off on diamond for its valued customers.

The offers start from September 20 at all stores across Odisha. Speaking on the Occasion, Mitesh Khimji, Director of Khimji Jewellers said, "Durga Puja holds a very significant place in the hearts of people and it brings much awaited happiness to our families with arrival of Maa Durga on Earth. We've tried to multiply the happiness. And our special offers will add more colours to this festive season."

SAI students leave for UK

Bhubaneswar: After a break of two years, SAI International is back with its Global Immersion Programme (GIP) with two groups of its students leaving for United Kingdom to attend an international conference. The first group left September 18 to attend the Round Square International Conference from September 19-25 at Oxford. The other group with 40 students from both SAI International School and SAI International Residential School along with 4 teacher coordinators left for UK to attend the conference from September 19 to 30.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	59719.74	↑ 578.51
NIFTY	17816.30	↑ 194.00
DOLLAR	79.98	↓ ₹0.06
EURO	79.66	↓ ₹0.11
GOLD	₹49,190	↓ ₹112
SILVER	₹56,362	↓ ₹322

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.8°C	32.0°C
TEMP MIN	24.5°C	23.8°C
Humidity	97%	94%
Rainfall	5.9mm	11.2mm
Forecast	Light rain likely	

STA collects ₹4.26L fine from overloaded vehicles



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: The State Transport Authority (STA) has issued 92 challans on the first day of its state-wide drive against overloading and detained altogether 32 vehicles. It also confiscated 108 driving licences (DLs) for suspension and collected a penalty of ₹4,26,312 from overloaded vehicles.

The STA has launched a six-day long special anti-overloading drive throughout the state Monday. In a press note, Lal Mohan Sethi,

DAY 1 OF SPL DRIVE

■ A total of 92 challans were issued, 32 vehicles were detained for overloading and 108 DLs were confiscated for suspension on the first day of special drive

■ Overloading attracts a penalty of ₹20,000 and additional fine of ₹2,000 per extra tonne

Act 2019, the violators will be penalised under Section 194 (1). Overloading of vehicles would attract a penalty of ₹20,000 and additional fine of ₹2,000 per extra tonne. Also, the DLs may be disqualified for three months.

As many as 1,442 accidents took place due to overloaded/hanging vehicles in 2021. A total of 673 people were killed due to the load condition of the vehicles. Moreover, a total of 834 persons were grievously injured and 588 had minor injuries in accidents involving overloaded vehicles.

Fines have been imposed on other vehicles for various offences. A total of 800 e-challans were issued for flouting other MV rules, 26 vehicles were detained and compounding fees of ₹7,78,120 was collected.

In August, 83 e-challans were issued, 25 vehicles were seized and 81 DLs were suspended during the drive against overloading. Compounding penalties of ₹3,69,461 were collected. The special drive will continue till September 25. Enforcement squads have been asked to conduct such drives at regular intervals.

Additional Commissioner Transport, Enforcement & Road Safety, said, "The drive is being extensively carried out throughout the state with special focus on the regions having industrial and mining activities as it is most commonly seen that many goods vehicles plying in these regions do not comply with the rules causing accidents."

STA will take stern action against those found flouting Motor Vehicle (MV) Rules. According to the Motor Vehicle Amendment

PULLING DOWN



Civic authorities demolished illegal shops at Tankapani Road in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Applying fert, will reap good harvest in '24: Jayanarayan

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: Ahead of the BJP national president JP Nadda's visit to the state, Leader of Opposition Jayanarayan Mishra Tuesday narrated a paddy cultivation theory before the media while speaking about BJP's preparation for general elections 2024.

Comparing the preparations for 2024 elections with the cultivation of paddy, Mishra, who comes from a farming background, said, "Crop can be cultivated in one single day. In order to get a good yield, one

must sow the seeds at the right time, irrigate the field, remove weeds and apply fertilisers as per schedule, for every venture needs to be taken up in accordance with a proper process and time frame."

"We are now at the stage of applying fertilisers on the crop. And in 2024, we will harvest the crop," Mishra told reporters here after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Nadda in New Delhi Monday. The Leader of Opposition also ascertained that there is need for CBI and ED investigation on various leaders as

corruption is at its peak in the state.

On the other hand, Congress and the ruling BJD said the saffron party is daydreaming.

Congress Lawmaker Taraprasad Bahinipati said, "How will they apply fertilizer and yield crops since there is no seed in the field. The 2024 results will determine who applied the fertilizer and harvested the crop."

Commenting on the CBI and ED probe in Odisha, the Congress leader said the Central investigating agencies are not going there

where corruption is high.

Similarly, BJD leader and government chief whip Prasanta Muduli said, "The results of recently completed panchayat election and several bypolls give a clear message that people are with the ruling BJD and they will remain with us."

In 2024 also, the BJD will get the support of the people and again form government in the state, he claimed.

Notably, Nadda is scheduled to arrive in Odisha on a two-day visit September 29.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



PROPOSED UNIVERSITY IN PURI Exclude river, nallas from acquisition: SC

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 20: Raising apprehension about the 'permissible possession' of river and nallas given by the Odisha government to Anil Agarwal Foundation (AAF) for the proposed university in Puri, the Supreme Court Tuesday observed that the water bodies must be excluded from the acquisition and the foundation cannot claim ownership of the water bodies.

"Can river and nallas be given to the purpose of university? Why Permissible possession word is used? It is impermissible. Let the nallas and river be excluded from the purpose of acquisition," the bench said.

A two-Judge bench of Justices MR Shah and Krishna Murari asked the AAF as to what will happen to the portion of land connected with the wildlife sanctuary if the Ministry of Environment and Forest refuses to grant clearance for construction activities in the area.

Senior advocate CA Sundaram submitted before the court that if MoEF doesn't grant environmental clearance, the land will vest with the state government. On the issue of river and nallas, Sundaram submitted that the foundation has been barred from conducting any beautification drive and making any modification to natural water course of river and nallas.

Opposing the PILs filed in the Orissa High Court, the senior advocate submitted that a PIL petitioner has no locus standi at all. He further submitted that only seven land holders comprising 0.3 per cent of the total land are actually aggrieved by the acquisition while 99.7 per cent have taken the compensation and ex gratia. On the issue of environment, Sundaram submitted that the foundation will seek the clearance from the MoEF before commencing construction activities and at that point a PIL petitioner can move if the foundation is found to be in conflict of environmental norms but at this stage it is premature.

"It is premature for a PIL litigant to file a writ petition saying I apprehend there will be loss to environment," the senior advocate said.

Sundaram also submitted that Section 4 of Land Acquisition



A two-Judge bench of Justices MR Shah and Krishna Murari adjourned the matter for Wednesday

(Companies) Rules, 1963 is not applicable in AAF case because the land was identified by the state government.

Meanwhile, a counsel appearing for Odisha government submitted that the area of wildlife has expanded and the place connected with the wildlife sanctuary has to be excluded. Construction is already prohibited in this area, the state government counsel said.

Significantly, advocate Prashant Bhushan, opposing the land acquisition in Puri, submitted to the court that a foundation of three members of a family (Referring to AAF) sought 15,000 acres of land initially from the state government for setting up of a world-class university in Puri, though, the foundation has never run even a school in past.

"The AAF has zero experience of setting up any educational institution. The mining company Vedanta made a presentation to the Chief Minister of Odisha and sought 15,000 acres of land for the University near Puri-Konark marine drive. The company signed an MoU with the state government which grants the foundation everything," Bhushan said.

He further contended that as per the MoU, the state government agreed to provide land, electricity, water and exemptions on stamp duty, entry tax and several other taxes.

"Not just this, the state government agreed to get affiliation for the university from UGC, AICTE and other bodies. All accreditation and clearances would be taken by the state government," Bhushan said.

SC reserves verdict on abolition of OAT

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 20: The Supreme Court Tuesday reserved judgement on a petition challenging the abolition of the Orissa Administrative Tribunal (OAT).

A two-judge bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli concluded the arguments on a petition filed by Orissa Administrative Tribunal Bar Association against a High Court order upholding the notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Training of the central government dated August 2, 2019 which abolished OAT. The bench asked the counsels to file written submissions by Friday.



During the hearing, advocate general Ashok Parija submitted that as many as 49,817 cases were transferred to Orissa High Court after the abolition of OAT and 38,226 cases have been disposed of. He further submitted that 11,591 cases are pending currently. Advocate Siboo Sankar Mishra, appearing for Orissa HC, submitted that as many as eight judges of the High Court have been assigned to hear the transferred cases and fresh service matters.

The HC had earlier noted in its order that there was sufficient material to support the view of the state government that OAT has not served the purpose of delivery of speedy justice to litigants.

420 litre country liquor seized in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: In a crackdown against illegal manufacture and sale of country-made and spurious liquor in the Capital city, the Commissionerate Police Tuesday raided 10 places in Salia Sahi under Nayapalli police station and seized 420 litres of country liquor and destroyed 14,000 litres of fermented rice (pocha).



The police team comprising two ACPs, four inspectors, 12 SIs and ASIs, and four platoons of force along with other officers of Nayapalli police station led by Bhubaneswar deputy commissioner of police (DCP) Prateek Singh conducted the raid at Idco Basti of Salia Sahi.

The police also seized 423 utensils out of which 200 were destroyed at the spot. Police have arrested six persons after registering a case (616/22) at Nayapalli police station against the illicit distillation of country liquor.

The cops also seized huge quantities of illegal liquor from other police station areas in the City.

First successful kidney transplant at City AIIMS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: By successfully conducting its first case of living-related kidney transplantation, AIIMS Bhubaneswar has added another feather in its cap on its journey of first decade of its existence.

The donor-recipient father and son are healthy and doing fine. The transplanted kidney is functioning well with a good urine output and normal blood creatinine levels. The kidney donor underwent a laparoscopic donor nephrectomy and was discharged post operation on the third day. The recipient has also been discharged.

Congratulating the team behind the effort AIIMS executive director

Ashutosh Biswas said that with increasing number of diabetes, hypertension and other kidney diseases, there is a growing burden of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) cases in the society and a large unmet need for organ transplantation services in eastern India in particular.

The cost of transplantation services in private hospitals runs into tens of lakhs and starting affordable organ transplantation services will bring a big relief to the common populace of Odisha and neighboring states, added Biswas.

Biswas further added that AIIMS Bhubaneswar is working towards introducing liver and bone marrow transplantation services in the near future.



AIIMS Bhubaneswar is working towards introducing liver and bone marrow transplantation services in the near future, said executive director of the premier health facility Ashutosh Biswas

AIIMS president Subrat Acharya also congratulated the team for taking the initiative of kidney transplantation in the national institute. Medical superintendent SN Mohanty, congratulating the team, wished to see more such successful transplantations at the institution.

The nephrology team was headed by Sandip Panda while the surgical team was headed by head of urology Prasant Nayak. Manoj Das, Swarnendu Mandal and Sambit Tripathy were also part of the team performing the Kidney transplantation.

In an example of inter-institutional collaboration, PGIMER Chandigarh had deputed Deepesh Benjamin Kenwar from the

Department of Renal Transplantation to mentor the initiation of the kidney transplantation services at the institute.

Satyajeet Mishra headed the anaesthesia team, which also comprised of Bhaskar Rao and Saumya Sarkar. The team was supported ably by the transplant coordinator Niranjan Parmanik and the OT and the transplant ICU staffs.

The executive director acknowledged the efforts of the administrative team of AIIMS in supporting and facilitating such a noble initiative. A lot of patients have registered for live-related kidney transplantation at AIIMS and the director has wished the team all success for the future.

SPCB for pollution-free festive season

Resolve MSME issues in 3 months: 5T Secy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: Ahead of the festive season, the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) has issued an advisory for cultural organisations, local administration and the public to ensure pollution-free Durga puja, Laxmi puja and Kali puja this year.

The member secretary of the Board, K Murugesan had recently written a letter to all regional offices appealing the organisers and the public to observe a pollution free festive season. Puja committees have been asked to use natural clay for making of idols instead of baked clay, plaster of paris, etc. They have also been asked to use water soluble and nontoxic natural dyes for painting of idols instead of toxic non-biodegradable chemical dyes. The height of the super structure of the idol shall be limited to 40ft and that of the idol shall be limited to 20ft in height, said the Board. It has also asked to immerse idols only at the identified immersion



Puja committees have been asked to use natural clay for making of idols instead of baked clay and plaster of paris

The Board encouraged households to use only eco-friendly idols made of natural clay and bio-degradable materials for puja and decoration

sites constructed by the district authorities or local bodies.

As per the advisory, before immersion of idols, the organisers will have to remove worship materials like flowers, other decorating materials.

"Do not use single use plastic or thermocol materials for decoration purpose and Prasad sevans or distribution," it said.

The district authorities and local bodies have been asked to create awareness among the public regarding water pollution caused by idol immersion and appeal the public to purchase eco-friendly idols

made up of natural clay and coloured with natural dyes.

In case of immersion of idols in rivers and lakes, arrangements should be made for construction of temporary confined ponds, with earthen bunds and removable synthetic liner. Identify the immersion sites at the points where the flow in stream is naturally available, it said. Within 24 hours of the immersion, the leftover materials from the immersion site should be removed for disposal at designated municipal dump sites and the supernatant water may be allowed to flow into the river after adding lime to clear the

water, suggested the OSPCB.

They have been advised to conduct immersion the idols at their homes in eco-friendly manner or immerse the idols in the designated on-land temporary artificial ponds or tanks located nearby or artificial movable tanks arranged by the local bodies.

As per the Odisha Prevention and Control of Water Pollution (Procedure for Immersion of Idol after Pujas) Rules, 2021, idol makers who violate the norms could be prohibited from idol making for two years. The deposition of the idol manufacturers towards registration fees will also be forfeited.

Further, for violation of norms by the Puja committee organisers, the concerned local bodies can impose penalty on such organisers.

In case the Puja Committee is located within the panchayat area, ₹3,000 fine will be imposed while ₹5,000 fine will be collected in case the committee is located in the area of municipality or Notified Area Councils (NAC).

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: Secretary to Chief Minister (5T) VK Pandian Tuesday asked the Industries department and the Khurda Collector to resolve within three months all the problems facing the local micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

On the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Pandian visited Khurda Industrial Estate, Food Park, IID Khurda and Jaymangal Industrial Estate Tuesday and held discussions with entrepreneurs, employees and local people about their issues.

Around 50 MSMEs and members of their associations in Khurda industrial estate participated in the discussions. Various issues such as improvement in electricity and water supply, parking for trucks, hostels for workers, traffic management, waste management and security system were also discussed in the meeting. Importance was given to employment of local people. It was decided that hostels will be arranged for accommodation of about 2,000 to 3,000 workers in all industrial es-



At the meeting, importance was given to employment of local people. It was decided that hostels will be arranged for accommodation of about 2,000 to 3,000 workers in all industrial estates

tates. Many MSMEs have faced losses during the Covid-19 pandemic. Special policy will be formulated for these units, Pandian said. Later, Pandian visited Jaymangal Industrial Estate and interacted with the engineering and management graduates who had left their jobs during the pandemic. He assured that the state government would extend all support to them in their efforts to set up enterprises.

The visit of 5T Secretary has brought great enthusiasm among the entrepreneurs. Expressing satisfaction, they said that their problems of 40 years have been solved in just 40 minutes.

Industries secretary Hemant Sharma, Idco managing director Bhupendra Singh Poonia and Khurda Collector K Sudarshan Chakravarty were also present during the meetings.

Karnataka blames ...

Continued from P1

He said until last year, no girl student was wearing hijab in schools in Karnataka. Referring to the state government's February 5, 2022 order, Mehta asserted it will not be correct to say it prohibits wearing only hijab and therefore targets one religion.

"There was one more dimension which nobody has brought to your lordships' notice. I would not be exaggerating if I say that if the government would not have acted the way it did, the government would have been guilty of dereliction of constitutional duty," he said.

"I would be able to show to your lordships as to how this problem arose and how the state, as a custodian of constitutional rights of everyone, tried to tackle the problem by order dated February 5, 2022," Mehta argued, insisting, "It is a religion neutral direction".

The state government had, by its order of February 5, 2022, banned wearing clothes that disturb equality, integrity, and public order in schools and colleges. The order was challenged by some Muslim girls in the high court. During the arguments, Mehta said, when the issue about wearing hijab in schools came to the fore, some people from another religion started coming with saffron 'Gamcha' (stole), a Hindu religious symbol, which is also prohibited as it is not a part of the school uniform. He claimed far-fetched arguments have been advanced by the counsel appearing for the petitioners that the government is throttling the voice of the minority. "No. The government had to intervene because of the circumstances created," he said, referring to the tension the hijab and the saffron stole triggered on some campuses.

Incessant rain throws life out of gear

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: Normal life was disrupted in many parts of Odisha Tuesday by incessant rains induced by a low pressure and the weatherman has forecast more downpour in the next 24 hours.

The low pressure area (Lopar) is active in northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining north Odisha-West Bengal coasts with associated cyclonic circulation extending up to 5.8 km, the IMD said.

The low pressure has activated the monsoon and Odisha as a whole has received an average rainfall of 22.7 mm against the normal of 6.9 mm, which is 228 per cent excess, the Regional Meteorological Centre said.



The system is likely to move in the north-west direction towards West Bengal coast and bring heavy rains across Odisha. The Regional Meteorological Centre here has issued orange and yellow warnings for the districts, it said.

Kandhamal and Ganjam districts received maximum rain in the last 24 hours due to the low pres-

sure, which has caused light to moderate rainfall in many areas, the met office said.

Kandhamal district received an average rainfall of 58.7 mm which is 736 per cent more than the daily normal rainfall of 6.8 mm during the monsoon. A report from Kandhamal district said that incessant rainfall lead to washing away of a culvert at Baliguda and paralysed road communication in the locality.

The IMD said the highest rainfall of 302 mm was recorded in Baliguda. In Ganjam, there was 121 mm in Dharakote, 120 mm in Seragada and 102.2 mm in Purusottampur. Berhampur received precipitation of 78.4 mm, Sanakhemundi 71 mm and Gopalpur 69.7 mm.

Madhyam Family Counselling Centre completes 8 yrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: The Madhyam Family Counselling Centre located on the premises of the DCP office here and Mahila police station in Cuttack has registered 3,540 cases during the last eight years.

As many as 4,621 women with their grievances over family related issues approached the centre during the last eight years.

This came to the fore through a special report which was released

by twin city Commissioner of Police Saumendra Priyadarshi during a programme at the Police Bhawan here Tuesday. The report contains detailed information about the achievements of women support centres in the twin city.

While releasing the news letter, Priyadarshi said Madhyam has succeeded in providing appropriate justice to the women victims of the twin city during the last eight years. He also claimed that various women related cases are being solved effectively and amicably

through Madhyam.

The programme was also attended by additional CP Umashankar Das, DCPs of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar and other officials of twin city police.

Madhyam managed to amicably solve 2,182 cases out of the 3,540 cases through counseling of the aggrieved couples. It was revealed that in 3,297 cases the victims suffered domestic violence. As many as 125 women registered cases against the in-laws for marrying through fraudulent means.

FOR A CLEAN CITY



Cuttack Mayor Subhash Singh and Commissioner Nikhil Pawan Kalyan inaugurated a three-day training camp for cluster coordinators, in Cuttack, Tuesday

CLASSIFIED

LOST

I, Deepak Ranjan Sahoo, S/o- Dushasana Sahoo, R/o- Swagat Colony, Junagarh, Dist.-Kalahandi declare that, I have lost somewhere the Sale Deed vide Khata No. -474/4660, Mouza-Patia, Plot No.-346/2843 under Bhubaneswar, Dist.-Khorda which was registered on dt.08.05.2017. I searched the same but could not found.

Lost Original ROR (Patta), Mouza: Damayantinagar, Khata No. -1231/283, recorded in the name of Smt. Kamala Mohanty, W/o. Late Laxminarayan Mohanty. Prakash Chandra Mohanty, Bikash Chandra Mohanty, S/o. Late Laxminarayan Mohanty, Caste: Karan (General). The property is currently mortgaged to SBI Kotpad. If anyone finds please return to SBI, Kotpad, Dist.: Koraput, Odisha, Mob.: 8895234397.

Kurmi stir for ST tag in Odisha, 2 other states

AGENCIES

Kolkata/Baripada/Ranchi, Sept 20: Kurmis Tuesday blocked railway tracks in various parts of eastern India demanding Scheduled Tribe (ST) status and inclusion of Kurmali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, affecting train services in West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha.

Agitators squatted on railway tracks at various places, leading to cancellation, short-termination and diversion of several trains.

Train services of South Eastern Railway (SER) were partially affected due to blockades at Kustur and Nimdi stations in Adra division, Khemasuli and Bhanjpur stations in Kharagpur division and Aunlajodi station in Chakradharpur division since 4am, a railway official said.

The SER has cancelled 18 trains, diverted 13 and short-terminated or short-originated 11 other trains, he said. Among the trains that were cancelled are 12814/12813 Tatanagar-Howrah-Tatanagar Steel

Express, 12021/12022 Howrah-Barbil-Howrah Janshatabdi Express, 22861 Howrah-Titlagarh-Kantabhanji Ispat Express, 13512/13511 Asansol-Tatanagar-Asansol Express, 18183 Tatanagar-Danapur Express and 18033/18034 Howrah-Ghatsila-Howrah Express, he said. Owing to the agitation, the SER has diverted 13288 Rajendranagar-Durg Express, 18011 Howrah-Chakradharpur Express, 12262 Howrah-Mumbai CSMT Durgonto Express, 12130 Howrah-Pune Azad Hind Express, 22905 Porbandar-Shalimar Express, 12801 Puri-New Delhi Express, 12809 Mumbai CSMT - Howrah Mail. Trains that were diverted include 15930 New Tinsukia-Tambaram Express, 18029 Mumbai LTT-Shalimar Express, 12833 Ahmedabad-Howrah Express, 12859 Mumbai CSMT-Howrah Express and 22823 Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Express, the SER official added.

Agitators also blocked a national highway in Purulia, a state government official said.



RAILWAY SERVICES HIT

Hundreds of men, women and children belonging to the community staged rail roko agitations in Mayurbhanj district

Agitators blocked railway tracks at Bhanjpur station in Baripada town, Anlajodi station in Rairangpur and Betnoti

The agitation in Odisha was withdrawn after the local administration assured the protesters that their grievances would be taken to the authorities at the highest level

In neighbouring Odisha, hundreds of men, women and children belonging to the community staged rail roko agitations in Mayurbhanj district.

Agitators blocked railway tracks at Bhanjpur station in Baripada town, Anlajodi station in Rairangpur and Betnoti.

As a result of the stir,

Bangriposi-Bhubaneswar Superfast Express and Baripada-Shalimar Similipal Express remained halted at Bhanjpur for three hours, while the Tatanagar-Badampahar DEMU and Bangriposi-Rupsa DEMU remained halted at Anlajodi and Betnoti stations respectively.

However, the agitation in Odisha was withdrawn after the local administration assured the protesters that their grievances would be taken to the authorities at the highest level.

BJD's Rajya Sabha MP Mamata Mahanta, who reached an agitation site, said, "I fully support the demand... Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has honoured Kurmis by sending a woman from the community to the Parliament. My participation in the stir is not political but support to my community."

Major Mahanta, one of the agitators, claimed that Kurmis were a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), then known as Primitive Tribal Group (PTG), prior to 1950 but were removed

from the ST list.

Basant Mahanta, an advocate, alleged that the state government has not recommended the inclusion of Kurmi community in the ST list despite the CM's assurance. Around 25 lakh Kurmis reside in Odisha, mainly in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundergarh, Balasore, Jajpur and Sambalpur districts.

The stir comes barely two days after Patnaik wrote a letter to Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda seeking the inclusion of 160 communities in the ST list.

Patnaik, in the letter, claimed that since 1978 the Odisha government has recommended the inclusion of 160 communities of the state in the ST list but the recommendations have not been accepted.

The chief minister said that these communities were "victims of historical injustice" due to delay in their inclusion in the ST list.

In Jharkhand, rail blockades in West Bengal affected traffic along the Howrah-Mumbai route, officials said.

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Odisha, Andhra spar over Kotia hydro-electric project

BOTH STATES HAVE IDENTIFIED THE SAME SITE IN KOTIA TO SET UP A POWER PLANT



POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, Sept 20: The bitter dispute regarding territorial jurisdiction over Kotia panchayat in Koraput district between the Odisha and Andhra Pradesh governments hit the headlines again after officials of the two states confronted each other over establishment of a hydro-electricity project. The border dispute between the Odisha and the Andhra Pradesh governments has been ongoing for some time now.

The recent face-off took place Monday when an eight-member team led by general manager LD Behera of Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Ltd visited the panchayat and identified land between

Neredibalsa and Tadibalsa villages for setting up of a hydro-electricity project. Accompanying the team were representatives of the Adani Group.

The power plant will be constructed on a river and land adjacent to it between Neredibalsa and Tadibalsa villages. The team carried out a survey to ascertain the number of villages and people that will be affected by the project.

The team identified the land and held talks with the villagers. Later, they met District Collector Abdal M Akhtar in Koraput and discussed with him the various issues regarding the project. They also met tehsil supervisor Golak Bihari Parida and informed him to keep a close watch on residents of the

villages of Uparsembi, Dhulipadar and Panukulabha that lie in close vicinity of the project site.

Reports said that the Odisha government is planning to set up a hydro-power plant of 2,200 MW capacity at the same place where Andhra Pradesh is planning a similar project. Andhra has already conducted a survey at the place and sought an environmental clearance.

On being informed about the Odisha team's visit, Salur circle inspector (CI) Rohini Pathi rushed to the spot with police officials. He questioned the Odisha team about the purpose of their visit and collected information. He also informed that Andhra Pradesh is planning to set up a similar project at the same place with the help of a Bangalore-based firm.

Pathi also said that when a team from Andhra Pradesh had arrived to carry out inspection of the site and soil examination, Pottangi block officials had stopped them.

Since the officials of the district administration of the two governments are yet to come out with any official statement, there is suspense as to who will finally go ahead with the construction of the hydro-electric plant.



A culvert near Batedimunda connecting Parigad panchayat in Kotgarh block of Kandhamal district was washed away due to incessant rainfall triggered by a low pressure, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Gopalpur beach sees rise in pollution: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Sept 20: The Gopalpur beach in Ganjam district is getting more polluted with each passing day even as several steps have been taken to maintain cleanliness at the popular tourist destination, according to a study.

A total of 101kg of solid waste of nine different types were removed from 10,869 square metres area on the beach during a recent cleaning drive. The waste materials included non-biodegradable polythene covers, plastic caps, footwear, glass bottles and other items, said Prapat Mohanty, Professor of Berhampur University's Marine Science department, which conducted the study.



ducted the study.

Around 9.31gm of solid waste materials were found per square-metre area on the beach, which was once considered one of the cleanest in Odisha. "It is almost double in comparison to the previous year's 4.82gm," informed Professor Mohanty.

"In 2018, it was 1.6gm of solid waste/sq m and 3.6 gm/sq m in

2019," Mohanty, who has conducted the analysis of the pollution load on the beach for the past few years, pointed out.

"Beach pollution is increasing every year and it is a matter of concern for all," Mohanty added.

The varsity's department and the National Centre for Coastal Research observed Saturday the International Coastal Clean-up Day at Gopalpur along with representatives from the Coast Guard, Gopalpur Port and several other institutes, besides students and teachers.

They emphasised on creating awareness for tourists and the local fisherfolk, who contribute almost 97 and three per cent of the debris respectively.

Mystery surrounds Khallikote varsity student's demise

Berhampur: A student was found dead under mysterious circumstances at the RK Hostel of Khallikote Unitary University here Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Kunal Mallick (20), a final year student of Plus-III. Police have seized the body and sent it for post-mortem. Police have registered a case of unnatural death and said that the exact reasons behind the demise of the student will only be known when the autopsy report is available. Police have also confiscated the mobile phone of the student and sealed the room (No 28).

Basta locals seek probe into MGNREGS fund embezzlement

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rupsa, Sept 20: Funds to the tune of over ₹6,00,000 allocated for some projects under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and flood damage repairs (FDR) have allegedly been misappropriated in Mathani panchayat under Basta block in Balasore district.

Residents of Dhanahanda village alleged that a junior engineer and some officials of the panchayat have embezzled ₹6.20 lakh with-

out executing two projects. They demanded an investigation into the alleged irregularities and warned of agitation if the administration fails to look into the matter.

Reports said that DRDA had sanctioned ₹5,00,000 lakh in 2021-22 for laying a road from Dhanahanda High School to Palashbandh. In reality no work was done.

However, the Rural Development department set up an information plaque proclaiming that construction has been completed in June 2022.

3 Bhadrak BJD leaders expelled

Padmapur: Three BJD leaders have been expelled for indulging in anti-party activities in Shyamsundarpur panchayat under Tihidi block of Bhadrak district. The BJD's district unit president, Jagannath Swain took the decision Tuesday and expelled Subasish Das and Sibasish Das of Shyamsundarpur. The other leader who was expelled is Muralidhar Mallick of Iswarpur panchayat. Subasish had contested against the BJD's sarpanch nominee in the last panchayat elections.

Deomali highest peak in Odisha: NIHE

TRUTH EMERGES AFTER RTI PLEA FILED BY ACTIVIST; REPORT CONTRADICTS MINISTER'S STATEMENT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Sept 20: Deomali hill on the Chandragiri-Pottangi sub-range of Eastern Ghats and located near Koraput town is the highest peak in Odisha. This was stated by the Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE) at Almora in Uttarakhand, while replying to an RTI query.

This information surprisingly contradicts Tourism Minister Aswini Kumar Patra's statement in the Odisha Assembly in the recently-concluded Monsoon Session. He had claimed that Deomali hill is not on the records of the state's Revenue, Forest and Tourism departments.

However, after an application was filed by activist Hemant Panda here, under the Right to Information Act (RTI), the truth emerged. Panda decided to file the RTI plea after Patra's statement in the Assembly.

Odisha Assembly Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha expressed concerns over Patra's information. He directed Patra to hold a coordination meeting of the three departments and take steps to rectify the error.

To clear the confusion, Panda



sought details on the highest mountain peak in Odisha as well as in India. He sought a reply from the Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change departments.

In its reply, the NIHE said that Deomali on the Eastern Ghats is the highest peak in Odisha while Arma Konda is the highest peak in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

According to details available,

Mount Kanchenjunga, a part of the Himalayan range, is the highest mountain peak in India with a height of 8,598 metres while the smallest is Sibalik hill in South Champaran district of Bihar which stands 880 metres tall. The height of the Deomali hill in Odisha is 1,672 metres and it is in 16th position among the hills in the country.

Panda said that the minister should

On the basis of info provided by Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), the Odisha government should not have any problem in including Deomali in records of the Forest department

have got the facts right while making such comments in the State Assembly. He said that the Odisha government should collect all details and records and keep it ready in case of border disputes with neighbouring states.

Panda alleged that Patra's statement about Deomali not being on the records of the government has harmed Odisha's prestige with regards to the border disputes with Andhra Pradesh. He pointed out that on the basis of details from NIHE, the Odisha government should not have any problems in including Deomali hill in records of the Forest department.

SCIENCE EXPO



Students displayed their projects at a science exhibition held at Deepthi Convent School in Malkangiri

Another complaint filed over Keonjhar crib deaths

Keonjhar, Sept 20: Two days have gone by since the death of four newborns at the Keonjhar district headquarters hospital (DHH) here within a span of 24 hours and 13 in the last 18 days, but the furore is yet to subside. In a fresh development Tuesday, the father of another deceased newborn, Dipesh Nayak of Joda, lodged a complaint at the Town police station here.

BJP DEMANDS JUDICIAL INQUIRY

Earlier, Kama Dehuri, the father of another deceased newborn of Banshapal block, had lodged a similar complaint at the same police station. IIC Pramodini Sahu said the complaints are being probed and action will be taken after its completion.

Meanwhile, at a presser here, BJP MLA Mohan Majhi demanded that the Odisha government order a judicial inquiry into the death of 13 newborns. The party warned of agitation if its demand was not met. The District Bar Association has also demanded action against the guilty.

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Regional Office, Maurya Lok Complex, Block-A, 2nd Floor
Dakbungalow Road, Patna-800001
Tel: 0612-2225949 E-mail: rmpat@cewacor.nic.in
NO.: CWC/RO-PATNA/Buss/H&T/2022 Date: 19.09.2022

NOTICE REGARDING H&T TENDERS FOR CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION (CWC) RO, PATNA

The 'Invitation For Bids' / 'Notice Inviting Tenders' (IFB/NIT) the H&T tender requirements of CWC RO Patna will not be henceforth published in Newspapers. All the concerned are hereby notified that tender enquiry for appointment of regular Handling & Transport contractor at warehouse of CWC Patna region (Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha) shall be published on CWC tender Website: www.cewacor.nic.in, Government Central Public Procurement Portal (<https://eprocure.gov.in/>) and Government E-Marketplace (Gem) portal. All the interested bidders are requested to refer above websites on a regular basis for H&T tenders of CWC, RO, Patna.

Tender for appointment of Handling & Transport Contractor is now being floated through GeM Portal only.

REGIONAL MANAGER

COLLECTORATE, ANGUL
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Telephone: 06764-230567(O)/230234(R)/230685 (F)
Website: www.angul.nic.in/E-mail: dm-angul@nic.in

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATION FOR SETTLEMENT OF ANADIPUR & LODHABANDHA OUTSTILL LIQUOR SHOPS FOR ANGUL DISTRICT

Notice No.2456/Ex. Date.20.09.2022
Applications are invited for settlement of 02 Nos. of OS Shops i.e Anadipur & Lodhabandha of ANGUL DISTRICT for the year 2022-23 onwards by way of lottery mode.

The persons interested to participate may apply online in "Form-B" through the portal "<https://stateexcise.odisha.gov.in/>" from dtd. 21.09.2022 to 04.10.2022 (upto 05.00 PM). Lottery will be held on dtd. 07.10.2022 (Friday) in the Office Chamber of Collector, Angul (Place) from 11.00 A.M onwards.

The details of the shops to be settled and the terms and conditions applicable thereof are available in the said website and the notice boards of the District Excise Office, Angul and Collectorate, Angul.

NB- The TOLL-FREE Number for the service is - 155335 or 18003456770 and Operation Hours- All days of week except Sunday, 7 AM to 7 PM.

Sd/- 20.09.2022 Collector, Angul

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REGIONAL OFFICE: BALASORE
3rd Floor, Axis Plaza, OT Road,
Bhaskarganj, Balasore-756001

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property)

[RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES - 2002]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Betanati Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act. No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrowers/Co-obligants in loan A/c mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Co-obligants and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrowers/Co-obligants in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India, Betanati Branch for an amount mentioned below with interest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the Borrower to redeem the secured assets.

BETANATI BRANCH/ Name and Address of Borrowers/Co-obligants	Liabilities due as per Notice (in ₹)	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of Property
Borrowers / Co-obligants: 1) Mr. Aurobinda Kumar Sahu, A/PO./PS: Baisinga, Mayurbhanj-757028, 2) Mr.	₹ 23,05,902.08 as on 01.04.2022 + interest thereon	21.06.2022 / 17.09.2022	Land and Building recorded in the name of Mr. Abadhut Charan Sahu, S/o.: Anadi Charan Sahu, Mouza:
Abadhut Charan Sahu, S/o.: Anadi Charan Sahu, A/PO./PS: Baisinga, Mayurbhanj-757028, 3) Mr. Ashok Kumar Sahu, S/o.: Mr. Abadhut Charan Sahu, A/PO./PS: Baisinga, Mayurbhanj-757028			Baisinga, PS: Baisinga No.: 129, Tahasil: Betanati, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, Khata No.: 14, Plot No.: 1034, Area: Ac.0.21 Dec., Bounded by North: Arabinda Sahu, South: Road.

Place: Balasore, Date: 20.09.2022 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India**

FOCUS SOCIETY

DEPRIVATION, DISPARITY



Though tribals constitute 8.6 per cent of the total population of the country, they make up 50 per cent of the people who have been displaced or dispossessed from their land for the extraction of minerals, construction of large dams or establishing wildlife sanctuaries or even for widening roads and highways after Independence

tions of society. For decades since Independence, there was no national plan of rehabilitation and this section found no solace though they were divested of their small plot of land for so-called development projects.

Over the years all talks of 'social change' and/or 'structural reform' were echoed by political leaders and social analysts but these had little effect on transforming the lives of tribals. Obviously, those who visualised these aspects/phrases were ignorant of the condition of tribals and other lower castes and what measures were needed to improve their incomes. Even now, there is no structured plan to reach out to the deprived.

The communitarian approach to living has not become a reality. Not just education per se but lack of social education deprived us to view human beings not on the basis of caste, class or religion but as responsible members of society. The egoistic approach of our leaders percolated to the ground levels and social discrimination continued.

The obvious question that arises is what needs to be done at this juncture? Reservation has not solved the problem as those lower castes who have received employment forget about their suffering brethren. In fact, they refused to keep contact with their larger family as also of the original village or town. Thus, the strategy has to be different.

One is inclined to refer here to a recent observation in Bangalore of the noted author, Arundhati Roy, who stated: "What is it that has brought us to a situation where people who are oppressed, people who have no employment, people who are sufferings deeply are voting for further hellishness upon themselves?" Further, she asked: "What has brought people to believe propaganda more than the reality of their experiences every day in their own homes and in their kitchen? Why is it that people who have been oppressed by the caste system for centuries vote for those very people who uphold that system?" These answers need to be investigated before we can assure a life of dignity to the deprived and oppressed.

INFA

Let nothing short of perfection be your ideal in work and you are sure to become a true instrument of the Divine.

THE MOTHER



Climate Inequality

If the United States' Pledge of Allegiance were rewritten for the world of the twenty-first century, the clause "and justice for all" could well be changed to "and climate justice for all," given that issue's paramount importance. A painful lesson from the last few decades – not only in the US but around the world – is that the adverse effects of climate change are not distributed equitably among countries and communities. While the climate crisis has devastating implications for all of us, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres rightly points out that "the poor and vulnerable are the first to suffer and the worst hit."

According to the world's authoritative climate-science body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), declines in crop production and quality, increases in crop pests and diseases, and other disruptions have disproportionately affected the poor, just as increasingly frequent and extreme heat disproportionately threaten children and the elderly. As climate change simultaneously disrupts food, human, water, and ecosystem security, we can expect many more adverse cascading effects.

Extreme flooding, for example, is expected to become twice as frequent in the flood-prone areas that are home to some 450 million people. More broadly, the IPCC points to 2017 research showing that by 2030, 122 million people (mostly the poorest 20 per cent across 92 countries) could be pushed into extreme poverty by higher food prices and other climate-driven income losses.

Compounding the injustice, the biggest contributors to climate change are not necessarily those most affected by it. According to a 2020 report by Oxfam and the Stockholm Environment Institute, between 1990 and 2015, the richest 1 per cent of the global population accounted for twice the carbon dioxide emissions relative to the poorest 50 per cent.

Yet poor countries bear a larger share of the costs, simply because around 75 per cent of people living in poverty depend on agriculture, which is extremely sensitive to irregularities in weather and broader climatic changes. Poor countries are also more prone to resource conflicts, and they tend to lack adequate technology, infrastructure, policies, and resources for adaptation.

Moreover, climate change amplifies pre-existing forms of inequality and drives more migration and forced displacements. In Latin America, one of the most unequal regions in the world, many native groups – such as the Guna people in Panama, the inhabitants of the Mexican state of Chiapas, and some Aymaran groups in Bolivia – have lost their towns to rising sea levels, drought, water scarcity, deforestation, changing rainfall patterns, and natural disasters. Worse, when these groups are forced to leave their traditional lands, they often end up in urban slums, where they face double discrimination as migrants and indigenous peoples.

This human tragedy is growing in scale. The UN World Migration Report 2022 notes that in 2020, natural disasters, extreme temperatures, and droughts displaced 30.7 million people in 144 countries and territories. And contrary to popular belief, the report explains that most new internal displacement in Latin America and the Caribbean that year was due to natural disasters, rather than to violence and conflict.

Climate change also has unequal adverse effects on health and education. The UN's Human Development Report 2019 forecasts that between 2030 and 2050, climate change will cause some 250,000 additional deaths per year from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea, dengue, and heat stress. And rising temperatures will increase malnutrition and food insecurity and expand the geographical range of disease-transmitting mosquito species, hampering school attendance, performance, and achievement.

These problems have made climate-justice policies and strategies essential to the Global South, and particularly to Latin America. Policymakers will need to focus on ensuring a fairer distribution of obligations and duties not just between states but also across segments of the population and between generations.

Furthermore, climate justice demands that developed countries and multinational corporations assume responsibility for the negative externalities they generate. They must pay their "climate debt" to the rest of the world and acknowledge the intergenerational implications of climate-driven inequality. Like the poor today, younger and future generations will pay the biggest price for a problem they didn't cause.

This year's international gatherings at the UN General Assembly and the Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm el-Sheikh will succeed only if the international community makes progress toward a new framework to provide developing countries with the financial and technological support they need to adapt to climate change.

Though concrete measures to deliver climate justice are well known, they have proved difficult to implement. Still, there have been promising steps in the right direction. In the US, for example, the Biden administration has launched a "whole-of-government initiative" (Justice40) to ensure that federal agencies deliver 40 per cent of the overall benefits of clean energy, sustainable housing, and clean water to underserved communities. It has also created an Environmental Justice Advisory Council that other countries should consider replicating.

Although major economies bear the largest responsibility for curbing the devastating effects of climate change, all countries must adopt responsible policies to mitigate the damage and protect their most vulnerable inhabitants.

In Costa Rica, we understood the importance of enacting such policies very early on. That allowed us to become an early leader in renewable energy and the first tropical country to halt and then reverse deforestation. Sustainability policies have improved conditions for indigenous and vulnerable communities here as well as in Colombia and Ecuador, by helping communities find new ways to increase income (diversification of means of life) and promote climate-aware and resilient agriculture techniques (such as retaining soil moisture or using crop varieties better adapted to droughts).

These and many other actions taken in various countries should encourage those who will soon meet again in the framework of COP27 and the UNGA. The challenge is to scale up all the efforts underway to win the race against humanity's greatest existential threat, leaving no one behind.

The writer, a former President of Costa Rica, is Vice President of Club de Madrid.
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Dhurjati Mukherjee

IT IS INDEED DISTRESSING TO NOTE THAT DEPRIVATION HAS NOT BEEN ADDRESSED JUDICIOUSLY BY THE POLITICAL LEADERS OF THE COUNTRY

Deprivation, which is the consequence of socio-economic disparity in our system, primarily due to the caste-system and other attendant factors, is still a crucial problem despite 75 years of Independence having passed and the matter still not receiving the attention it deserves. The compartmentalisation of the traditional Hindu society into various caste-groups is a social institution dictating superior and lesser beings among its members. This system that places the untouchables at the bottom of the caste-pyramid is one of the obvious institutions of caste-inequality, a system of legalised inequality, wherein the allocation of roles and status is governed by its own principles, determining the social, economic, political and ritualistic structure of individuals in relation to each other.

The caste-system in India has had its impact on all aspects of life; on the past, present, and future, based on purity and pollution. Unfortunately, birth determines the individual's social status throughout his life and also his access to various resources. The deprived masses described as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Constitution are in fact low castes and tribes in the Hindu social order; treated as 'caste-less', out-castes or untouchables and have been subjected to deprivation and discrimination for centuries.

The last seven decades of Independence witnessed a massive social mobility and transformation as well as the emergence of 'the educated' among the deprived castes, generally looked down upon with contempt by the larger society for their mobility on the crutches of reservations. Although untouchability is outlawed and the caste-system is not overtly practiced, at least in the bigger cities, there are other ways of isolating and segregating them similar to abolition of slavery in the USA, where injustice to African Americans continued until the passing of the Civil Rights Act.

But in our country, the emergence of the 'educated among the deprived' and their journey from traditional defiling occupations to white-collared office jobs was negligible and even exposed them to various psycho-

logical and physical vulnerabilities causing mental health strains. This continues even today.

It is indeed distressing to note that deprivation has not been addressed judiciously by the political leaders of the country. One may refer here to a recent report 'Status of Adivasi Livelihoods Report, 2021' (SAL), brought out by the Professional Assistance Development Action which showed the startling deprivation of adivasis in terms of income, food security and child nutrition as well as in access to public services, education and landholding. This comes at a time when leaders are talking big about the achievements of the country in the last 75 years and on the other hand the ruling NDA-led by BJP saying precious little has been done to improve their lot.

The SAL further found that 55 per cent of adivasi households in Jharkhand and a similar percentage in Odisha are food insecure in varying degrees. Insignificant landholding is another crucial contributor to the poor livelihood outcomes of adivasis. Also around 89 per cent in Jharkhand and around 70-75 per cent in Odisha were found to be marginal farmers or landless labourers. That India has a woman tribal leader as the President of the nation, it

would be worth keeping a watch on whether at the end of five years the adivasis' lives improve.

Though adivasis constitute 8.6 per cent of the total population of the country, they make up 50 per cent of the people who have been displaced or dispossessed from their land for the extraction of minerals, construction of large dams or establishing wildlife sanctuaries or even for widening roads and highways after Independence. The condition of Scheduled Castes who live in rural and backward regions of the country may be slightly better but not great.

The idea of development has been lopsided and efforts to lift the lower castes into the mainstream of life and activity has not fructified. The main reason for this is the fact the upper castes, who have been in positions of authority, had very little idea of the poverty and squalor of the lower castes. Moreover, they were ignorant of the social position of these castes in the backward regions of the country and the exploitation, even torture, they have been subjected to for years together.

What appears strange is the failure of successive governments to tackle this deprivation though many big projects have been taken up – all geared to make life easy for the rich and middle income sec-

IN JEST THIS

Waiting for drones to deliver to me



Melvin Durai

I'M EAGER TO SEE IF A DRONE CAN BRING FOOD TO ME WITHOUT CUTTING AN OVERHEAD WIRE AND KNOCKING OUT POWER FOR MY ENTIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Unmanned aerial vehicles, commonly known as drones, have existed for a long time, but they've mostly been used in military operations. It's only been in the last decade or so that drones have become widely available, allowing farmers, businesses and others to use them in a variety of ways. And yet, I am still waiting for my first delivery of biryani by drone.

Why is it taking so long? Do I need to donate a drone to my local biryani restaurant?

Now you may be asking, "Why do you need biryani by drone? Why can't you just use a delivery platform such as Uber Eats or Zomato?"

These are good questions. All I can say is that I've been teased by the whole concept of delivery by drone. And I've been patiently waiting to experience it firsthand. I'm eager to see if a drone can bring food to me without cutting an overhead wire and knocking out power for my entire neighbourhood.

It has been more than eight years

since Francesco's Pizzeria made India's first food delivery by drone, sending a pizza to a customer 1.5 km from the restaurant. The restaurant's chief executive was confident that such deliveries would be routine in a few years. But as far as I know, hardly anyone has been able to get pizza by drone, though Domino's and other pizza companies have been testing the concept.

More exciting to me is the prospect of getting biryani by drone. This is still in the testing phase, unfortunately. Biryani by Kilo, the biryani and kebab chain, recently made several test deliveries by drone in Hyderabad. I was very happy to hear this. I would be even happier if the company responded to my email, asking an important question: How do I sign up for a test delivery?

Drones are already being used successfully in a number of ways, including these three:

1. Aerial views. Drones provide overhead shots during outdoor events without requiring a heli-

copter or balloon. They allow movie directors to easily give us an aerial view, in case we are wondering what the scene looks like to a bird.

2. Spraying pesticides. Farmers are using drones to apply pesticides to their crops. They're also using drones to check the health of their crops, monitor field conditions and awaken the farmhands from their naps.

3. Delivering medicine. During the pandemic, the Indian government used drones to deliver medicines and vaccines to rural parts of Telangana. This initiative was called "Medicines from the Sky."

Unfortunately, it's going to be a long time before I experience an initiative called "Biryani from the Sky." Getting any type of package delivered by drone is a long way away. As Thomas Black of Bloomberg.com noted in a recent column, the challenges of home delivery are both technical and strategic.

The technical challenge is mostly about safety. How do you get a drone

to navigate all the hazards in a dense city and deliver a product to an individual home? The drone may deliver an item to your doorstep, but return to the Flipkart distribution center with the underdrear on your clothesline.

Using a parachute to drop the package may be more feasible, as long as you don't mind fishing your new cellphone out of your neighbour's swimming pool.

Strategic concerns pose a bigger hurdle, according to Black. While a delivery van can make a delivery to you and other consumers during the same trip, bringing down the cost of each delivery, drones can make only a single delivery at a time. This point-to-point delivery is quite inefficient. You'd be paying too much to get a delivery by drone.

In an urgent situation, it might be worth it. If I need medicine urgently, a drone could drop it off within a few minutes. If I need biryani urgently, I might need to dash to the nearest restaurant.

WORDSWORTH

Brimborion

It's not a word that rises unbidden to the lips of English speakers today, nor – if the record is to be trusted – at any time. It means a thing without value or use. It was borrowed from French, where it may still be found in dictionaries, though firmly marked as literary. According to the lexicographer Emile Littré, who compiled a famous dictionary of French in the middle decades of the nineteenth century, it's a bastardised form of the Latin *briviarium*, the source of *briviarum* for the service book used by Roman Catholic priests. The link had been explained by another lexicographer two centuries earlier. Randall Cotgrave wrote in his French-English dictionary of 1611 that the word came to mean "foolish charms or superstitious prayers, used by old and simple women against the toothache, and any such threadbare and musty rags of blind devotion", hence something valueless.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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Spot the disease

Sir, October will be observed as the International Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Contrary to general perception, breast cancer is a disease that is completely curable if diagnosis is made at the right time. A high index of suspicion is very vital to catch an early breast malignancy. Breast malignancy is one of the few malignancies that has strong socioeconomic predilections. Women must be taught the art of palpating or examining their own breasts. In this context, the role of local doctors is of paramount importance as they have to spot the disease and refer the patients to specialists. Irrespective of the stage, breast cancer treatment is a long drawn process that tires the patient and their relatives physically, mentally and financially. Radiotherapy and chemotherapy, two key treatment modalities apart from surgery, have to be used judiciously by the doctors and, most of the times, they do so. A gap in treatment, disobeying the advice of the treating doctor, is like a loose cycle chain, and the patient may be deprived of the benefit of the entire treatment they may have received till that point in time. Patients who complete a standard treatment protocol will be asked to follow-up regularly for at least the first five years, and not missing the visit is crucial for the woman. Breast cancers are known to run in families and if a mother or a sister is affected by the disease, it is imperative for the daughter and other sisters to undergo basic tests like mammography, which is an X ray of the breast, as per the oncologist's advice. **Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA**

Drug menace

Sir, Smuggling of drugs and other contraband in states like Odisha, Kerala, and Mizoram has increased in recent times. The major reason behind these activities is Myanmar's current political crisis. Many unemployed youths of Myanmar have been found involved in drug trafficking. Odisha is witnessing the seizures of ganja and brown sugar which have increased by 132% and 191% respectively. Even NDPS cases have increased from 243 in August 2021 to 739 in August 2022, a growth of 204%. Police have started demolishing the illegal properties of drug dealers. Kerala is also facing increased cases of drug trafficking. The state administration is trying to control drug smuggling which has gone out of control. The most shocking part, in this case, is the involvement of educated and impressionable youth, including girls who work as drug traffickers. **Akankhya Rout, DHENKANAL**

national

of the day quote

Aatmnirbhar Bharat in agriculture can provide food for all in the world
NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR | AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE MINISTER

The Goods and Service Tax (GST) has transformed tax collection and is finding India towards growth and development
PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

Hypocrisy has no limits since BJP themselves leave no opportunity to get turban tying ceremony done whether at a mandir, dargah or gurudwara. They aren't ready to stop until they dismantle all our religious & Sufi traditions to take control by implementing their divisive agenda
MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

8-year-old raped

Lucknow: An eight-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a man, living as a tenant in the house of the victim, in the Gudamba police station area of Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow. The accused, identified as Vinod, 24, has been arrested. The Gudamba police, releasing a video statement on the matter, said, "Two days after the abuse, the child complained of discomfort and pain in her private parts after which her parents took her to a doctor where the parents were told that the child had been raped. A complaint was lodged by the family with the police."

Couple found dead

Sant Kabir Nagar: The bodies of a teenaged couple -- an 18-year-old youth and a 15-year-old girl -- were found hanging from a tree at Rampur village in Sant Kabir Nagar on Monday evening. The family members of the deceased have said that the two were murdered. According to reports, the two were in a relationship. Their cellphones were also recovered from the spot.

Woman booked

Chennai: A woman has been booked for refusing to rent out a flat to a Scheduled Caste (SC) man in Tamil Nadu's Dindigul district. Madurai Veeran of Arasapillaiappatti village approached Lakshmi and Velusamy, for renting a residential flat owned by the couple. While showing Veeran and another person accompanying him the flat, Lakshmi asked about his caste. When Veeran informed that he belonged to the Scheduled Caste community, she flatly said no to renting out the flat.

8 fishermen held

Chennai: Eight fishermen from Tamil Nadu's Pudukkottai district were arrested on Tuesday by the Sri Lankan Navy for crossing the International Marine Border Line (IMBL) and reaching the island nation's territorial waters. The fishermen had ventured to the sea from the Jegadapattinam fishing harbour on Monday morning, the Tamil Nadu Coastal Security Group said, adding that they were arrested at 8 am Tuesday.

Retd DSP assaulted

Patna: In a case of road rage, goons brutally assaulted a retired DSP in Patna's Rajiv Nagar locality. The victim, Naresh Prasad along with some local residents managed to nab the accused and gave a written complaint to the Rajiv Nagar police station but instead of acting on it, police pressurised the retired DSP to compromise.



BJP is expert in disturbing Hindu-Muslim communal harmony. It has no other issue in the country. Hence, it will create disturbance among the communities to polarise voters. Amit Shah is coming to the Bihar Seemanchal area to achieve his aim. We will not allow him or any other BJP leader to do communal provocation. People of Bihar are alert this time
LALAN SINGH | JD-U NATIONAL PRESIDENT

SPICEJET SENDS 80 PILOTS ON LEAVE WITHOUT PAY

Budget carrier SpiceJet Tuesday said it has asked 80 of its pilots to go on a three-month leave without pay. The move is a temporary measure to rationalise cost, the Gurgaon-headquartered airline said



Women perform traditional garba dance ahead of Navratri festival in Ahmedabad

PTI PHOTO

Anurag opens AIBD's 47th Annual Gathering

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 20: Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur Tuesday inaugurated the 47th Annual Gathering and 20th Meeting of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) in presence of Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Dr. L Murugan, Secretary, I&B Shri Apurva Chandra and Director, AIBD Ms Philomena Gnanapragasam.

Speaking on the occasion, Thakur said that the biggest threat to mainstream media is not from new age digital platforms, but rather the mainstream media channel itself. He went on to say that real journalism was about facing the facts, presenting the truth and letting all sides the platform to present their views.

He noted "member countries were immensely benefitted through sharing of information on the latest developments in the medical field, positive stories of Covid warriors and more importantly in countering fake news which was spreading faster than the pandemic." Thakur congratulated Director of AIBD, Ms. Philomena, President of AIBD General conference, Mr. Mayank Agrawal and the member countries who worked together in building a strong media response to Covid pandemic in the Asia Pacific region.

Speaking on the theme of the event 'Building a stronger future for broadcasting in the post pandemic era', the minister remarked that "though broadcast media is and has always been in the mainstream of journalism, the Covid-19 era has shaped its structure in a more strategic way.

During the event, Union Minister Anurag Thakur presided over the award presentation for 2021 and 2022.

The Appreciation Award for 2021 was conferred on Radio Television Brunei. The Appreciation Award for 2022 was shared by Ministry of Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development, Republic of Fiji and Fiji Broadcasting Corporation.

The Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021 was given to Mr Khieu Khanharith, Minister of Information and Communication, Cambodia.

The Lifetime Achievement Award for 2022 was conferred on Shri Mayank Agrawal, CEO, PB and President, AIBD.



Rahul, Kejriwal promise to restore OPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vadodara/New Delhi, Sept 20: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday promised to restore the old pension scheme (OPS) for government employees if voted to power in Gujarat, amid a renewed focus on the issue in the recent state elections.

Rahul Gandhi said the old pension scheme (OPS) has been reintroduced in party-ruled states of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and it will now be done in Gujarat too. "By abolishing the old pension, the BJP has made the elderly dependent from self-reliant," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

"The government employees who strengthen the country have a right: The old pension. "We restored the old pension in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh. Now the Congress government will come in Gujarat and will bring the old pension," Gandhi also said, using the hashtag #CongressDegiOldPension. Thousands of retired government employees in Gujarat recently held protests demanding the re-introduction of the scheme.



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who announced the revival of the OPS in the budget speech in February, on Tuesday said that the scheme will be implemented in both Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh if the Congress forms government there.



mand is the implementation of the old pension scheme. I guarantee them that when AAP forms a government, we will implement the OPS in Gujarat," Kejriwal told reporters.

The old pension scheme was discontinued on April 1, 2004 and replaced by the National Pension Scheme (NPS). Under the old scheme, the employee used to get the Dearness Allowance-linked pension. In this scheme, the pensioners used to get the benefit of enhanced pension every six months due to the periodic hike in dearness relief. However, this DA-like pension

was discontinued for all government employees who joined service on or after April 1, 2004, effectively reducing the burden of the pension bill on the state exchequer. These employees were covered under the NPS.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav had in January announced the restoration of the old pension scheme as a poll plank in Uttar Pradesh, while attacking the BJP for scrapping the scheme in 2004. It was dubbed as a game changer by some poll observers who predicted an increase in the Samajwadi Party's support among the state government employees. Though the SP failed to dislodge the BJP, its performance improved. BSP president Mayawati, while addressing an election meeting in Auraiya, too had promised the OPS.

According to the Uttar Pradesh Rajya Karmchari Sanyukt Parishad, there are about 10 lakh teachers and employees who are not getting the benefits of the old pension scheme. Gehlot had announced the revival of the old pension scheme for the state employees during the state budget 2022-23 presented in February.

Monsoon starts retreating

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: The south-west monsoon Tuesday started withdrawing from parts of south-west Rajasthan and adjoining Kutch in Gujarat, with at least eight states, including rice bowl states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar reporting deficient rains.

It was for the first time since 2016 that the monsoon started withdrawing in the third week of September. "Southwest monsoon has withdrawn from parts of south-west Rajasthan & adjoining Kutch today, against its normal date of withdrawal from southwest Rajasthan of September 17," the India Meteorological Department (IMD) tweeted.

The weather office said the conditions for withdrawal of monsoon - no rains for five days, formation of anti-cyclone and dry weather conditions over the re-

gion - were met. "The line of withdrawal of the southwest monsoon passes through Khajuwala, Bikaner, Jodhpur and Naliya," it said.

According to the weather office, India had received 7 per cent excess rains, but eight states - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Delhi, Punjab, Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur - recorded deficit rainfall. The south-west monsoon season begins on June 1 and continues till September 30. India received 878.5 mm of rainfall between June 1 and September 20, which was 7 per cent higher than the normal rainfall of 822 mm for the period under review.

The deficient rains in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh has hit sowing for paddy in the states. As of September 16, the area sown to paddy was 18.90 lakh hectares less than the previous year during the kharif season.

Chorus for Rahul grows louder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: More state units of the Congress have passed resolutions backing Rahul Gandhi to take over as the party chief, amid hectic activities over the upcoming election of the new AICC president.

Sources said with Rahul Gandhi unlikely to contest or change his stand, the election for the top post in the grand old party will witness a contest after more than two decades. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is considered a frontrunner for the post as he is perceived to be having the backing and confidence of the present dispensation and is likely to be challenged by a G-23 member Shashi Tharoor, who has expressed his desire to contest.

The poll process for the Congress president's election will begin on September 22 with the issue of the notification, and the nomination filing will start from September 25 to



30. The election will be held on October 17 and the result will be out two days later. Amid the heightened political hubbub, Haryana and Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committees (PCCs) were the latest to join the chorus favouring Rahul Gandhi to take over as party chief. With around 10 PCCs coming out in support of Gandhi so far, party General

Secretary Jairam Ramesh said on Tuesday that such measures have no binding effect. "But nobody asked anyone to pass any resolution. The Congress party workers are enthusiastic. Rahul Gandhi has not asked anyone to pass any resolution. The Congress president has not asked anyone. They have been watching Gandhi walking for the past 13 days. They know the pain he is undergoing every day. They all can relate to him. It's natural that they pass the resolution. But the resolution has no binding effect," Ramesh said, referring to the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand and Jammu Kashmir units of the party have supported Rahul Gandhi as the next Congress president

DALIT FAMILY FINED ₹60,000

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolar (Karnataka), Sept 20: A Dalit family in Karnataka's Koppal district has been fined Rs 60,000 after its boy entered the temple and touched Hindu god's idol.

According to local sources, the Dalit boy had touched the idol ready to be taken out for the procession at the Hullerahalli village in Malur taluk.

Local residents said that a temple was constructed and the villagers decided to celebrate it. During the celebrations three days ago, Chetan touched the idol and attempted to carry it on his head.

At this point, the villagers shooed him away and imposed Rs 60,000 fine on his family. The village leaders have asked the parents of Dalit boy Ramesh and Shobha not to enter village until they pay the fine amount.

Miscreants are also making threatening calls to the boy's mother. The Dalit family is yet to file a complaint in this regard.

Punjab prisons begin conjugal visits for inmates

The visits -- allowed for prisoners exhibiting good conduct -- will last for two hours and the department has designated a separate room with an attached bathroom, the official said



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 20: Prisoners in Punjab can now spend some time with their spouses as the prisons department has begun conjugal visits for inmates from Tuesday,

claiming to be the first state to launch such a facility. Initially, conjugal visits will be allowed at the central jail in Goindwal Sahib, new district jail

in Nabha and women's jail in Bathinda, a senior official of the prisons department said. Hardcore criminals, gangsters, high risk prisoners and inmates

involved in sexual related offences will, however, not be allowed to avail this facility.

The visits -- allowed for prisoners exhibiting good conduct -- will last for two hours and the department has designated a separate room with an attached bathroom, the official said. "Priority will be given to those inmates who have had the longest stay in jails," the official said.

"According to the information we have, Punjab is the first state to implement conjugal visits in the country," he claimed. The department expects that this initiative will lead to strengthening of matrimonial bonds and also ensure good conduct of prisoners. Such visits will be allowed once

in three months, the jail official added. The visiting spouse will have to furnish a proof of marriage and medical certificates declaring that he or she is free from HIV or any other sexually transmitted disease, Covid or any other infectious disease.

A few days ago, the prisons department had launched a programme for inmates, allowing them to meet their family members in the jail complex. Under this programme, which was launched from the Ludhiana jail, inmates and undertrials can meet their loved ones in person for an hour, every quarter, at a specially designated room inside the jail complex. The family members could also enjoy meals with the inmates.



UP GEARS UP FOR 2024 LS POLLS

Fresh attempt to make new front



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

The parties that are expected to be a part of this coalition include Shivpal Yadav's Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party-Lohia (PSPL), the All India Majlis-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), and Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) led by Om Prakash Rajbhar

and has also stated in no uncertain terms that our party will not enter into any alliance with the SP. For PSPL, any association with the Congress or the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) is unlikely to last in the prevailing state of affairs. Hence, a third front without these four parties is what the party workers and senior leaders are looking at."

SBSP president Om Prakash Rajbhar said, "When a party like the BJP has entered into alliances with more than 50 parties, the opposition will also have to join hands to challenge them. I do not think people should have any problem understanding this."

The AIMIM has already announced that an alliance of the opposition parties was needed if like-minded political parties want to oust the BJP from power in 2024.

"We are all in for an opposition alliance, particularly in UP. We have backed the idea of Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha and are of the view that the idea should crystallize before parliament elections," said AIMIM's state convener and president Shaukat Ali.

Sources said that Shivpal Yadav was likely to emerge as the leader of the proposed front because Om Prakash Rajbhar had lost credibility after he dumped AIMIM before the Assembly polls and joined hands with SP.

Other smaller parties like Mahan Dal and Janwadi party are also tipped to join the front.

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Sept 20: A fresh attempt is being made in Uttar Pradesh ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections to form a front of smaller parties.

The coalition that will maintain an equal-distance from BJP and Congress will be like the Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha (BSM) that was conceptualised in the state ahead of the 2022 Assembly polls.

The parties that are expected to be a part of this coalition include Shivpal Yadav's Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party-Lohia (PSPL), the All India Majlis-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), and Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) led by Om Prakash Rajbhar.

PSPL national spokesperson Deepak Mishra said, "PSPL national president Shivpal Yadav has always called for opposition unity

BJP holds big protest against Gehlot govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Sept 20: BJP, on the call of its state president Satish Poonia, Tuesday staged a huge protest against the Congress government in Jaipur alleging that it was turning a blind eye over the 55,000 cattle deaths in the state due to Lumpy virus. The protest was also staged to highlight other raging issues like increased electricity rates and power cuts, unemployment, worsening law and order, fake farmer loan waiver promises, etc.

Hundreds of party workers, led by Poonia, marched from the BJP office to the Assembly, but were stopped by the police on Sahakar Marg. Here the leaders and workers raised slogans against the government and were detained.

Addressing the gathering at the party office this morning, Satish Poonia said that "Shradha Paksha was going on right now. In 2023, the Congress party will see its permanent Shradha rituals. The Congress government will be wiped out from India and Rajasthan," he said.

The party workers, who were going to besiege the Assembly clashed with the police. The workers also broke the police barricade on the Sahakar Marg in Jaipur. Poonia, who climbed the barricade, was pushed by the policemen. A heavy police force was deployed to stop the activists from moving forward.

Jaipur Police detained the office-bearers, party workers, MPs and MLAs, including BJP Poonia ji and took them to Bani Park police station, confirmed BJP media cell at the time of filing of report.



FITNESS TEST: Candidates give measurements during Army Agniveer recruitment rally in Agra, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

Ex-MLAs will also be able to travel abroad on govt expenses

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Sept 20: Now former MLAs of Rajasthan may also be able to travel abroad on the government expenses. A Bill regarding this is likely to get the nod in the ongoing Assembly.

The state government will bear the cost of the foreign travel fare of former MLAs, said the Bill, which has been introduced in the Assembly to make a provision in the rules to bear the cost of foreign travel fare of former MLAs.

A Bill to add a new sub-section 2 in section 4-D of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly (Emoluments and Pension of Officers, Members) Act, 1956 has been tabled in the House.

The former MLAs union had been demanding this provision for a long time.

The former MLAs travelling abroad on government expenses will have to first get approval from the Speaker. Only those whose foreign travel is approved by the



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Speaker will get the fare money.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Tuesday said the Congress will implement the old pension scheme for government employees if it comes to power in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh in the upcoming Assembly

polls. "The implementation of the new pension scheme for government employees appointed after January 1, 2004 created a sense of insecurity and uncertainty about their future," Gehlot said in a statement. His government in Rajasthan decided to reintroduce the old

The state government will bear the cost of the foreign travel fare of former MLAs, said the Bill, which has been introduced in the Assembly to make a provision in the rules to bear the cost of foreign travel fare of former MLAs

scheme purely on humanitarian grounds, he said. After that, the governments of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have also decided to restore it, he said. Gehlot had announced to revive the old pension scheme for state employees during the state budget presented in February. More than three lakh state government employees will be benefitted by the decision.

E-vehicle sales see sharp uptick in Raj



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Sept 20: The popularity of electric vehicles is gaining momentum in Rajasthan, where the number of such vehicles has jumped six times in three years, as people are increasingly adapting to the emerging mobility model.

Looking at the comfort and easy mobility in city life, the sale of two-wheelers is the highest, while the sale of four-wheelers is the lowest, as consumers are still apprehensive about the charging infrastructure, particularly on highways and in the outskirts.

According to Rajasthan's Transport Department data, the sale of electric vehicles in the state has increased approximately six times till the first week of September since 2019.

"There is continuous increase in the sale of electric vehicles in the state, as more and more people are shifting towards better and advanced technology. The rising trend is also due to the policy of the state government, which is providing grants on purchase of e-vehicles," Transport Department Commissioner K L Swami told PTI.

A total of 6,627 electric vehicles in three segments - two-wheelers, three-wheelers and four-wheelers - were purchased in the state in 2019.

After a slight slump in e-vehicle sales in the year 2020 (5,599 vehicle sales) due to the pandemic, the sale shot up to 23,451 in the year 2021.

As per the data, till September first week this year, a total of over 42,900 electric vehicles have been sold in the state, which includes about 28,000 motorcycle/scooters, 13,400 three-wheelers, 1,500 light motor vehicles.

Tourism back on track in Raj

STATE TOURISM HAS PROJECTED THE DESERT STATE AS A MONSOON DESTINATION, BROUGHT INDUSTRY STATUS FOR THE TRAVEL TRADE, ANNOUNCED NIGHT TOURISM IN RAJASTHAN AND HAS UNVEILED AN ATTRACTIVE FILM TOURISM POLICY WHICH WAS AWAITED FOR YEARS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Sept 20: As tourists come back to Rajasthan bringing smiles on the faces of several stakeholders hit hard by the pandemic in the last two years, the state tourism department also seems to be scripting a success story by taking innovative steps and turning challenges into opportunities in a short span of time.

And it has started paying off. People from around the world have been making bookings for big, fat weddings in the desert state.

"Yes, it is true that tourism is seeing a revival. We are receiving bookings, inquiries for weddings. In fact, this time, there is also a surge in film shoots, shooting for OTT series and ad films here," said Prithvi Singh, a prominent hotelier



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

of the state.

Rajasthan chief secretary Usha Sharma confirmed, "The revival

of the tourism sector has been great after going through a difficult time due to the Covid-19

pandemic. Even in the months of April, May and June, increasingly more and more domestic tourists were seen travelling to different parts of the country. It is for the first time that a budget of Rs 1000 crore has been allotted by the Rajasthan government for tourism. Of this Rs 600 crore has been earmarked for infrastructure development and Rs 400 crore for marketing and branding," she added.

With the tourist surge in Rajasthan, domestic footfalls have surpassed the pre-Covid numbers.

Till June-end, 36.48 million domestic tourists visited the state compared to 22.36 million in the first six months of 2019 which was the normal year before the pandemic began in 2020, confirmed tourism officials.

A UP village that has no legal sanctity

Devastated by floods year after year, a major chunk of the population has moved away to another site and Hajipura, situated on the banks of Solani river on the Uttar Pradesh-Uttarakhand border, remains forlorn and forgotten



"We cast votes for the nagar panchayat of Bhokarehdi. The exercise is futile as they tell us they cannot develop our locality as we live 'outside their jurisdiction'. Despite several requests for basic facilities, we have been abandoned by the administration and the government." The locals say that in the recent Assembly elections, several leaders came and promised to sort the issue out but to no avail. "We request chief minister Yogi Adityanath to look into this issue," they plead. A team led by the Additional District Magistrate (E) recently visited the village and prepared a report. ADM Narender Bahadur Singh said: "Residents will get a ration shop soon. We came to know that a proposal to grant this area a 'village' status was made in 2018. We are working on that too."

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Muzaffarnagar, Sep 20: It is a hamlet that has no legal sanctity. "We have been abandoned by the government. There are no schools, no medical facility, no government schemes, no public transport system, nor any gram panchayat. Our children travel 5 km daily to get an education. We are a population of over 1,000 but we have not been granted the official 'village' status to this day," says Sanjeev Kashyap, a local.

Electric crematorium for animals in Varanasi

THE ASHES OF THE ANIMALS COULD BE USED AS FERTILIZER

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Varanasi, Sept 20: The Uttar Pradesh government is set to establish the state's first electric crematorium in Varanasi to dispose off bodies of animals.

This one of its kind crematoria has been designed in such a way that it can dispose off the bodies of around 12 big animals in a day.

The ashes of the animals could be used as fertilizer.

Anil Kumar Singh, additional executive officer, Zila Panchayat, said:



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

"The electric crematorium for animals is the need of an hour. The crematorium would come up in Cholapur development block and is expected to get operational by next month."

Singh said the estimated cost of the crematorium was around Rs 2.24 crore and it was being constructed on around 0.1180 hectares of land.

Initially it would be operated through electricity but later there were options to convert it to gas or solar power.

Bees to be used to keep elephants at bay

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Pilibhit, Sept 20: Incredible as it may sound but forest officials in Uttar Pradesh have decided to use tiny bees to keep elephants at bay and prevent man-animal conflict.

Naveen Khandelwal, the Divisional Forest Officer of Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR), said: "Beehives have produced outstanding results in drastically reducing the intrusion of elephants in cropped fields and village habitations in East African countries."

"Researchers have found that the tip of the elephant's trunk is extremely sensitive and goes through excruciating pain when stung by a bee. This makes elephants respond with alarm to the buzz of aggressive bees. They quickly move away from the sound source."



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE



The Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) and PTR authorities have now embarked upon an innovative plan that will ensure peaceful cohabitation by promoting bee-keeping and using advanced technology. The plan also encapsulates a coordinated strat-

egy to promote the replacement of the sugarcane crop, which is a savoury food liked by jumbos, with some other remunerative crops. Efforts are being made as a new elephant reserve, the Terai Elephant Reserve (TER), had been approved in principle by the Centre in April this year as an initiative of 'Project Elephant', which was to be set up in the joint forest area of DTR and PTR, measuring over 3,000 sq.km. The TER will be notified by the end of the current year and will ensure the protection of jumbos.

The Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) and PTR authorities have now embarked upon an innovative plan that will ensure peaceful cohabitation by promoting bee-keeping and using advanced technology

of the day quote

Loss and damage due to climate change will be a major topic for discussion at the 27th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC in Egypt in November

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

It pains my heart sometimes when anywhere from the globe there will be a voice totally disconnected from the ground reality of this country saying something adverse and that is picked by the media in high decibel

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

One of the first things that I did when I took over as the aviation minister was to put a carbon mapping profile of our airports. Two of our airports, Delhi and Kochi, are already carbon-neutral and India will have 92-93 carbon-neutral airports by 2024

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | AVIATION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Two consume poison; one dead

Banda: Fed up of being harassed by their father, who was out on parole, two sisters allegedly consumed poison here, resulting in the death of one, police said Tuesday. The incident took place in Parhri village under the Baberu police station area. Additional Superintendent of Police Laxmi Niwas Mishra said on late Sunday night, two sisters had consumed poison. Both the sisters were rushed to the Banda Medical College for treatment, where Priyanka (21) died on Monday. The younger sister Sapna (19) is undergoing treatment, he added.

Woman, 2 children found dead

Amethi: A 28-year-old woman and her two children were found dead inside their home in Kukharpur village here on Tuesday morning, police said. The deceased were identified as Sheetal, her son Nitesh (4) and daughter Nidhi (6), they said. The woman's mother-in-law used to live with them in the village while her husband Dharamraj Saroj works in Lucknow, police said.

Body recovered

Erode (TN): A six-year-old boy studying class one was found dead inside a building foundation pit here. According to the police, Abinash, son of Gurusamy of Umareddiyur Sundarampalayam Colony after attending school, came to the house on Monday. Few minutes later, he went to play. As he did not return home till 8 pm, the parents grew suspicious and searched him along with some neighbours.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sheopur, Sept 20: As the eight cheetahs brought from Namibia are trying to acclimatise to the new environment in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park, experts are monitoring them from a hole in a loft near their quarantine enclosures to ensure least human intervention, a forest official said.

All the cheetahs - five female and three male and aged between 30 to 66 months - are in good health and under the constant monitoring of experts, Divisional Forest

Tiwari sacked in bid to raise ryot's plight with PM

CONGRESS CHIEF SPOKESPERSON ATUL LONDHE SAID THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S ACT SHOWS THE TOTAL INSENSITIVITY OF THE BJP TO THE MISERY OF THE FARMERS IN MAHARASHTRA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 20: In a stunning move, the Maharashtra government has sacked Shiv Sena leader Kishore Tiwari as Chairman of the Vasantao Naik Sheti Swavlamban Mission (VNSSM), ostensibly for inviting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit the family of a farmer who committed suicide last Saturday.

Hitting back, Tiwari pointed an accusing finger at Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for the "lightning speed" in which he was relieved of responsibilities as the VNSSM chief.

Tiwari, ironically, was appointed to the crucial post in August 2015 by Fadnavis when he was the Chief Minister in the previous Bharatiya Janata Party-Shiv Sena coalition government (2014-2019).

The deceased farmer was Dashrath L. Kedari, 42, from Pune who penned a mentioned the Prime Minister in a suicide note - narrating his plight due to debts and other issues - before ending his life on Saturday.

The government's decision to sack Tiwari - accorded a MoS rank - came barely hours after he drew Modi's attention to how the



Pune peasant had wished the PM, consumed some pesticides and then jumped to his death into a pond on September 17.

"Top government officials privately inform that they were ordered by Deputy CM Fadnavis to remove me immediately from the VNSSM Chairman's post.

The official orders came late in the evening to me. I wonder if Fadnavis even consulted the PM and the CM, or acted independently," Tiwari claimed.

Slamming the government, Sena spokesperson Manisha Kayande said Tiwari was stripped of the VNSSM post in just two

hours after he raised the issue of the deceased farmer with the PM and agriculture-related problems.

"What is wrong in drawing the PM's attention to the issue? Rather than devising solutions to stop farmers' suicides, the state government decided to silence the person raising their cause. This is sheer vendetta and nothing but political terrorism," she said sharply.

Congress chief spokesperson Atul Londhe said that the state government's act shows the "total insensitivity of the B.J.P, Fadnavis and other top leaders" to the misery of the farmers in Maharashtra and elsewhere.

"Instead of hastily removing Tiwari, if their government had displayed the same speed to address the cause of the farmers, thousands of innocent lives could have been saved," Londhe pointed out.

Nationalist Congress Party's chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase felt Tiwari did "the right thing by speaking about the farmers' distress directly with the PM" and urging Modi to witness first-hand their sufferings in the state where he had launched his 'Chai Pe Charcha' (March 2014).

"The state government obvi-

ously was embarrassed and scared that they could be exposed as to what compelled a small farmer to wish Happy Birthday to the PM and then end his life. This is the price Tiwari has paid for highlighting the farmers' cause," he said.

In his letter, Tiwari had urged the PM to meet the farmer's family, or direct Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to go there during her upcoming visit to Pune soon.

The government retaliated with a terse notification issued by a Deputy Secretary Sanjay A. Dharurkar late on Monday, saying that the appointment of Tiwari - who was heading the VNSSM since August 2015 (when Fadnavis was the CM) - has been cancelled.

No reasons were assigned for the abrupt step in Dharurkar's order, and the Divisional Commissioner, Amravati, has been handed over the additional charge of VNSSM till further orders.

Unfazed, Tiwari vowed that he will continue to raise the farmers' voice without let-up as he has been doing for the past over 30 years, raise their demands and seek solutions from the state and Centre.

'PROMOTE MILLETS'

Popularly known as the 'Millet Man of India', Khadar Vali called upon farmers, agriculture scientists and policy makers to promote millets in agriculture to save soil, water, environment and, above all, human health



4 dead, 8 injured in Noida wall collapse



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Noida, Sept 20: A portion of a housing society's boundary wall collapsed here on Tuesday morning, killing four construction workers and injuring eight, police said.

All 12 who had been buried under the rubble while repairing a drain adjoining it at the Jal Vayu Vihar in Sector 21 around 10 am were labourers, they said. A team of Sector 20 police station later detained a sub-contractor, Gul Mohammad, who supplied labourers for the job, an official said.

Multiple JCBs were deployed to clear the debris of the collapsed stretch of the wall that was located adjacent to a drain, officials said as police and fire department personnel swung into action for immediate rescue and relief measures.

"A total of 12 labourers were pulled out of the rubble. Four of them died while others suffered injuries in the episode," Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Ashutosh Dwivedi said. The deceased have been identified as Pushpendra Singh (25), Panna Lal (25) and Amit (18), all from Budaun district in Uttar Pradesh, and Dharam Veer from Sambhal district, police said.

The injured was identified as Pappu Singh (25) of Budaun. He is undergoing treatment at the district hospital, they added. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath condoled the loss of lives in the incident, his office said.

"Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the loss of lives in the wall collapse incident in Gautam Budh Nagar. He directed senior officials

to rush to the spot and conduct relief work on a war footing," the Chief Minister's Office said in a tweet in Hindi.

He also directed the officials to ensure proper treatment of the injured, it said. Police Commissioner Alok Singh, Joint Commissioner Love Kumar and Noida Authority CEO Ritu Maheshwari reached the spot. Fire service officials, including its chief Arun Kumar Singh, are also there to oversee the relief work, the officials said.

Maheshwari said repair work was being carried out on the drain when the accident occurred. "The Jal Vayu Vihar society is an old-construction society. The boundary wall was also constructed by the society itself and looked weak," she said.

The work on the drain outside the society was being carried out on its request by a Noida Authority contractor through a tender, she said. "The labourers repairing the drain came under the wall which suddenly collapsed. There were 12-13 people at the spot. Of those rescued, one is injured and the remaining are fine," Maheshwari said. On the contractor being cautioned by locals that the boundary wall was weak, the Noida Authority CEO said the matter will be investigated.

"A joint investigation by police, district administration and Noida Authority will be carried out and if negligence is found on anyone's part then action will be taken against them. "The contractor was working on the drain and not the boundary wall," she said.

Stolen books found in Azam's varsity

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Rampur (Uttar Pradesh), Sept 20: The Rampur police have recovered stolen books from the library of Mohammad Ali Jauhar University, run by a trust headed by SP MLA Azam Khan.

The recovery has been reportedly made on the information provided by two friends of SP MLA Abdullah Azam, who were arrested earlier. The police have also recovered a government cleaning machine buried deep in a five feet pit.

According to the police spokesman, the books were stolen from Madrasa Alia in 2019. Additional Superintendent of police (ASP) Sansar Singh told reporters that the books of Madrasa Alia have been recovered from Jauhar University.

In 2019, 9,633 books were stolen from Madrasa Alia. Out of this, 6,000 books were yet to be recovered. Books are being taken out by breaking the wall. Azam is an accused in this theft incident.

The police had arrested Salim and Anwar, friends of MLA Abdullah Azam, three days ago on the basis of a viral video for gambling.

The cleaning machine of the municipality that was dug out in Jauhar University, is said to be worth crores of rupees and was bought by the Rampur municipality for cleaning during the SP government.



Security personnel deployed outside the INOX multiplex cinema during its inauguration ceremony, in Srinagar, Tuesday. Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the Valley's first multiplex theatre PFI PHOTO

HC orders demolition at Rane's bungalow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 20: The Bombay High Court Tuesday directed the Mumbai civic body to demolish the unauthorised construction at Union minister Narayan Rane's bungalow in Juhu area here, noting it had violated the Floor Space Index (FSI) and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) rules.

Floor space index (FSI) is the maximum permissible floor area that can be built on a particular plot or 'piece of land. A division bench of Justices R D Dhanuka and Kamal Khata said the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) cannot be permitted to consider and allow the second application filed by a company run by the Rane family seeking regularisation of the unauthorised construction as it would "encourage wholesale construction of unauthorised structures".

The court directed the BMC to demolish the unauthorised parts of the bungalow within a period of two weeks and submit a compliance report to the court one week thereafter. The bench also imposed a cost of Rs 10 lakh on Rane and directed for the amount to be deposited towards the Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority within two weeks.

Rane's advocate Shardul Singh



The court directed the BMC to demolish the unauthorised parts of the bungalow within a period of two weeks and submit a compliance report to the court one week thereafter

The court stay its order for six weeks so that he could approach the Supreme Court in appeal. The bench, however, rejected it. The court dismissed the petition filed by Kaalkaa Real Estates, a company owned by Rane's family, seeking directions to the BMC to decide their second application uninfluenced by orders passed by civic body earlier.

The BMC had in June this year rejected the regularisation appli-

cation, noting there were violations in the construction.

The company filed a second application in July, claiming it was seeking regularisation of a smaller portion as compared to what it had sought previously, and under new provisions of the Development Control and Promotion Regulation 2034.

The high court in its order said the BMC's stand that it could consider the second application for regularisation of the construction was inconsistent with its own order rejecting the first application. The bench noted that the HC had in June this year accepted the BMC's first order.

"If the regularisation application is allowed to be heard which the BMC is bent upon allowing, then it would lead to encouragement of wholesale construction of unauthorised structures," the court said.

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Punjab CM 'drunk' on plane? Scindia to verify

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 20: Amid Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's deplanning controversy, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Tuesday said that he will look into the matter based on requests.

"This was an incident on International soil. We will have to make sure that we verify facts. It is up to Lufthansa to provide data. Based on request sent to me, I will certainly look into it," the Minister told reporters here.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has already dismissed Opposition's charge that Mann was deplaned from the flight due to intoxication and said that the Opposition doesn't have issues to talk about and the Punjab Chief Minister had health problems.

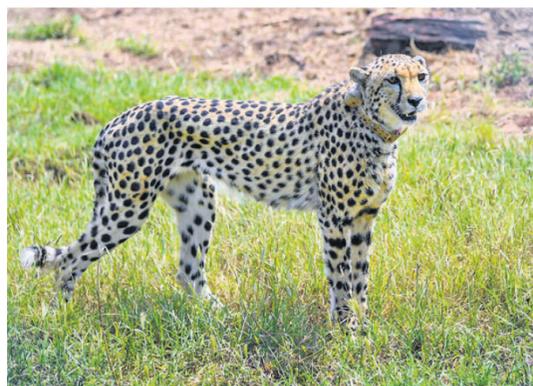


Earlier on September 19, Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal had posted on Twitter, "Disturbing media reports quoting co-passengers say Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was deplaned from a Lufthansa flight as he was too drunk to walk. And it led to a 4-hour flight delay. He missed AAP's national convention. These reports have embarrassed and shamed Punjabis all over the globe."

"Shockingly, Pb govt is mum over these reports involving their CM Bhagwant Mann. Arvind Kejriwal needs to come clean on this issue. Govt of India must step in as this involves Punjabi & national pride. If he was deplaned, GoM must raise the issue with its German counterpart," Badal had tweeted.

Experts keep close watch as cheetahs adapt to new environment

All the cheetahs - five female and three male and aged between 30 to 66 months - are in good health and under the constant monitoring of experts, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Prakash Kumar Verma said



ect to revive the population of the animal which became extinct in India in 1952.

Some members from the African

team of experts have gone back after witnessing the grand welcome of the cheetahs in their new home and ensuring they are now

under good care, officials said.

Namibian experts including veterinarian Dr Ana Vincent and two others, who brought the cheetahs here, are currently staying at the KNP while other members of the team have left the place, Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF) Uttam Kumar Sharma told PTI. Indian veterinarians Dr Jitendra Jatav and Dr Omkar Anchal from the Madhav National Park in Sheopur along with Namibian experts are keeping a watch movement of the cheetahs, DFO Verma said.

"The experts are monitoring the movements of cheetahs from a loft, located 50 to 100 metres from the enclosures, to ensure the felines do not sense human presence in the vicinity. The loft is covered with curtains and the movement of cheetahs is being witnessed from a hole," he said.

The Namibian team also brought health kits for the carnivores, he said, adding that adequate kits are also available with the park management here. A plan has been chalked out for the monitoring and keeping the cheetahs in good health, he said.

According to the protocol, the cheetahs need to be quarantined for a month each before and after shifting from one continent to another, he said. They were being fed buffalo meat as per the opinion of experts, he said, adding that all the felines appeared cheerful and in good spirits in their new home.

They were served food on Sunday evening for the first time since their arrival from the African country to India on Saturday, an official had said earlier. These animals are believed to take food once in three days, he added.

international



Russia endangers the whole world. We have to stop it before it's too late
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY | PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

TRAGIC INCIDENT

A Pakistani man allegedly set on fire his 12-year-old son for not doing homework. The incident took place September 14 when the father, Nazeer, poured kerosene oil on his son, Shaheer, and set him on fire in their Orangi Town house. The father was arrested and a case was registered against him



of the day quote

Consumption of contaminated water in flood-hit areas was leading to a surge in diseases including cholera, malaria, dengue and diarrhea in Pakistan

TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS | WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

China hopes that Pakistan will provide solid protection for the security of Chinese citizens and institutions in Pakistan as well as the lawful rights and interests of Chinese businesses

XI JINPING | CHINESE PRESIDENT

Venezuela is experiencing a situation of its resources having been illegally withheld, violating all international law by the US

YELITZE SANTAELLA | MINISTER OF EDUCATION OF VENEZUELA



A Palestinian man takes a quail out of a net in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip

1 person dying of hunger every 4 seconds: NGOs

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Geneva, Sept 20: One person is estimated to be dying of hunger every four seconds, over 200 NGOs warned Tuesday, urging decisive international action to "end the spiralling global hunger crisis".

"Organisations from 75 countries have signed an open letter expressing outrage at skyrocketing hunger levels and recommendations for action," the NGOs said in a statement, warning that "a staggering 345 million people are now experiencing acute hunger, a number that has more than doubled since 2019".

"A staggering 345 million people are now experiencing acute hunger, a number that has more than doubled since 2019," they said in a statement.

"Despite promises from world leaders to never allow famine again in the 21st century, famine is once more imminent in Somalia. Around the world, 50 million people are on



the brink of starvation in 45 countries," they said. Pointing out that as many as 19,700 people are estimated to be dying of hunger every day, the NGOs said that this translates to one person dying of hunger every four seconds.

"It is abysmal that with all the technology in agriculture and harvesting techniques today we are still talking about famine in the 21st century," Mohanna Ahmed Ali Eljably from the Yemen Family Care Association, one of the letter's signatories, said in the statement.

"This is not about one country or one continent and hunger never only has one cause. This is about the injustice of the whole of humanity," he said in a statement.

Global Fund gets powerful assistance

US President Joe Biden will host The Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment Conference, the public health partnership's fundraising campaign, Wednesday in New York



ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 20: The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria will get some high-powered help this week to reach its USD 18 billion goal to fund another three years to slow the spread of these diseases.

The Global Fund and the Clinton Global Initiative, which is holding its first gathering of political, business and philanthropic leaders since 2016 in New York this week, has also announced a new long-term partnership to drive donors of all sorts toward supporting The Global Fund's work.

Global Fund Executive Director Peter Sands told *The Associated Press* that fundraising through the Replenishment Conference is "always a bit of a rollercoaster."

However, he is hopeful that the fund will reach its goal by the end of the conference, even though he recognizes that donors, especially governments, face financial decisions complicated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

"Yes, there are many other demands and governments are facing lots of domestic political pressures around the cost of living, energy and all this kind of stuff," Sands said in a statement.

"But I think there's also recognition that however tough things might be in some of the rich countries in the world, the way these things are translating in poorer, marginalised communities is a matter of life and death."

He is encouraged by Japan and Germany pledging 30 per cent increases in their donations to The Global Fund, as well as the United States' increased participation.

If the Global Fund reaches its \$18 billion goal, it hopes to use the donations to save 20 million lives and avert more than 450 million new infections of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Since The Global Fund was created in 2002, it has saved 50 million lives and reduced the combined death rate from HIV, tuberculosis and malaria by more than half in the countries where the Global Fund invests.

That track record helps attract more investments.

Clinton Foundation Vice Chair Chelsea Clinton said the foundation has worked with The Global Fund for nearly two decades to fight HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, as well as build sustainable health systems in the countries the fund serves.

Russia unveils plan to annex parts of Ukraine

REUTERS

London/Kyiv, Sept 20: Russian-installed leaders in occupied areas of four Ukrainian regions set out plans for referendums on joining Russia this week, a step an ally of President Vladimir Putin said would alter the geopolitical landscape forever.

Russian officials portrayed the move as one that would give Moscow a claim to territory that it could defend with any means possible. Ukraine dismissed it as a stunt by Russia to try to reclaim the initiative after crushing losses on the battlefield.

"Sham 'referendums' will not change anything," tweeted Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba. Russian-installed officials announced planned referendums for September 23-27 in the Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia provinces, representing around 15% of Ukrainian territory or an area about the size of Hungary or Portugal. Russia already considers Luhansk and Donetsk, which it partially occupied in 2014, to be independent states. Ukraine and the West consider their parts of Ukraine illegally occupied by Russian invaders.

In a post on social media addressed to Putin, the leader of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR), Denis Pushilin, wrote: "I ask you, as soon as possible, in the event of a positive decision in the referendum - which we have no doubt about - to consider the DPR becoming a part of Russia."

Some pro-Kremlin figures framed the referendums as an ultimatum

- Four Russia-occupied regions announce referendum plans
- Votes will be held on whether to become part of Russia
- Votes will be held from Sept. 23-27
- Outcome of votes would be irreversible - Medvedev
- Ukraine and the West regard votes as sham and illegal



Vehicles drive past advertising boards, including panels displaying pro-Russian slogans in Luhansk

to the West to accept Russian territorial gains or face an all out war with a nuclear-armed foe.

"Encroachment onto Russian territory is a crime which allows you to use all the forces of self-defence," Dmitry Medvedev, a former Russian president and now hawkish deputy chairman of Putin's Security Council said on social media. "This is why these referendums are so feared in Kyiv and the West," he wrote. "They would completely change the vector of Russia's development for decades. And not just of our country. The geopolitical transformation of the world would be irreversible once the new territories were incorporated into Russia."

Washington and the West have so far said weapons they supply to Ukraine should not be used to fire on Russian territory, though they have not extended this to territory they view as unlawfully annexed,

such as Crimea, which Russia seized in 2014. Margarita Simonyan, editor-in-chief of the pro-Kremlin RT TV station, said the votes could either deliver a victory for Russia or a much wider and more serious war. "Today a referendum, tomorrow recognition as part of the Russian Federation, the day after tomorrow strikes on Russian territory become a full-fledged war between Ukraine and NATO and Russia, untying Russia's hands in every respect," Simonyan, who is regarded as a hardliner, wrote on Telegram.

But Ukrainian officials portrayed the move as one of desperation at a time when Russian forces are being pushed back. Andriy Yermak, chief of staff to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, dismissed the threat of referendums as "naive blackmail" and as a sign that Russia was running scared.

Flags back at full mast as mourning ends

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 20: The UK's 10-day state mourning came to an end with national flags back at full mast across government buildings Tuesday a day after Queen Elizabeth II's state funeral in London and a private burial ceremony in Windsor.

The Queen, Britain's longest-serving monarch, died peacefully at her Balmoral Castle residence in Scotland September 8. She was laid to rest beside her late husband, Prince Philip, in a private burial service at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle.

The government said over 250,000 people had turned out to queue for many hours over the past week to file past the Queen Lying-in-State at Westminster Hall ahead of her state funeral at Westminster Abbey in London Monday.

"The queue was phenomenal. It was a real team effort to enable people to have that moment to say goodbye. I want to thank everyone involved," UK Culture Secretary Michelle Donelan told the BBC. The Mayor of London's office said an estimated 80,000 people were in Hyde Park to watch the funeral events Monday, with several thousand gathered around large



The royal family will continue to observe another week of mourning announced by King Charles III

screens in all parts of the UK. The route from London to Windsor was lined with an estimated 100,000 people, according to Thames Valley Police.

President Droupadi Murmu represented the Indian government at the state funeral, which was attended by over 500 world leaders - dubbed the largest gathering of global heads of state and government in history. About 100 presidents

and heads of government were in the Abbey - including US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, and Canadian PM Justin Trudeau. Royal families from around the globe were also attended, including kings, queens and emperors from Denmark, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, Japan, Malaysia and Jordan. "It was a

Pakistan flood-borne diseases kill over 1.5K

REUTERS

Karachi, Pakistan, Sept 20: At least nine more people have died from water-borne diseases in flood-hit areas of Pakistan, officials said Tuesday, warning they risked losing control of the spread of infections in a crisis that UNICEF described as "beyond bleak".

An intense and long monsoon dumped around three times as much rain on Pakistan than on average in recent weeks, causing major flooding which killed 1,559 people, including 551 children and 318 women, according to the disaster management agency.

This figure does not include those killed by disease in the af-

termath. Hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the floods are living in the open and as flood waters spread over hundreds of kilometres start to recede, which officials say may take two to six months, stagnant waters have led to diseases like malaria, dengue fever, skin and eye infections and acute diarrhoea.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said the surge in diseases has the potential for a "second disaster". In Sindh, the region worst hit by the floods, the provincial government said nine people died of gastroenteritis, acute diarrhoea and suspected malaria Monday, bringing the total number of deaths from diseases to 318 since July 1.



SHORT TAKES

Uganda declares Ebola outbreak

Kampala (Uganda): Ugandan health authorities Tuesday reported that a man who died a day earlier had tested positive for the virus that causes Ebola. They said it's still unknown how the 24-year-old man became infected with Ebola. He lived in the central Ugandan district of Mubende, 150 kilometers (93 miles) west of the capital, Kampala.

Shehbaz Sharif to interact with Biden

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will get a chance to interact with US President Joe Biden this week on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York, according to a Foreign Office (FO) official. Sharif is among the world leaders attending the UNGA session who has been invited by President Biden to a reception in New York, The Express Tribune quoted the official as saying.

Nanmadol weakens to low-pressure

Tokyo: Typhoon Nanmadol became an extratropical cyclone Tuesday after it travelled across the Japanese archipelago to the Pacific, which left at least two people dead and 115 others injured. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said the large and powerful typhoon, the 14th of this year, transitioned into an extratropical low-pressure system after moving across the northeastern Tohoku region.

Alert level raised at Taupo volcano

Wellington: The alert level at New Zealand's Taupo volcano was raised to Level 1 for the first time Tuesday. Although this is the first time the volcanic alert has been raised to Level 1, this is not the first volcanic unrest at Taupo, said GeoNet, which provides geological hazard information for New Zealand. "There have been 17 previous episodes of unrest over the past 150 years. Several of these were more severe than what we are currently observing at Taupo," said a GeoNet statement.

Gunman shoots 3

Amarillo (US): A gunman shot three people, including two first responders, at the Tri-State Fair & Rodeo in Texas, before he was shot and wounded by sheriff's deputies, authorities said. Just before 11 p.m. Monday, a man opened fire on Potter County deputies working off-duty at the fair in Amarillo, Potter County Sheriff Brian Thomas said.

business

of the day quote

I don't want to sound cliché, but distance brings distrust. So, cut the distance down, have greater engagement with the government



NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

The Reserve Bank will continue to be supportive of its digital lending and will welcome it



SHAKTIKANTA DAS | RBI GOVERNOR

We are working towards a 'green tag' for all sustainable hotels on our platform



ANKIT GUPTA | OYO CEO

SHORT TAKES

Credit market grows 11.1 pc

Mumbai: Led by a 122 per cent spike in retail loan volume, the overall credit market grew 11.1 per cent in FY22 over the previous year to Rs 174.3 lakh crore, according to a credit bureau report. According to credit bureau CRIF High Mark, the total lending market stood at Rs 174.3 lakh crore as of March 2022, registering an 11.1 per cent growth over March 2021. Commercial, retail and microfinance lending portfolios contributed 49.5, 48.9, and 1.6 per cent, respectively to this growth. Giving a break-up, the report said personal loans saw a full 46 per cent growth in originations by value, and a much higher 122 per cent growth in originations by volume in FY22 over the previous year, and the sector is dominated by state-run and private banks along with non-banking entities.

Digit Insurance IPO on hold

Mumbai: Digit Insurance, a company backed by Canadian billionaire Prem Watsa's Fairfax Group, has had a planned initial public offering (IPO) put on hold, a Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulatory document showed Tuesday. The IPO has been kept in "abeyance" and certain observations have been issued, the document on SEBI's website said without elaborating. While SEBI gave no reasons for its decision, a source familiar with the watchdog's thinking said concerns had been raised by the regulator that privately held Digit issued shares to more than 200 individuals in the past financial year, which is not allowed under Indian laws and regulations. Digit will need to review SEBI's concerns and resolve them at an appropriate forum, the source added. A Digit spokesperson declined to comment and SEBI did not respond immediately to Reuters' queries.

KKR, Hero to invest \$450mn

Bangalore: US private equity giant KKR & Co Inc and India's Hero Group have agreed to invest \$450 million in the motorcycle maker's renewable energy arm, the companies said Tuesday, as the Indian firm looks to expand its renewable energy capacity. Hero Future Energies (HFE), founded in 2012, is an independent power producer with a diversified portfolio of 1.6 GW of operating solar and wind projects. "This investment will position HFE for continued growth and support its efforts to expand its renewable energy capacity and capabilities across technologies such as solar, wind, battery storage, and green hydrogen, and into new markets over time," the companies said in a joint statement.



The India that I look forward to, 25 years from now, (will be) a USD 25-trillion (economy)

KV KAMATH | CHAIRMAN OF NBFID

Retail inflation for farm, rural workers up in Aug

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: Retail inflation for farm and rural workers increased to 6.94 per cent and 7.26 per cent, respectively, in August mainly due to higher prices of certain food items.

In July, retail inflation for farm and rural workers stood at 6.60 per cent and 6.82 per cent respectively, a labour ministry statement said.

Food inflation stood at 6.16 per cent and 6.21 per cent for agricultural labourers (CPI-AL) and rural labourers (CPI-RL) respectively, in August 2022 compared to 5.38 per cent & 5.44 per cent respectively in July 2022 and 2.13 per cent & 2.32 per cent respectively during the corresponding month of the previous year.

The All-India CPI-AL and CPI-RL for August 2022 increased by 9 points each to stand at 1,140 and 1,152 points, respectively. The CPI-AL was 1,131 points in July 2022, while CPI-RL was 1,143 points in the month.

The major contribution towards the rise in general index of agricultural labourers and rural labour-



ers came from food group to the extent of 7.74 & 7.36 points respectively mainly due to increase in prices of rice, Wheat-Atta, Bajra, Maize, Pulses, Milk, Onion, Chillies Green/Dry, Turmeric whole, mixed spices, Vegetables & Fruits, Gur.

In case of agricultural labourers, it recorded an increase of 3 to 15 points in 20 states. Tamil Nadu with 1312 points topped the index table whereas Himachal Pradesh with 898 points stood at the bottom.

In case of rural labourers, it recorded an increase of 3 to 17

points in 20 states. Tamil Nadu with 1301 points topped the index table whereas Himachal Pradesh with 951 points stood at the bottom.

Amongst states, the maximum increase in the Consumer Price Index Numbers for agricultural labourers was experienced by Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh (15 points each) and for Rural Labourers by Jammu & Kashmir (17 points) mainly due to rise in the prices of rice, wheat-atta, chillies dry, vegetables & fruits.

Markets extend gains despite Fed overhang

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 20: The Sensex and Nifty chalked up gains for the second straight session Tuesday, propelled by across-the-board buying despite concerns over aggressive rate hikes by global central banks to tame inflation.

The US Federal Reserve along with its Swiss and British counterparts will announce their policy decisions later this week amid fears of the global economy tipping into recession due to rising interest rates.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 578.51 points or 0.98 per cent to settle at 59,719.74. During the day, it rallied 964.56 points or 1.63 per cent to 60,105.79.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty went higher by 194 points or 1.10 per cent to end at 17,816.25. In intra-day trade, it advanced 297.05 points or 1.68 per cent to 17,919.30.

Sun Pharma was the top gainer among the Sensex constituents, spurring 4.71 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Dr Reddy's, Tata Steel, Titan, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank and Asian Paints.

Only four counters closed in the red -- Nestle India, PowerGrid,

Infosys and Reliance Industries, shedding up to 0.64 per cent.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap index rallied 1.65 per cent and the smallcap gauge jumped 1.01 per cent.

All the BSE sectoral indices ended in the green, with healthcare jumping 2.81 per cent, followed by consumer durables (2.17 per cent), auto (1.59 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.47 per cent), metal (1.34 per cent) and commodities (1.29 per cent).

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended higher.

European equity markets were trading in the negative territory in mid-session deals. The US markets had ended with gains Monday.

Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.49 per cent to USD 92.45 per barrel.

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled 7 paise higher at 79.74 (provisional) against the US dollar Tuesday.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) turned buyers as they bought shares worth a net Rs 312.31 crore Monday, according to data available with the BSE.



Oil ministry says windfall tax response to dynamic situation

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 20: The oil ministry Tuesday said the levy of windfall profit tax was a response to a dynamic situation and its design provides for recalibration based on market inputs and feedback.

"Crude oil prices have witnessed extreme volatility in 2022. This has resulted in very high prices for end consumers at petrol pumps. Countries around the world have implemented various measures to mitigate the adverse impacts on consumers. Windfall tax is one of the measures which helps in dealing with the situation," the ministry said in a statement.

India first imposed windfall profit tax July 1, joining a growing number of nations that tax super-normal profits of energy companies. While duties were slapped on the export of petrol, diesel and jet fuel (ATF), a Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) was levied on locally produced crude oil.

"The extent of its applicability, reference period, amount of cess/tax/



duty, the incidence of tax liability, a mechanism for review are integral to such a tax," the ministry said.

The statement came on reports citing the ministry's August 12 letter to the finance ministry seeking a review of the windfall profit tax on domestically produced crude oil.

The ministry in the August 12 letter, seen by PTI, sought exemption for fields or blocks which were bid out to companies under Production Sharing Contract (PSC) and Revenue Sharing Contract (RSC), from the new levy. This on the premise that contracts provide for fiscal stability.

"It is clarified that the levy of SAED from July 1, 2022, was accompanied by the Government's

PLI schemes for more sectors: Goyal

New Delhi: The government is working to extend incentives under the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme to more sectors, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said Tuesday. The government has announced PLI schemes for 14 sectors, including white goods, textiles and auto components. Its objective is to make domestic manufacturing globally competitive, create global champions in manufacturing, boost exports and create jobs. There are demands for extending the scheme for sectors like toys, electronic components, furniture and bicycles.

PUJA COLLECTIONS OF CHANDI BHANDAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: Chandhi Bhandar, renowned city-based jewellers, has launched its latest Durga Puja collections.

The latest collections of silver jewellery, artefacts and much more are available at Chandhi Bhandar. They also have the latest in trend oxidised silver jewellery to accentuate puja outfits. They also have latest collection of silver idols of the Goddess along with silver utensils, diyas and much more to add a touch of

purity to our beliefs and rituals. Chandhi Bhandar has launched its special puja offer where customers get flat 25 per cent off on making charges. The offer is available at Chandhi Bhandar outlets in Saheed Nagar and Patia in Bhubaneswar, Udit Nagar in Rourkela and Amlapada in Angul. The offer is valid till October 5, 2022.

At Chandhi Bhandar it's a never-ending mission to provide their customers with the best product possible, whether it's in terms of design or silver quality.



Coal rush! Energy crisis fires global hunt for polluting fuel

REUTERS

Dar es Salaam, Sept 20: The sleepy Tanzanian port of Mtwara mainly dealt in cashew nuts until late last year. Now it bustles with vessels loading up with coal, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine drives a worldwide race for the polluting fuel.

Tanzania traditionally exports thermal coal only to neighbouring countries in east Africa; sending it further afield was out of the question, as it required trucking the material more than 600 km from mines in its southwest to Mtwara, the nearest Indian Ocean port. Europe's crippling energy crisis has changed all that.

Prices for thermal coal, used to generate electricity, have leapt to

record levels as a result of the war, which has led to many European countries losing access to vital supplies of natural gas and coal from their top provider Russia.

Buyers in Europe and beyond are now vying to pay top dollar for coal from often remote mines in places such as Tanzania, Botswana and even potentially Madagascar. The resurgent coal demand, driven by governments trying to wean themselves off Russian energy while keeping a lid on power prices, clashes with climate plans to shift away from the most polluting fossil fuel.

"European players, after the Russian war, are going to any place where there is coal," Rizwan Ahmed, managing director of coal miner Bluesky Minings said in



Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. "They are offering to pay very good prices." Commodities trader Cargill has seen a marked rise in coal shipments into Europe in recent months, said Jan Dieleman, president of Cargill's ocean transportation division, with the company transporting 9 million

tonnes of coal globally in the June-August period compared with 7 million a year earlier.

"Europe is competing with other buyers and the alternative is more expensive, which is gas," said Dieleman. "Europe should be able to source coal and we will see very

strong flows into Europe from Colombia, South Africa and even further away."

Even though the window of opportunity may be short should the geopolitical winds shift, some countries with coal resources see the margins to be gained as too good a chance to miss.

Front-month physical thermal coal at Australia's Newcastle port - a global benchmark - was trading at \$429 a tonne on Sept. 16, just below an all-time high of \$483.50 in March and up from around \$176/tonne this time last year.

Mtwara has seen 13 vessels load up with coal since November last year when it launched its first-ever coal shipment, according to a port official; the latest, the MV Miss

Simona, a bulk carrier with 34,529-tonne capacity, docked last week, loaded up and sailed off to France.

Since the end of June, 57 cargo orders - requests for available vessels - to ship Tanzanian coal have been seen on the spot freight market compared with just two in the same period last year, according to analysis from maritime and commodities data platform Shipfix.

Global seaborne thermal coal imports reached 97.8 million tonnes in July, the highest level on record and up more than 9% year-on-year, an analysis from ship broker Braemar shows. The volume dropped to 89 million tonnes in August, largely due to export disruptions from major producer Australia.

WINZO CHALLENGES GOOGLE POLICY

Indian gaming platform Winzo has sought injunction against Google's pilot project which will allow only select fantasy and rummy apps on its Play Store alleging that the move is "arbitrary, unfair and restrictive". WinZo said that the policy casts doubt over Google's stated position as an intermediary who are obliged to law to maintain platform neutrality.



EPFO adds 18.23L subscribers in July

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: Retirement fund body EPFO added 18.23 lakh new subscribers in July 2022, registering a 24.48 per cent rise as compared to the year-ago period, according to official data.

The provisional payroll data of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) released Tuesday highlighted that of the total net members added in July, around 10.58 lakh members have come under the social security cover of EPFO for the first time, a labour ministry statement said.

The data of new members joining EPFO has shown a growing trend since April 2022, it said.

Out of 10.58 lakh new members added, approximately 57.69 per cent are in the age group of 18-25 years. This shows that first-time job seekers are joining the organised sector workforce in large numbers following their education and new jobs in the organised sector are largely going to the youth of the country.

During the month, around 4.07 lakh members exited from the ambit of EPFO and 11.72 lakh members exited and rejoined EPFO. These members have chosen to retain their membership through the transfer of funds rather than opting for a final settlement. This may be attributed to various e-initiatives taken by EPFO for seam-



Gender-wise analysis of payroll data indicates that enrolment of net female members has been 4.06 lakh in July 2022, up by 34.84 per cent compared to that in July 2021

less and uninterrupted service delivery.

Gender-wise analysis of payroll data indicates that enrolment of net female members has been 4.06 lakh in July 2022, up by 34.84 per cent compared to that in July 2021.

Among the total new members joining EPFO during the month, enrolment of female workforce is recorded as 27.54 per cent, which is the highest in the last 12 months. This indicates that female participation is rising in the organised

workforce with respect to new members joining EPFO.

State-wise payroll figures highlight that a month-on-month growing trend in net member addition was observed in the states of Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh.

During the month, the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Gujarat and Delhi continue to remain in lead by adding approximately 12.46 lakh net members during the month, which is 68.36 per cent of the total net payroll addition across all age groups.

The classification of industry-wise payroll data indicates that mainly two categories i.e. 'expert services' (consisting of manpower agencies, private security agencies and small contractors etc.) and 'Trading-Commercial establishments' constitute 46.20 per cent of total member addition during the month. Higher enrolments have been noticed in industries namely, 'Schools', 'Building & Construction Industry', 'Financing Establishment' etc.

The payroll data is provisional since the data generation is a continuous exercise, as updation of employee records is a continuous process. The previous data hence gets updated every month. From the month of April 2018, EPFO has been releasing payroll data covering the period from September 2017 onwards.

Adani pledges shares of ACC, Ambuja worth about \$12.5bn

REUTERS

Bangalore, Sept 20: Adani Group has pledged shares worth about \$12.5 billion in two cement units, days after the conglomerate controlled by billionaire Gautam Adani completed the purchase of stakes in those businesses from Switzerland's Holcim.

The pledged shares of ACC and Ambuja were worth around 989.46 billion rupees based on Monday's closing prices and accounted for a 57% stake in ACC and a 63% stake in Ambuja Cements.

Deutsche Bank AG's Hong Kong branch, which is the agent for the pledged shares in ACC and Ambuja, made the disclosure in filings to India's stock exchanges.

The group in May announced the acquisition of Holcim's cement businesses in India for \$10.5 billion to become the country's No. 2 cement manufacturer. After the completion of the deal, Adani said Saturday that production capacity at the cement units was expected to double by 2027.



Oz tear into Indian attack Saliva ban now permanent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mohali, Sept 20: India's frailties with the ball were laid bare as Australia gunned down a formidable 209-run target rather comfortably for a four-wicket win in the first T20I here Tuesday.

KL Rahul (55, 35b, 4x4, 3x6) and Hardik Pandya (71 n o, 30b, 7x4, 5x6) helped India post a daunting 208/6 after Australia put the hosts in to bat.

Australia were dominant in the run chase, romping home in 19.2 overs. Last year's World Cup hero Matthew Wade (45 n o, 21b, 6x4, 2x6) and Cameron Green (61, 30b, 8x4, 4x6) played special knocks to make short work of a stiff target.

It was a formidable total but the way Australia started, an early finish was on the cards. Opening for the first time in international cricket, Green was in a menacing mood as he hammered comeback man Umesh Yadav (2/27) for four successive boundaries in his first T20 since February 2019.

There wasn't heavy dew but no swing was on offer for both Umesh and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (0/52). The batters were able to hit through the line, making the Indian attack look very ordinary.

The stand out bowler for India, Axar Patel (3/17), removed opposition skipper Aaron Finch to get a much-needed breakthrough. However, more carnage was in store as Green, who is not even part of Australia's T20 World Cup squad, toyed with the bowling while Steve Smith (35, 24b, 3x4, 1x6) enjoyed from the other end.

In the eighth over, he slog swept Yuzvendra Chahal (1/42) for a couple of sixes and a four for a 19-run over. India dropping Green and Smith also did not help their cause.

At 109/1 in 10 overs, Australia were running away with the contest before India fought back with three quick wickets, two of those coming



SPLENDID SHOW: Cameron Green looks towards the legside after playing a sweep shot during his innings; (inset) Matthew Wade goes for pull shot during Australia's match against India, Tuesday

via Rohit Sharma's brilliant DRS calls, which sent Smith and Glenn Maxwell back in the hut. With five wickets in hand, Australia needed 55 off the last 24 balls.

However, Australia debutant Tim David (18) in the company of the experienced Wade went ballistic in the death overs to complete a fine run chase. Two big overs in which Bhuvneshwar leaked 15 and Harshal 22 sealed the home team's fate.

Earlier, Rahul made a statement with a high-quality knock before Hardik smashed an unbeaten 71. Suryakumar Yadav (46, 25b, 2x4, 4x6) also played some breathtaking

strokes. Expecting dew, Australia opted to bowl.

After Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli fell cheaply, Rahul and Suryakumar shared a 68-run stand off 42 balls. Rahul's walk across the stumps to dispatch Josh Hazlewood (2/39) over the cow corner made his intent clear before he whipped Green (1/46) for a massive six over deep square leg. Suryakumar's style of play is often awe-inspiring and the Mohali crowd got to see him at his lethal best.

India were able to maintain their tempo in the middle overs as Suryakumar picked up leggie Adam

Zampa for two successive sixes over long on and deep midwicket.

Hardik then took over and pushed India past 200. He smashed three consecutive sixes off Green in the 20th over including a flat one in the mid wicket region. The last five overs yielded 67 runs.

BRIEF SCORES
INDIA 208/6 (Hardik Pandya 71 n o, KL Rahul 55, Suryakumar Yadav 46; Nathan Ellis 3/30, Josh Hazlewood 2/39) **lost to AUSTRALIA 211/6** (Cameron Green 60, Matthew Wade 45 n o, Steve Smith 35; Axar Patel 3/17, Umesh Yadav 2/27) **by 4 wickets.**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 20: The use of saliva to polish the ball was Tuesday banned permanently as the ICC announced a slew of changes to its Playing Conditions, which will come into effect October 1.

The game's governing body also changed running out of the non-striker by the bowler from the 'Unfair Play' section to the 'Run out' section.

The changes were announced after the Chief Executives' Committee (CEC) ratified recommendations made by the ICC Cricket Committee, led by former India captain and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly.

The ICC had earlier barred use of saliva to shine the ball in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Custodian of cricket laws, the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in March had completely banned its application in its amendments to the 2022 code.

"This prohibition has been in place for over two years in international cricket as a Covid-related temporary measure and it is considered appropriate for the ban to be made permanent," the ICC said in a statement.



Regarding run-outs at non-striker's end, the ICC said the playing conditions will follow "the Laws in moving this method of effecting a Run out from the 'Unfair Play' section to the 'Run out' section."

Earlier, running out a non-striker for backing up too much was considered unfair but such

“I was pleased with the productive contribution of the Committee members which resulted in key recommendations being made. I thank all members for their valuable input and suggestions”

SOURAV GANGULY

SOME MAJOR CHANGES BY ICC

When a batter is out 'Caught', the new batter will come in at the end the striker was, regardless of whether the batters crossed prior to the catch being taken

An incoming batter will now be required to be ready to take strike within two minutes in Tests and ODIs, while the current threshold of ninety seconds in T20Is remains unchanged

Among other changes to the Playing Conditions, the ICC said some part of the striker's bat or person has to remain within the pitch and "should they venture beyond that, the umpire will call and signal Dead ball" Any ball

which would force the batter to leave the pitch will also be called 'No ball'

Any unfair and deliberate movement while the bowler is running in to bowl could now result in the umpire awarding five penalty runs to the batting side, in addition to a call of Dead ball

The penalty for the failure of a fielding team to bowl their overs by the scheduled cessation time leads to an additional fielder having to be brought inside the fielding circle (30 yards) for the remaining overs of the innings in the T20s will now be adopted in ODIs as well

dismissals have often triggered heated debates on spirit of the game with several players such as off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin advocating for it as a fair mode of dismissal.

In another change, the practice of bowlers throwing the ball towards striker's end before delivery in an attempt to run-out the batter will not be considered now.

Previously, a bowler who saw the batter advancing down the wicket before entering their delivery stride, could throw the ball to attempt to Run out the striker. This practice will now be called a 'Dead ball'.

Mandeep terms Pro League good test ahead of WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 20: Star Indian forward Mandeep Singh Tuesday said the upcoming Pro League will be a perfect platform to "test" themselves ahead of the marquee FIH World Cup, set to be held in Odisha next year. Ahead of the World Cup 2023, the Indian team will compete in the Pro League from October 28-November 6.

"It is always good to compete against strong teams before a major competition. The Pro League will be helpful once again to prepare ourselves for the World Cup, and will also give us a chance to test ourselves before the tournament," the 27-year-old said in a Hockey India statement.

The Olympic bronze medalist Indian team was drubbed 7-0 by Australia in the final of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.



The fifth ranked Indian team is placed in a tough Pool D along with England, Spain and Wales. The group topper will make the quarter-finals straightaway while the next two teams will have to fight it out in the cross-overs.

"Our Coach Graham Reid always tells us to focus on what we can control and not worry about things beyond our control. Irrespective of which teams we have in our group, we are focusing on preparing ourselves to the best of our skills, and according to our plans," Mandeep said.

"We are confident that if we stick to our basics, and focus on the areas where we need to improve upon in training, we will be able to perform well in the tournament and have a great showing," he added.

The quadrennial showpiece will be held across two venues in Odisha across Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, and will see 16 teams compete in the tournament.

"There is always an excitement in the air when we get a chance to play in front of the home fans. Getting a chance to perform against the best teams in the world once again in India will be an exciting affair and hence, we are eager for the World Cup to begin," he concluded.

BATTLE FOR POST OF PRESIDENT IN HOCKEY INDIA ELECTIONS

Katyal, Nath stand in way of Tirkey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: Former India captain Dilip Tirkey, who is the frontrunner for Hockey India president's post, will be up against Uttar Pradesh Hockey chief Rakesh Katyal and Hockey Jharkhand's Bhola Nath Singh in the elections of the national federation to be held October 1.

But there is a twist in the tale as Uttar Pradesh Hockey secretary general RP Singh has requested Katyal to withdraw his nomination and support Tirkey instead.

"We are happy to know that a former player like Dilip Tirkey has filed his nomination for president. I request Mr. Rakesh to take back his nomination. I am sure that Mr. Rakesh will think about the development and growth of hockey and take back his nomination," Singh wrote in his letter to Katyal. "We believe Dilip will take right steps towards the development of hockey and we wish him luck."

Katyal, however, said that he is yet to take a call on whether to contest or not. "I have filed my nomination letter for president's post. Yes, I got a request to withdraw my nomination but I have not made up my mind yet. As of now I am in the race but if things work out between all parties, I might as well withdraw," he told this agency. The last date for withdrawal of nominations is September 23.

The 44-year-old Tirkey, a player-turned-politician and administrator, is the country's most capped



Dilip Tirkey files his nomination, September 18, for the president's post in HI elections

PIC: TWITTER

player with 412 international caps.

Hockey Jharkhand president Bhola Nath, a former national-level wrestler, has also thrown his hat in the ring for the president as well as secretary general's positions.

Besides Bhola Nath, Delhi Hockey president Hitesh Sindwani

and Hockey Maharashtra vice president Manoj Bhore will also be contesting for the secretary general's post. Bhola Nath too confirmed that he has filed his nomination for both the positions.

As per Hockey India Constitution, it is mandatory to

have one male and one female nomination for the vice president and joint secretary's positions.

Hockey Jammu & Kashmir's Asima Ali and Hockey Karnataka chief SVS Subramanya Gupta are the lone woman and male candidates for the vice president's post.

Smriti moves to 2nd in T20Is, 7th in ODIs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 20: Star India opener Smriti Mandhana Tuesday achieved a career-best World No.2 rank in T20Is and climbed to the seventh spot in ODIs in the latest ICC Women's Player Rankings, riding on her stupendous show against England.

The left-handed batter had aggregated 111 runs in the three-match T20I series against England. The performance helped her jump two places.

Mandhana, a former top-ranked batter in ODIs, also jumped three slots to number seven after a match-winning 91 in the first ODI against England.

Among other Indians, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur has zoomed four spots to ninth place in ODIs, all-rounder Deepti Sharma gained one place to reach 32nd position and wicketkeeper Yastika Bhatia jumped eight places to 37th following India's seven-wicket win in Hove on Saturday. Deepti also climbed six places to 12th in bowlers' list.

For England, Emma Lamb and Sophie Ecclestone have gained three slots each and are 64th and 72nd among batters, respectively, while Charlie Dean is up to 86th in the list.

Dean is also up four places to 20th among bowlers, while Kate Cross is in the top 10 after grabbing two wickets with her seam bowling. In the T20I rankings, Kaur (up



one place to 14th among batters), new-ball bowler Renuka Singh (up three places to 10th among bowlers) and spinner Radha Yadav (up four places to 14th among bowlers) made notable gains. All-rounders Sneha Rana and Pooja Vastrakar are in joint-41st position.

England's Sophia Dunkley jumped 12 spots to 32nd after leading the run-aggregate with 115 runs in the T20I series, while Alice Caspey is now 20th among batters.

Zimbabwe players Sharne Mayers (up 28 places to 39th among batters), captain Mary-Anne Musonda (up 10 places to 50th among batters) and Precious Marange (up 24 places to 34th among bowlers), who are featuring in the ongoing ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier in Abu Dhabi, have also moved up the rankings.

EVES AIM FOR RARE SERIES WIN IN ENGLAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Canterbury, Sept 20: A confident Indian team will back itself to seal its first series victory in England since 1999 with another win over the hosts in the second women's ODI here Wednesday.

Having endured a woeful 1-2 defeat in the T20I series, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led Indian side raised its standards in all the departments of the game to bounce back in three days' time and defeat England by seven wickets in the series-opener at Hove on Sunday.

England are missing some of their senior players but India looked a much better team in the first game and they would be looking to ride the momentum.

In 1999, the Indian team had won the ODI series 2-1 with Anjum

Chopra striking a hundred and a half century.

It is also a farewell series for the great Jhulan Goswami as India do not have any 50-over assignment till June 2023. Playing her first game since March, the 39-year-old world record holder for most wickets showed little signs of rustiness and was the most economical among the lot, returning with figures 10-2-20-1.

Indian vice-captain Smriti Mandhana led the batting show with a sublime 99-ball 91, while wicketkeeper batter Yastika Bhatia also struck a fifty, before skipper Harmanpreet finished off the clinical chase with an unbeaten 74.

The captain will be expecting the middle-order to step up and hope opener Shafali Verma does well as she has not scored a half-century in more than 10 innings now.

England on the other hand will hope that their batters put up a big total as they will rely heavily on in-form Sophia Dunkley, who had a successful T20I series.

Dunkley and Alice Caspey once again looked dangerous in the middle before a one-handed catch by Harmanpreet broke the partnership and triggered a collapse.

If India manage to win the second game, it will be a massive confidence booster for a team trying to find its feet in 50-over cricket.

India squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Sabbini Meghana, Deepti Sharma, Yastika Bhatia (wk), Pooja Vastrakar, Sneha Rana, Renuka Thakur, Meghna Singh, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Harleen Deol, Dayalan Hemalatha, Simran Dil Bahadur, Jhulan Goswami, Taniyaa Bhatia and Jemimah Rodrigues.

