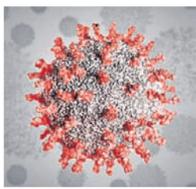




INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Actor Tabu will join a bevy of Hollywood stars to introduce prize winners at the Toronto film festival

LEISURE P2



KARNA RATTLED

Karnataka's Covid death rate stands at 1.62 pc and the state govt intends to reduce it to below 1 pc

TWO STATES P7



BEIRUT FIRE

A month after the explosion, a huge fire broke out at the Port of Beirut, triggering panic

INTERNATIONAL P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



10 hours on Kangana, 6 on Rhea... Remaining 8 hours will be on postman spotted near Kangana's house!

SHORT TAKES

2 SOG jawans killed in Kandhamal

Bhawanipatna: Two SOG jawans were killed in action while one Maoist was gunned down in an exchange of fire between security forces and Maoists Wednesday in a forest near Sirki village under Belghar police limits of Kandhamal district. The two jawans have been identified as Sudhir Kumar Tudu and Debasish Tudu. The two jawans were killed in an encounter with the Maoists, who had set up a camp in the midst of the forest.

Woman, son charred alive

Keonjhar: An elderly woman and her son were burnt to death as some looters allegedly torched the house inside which the two were sleeping inside an abandoned Anganwadi centre in Kaligaon village under Nandipada police limits in Keonjhar district late Wednesday night. The deceased have been identified as Janjali Jena and her son Banamali Jena. The two had seen a group of miscreants loot a nearby shop and had identified the goons.

MARKET WATCH

| INDEX | VAIATION |
|--------|-------------------|
| SENSEX | 38840.32 ↑ 646.40 |
| NIFTY | 11449.30 ↑ 171.30 |
| DOLLAR | 74.00 ↓ ₹0.15 |
| EURO | 87.12 ↑ ₹0.36 |
| GOLD | ₹51,535 ↑ ₹133 |
| SILVER | ₹68,950 ↑ ₹507 |

WEATHER

| | BHUB | CTK |
|----------|----------------------|--------|
| TEMP MAX | 31.2°C | 31.4°C |
| TEMP MIN | 26.1°C | 24.8°C |
| Humidity | 94% | 85% |
| Rainfall | Trace | Nil |
| Forecast | Generally cloudy sky | |

Serum Institute pauses Covid vax trials in India

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 10: The Serum Institute of India, which is manufacturing the coronavirus vaccine Covishield being developed by the Oxford University along with pharma major AstraZeneca, said Thursday it will stop Phase 3 trials that were to begin in India next week. AstraZeneca stopped vaccine trials across four nations as a precautionary measure after a volunteer in the UK showed some potentially adverse symptoms.

The Serum Institute, headed by Adar Poonawalla, was issued a showcause notice by the country's drug controller DCGI Wednesday, which questioned why it was continuing the trials in India though it has been stopped elsewhere. The DCGI also questioned why it has not received a report detailing the symptoms of the patient in the UK.

"We are reviewing the situation and pausing India trials till AstraZeneca restarts the trials," read a statement from the Serum Institute, which was still doing the groundwork for the trial including listing volunteers. The trials were to be held on 1,600 volunteers across 17 sites in India and were expected to begin next week. "We are following DCGI's instructions and will not be able to comment further on trials. You can connect with DCGI for more updates on this front," added the statement.

After the DCGI notice, the Serum Institute had said Wednesday evening,



Record single-day spike in state

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha Thursday reported its highest single-day spike of 3,991 new COVID-19 cases, taking the states tally to 1,39,121, a Health Department official said. Eleven more fatalities pushed the death toll to 591, he said. Most of the new cases were detected in Khurda where 687 people tested positive, followed by Cuttack (392) and Puri (332), the official said. The fresh deaths were reported from eight districts, he said.

➤ The Serum Institute was issued a showcause notice by the country's drug controller DCGI Wednesday, which questioned why it was continuing the trials in India though it has been stopped elsewhere

➤ The New York Times reported that a person was diagnosed with transverse myelitis, an inflammation of the spinal cord generally caused by infections

"We are going by DCGI's direction and so far were not told to pause the trials. If DCGI has any safety concerns, we will follow their instructions and abide by the standard protocols."

AstraZeneca, the British-Swedish pharma giant, said Wednesday that the UK volunteer had suffered "an unexplained illness" and such pauses in drug trials were "routine".

The New York Times reported that a person was diagnosed with transverse myelitis, an inflammation of the spinal cord generally caused by infections, citing unnamed sources. The Serum Institute's move came amid concerns over

the coming tests in India.

"I was horrified to read last night @8:15pm that Serum Institute said it was continuing with its vaccine trials. I immediately got in touch with senior govt officials & am glad the Drug Controller has since issued show-cause notice. Safety standards ARE & MUST be same world over," former Union minister Jairam Ramesh had tweeted.

The race for a vaccine has become more intense worldwide as the coronavirus pandemic rages on. India, which is the world's second worst-hit nation, has recorded close to 97,000 cases in a day, the highest daily jump so far.

Indian troops at vantage point at Pangong lake

The Indian Army has pointed that its forces will retaliate if Chinese troops make provocative military moves

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 10: Even as Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops continue to occupy positions on Finger 4 at Pangong lake in eastern Ladakh, Indian soldiers have occupied some heights overlooking PLA positions in the north bank areas, sources said.

"Our troops have occupied some heights overlooking the positions occupied by PLA," said a source adding that it is a precautionary deployment instead of pre-emptive action.

Sources said Indian Army troops that specialise in mountain warfare had managed to take over these vantage points north and south of Pangong lake. Sources said that now movement of Chinese troops, vehicles, and new Chinese defences are visible at north and south banks of Pangong lake. In some places heavily-armed troops are in close proximity.

The troops are not on high alert at these positions. The Indian Army has clearly pointed that its forces will retaliate if Chinese troops make provocative military moves.

The Indian Army has occupied heights that allow it to dominate the

India-China FMs meet in Moscow

MOSCOW: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is meeting his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in an attempt to defuse tension after a spike in hostilities along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the de facto border between the two nations. The foreign ministers are in Moscow to attend a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting. They met at a Russia-India-China lunch earlier. The talks are taking place against the backdrop of a fresh stand-off at the southern bank of Pangong Tso Monday.

Chinese Moldo garrison and the Spangur Gap under Chinese control. Both India and China lay claim to some of these heights.

One of the most critical heights the Indian Army is manning is the Rechin La, which the Chinese are protesting against. The Chinese have made multiple attempts to dislodge Indian troops from the mountain heights.

The north bank of the lake is divided into 8 fingers that are contested by both sides.

NEW BIRD IN ARSENAL



IAF helicopter display team Sarang performs during the Rafale induction ceremony at the airbase in Ambala, Thursday (Report on P9)

State allows Durga puja sans revelry

- Idol size to be less than 4ft
- Maximum 7 persons can gather at puja pandals/mandaps
- There shall be no public darshan of the idols
- No immersion procession, musical or entertainment programme is allowed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Following a directive of the Orissa High Court, the state government has allowed observance of Durga Puja, Laxmi Puja, Kali Puja and other pujas during September to November, but with certain riders.

Though all religious places are closed for the public till September 30, the government has allowed observance of pujas during next three months in compliance with the high court's directive.

"Having regard to the order dated 31.8.2020 passed by the High Court in WP(C) PIL No 21016/2020, the state government hereby directs that the guidelines shall be followed for observance of Durga Puja, Laxmi Puja, Kali Puja and other similar Puja during September, October and November of 2020," Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy said an order issued Thursday.

For conducting pujas in puja pandals/mandaps, the organisers will have to apply and obtain necessary permissions from the district Collector or other officers authorised by him/her. For Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, the Police Commissioner or any other officer authorised by him will grant the

permission. Pujas will be conducted in indoor-like condition only for observance of rituals without public participation, pomp and grandeur, the order said.

Puja pandals/mandaps will be fully covered on three sides while the 4th side will also be covered in such a way that there will be no public view of the idols.

"There shall be no darshan by public/devotees. The size of idol shall be less than 4 feet. There shall be no use of public address system," it said. Not be more than seven persons, including organisers, priests and support staff, will be allowed to be present in the puja pandal/mandap at any time.

As per the guidelines, all persons present at puja pandal/mandap will have to follow all Covid protocols like social distancing, mask use, personal hygiene and sanitation issued by government in letter and spirit.

This year, the government has also banned immersion procession and musical or any other entertainment programme for the pujas. The idols will be immersed in artificial pond created by the local administration for the purpose.

District collectors, municipal commissioners and Police Commissioner have been instructed to ensure strict enforce the guidelines. Any person violating these measures will be liable to be proceeded against in accordance with the provisions laid down under Disaster Management Act, 2005, the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and Regulations issued there under. Besides legal action under Section 188 of the IPC and other legal provisions will also be taken against the violators, the government warned.



Cats 'catching' nCoV at far higher rates than thought

NONE OF THE CATS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 OR DISPLAYED SYMPTOMS AND NONE OF THESE FELINES HAVE DIED

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Beijing, Sept 10: Chinese researchers have found that cats may be catching the novel coronavirus at far higher rates than thought before, which could mean they have unique ways of fighting off the virus.

Researchers from Huazhong Agricultural University, in the Chinese city, took blood samples from 102 cats. Nasal and anal swabs were also collected.

The study, published in the journal Emerging Microbes & Infections, shows Covid-19 antibodies present in 15 of the blood samples taken from the cats. Of these, 11 cats had neutralizing antibodies - proteins that bind so successfully to a virus they block the infection.

None of the cats actually tested positive for Covid-19 or displayed obvious symptoms and, according to the results of return visits, none of these felines have died, the study said.

The sample of cats looked at included 46 abandoned from three animal shelters, 41 from five pet hospitals, and 15 cats were from Covid-19 patient families.

The three cats with the highest levels of antibodies were all owned by patients who had been diagnosed with Covid-19, whilst there were also signs of cats being infected with the virus by other cats from those that were abandoned or based in the pet hospitals.

The research team stated that whilst there is currently no evidence for cat-to-human transmission,



precautions should be considered. "Although the infection in stray cats could not be fully understood, it is reasonable to speculate that

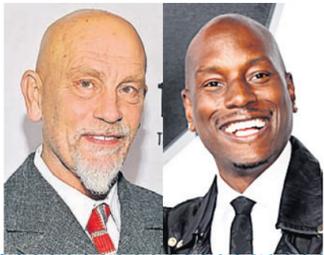
these infections are probably due to the contact with SARS-CoV-2 polluted environment, or Covid-19 patients who fed the cats," said

study lead author Meilin Jin.

The team assessed the type of antibody reactions in thorough detail and was able to describe the dynamic characteristics of the antibodies found.

Amongst many discoveries within the antibodies, they saw that the type of reaction produced by the cats resembles those observed in seasonal coronavirus infections, implying that the cats that have had SARS-CoV-2 infection "remain at risk of re-infection". The authors stated that this is a similar transient antibody response to also be observed in humans and that their study should be used going forwards as a "reference for the clinical treatment and prevention of Covid-19".

leisure



MALKOVICH, GIBSON TO LEAD RED 48

Veteran actor John Malkovich and *Fate of the Furious* star Tyrese Gibson are set to feature in upcoming action movie *Red 48*. The movie will be directed by Jon Keeyes of *The Harrowing* fame from an original script by Mickey Solis, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*.

BONG JOON-HO TO PRODUCE SEA FROG

South Korean filmmaker Bong Joon-Ho has joined Participant Media's immigrant drama *Sea Frog* as a producer. The project is based on Bong's 2014 production *Haemoo*, which was South Korea's official entry for the Best Foreign Language Film category at the 2015 Oscars.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
A tough, action-packed day ahead! There may be difference of opinions with friends over trivial matters, but you will thrive on it. But all pending work will be completed, much to your relief. It's a promising and optimistic day, says Ganesh!

TAURUS
Today, you may have something at the back of your mind that will grip you with its complexity, says Ganesh. Speak freely as your words are capable of making a great impact on others. You may not be willing to confront unpleasant situations today. Don't worry, the stars seem in your favour, predicts Ganesh.

GEMINI
Today, you would love to spend as much time alone as possible with your sweetheart, says Ganesh. A casual conversation between the two of you may culminate into a sensual consummation. In the evening, you will keep people charmed with your wit and wisdom, feels Ganesh.

CANCER
There is a fat chance that you will take pleasure in the company of your close friends and relatives, predicts Ganesh. You may have an awesome time with your mate. There may be a few minor problems here and there, but your family will rally behind you and will help you in solving your problems.

LEO
You are blessed with a visionary's creative streak. Perhaps, that's why, you see things differently from others. Today, thanks to the stars, your creative side will surge forth with renewed vigour. You will generate ideas effortlessly and continuously as you reach your creative peak. Just remember that having an imaginative mind means learning lessons from the past and visualising a better future.

VIRGO
There will be dirt on your shoulder today, so dust it off, says Ganesh, because every time you fall you will get up stronger than before. Your logic and analytical skills will help you find the necessary precision to accomplish tasks at work. You may spend the evening with a close friend or your beloved, engrossed in a stimulating conversation.

LIBRA
Gear up to play the peace maker today! Your ability to handle a "Brady Bunch" hasn't gone unnoticed. So expect to be put in charge of handling disputes among your subordinates at work today, hints Ganesh. Research work may slow to a crawl today, but the offshoot is that it's an auspicious day to enter into new contracts.

SCORPIO
Ganesh feels a taxing and demanding day may be at hand today. Things might baffle you so much that you might lose your ability to think clearly. The battle is not lost because your power of resilience will be the silver lining. Address one problem at a time and take the slow and steady path, advises Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
A la phoenix from the ashes, find yourself reborn as the perfect family person. You are bound to shower love and care on your betrothed. Children, too, will receive your share of love, and they will love it. Enjoy spending quality time with your loved one, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
It's a lucky day for your sweetheart! Wonder why it's written in your horoscope? You will pamper him/her to the hilt, take them out on a shopping spree and buy whatever they lay their eyes on, even if it's way beyond reasonable, says Ganesh. You will go overboard to make your love feel that nothing else matters, and this lavish outing will serve the purpose.

AQUARIUS
Your ideas are bang on target today! Everything you touch turns into gold. You have it in you to make it big, and the time is now. When the going gets tough, the tough get going – you've heard this before, now it's time for some action, says Ganesh.

PISCES
Stabbing with a pen is so much more satisfying than slicing with a sword. With these lofty ideals in mind, you will launch an assault upon your unsuspecting prey with your lethal presentation skills, eliciting cries of sheer ecstasy and tremendous applause. Don't get carried away though, says Ganesh.



Tabu to present major awards at TIFF

NEW DELHI: Actress Tabu will join a bevy of Hollywood stars to introduce prize winners at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) Tribute Awards this year, September 15. This was announced on the verified Twitter handle of the festival. "The TIFF20 Tribute Awards will be hosted by Chloe Wilde and Tyrone Edwards, with special presenters including: Colin Farrell, Ava DuVernay, Tabu, Regina King, Olivia Colman, Jodie Foster, and Delroy Lindo," read a post on Twitter. It was earlier declared that Mira Nair's *A Suitable Boy*, starring Tabu and Ishaan Khatter, has been chosen to close the Toronto International Film Festival 2020. Canadian pop sensation Shawn Mendes will also perform at the celebrity-driven TIFF awards show this year. Honorees of 2020 include Kate Winslet, Anthony Hopkins, directors Chloe Zhao, Mira Nair and Tracey Deer and Grammy-winning composer Terence Blanchard. Amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, TIFF's award season gala is going digital this year with at-home acceptance speeches and career retrospectives for trophy winners, reports *hollywoodreporter.com*.

Paresh Rawal appointed NSD chairman

NEW DELHI: Veteran actor Paresh Rawal has been appointed the new chairman of National School of Drama (NSD). The prestigious institute announced the news Thursday on its verified Twitter account. "We are glad to inform Hon'ble President of India @rashtrapitbhn has appointed renowned actor & Padma Shri @sir-pareshrawal as chairman of @nsd_india. NSD family welcome the legend to shower his guidance to NSD for achieving new heights," read the tweet. Rawal, also a politician affiliated with the Bharatiya Janata Party, started his acting career in the eighties. Widely re-

spected for his versatility, he has impressed with numerous award-winning art house performances as well as roles as the villain and the comedian in mainstream Hindi films. Rawal was honoured with a Padma Shri in 2014, and he won the National Film Award in 1994 as Best Supporting Actor for *Woh Chokri* and *Sir*. Among his many popular roles are *Naam* (1986), *Shiva* (1990), *Tamanna* (1996), *Aitraaz* (2004), *Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!* (2008), *OMG: Oh My God!* (2012), and *Table No. 21* (2013).



Shibani calls Ankita a 'princess of patriarchy'

MUMBAI: After Ankita Lokhande slammed Rhea Chakraborty for allegedly allowing late Sushant Singh Rajput to consume drugs, actress-veejay Shibani Dandekar has come out in support of the latter. Talking to Instagram Story, Shibani called out Ankita and described her as 'princess of patriarchy'. "Such a grotesque letter by (Ankita). This princess of patriarchy who has never dealt with her own relationship issues with Sushant, clearly she wants her two seconds of fame and has capitalised on Rhea being targeted. "She has played a major role in this 'witch-hunt' and she needs to be called out! She also just needs to shut the hell up. Enough Ankita! No one has more hate in their heart (?) than you," Shibani wrote. The late Sushant's girlfriend Rhea has been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act for her alleged role in the drugs angle that came during investigation into his death case.



'Unseen' Indian art collection heads to auction

HISTORY OF THIS COLLECTION BY A DANISH FAMILY IS CLOSELY TIED TO ONE OF INDIA'S MOST INFLUENTIAL BUSINESSES OF THE 20TH CENTURY

NEW DELHI: A long-forgotten collection of never-before-seen modern Indian art, including unpublished artworks by master artists VS Gaitonde and Ram Kumar, will go under the hammer for the first time at Sotheby's in London September 29, the auction house announced Wednesday. Assembled by Gunnar Hansen and his wife Inger almost half a century ago, the history of this collection is closely tied to that of one of India's most influential businesses of the 20th century, Larsen & Toubro, for whom Gunnar worked for over 20 years.



Sotheby's, an international auction house where the collection would be sold

While helping to make L&T the company it is today, Hansen also made a life for himself and his family in India. Hansen and his wife, Inger, moved from Denmark to India in 1953, and it was in Bombay they

acquired their passion for modern Indian painting. As per Sotheby's, the family were regular visitors to Gallery Chemould and Pundole Art Gallery, where they met the great Indian modernists and amassed

their superb collection. According to Ishrat Kanga, Head of Sotheby's London Modern & Contemporary South Asian Art Sale, the collection is a 'true hidden gem'. "All of the paintings offered here

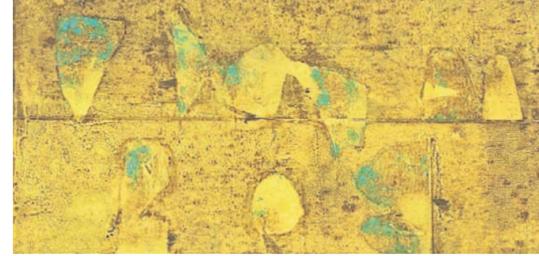
have rarely been seen in public, if ever, before. The pieces were acquired by the Hansens in India in the 1960s and 1970s, soon after leaving the artist's studios and have been treasured by the family for some 40 to 50 years."

One of their first purchases was an exquisite red, orange, black and ochre Untitled canvas by VS Gaitonde, estimated at \$1.5-2 million (roughly Rs 14 crore- Rs 19 crore). Another is a Ram Kumar painting from the same year, hung in their dining room. The painting is accompanied by a personal letter from the artist in which he asks for copies of a greeting card Hansen had produced with the image of the work.

Other important artists represented in the Hansen collection include Krishen Khanna, Mohan

Samant and Piraji Sagara, and are offered alongside long-overlooked artists that will be offered in a Sotheby's sale for the first time: Nareen Nath, Triloke Kaul, Homi B. Patel, S.R. Bhusan and Sanat Thaker. The collection includes 18 works in total by 15 different artists

and the upper estimate translates to almost Rs 23 crore. The sale also offers a selection of works from the estates of Bhupen Khakhar and Patwant Singh. The sale will be on public exhibition from September 25-29 at Sotheby's London.



One of VS Gaitonde's masterpieces

PEANUTS



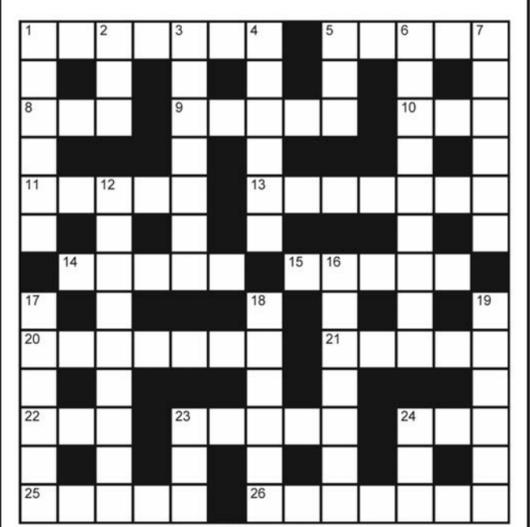
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
1 Chef's collection
5 Hot coal
8 Aircraft compartment
9 "Behold!"
10 Decompose
11 Rock bottom
13 Light lager
14 Neuters
15 Sang-froid
20 Worship
21 Characteristic
- Down**
22 Egg cells
23 Red Sea peninsula
24 Beret
25 Raw fish dish
26 Mexican dish
- 6** Between Alaska and Siberia (6,3)
7 Stop working
12 Foreign dignitaries
16 Beats with brain power
17 Golfers' marks
18 Before butter or brittle
19 Paradise
23 Schuss
24 Chinese tea

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | D | B | | 2 | | A | | 4 | | |
| | | 6 | 1 | | | A | D | 7 | | |
| | | 3 | B | C | | 8 | E | 2 | | |
| | | | | 5 | B | | | 1 | | |
| 2 | 1 | | | 3 | 7 | 6 | | 5 | | |
| | | 4 | 0 | | 7 | | | 5 | | |
| 9 | | 7 | | 2 | 6 | | D | C | 8 | B |
| C | | 6 | 1 | 5 | | 9 | 2 | 7 | | |
| 3 | 5 | | | 9 | 0 | | | E | A | |
| 0 | | | E | D | 7 | C | | | 3 | |
| A | | | | 1 | 9 | | | | 5 | D |
| | 8 | | B | | | | E | 1 | | |
| | | | E | C | | D | | | B | 2 |
| | 6 | | | 9 | | 7 | | | | 8 |
| C | D | | | 5 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 6 | | |

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | H | E | R | M | I | T | S | T | A | C | O | S |
| F | O | R | B | I | D | S | P | U | M | A | S | |
| T | A | T | E | I | P | P | | | | | | |
| S | A | L | S | A | M | I | D | L | I | F | E | |
| S | C | O | N | E | S | J | O | G | G | E | D | |
| U | N | I | D | | | | | | | | | |
| M | E | A | N | D | E | R | D | R | A | M | A | |
| A | R | A | I | B | L | V | | | | | | |
| T | H | O | R | N | S | E | A | S | I | D | E | |
| R | L | L | E | F | E | R | | | | | | |
| A | L | L | E | F | E | L | I | N | E | S | | |

SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | 3 | D | B | 6 | 4 | 5 | E | A | 2 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 7 |
| 9 | 6 | B | 8 | C | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 4 | D | 3 | A | E | 5 |
| 0 | 1 | 7 | A | S | D | 9 | 6 | 2 | B | 8 | E | C | 3 | 4 |
| 2 | 8 | 4 | 1 | E | 0 | 3 | B | C | 7 | A | 5 | D | 9 | 6 |
| 5 | E | A | 3 | 9 | 7 | 4 | D | 8 | 6 | 1 | C | B | 0 | 2 |
| B | 5 | 6 | C | 0 | 3 | D | 7 | 9 | 1 | E | 4 | 8 | 2 | A |
| 1 | A | 0 | 5 | 4 | 6 | E | C | 3 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 7 | D | B |
| 4 | 2 | C | 9 | A | E | 0 | 8 | 1 | D | B | 7 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| 7 | D | E | 2 | 8 | 1 | B | 5 | 6 | C | 3 | A | 9 | 4 | 0 |
| 0 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 6 | A | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | C | 2 | 0 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 5 | B | E | |
| E | B | 5 | 4 | 3 | C | 8 | 9 | D | 0 | 7 | 6 | 2 | A | 1 |
| 6 | 7 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 5 | A | 4 | B | E | 2 | D | 3 | C | 8 |
| A | 0 | 3 | E | 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 9 | C | B | 4 | 6 | D |

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

Pradhan dedicates 56 CNG stations to nation

CENTRE PLANS TO SET UP 100 LNG STATIONS ALONG GOLDEN QUADRILATERAL AND 5,000 COMPRESSED BIO-GAS PLANTS IN THE COUNTRY



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/ Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Thursday dedicated 56 compressed natural gas (CNG) stations to the nation through videoconferencing.

The newly-commissioned CNG stations will strengthen the efforts to have a clean and green future for the country, Pradhan added.

The Petroleum Minister claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to provide affordable and clean fuel to all. "Today, many CNG stations have been dedicated to the nation. Efforts are on to make India a gas-based economy. A target has been set to provide natural gas to 5 crore houses in the country through pipelines," Pradhan said.

The Union Minister further revealed that a plan has been chalked out to set up 100 LNG stations along the Golden Quadrilateral. This apart, the Government of India is progressing towards establishment of 5,000 compressed bio-gas plants across the country, he added.

Pradhan claimed that the Central government is giving priority to natural gas and a target has been set to raise the share of natural gas use to 15 per cent from the present level of 6.3 per cent. "Now, the work for 17,000 km gas pipeline is going on in the country. The CGD network

Today, many CNG stations have been dedicated to the nation. Efforts are on to make India a gas-based economy. A target has been set to provide natural gas to 5 crore houses through pipelines

is being expanded to provide eco-friendly fuel to people. Natural gas is being provided to households, industries, commercial establishments and transport sector," Pradhan said.

The Petroleum Minister revealed that steps are being taken to provide incentives for CBG and bio-fertilizer production.

According to Pradhan, India is the third largest energy consumer in the world after China and the USA. The energy consumption in India is rising rapidly. The Prime Minister is working towards reducing the pollution level in the country, he said.

"Reforms have been introduced in energy sector to attract new investors," Pradhan added.

The Union Minister asked the marketing companies to keep an eye on the future. "Competition in energy sector will help fixing appropriate price for the consumers," he said.

Coming soon: Certificates to be stored in DigiLocker

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: As part of 5T model of governance, the state government has planned to issue higher education certificates and mark-sheets online from next financial year.

Higher Education secretary Saswat Mishra Thursday asked the vice chancellors of all state-run universities and principals of all government and non-government autonomous colleges to mandatorily use National Academic Depository (NAD) for online issuance of academic certificates and mark-sheets.

Under the Odisha Right to Public Services Act-2012 (ORTPSA), academic certificates and mark-sheets are mandated to be issued to students within stipulated time.

"Under the 5T initiative, the state government has decided to convert more and more physical service delivery systems to online service delivery systems. Therefore, universities and colleges need to switch over to online service delivery system at the

Universities, autonomous colleges have been asked to use the National Academic Depository system before March 2021

earliest," Mishra wrote to the VCs. All universities and colleges were instructed to use NAD instead of each institution individually developing its own online service delivery module.

NAD is an initiative of Ministry of Education (erstwhile Ministry of Human Resources Development) to facilitate digital issuance, storage, access and verification of academic certificates issued by academic institutions. NAD intends to do away with difficulties/inefficiencies of collecting, maintaining and presenting physical certificates. UGC is the authorised body for implementation of NAD

Low pressure to trigger heavy rain

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: The fresh low pressure area (Lopar) to be formed around September 13 will bring heavy rainfall in south Odisha districts for three days beginning September 12.

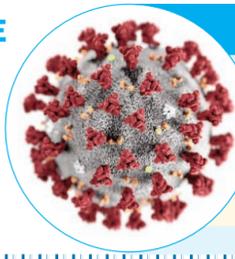
As per IMD forecast, the Lopar will form over west-central Bay of Bengal off Andhra Pradesh coast. Under its impact, heavy rainfall is likely to occur in the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada,

Gajapati and Kalahandi September 12. Some places of Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kandhamal and Rayagada will witness heavy rain the next day. Heavy rainfall would occur at one or two places over Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Kalahandi and Koraput Sept 14. Thunderstorm with lightning will occur in Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Gajapati, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Keonjhar, Friday.



PRAYERS FROM DISTANCE

Devotees gather in front of Chandhi temple in Cuttack as the main gate of the shrine was opened temporarily for Ghata Puja, Thursday. The temple has been shut for people due to Covid-19 pandemic



COVID-19 TRACKER

| | INFECTED | RECOVERED | DEAD |
|--------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| World | 2,81,12,048 | 2,01,73,040 | 9,09,570 |
| India | 44,65,863 | 34,71,783 | 75,062 |
| Odisha | 1,39,121 | 1,08,001 | 591 |

Skill training not enough to tackle joblessness

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Sept 10: A year after taking charge of world's largest democracy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in July 2015 had launched the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) - one among several skill development programmes to address the issue of unemployment in the country.

The programme that aimed at imparting training to around 1 crore youth in four years realised its goal of providing short term training to 40.27 lakh candidates till January 2020. However, not even 50 per cent of the trained candidates could get jobs during the four years which asserts that mere launching of skill development programmes is not enough to provide employment to the youths.

According to the government data, around 73.47 lakh candidates were trained and given orientation under Short Term Training (STT) courses and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) across the country in four years i.e. 2016-2020 under PMKVY. As many as 40.27 lakh candidates were imparted STT and 33.20 lakh were given RPL till January 2020.

Out of the candidates imparted STT, only 16.6 lakh, less than half of

the total, could get placement between 2016 and January 2020.

Similarly, out of 1.2 lakh candidates imparted STT under PMKVY in Odisha, only 49,130 got placement in four years.

The PMKVY aims at training a minimum of 300 million skilled people by 2022 in order to address the issue of unemployment.

Some unaddressed issues

Apart from the launch of skill development programmes, the government needs to look after other factors such as working environment and remuneration system. According to Subroto Bagchi, the head of Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA), candidates often avoid to migrate to other states for jobs after getting trained due to accommodation issues. He said there is no worker housing provision in the country. As they do not get enough payment, it becomes difficult for candidates to bear accommodation and other expenses in other cities.

Another issue Bagchi highlighted is the contractual system where a company does not employ a person directly. He said that 90 per cent



Pic for representation

SCHEMES FALLING FLAT!

The programme that aimed at imparting training to around 1 crore youth in four years realised its goal of providing short term training to 40.27 lakh candidates till Jan 2020

Around 73.47 lakh candidates were trained and given orientation under Short Term Training courses and Recognition of Prior Learning across the country in 4 years

However, not even 50 per cent of the trained candidates could get jobs during the four years

OP SPECIAL

of the people who get employed in the country after being trained by the government are not employed by the employer directly. Companies often hire employees through a contractor and the payments are made to them by these contractors. Further, the wage is not enough and adequate to survive in big cities.

"A major reason for relatively lower placement rate of the PMKVY programmes has been non-residential nature of the same which impacts the quality of intake, the

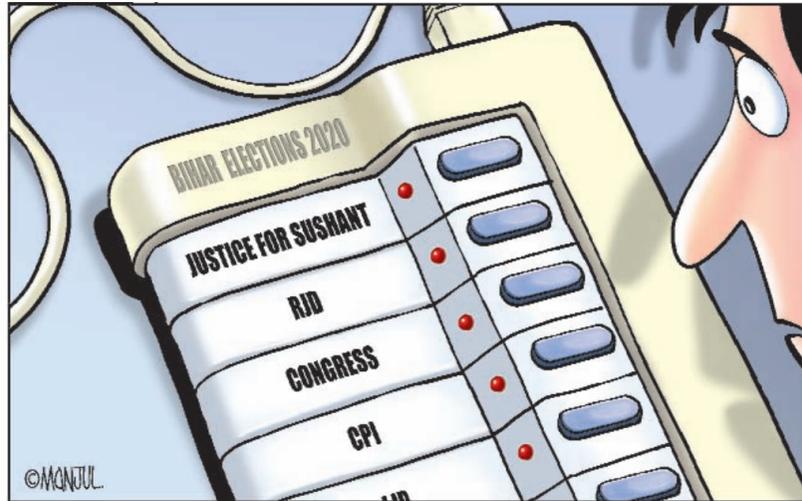
How Odisha has fared on job front

The state had set a target of training 11 lakh candidates under various categories of skill development programmes in last five years, from 2014 to 2019. The OSDA revealed that as many as 2, 71, 880 candidates were trained and 1,51,492 candidates were provided jobs under placement linked programmes conducted through DDU-GKY, PMKVY, state's own Placement Linked Training Programme (PLTP) and through institutions like CTTC which comes to around 56 per cent during 2016 to 2020. The authority also said that in addition to this many youths opt for self employment and up-skilling after completion of their training programmes.

The state government also said that from 2019, a new 5-year plan has been announced and this carries a target of 1.5 million youth.

commitment of the training institute, a candidate's seriousness as well as employer interest," said Rashmita Panda, CEO of OSDA.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Nitish rings Naveen to back RS dy chief pick

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: With only four days remaining for the election to the Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman post, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Thursday dialled his Odisha counterpart Naveen Patnaik seeking his support for NDA nominee Harivansh Narayan Singh for the post.

Harivansh, a Janata Dal (United) MP, filed the nomination for the post Wednesday.

JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar requested Patnaik to extend the BJD's support to Harivansh Narayan Singh for the post, a source at the Chief Minister's residence, 'Naveen Niwas', said. Patnaik's BJD had supported Harivansh in the last election as well, he said.

Further word from the BJD president has not been received so far, the source said. The monsoon session of the Parliament is scheduled from September 14 to October 1. The election for the Deputy Chairman's post is likely to be held on the first day of the session. The nomination filing process began on September 7 and will conclude September 11. The election for the

post was necessitated as the incumbent Harivansh completed his term as a member of the Rajya Sabha earlier this year. He was sent to the Upper House of Parliament again from Bihar.

In 2018, he had defeated Congress's BK Hariprasad and was elected the deputy chairman. Harivansh is likely to be re-elected to the post as BJP floor managers are confident of securing the support of about 140 MPs, including the fence-sitters YSR Congress, TRS and BJD. The strength of the BJP-led NDA has also gradually increased to more than 114 in the house with an effective strength of 244 members as there is one vacancy.

Floor managers of NDA are trying to build a consensus among all parties so that Harivansh could be elected unanimously.

The Congress has decided that the opposition will put up a joint candidate for the post and it will reach out to various parties in this regard.

BJD has nine members in Rajya Sabha of the 10 seats from Odisha, while the other one is held by the BJP. BJD's Ashwini Baishnab was elected to Rajya Sabha with the support of BJD in June last year.

Gangrape of minor: OSCPCR seeks report

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: The Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSCPCR) Thursday sought an action-taken report (ATR) from Commissionerate Police in connection with gangrape of a minor girl here involving the employees of a television channel and a police official.

The OSCPCR Chairperson, Sandhyabati Pradhan, asked the Commissionerate Police to submit

the ATR and arrest the all the seven accused persons within 48 hours of the receipt of the direction.

She also asked Khurda Collector to take stringent action against the Managing Director of the channel who allegedly tried to suppress the incident despite repeated complaints by the victim's mother.

On the other hand, the victim's mother Thursday met the Chairperson of State Commission for Women, Minati Behera, at her residence demanding stringent ac-

tion against the culprits.

Notably, the mother of the victim in her complaint with the Mahila police alleged that the girl was gangraped by seven persons including a cop and several employees of the regional news channel for around 15 days during the lockdown between April and May.

She also accused the culprits of recording videos of the incident and threatened the victim to post it on social media.

ZONAL OFFICE: BHUBANESWAR ZONE
Star House, 1/10, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli,
Bhubaneswar-751015, Tel: 0674 - 2362251/2362246,
Email: zo.bhubaneswar@bankofindia.co.in

REQUIREMENT OF PREMISES
Detailed notification inviting offers for premises near Sum Hospital for our **Sum Hospital Branch**, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha are available in our website www.bankofindia.co.in. Prescribed format for submission of offer may be obtained upto 5.00 P.M. of 24.09.2020 from our office at above address. Alternatively, the format can be downloaded from our website. Last date for submission of offer is upto 5.00 P.M. on 25.09.2020 at Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar.

Zonal Manager, Bhubaneswar Zone

NOTICE
This is to notify that pursuant to Section 233 of the companies Act, 2013 and Rule 25(5) of companies (Compromise, Arrangement & Amalgamations) Rules, 2016 **M/s. Bhagawati Steels Private Limited**, Registered Office at C/o. Seven Star Steel Ltd., Kalendamal, Gudigaon, Kolabira, Jharsuguda, Odisha - 768202 and Plant at Badmal Chowk, Jharsuguda, Odisha - 768202 has been merged/amalgamated with **M/s. Penguin Trading and Agencies Limited**, Registered Office at 8/1/2, Dr. U.N. Brahmachari Street, Surabhi, 5th Floor, Kolkata - 700017 by order of Regional Director(ER), Kolkata vide Order No. RD/IT/32266/S-233/20/1632 and 1633 Dated 31st July 2020 from 31st July 2020. All business of **M/s. Bhagawati Steels Private Limited** will be business of **M/s. Penguin Trading & Agencies Limited**.

For
M/s. Bhagawati Steels Private Limited

State sees biggest 1-day jump in COVID-19 cases



DEPRESSING TREND

11 more fatalities, including two each in Khurda, Cuttack and Puri, pushed the COVID-19 death toll to 591

With 3,991 fresh cases, Odisha's coronavirus tally stands at 1,39,121

Most of the new cases were detected in Khurda where 687 people tested positive, followed by Cuttack (392) and Puri (332)

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: The State Thursday reported its highest single-day spike of 3,991 new COVID-19 cases, taking Odisha's tally to 1,39,121, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

Meanwhile, 11 more fatalities pushed COVID-19 death toll to 591, said the official.

Most of the new cases were detected in Khurda where 687 people tested positive, followed by Cuttack (392) and Puri (332), the official said.

The fresh deaths were reported from eight districts, he said.

While two patients each died in Khurda, Cuttack and Puri districts, one each succumbed to the infection in Bhadrak, Ganjam, Koraput, Nayagarh and Rayagada districts, the official said.

Ganjam has reported most of the deaths at 214, followed by Khurda where 82 people have so far died. Meanwhile, 2,706 persons recovered Thursday, taking the total recoveries in Odisha to 10,8001.

Odisha has so far tested 22.73 lakh samples for COVID-19, including 47,161 Wednesday.

Constable dies of nCoV; 8 more test +ve in Puri

PURI: A 35-year-old constable deployed at Satasankha outpost under Pipili police station here succumbed to COVID-19 Thursday, an official said.

Constable Umesh Sethy died while undergoing treatment at a dedicated COVID hospital in Bhubaneswar. After developing flu-like symptoms, Sethy had undergone swab test at Capital Hospital about four days ago, the official said, adding that he was later shifted to the COVID hospital after his report came out positive.

Meanwhile, eight personnel of Pipili police station tested positive for the viral infection Thursday. Pipili inspector in-charge (IIC) Gouranga Prusty said, requesting public not to visit the place for at least a week.

Sources said that Pipili sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) has also tested positive for the virus. The police station and the outpost have been disinfected, the official pointed out.

Notably, the district reported 387 COVID-19 cases Thursday, which is third highest in Odisha after Cuttack (392) and Khurda (687).

Collection of biomedical waste begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: With an increasing number of COVID-19 cases being directed to home isolation, the civic authority Thursday deployed special vehicles and an agency for door-to-door collection of biomedical wastes from COVID-19 patients under home quarantine.

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) along with Jagruti Welfare Organisation will now aim to collect and transport biomedical wastes from about 100 houses per vehicle on a daily basis. As per sources, the civic authority has deployed four vehicles which will be further increased with the rise in home isolation cases.

"We will provide a detailed list of home isolation patients on daily

HOME ISOLATION WORRIES

Bio-medical waste will be collected through double-layered non-chlorinated disposable plastic bags

The wastes comprising syringes, discarded medicines, used masks/gloves drainage, urine, body fluid bags will be further transported and dumped at waste disposal centre in Tangiapada near Khurda

basis. One nodal officer will be appointed for monitoring and supervision of the work. We will also educate the houses where a COVID positive patient is under home isolation for following the protocol by disposing all bio-medical medical waste in the polythene bags provided by Jagruti and not to mix it with general household waste in order to prevent any hazards," stated Deputy Commissioner of Sanitation, Suvedhu Sahu.

Furthermore, following the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) guidelines, the bio-medical waste will be collected through double-layered non-chlorinated disposable plastic bags. The waste that comprise used syringes, discarded medicines, used masks/gloves drainage, urine, body fluid bags will be further transported and dumped at waste disposal centre in Tangiapada near Khurda.

Moreover, Jagruti will also ensure sanitisation of its vehicles with 1 per cent Sodium Hypochlorite solution after each trip as laid down under the guidelines issued by CPCB. It will also collect bio-medical waste through double-layered non-chlorinated disposable plastic bags. As per the agreement, BMC shall pay Rs 5,750 per vehicle to Jagruti for collection of bio-medical waste in the city in a month.

"Jagruti will also maintain utmost caution and due diligence in handling of bio-medical waste for collection and transportation of bio-medical waste and ensure safety of its workers in compliance with the CPCB norms. We will increase the number of vehicles if home isolation cases rise," Sahu added.

Sambalpur nominated for national disability welfare award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: The state government has nominated Sambalpur district for the national award on disability rehabilitation for its work on welfare of differently-abled in the state.

In an official communication to the Ministry of Social Justice, the Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department has recommended the name of the district for their work done towards rehabilitation of the differently-abled.

The department has submitted its proposal to the ministry for declaration of Sambalpur as the best district of a state engaged in welfare and rehabilitation of the persons with disabilities for the national award for the welfare and rehabilitation of the differently-abled.

According to sources in SSEPD department, nomination of the district was made due to the works done by district administration for the differently-abled in different sectors of their lives.

It is reported that the district has performed far better than other states in the livelihood options of the differently-abled.

It has the record of disbursing 1,000 Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) loans for the differently-abled on a single day.

IN COVID TIMES



Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation officials hold an awareness event on COVID-19 at Unit-II market in Bhubaneswar while shoppers flout social distancing norms at the marketplace, Thursday

PHOTOS: BIKASH NAYAK

BUTA condemns tinkering with varsities Act

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 10: Berhampur University Teachers' Association (BUTA) has condemned the promulgation of the Orissa Universities Act 1989 with an ordinance, at an online Google meeting recently.

According to BUTA president Bibhuti Bhushan Mahapatra, the Orissa Universities Act 1989 was originally intended to bring in reforms in the state-run universities, strengthening them academically and equipping them with efficiencies.

But the amendment being brought in has scrapped the senate system and empowers syndicate as the apex decision making body and introduces government representation in syndicate in addition to enhancing tenure of vice chancellors.

It also suggests recruitment of faculties through Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC). The state Cabinet has approved the ordinance which has since received the Governor's assent much to the discomfiture of BUTA members, stated BUTA secretary Dr Sadananda Nayak.

Webinar by nursing teachers' assn

Cuttack: A four-day national webinar by the Odisha chapter of Indian Nursing Teachers' Association commenced Thursday. Odisha government's Sevika director Sanjukta Sahu inaugurated the webinar. Nursing registrar Laxmi Rani Tudu, Odisha Nursing Teachers' Association president Bijaylaxmi Das, secretary Rita Lenka and senior nursing teachers Pravat Tripathy, Kalyani Rath, Mercy John and Anuradha Panda were present on the occasion. More than 1,800 nursing teachers from across the country participated in the webinar. The webinar stressed simplification of nursing education in the country and the use of technology to boost the teaching process. Das highlighted the aspects of modern methods for nursing teaching while delivering the inaugural address.

Come Oct, SHGs to collect water tax in Silver City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 10: If things go well, members of women self-help groups (SHGs) will collect water tax at several wards under Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) here beginning October this year.

According to CMC sources, the selection of SHGs for the ambitious initiative, 'Jal Sathi', is in progress.

As many as 59,055 households under the CMC have piped water connection. APL consumers pay Rs 134 a month by way of water tax, while BPL consumers pay Rs 53 monthly.

"Many consumers, however, don't pay tax in time. On the other hand, neither the CMC nor the public health officials could take any bold step to ensure on-time collection of water dues. Under such scenario, the CMC's move is expected to go a long way in collection of pending as well as the current water taxes," said a source.

According to sources, the civic body's decision to rope in women SHGs for the initiative will not only help timely collection of water tax, but will also help them become self-reliant.

"The women SHGs have already been engaged at Aahaar centres



AS MANY AS 59,055 HOUSEHOLDS UNDER THE CMC HAVE PIPED WATER CONNECTION

APL CONSUMERS PAY RS 134 A MONTH BY WAY OF WATER TAX, WHILE BPL CONSUMERS PAY RS 53 MONTHLY

MANY CONSUMERS, HOWEVER, DON'T PAY TAX IN TIME

and pond cleaning among other income generating activities. The SHG members will get a percentage of the amount collected. The selection process of SHGs will be finalised by September 15 and collection of water tax by them will begin this October," a senior CMC official said.

Cases may dip by Sept-end: PH director

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Key officials looking after public health in the state have opined that the COVID-19 situation in Odisha may improve by the end of September.

Niranjana Mishra, director of State Public Health department, said that by September-end there could be some relief from the pandemic and maintained that it can happen only if people adhere to all the safety guidelines related to the pandemic.

"It is very tough to predict the reduction in positive cases but it is likely that by the end of September the cases may drop. However, it is quite tough to precisely predict. This will also depend on how religiously the citizens abide by the COVID rules and cooperate with

We are allowing home isolation for the asymptomatic persons and most people now are under home isolation. People are favouring home isolation in such cases. 80 per cent of the cases in the state are asymptomatic. Home isolation puts the patients in a better condition due to better nursing and personalised care

NIRANJANA MISHRA | STATE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

the government in reducing new infections," he said.

He also said that 50 per cent of the COVID Hospital beds are now occupied on an average but said that now more number of asymptomatic persons are opting for home isolation after the government allowed the same. "We are allowing home isolation for the asymptomatic persons and most people now

are under home isolation. People are favouring home isolation in such cases. 80 per cent of the cases in the state are asymptomatic. Home isolation puts the patients in a better condition due to better nursing and personalised care," he said.

The official also said that with more testing isolating the positive cases became easier. He said, "We have now focused more on

testing and increased it manifold. Now, with more testing, more positive persons are being isolated and helping in lesser chances of them infecting others. The districts which have reported reduction in the cases have followed these steps for better surveillance." He also said that the government has improved the infrastructure for COVID management and increased hospital beds and communication systems.

"The government is trying its best to boost the infrastructure and beds for COVID patients in COVID Hospitals. We have also strengthened the 104 and 1929 call centres. Not only we increased the number of ambulances but the Rapid Response Teams have also been increased for better COVID care," he said.

'Agri innovations key to migrants' livelihood'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: As the migrants have started going back to their workplaces elsewhere in the country during the Unlocking period, experts feel an urgent need for exploring technology solutions and agricultural innovation to provide livelihoods to returned migrants.

This was revealed during a virtual dialogue titled 'Rebuilding Livelihoods in Rural areas-Covid Migration and beyond' organised jointly by Focus Odisha Foundation,

ActionAid India, Mahashakti Foundation and Migration Watch India, a national level migration resource centre.

"Though the government has scaled up MGNREGS by issuing job cards to migrant labourers and providing jobs through convergence with different departments and specially run schemes, it is still insufficient to cater to the growing demand and respond to the requirements of skilled and semi-skilled workforce," said Focus Odisha Foundation, Director Sudarshan Chhotaray, while presenting the



On an average Odisha MGNREGS workers have got 38 days' work during the pandemic

keynote address. Secondly, the wages in MGNREGS is very low (Rs 207) as fixed by Government of India for Odisha, even though the state government has increased it to Rs 300 in priority blocks, Chhotaray added.

Associated Director of ActionAid Debabrat Patra said on an average Odisha MGNREGS workers have got 38 days' work during the pandemic despite heightened demand not exceeded even 50 days, whereas 93 per cent of workers are in dire need

of 100 days work.

Experts also stressed the need for promoting family based farms and developing village commons in resource-rich states like Odisha, so that through traditional knowledge and wisdom and agricultural innovation people will get jobs locally which will be sustainable.

CEO and Director of MART Ramesh Jena said, "We need to promote individual and group entrepreneurs through targeted intervention and accommodate them with government-run schemes through convergence."

Ornaments, cash looted in Angul

Angul: Four masked robbers allegedly looted cash Rs10 lakh and gold ornaments weighing about 500 gram from the house of an employee of Nalco at Jiranga village under Nalco police station limits in Angul district, Thursday. According to sources, Vikram Sahoo, a contractual employee of Nalco, was out of the city on official work. However, Sahoo's sister was present in his home. When she was sleeping during the wee hours of Thursday, she heard some unusual sound in her room. As she woke up she found masked miscreants in their house.

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Flood havoc in Jajpur: RD pegs losses at ₹21.29-cr

₹12.39-CR SOUGHT FOR REPAIR AND RESTORATION OF BREACHES ON VARIOUS EMBANKMENTS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Sept 10: The rural development department in Jajpur has suffered massive losses due to recent floods from the Brahmani, Baitarani rivers and their distributaries.

An assessment report prepared by the rural development division-II (Jaraka) said, the loss of the rural development was estimated at ₹21.75 crore. 141 projects including roads, bridges, embankments, buildings were damaged by floodwaters.

The report also put forth some post-flood repair measures and restoration of these infrastructures.

There are 154 projects of the rural development department. Roads/embankments with 174.890 km are included in these projects. The floodwaters have created 25 major breaches in roads between August 26 and August 29, for which the department has sought ₹12.39 crore for repairs and restoration. The report submitted to the engineer-in-chief said that ₹19.81 crore



According to reports, 25 major road breaches were created on river dykes under Jaraka irrigation division. Due to breaches, over 10 lakh people in the district were affected by floods. Nearly 2,86,327 livestock of about 530 villages of 124 panchayats under 10 blocks have been badly affected

It was also alleged that, Niraghat and Rambhapur road breaches on Kelua river dyke under Dharmasala block was man-made. It may be noted that a double-storied building had collapsed near Brahmani river dyke at Kandiasahi of Bandhadiha panchayat under Rasulpur block, after a 150-ft-wide road breach was created

is needed for restoration of some roads, embankments and breach plugging while ₹1.48 crore has been sought for concrete works

and bridge restoration. For urgent restoration of some of the projects, ₹4.98 crore has been sought.

Besides, ₹988 lakh was required for repair of damage to PMGSY roads with 75.350 km; ₹119 lakh for BSY roads with 3.100 km; ₹25 lakh for MMSY roads with 5.200 km; ₹20 lakh for RD(ACA) roads with 2 km and ₹977 lakh for RD roads with 89.240 km.

Similarly, the RD has also sought ₹36.50 lakh for repair of 13 buildings belonging to the rural development department, the revenue department and the education department.

The RWSS has suffered the worst due to floods. There are 17,261 tube wells in 10 blocks of the district out of which 6461 were affected by the floods. Of the 237 drinking water projects, 120 were damaged. Meanwhile, 30 of the drinking water projects have been repaired.

According to reports, 25 major road breaches were created on river dykes under Jaraka irrigation division. Due to breaches, over 10 lakh people in the district were affected by floods. Nearly 2,86,327 livestock of about 530 villages of 124 panchayats under 10 blocks have been badly affected.

chayats under 10 blocks have been badly affected.

For temporary repair of 21 breaches, the RD department has sought ₹7.84 crore. It is alleged that most of the road and embankment breaches were man-made. People at many places ascribed the reason to alleged low quality work. It was also alleged that, Niraghat and Rambhapur road breaches on Kelua river dyke under Dharmasala block was man-made. It may be noted that a double-storied building had collapsed near Brahmani river dyke at Kandiasahi of Bandhadiha panchayat under Rasulpur block, after a 150-ft-wide road breach was created. Till date, hundreds of people have taken shelter on embankments.

Asked about the allegation of man-made breaches, superintending engineer of the water resources department, Chandeswar Behera, said breaches were created by pressure of floodwaters on weak points of embankments. Expeditious steps are being taken to repair the breaches, he added.

Farmers block NH-17 over fertiliser shortage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, Sept 10: A shortage of urea fertilizer in Digapahandi area of Ganjam is deepening by the day. As cooperative societies do not have adequate stock of urea, farmers have to go through a tough time at the peak of farming season.

Angry over the crisis, over a thousand farmers gathered at the local cooperative society at 10 am Thursday.

Farmer leaders and CPI(M) activists later thronged the NH-17 and blocked it for two hours. Vehicular movement came to a standstill for hours. Thousands of trucks, buses and cars were stranded for hours.

They alleged that the fertilizer shortage has affected the farming activities. Tehsildar Adaita Kumar Swain, IIC Basant Kumar Sethi along with police personnel rushed to the agitation spot.

They tried to placate the farmers. After the tehsildar assured that fertilizers will be distributed among the farmers from Friday, the latter



refrained from the agitation.

This situation has sprung up amid allegations that some wholesalers and retailers have resorted to hoarding, as a result of which black marketing has risen.

The tehsildar said only 225 sacks of urea have been in stock at the cooperative society while 225 more sacks will be brought Friday.

Besides, a private dealer will get 3000 sacks of urea in a couple of days while all the farmers will be able to avail of urea as per their requirements within a week, he added.

Suresh Kumar Nanda, the secretary of the cooperative society said 200 potash packets are in stock. Farmers are being sold urea packets for ₹675 each. The grower packets are sold for ₹450, he added.

Differently-abled elderly woman, son charred to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 10: A differently-abled elderly woman and her son were charred to death in a fire that broke out in their house at Kalinga village under Hatadihi block in Keonjhar district late Wednesday night.

The police recovered the bodies Thursday morning. The deceased have been identified as Janjali Jena (70) and Banamali Jena (45). They were living in an abandoned Anganwadi centre.

While local people were clueless as to who killed the mother-son duo, police's preliminary investigation suggests that they were set afire by some miscreants.



According to the police's preliminary investigation, like any other day, they went to sleep after having their dinner Wednesday night. They woke up to some unusual sound in the dead of night. At that time, miscreants had broken into a nearby shop. It was when they realized that the woman and her son had seen them enter the shop; they feared that the duo might inform the police.

They then locked the centre and set it on fire, resulting in the mother-son duo being charred to death.

Some local people could smell something burning inside the house and informed Nandipada police. The police recovered the bodies and seized them for post mortem.

The incident irked the local people who staged a road blockade on Salania-Orali road, demanding immediate arrest of the miscreants. Further investigation is underway.

Jumbos on damaging spree

FARMER TRAMPLED TO DEATH, ANOTHER WOUNDED IN ANGUL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Sept 10: In yet another incident of man-elephant conflict, a farmer was trampled to death by a jumbo at Musapapuli, about five kilometres from Angul town Thursday morning.

Another one was severely injured in the elephant attack. The deceased has been identified as Pandab Sahu and the injured is yet to be identified.

According to sources, both were on their way to their farmland Thursday morning. As they were nearing Musapapuli, near the ISKCON temple along National Highway-55, an elephant came from nowhere.

Before they could do anything to avoid danger, the pachyderm caught Sahu with its trunk. It tossed him into the air and then trampled him, causing his death

on the spot. On being informed, local people rushed to the spot and rescued the injured person and rushed him to a nearby government hospital.

Later, forest personnel reached the spot and are, as per the latest report, on the job of driving the jumbo away from the area into the forest.

Elephants keep Champua on edge



CHAMPUA: After two months, a herd of 22 elephants has returned to Champua range of Keonjhar from Karanjia range. Their number has gone up to 48.

The animals ran amok in

Bardhana area and now entered Tunutuna mango orchard. Locals have been spending sleepless nights for the last few days, fearing loss of lives and properties. Locals alleged that the herd stay in forests in the day time, but go on damaging spree at night. Champua ranger Ghasinath Patra said that foresters and forest guards are keeping tabs on the movements of the animals.

There are 11 elephants in Balibandh section, 22 in Champua section and 15 in Bamebari section.

PEST MENACE



Even as pest attack on paddy spreads quickly in parts of Bargarh, farmers spray pesticide on their farmlands

Bus owners to pay fines for mask-less passengers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Sept 10: In order to check a further spread of coronavirus in the district, the Ganjam district administration has made wearing masks mandatory for passengers.

District Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange Thursday said in a tweet that bus owners have to cough up fines if passengers in their buses are found traveling without masks.

"If passengers are found to be travelling without wearing masks, the bus owners will have to pay the

fine. It is the onus of the bus owners to keep sanitisers for their staff," said Kulange.

The COVID-19 situation in Ganjam district has improved. But the people of this district may contract the virus from others. So the district administration is taking several measures.

Since COVID-19 cases are still rising in Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Khurda areas, buses coming from these areas are being inspected thoroughly.

In a tweet, Ganjam District Collector Thursday said that tehsil

offices with the help of RTO carried out checkings in auto-rickshaws and buses in Digapahandi and Bhanjanagar areas.

They were inspecting whether the passengers travelling in the vehicles were wearing masks or not, whether they were maintaining social distancing or not, and whether the vehicles had carried sanitisers. Meanwhile, it was made mandatory for buses to have posters on their outer side near the doors saying 'no mask, no entry'. Collector Kulange has already issued a notification in this regard.

Covid situation worsens in Koraput

KORAPUT: COVID-19 situation in Koraput district is going from bad to worse with 124 fresh cases being reported Thursday.

Of them, while four were from temporary medical camps, 53 patients contracted the virus from previous patients and the remaining 67 contracted the virus locally. Four of them have travel histories. While two had recently returned from Chhattisgarh, the other two had visited Malkangiri district.

As many as 60 patients have been detected from four municipality and NAC areas. From Jeypore municipality, Koraput municipality, Sunabeda municipality and Kotpad NAC areas, the number of patients detected are 35,

14, seven and four respectively.

The rest 64 were reported from block areas. Kundra reported the maximum 11 cases, followed by Laxmipur (nine), Boipariguda and

Jeypore (seven each), Dashamantpur (six), Koraput and Lamataput (five each), Semiliguda (four), Borigumma (three), Kotpad and Nandpur (two each), Bandhugaon and Narayanpatna and Pattangi (one each).

With the fresh detection, the district's COVID-19 tally has gone up to 4,468. Of them, 3,711 patients have so far recovered from the disease and 751 are undergoing treatment. The district also reported one death due to COVID-19 and with this the toll has increased to six.

Elderly woman thrashed by thieves

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Sept 10: Miscreants beat up an elderly woman living in a house nearby at Barikpur Bazaar under Dhamnagar police limits in Bhadrak district late Wednesday night. The injured woman was rescued and rushed to a nearby hospital by neighbours.

On being informed, police reached the spot and launched an investigation.

According to sources, it was when the miscreants were looting the shop they saw a source of light coming from a nearby house. Suspecting someone may be watching them rob the shop, they went to the house and asked the occupant to open the door. There was none inside the house but for the elderly woman.

When she did not open the door, the thieves broke it open. Without exchanging any words, they started beating her up mercilessly.

Hearing her cries, neighbours came to her rescue but then the thieves had fled. The people admitted the profusely bleeding woman to a nearby hospital. The cops have launched a hunt for the miscreants, it was learnt.

Device to measure 'pulse of plants' invented in Sambalpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 10: Three scholars from Sambalpur district have invented an instrument which can measure the exact pulse rate of plants. The device will help calculate exactly the amount of pesticide needed to keep a plant healthy. In the process unnecessary expenditures will be reduced.

The device is called 'Rhythm Metre for Plant'. It has been developed by Akshay Kumar Mishra, Lecturer of Mahamaya Degree College, Pradosh Acharya, Professor of Gangadhar Meher University and Aishwarya Khamari a research scholar of Sambalpur University.

"The device is otherwise known as 'Organic Watch'. This project has made it to the top four categories at the 'Rural Experience Programme' in '3M-CII Young Innovators Challenge Award'. The instrument can also provide data about plants' biological clocks and rhythm and nutrient intake", team leader and scientist Akshay said.



It was developed by Akshay Mishra, Lecturer of Mahamaya College, Pradosh Acharya, Prof of GM varsity and Aishwarya Khamari a research scholar

gories at the 'Rural Experience Programme' in '3M-CII Young Innovators Challenge Award'. The instrument can also provide data about plants' biological clocks and rhythm and nutrient intake", team leader and scientist Akshay said. "Through the device, the nutritional value of pond water can also be measured, which will extensively help fish farmers in Odisha.

Everybody knows that plants breathe; but the rates at which they do so can be measured by this device," Akshay added.

Akshay collaborated with another young scientist Samir Bhoi had invented a machine called 'Electrolyte 1005' in 2012, for which he awarded by the Indian Science Congress Association and the Indian Association of Microbiology.

Bamboo shoots to tickle your taste buds

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Sept 10: 'Karadi' is no longer a poor and tribal people's food item. It has already reached the plates of many better off families across western Odisha.

Its popularity has become a boon for some tribal people who are, these days, earning their livelihood by selling this forest grown item.

What is 'Karadi'? Well, the grated tender bamboo shoots are known as Karadi. Tender shoots of bamboo appear in bamboo bushes in rainy season. Tribal people, mostly women, collect them. These collected shoots are then julienned. Then they are ready to go on sale.

These days it has been a common scene to find this strong smelling 'Karadi' juliennes being sold by the road side in towns and markets. And, surprisingly enough, they



get vanished within a few hours of their arrival in markets. Since 'Karadi' is available once in a year, they are always in demand.

According to some tribal women, the 'Karadi' has helped them a lot in earning a livelihood amid the

coronavirus pandemic. People of western Odisha are best skilled at using 'Karadi' in their kitchens. While its pickle is everyone's favourite, housewives keep it in dried form to use it in off seasons. It is used in preparing varieties of

mouth watering food items. Housewives love to serve 'Karadi' pickle and other items when they have any guests in their houses. It is also a tradition at some places to gift a bottle of 'Karadi' pickle to guests when they leave.

ACCORDING TO SOME TRIBAL WOMEN, THE 'KARADI' HAS HELPED THEM A LOT IN EARNING A LIVELIHOOD AMID THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. PEOPLE OF WESTERN ODISHA ARE BEST SKILLED AT USING 'KARADI' IN THEIR KITCHENS

'KARADI' IS NO LONGER A POOR AND TRIBAL PEOPLE'S FOOD ITEM. IT HAS ALREADY REACHED THE PLATES OF MANY BETTER OFF FAMILIES ACROSS WESTERN ODISHA

ITS POPULARITY HAS BECOME A BOON FOR SOME TRIBAL PEOPLE WHO ARE, THESE DAYS, EARNING THEIR LIVELIHOOD BY SELLING THIS FOREST GROWN ITEM

FOCUS INDIA-CHINA

CAT-AND-MOUSE GAME



Like Hitler picked on Poland first in the Second World II, India should project itself as an innocent victim of Chinese aggression. If the world keeps quiet, the bell will toll for them next. One wonders why India is reticent on globalising the Chinese nefarious aggression on our border

matching answer to this approach.

Coming back to the SCO meetings, in Russia, the current meeting is called Exercise Kavkaz-20, where 13000 troops from around 20 countries including eight members of the SCO will participate in a joint military exercise from 15-20 September. It is a saving grace that India decided against sending the troops to this activity where Chinese and Pakistani troops are there.

How ironical is it that members of a security alliance like SCO largely headed by China are under threat by the same country! SCO meeting is taking place when China and India are in an active military conflict. Again, to draw a parallel, India boycotted and scuttled the 19th SAARC summit in the wake of the Uri terrorist attack in 2016. India accused Pakistan of its involvement in the Uri attack. Yet, India went ahead to SCO in our national interest.

Let us look at the defence minister's participation and its outcome so far. Rajnath Singh met Wei Fenghe, Chinese defence minister and the state counsellor. What is not in public domain is the likely

Russian hand in brokering such meetings on the sidelines of the SCO. But what is the outcome? While both sides profess to maintain the lines of communication, both at military and diplomatic levels, the statements before and following the meeting reek of belligerence and obduracy. After the meeting, China said, "India is entirely responsible for the border stand-off in Ladakh and China will not lose an inch of its territory". It called on India to earnestly implement important consensus reached by President Xi and Prime Minister Modi. They insist on resolving the issues through dialogue and consultation.

The Indian side came out with an equally terse statement, the action of the Chinese troops, amassing of troops, aggressive behaviour, attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo wherein violation of the bilateral agreements. It added, "There should be no doubt about our determination to protect India's sovereignty and territorial integrity" Foreign Minister S Jaishankar has been consistently pleading that the two countries should resolve their issues diplo-

matically. A bloody conflict is not good for either of the parties. But do we really comprehend Chinese diplomacy?

Before we touch on the art of Chinese diplomacy what is the issue that challenges our strategic ingenuity at present? Talks between our forces have reached the fifth round. From the military sources, de-escalation or pulling back will only happen once the Indian army reconciles to the PLA's new position on the ground. New Delhi finds it hard. In the past four months, starting from May, China has moved LAC in to Indian territory, some 4.5 km deep, in places.

On Chinese diplomacy, they follow the legendary strategists Sun Tzu, the author of the Art of War. He has given a lot of clues to tackle the enemy. One that China seems to follows vis-à-vis India is, "the whole secret lies in confusing the enemy so that he cannot fathom our real intent". We have Chanakya. Understanding Sun Tzu, will certainly stand in good stead for Indian diplomacy. So far, we have adhered to Indian ethos and principles, but not responded effectively to the Chinese strategy. Are we short of China hands in South Block?

To sum up, Indian diplomacy must engage beyond bilateralism with China. Even in military option, Indian should not be one-to-one with China. New Delhi must draw the attention of the world and join others in calling China a threat to world security. It should, along with other countries play the Tibet, Taiwan, Hong Kong card, even talk about other territories like Yunnan and East Mongolia occupied by China. Like Hitler picked on Poland first in the World War II, India should project itself as an innocent victim of Chinese aggression. If the world keeps quiet, the bell will toll for them next. One wonders why India is reticent on globalising the Chinese nefarious aggression on our border.

INFA

The writer is Professor of International Politics, JMI.

Dr. D.K. Giri

HOW IRONICAL IS IT THAT MEMBERS OF A SECURITY ALLIANCE LIKE SCO LARGELY HEADED BY CHINA ARE UNDER THREAT BY THE SAME COUNTRY! SCO MEETING IS TAKING PLACE WHEN CHINA AND INDIA ARE IN AN ACTIVE MILITARY CONFLICT

Chronic problem

Natural disasters such as floods and cyclones are routine in Odisha. There has been hardly a year when we have not seen a natural calamity, big or small. The frequency of such disasters has gone up with time due to fast-paced climatic changes. Since the Super Cyclone in 1999, Odisha has seen half a dozen major cyclones and the government has given a good account of itself with regard to its handling of pre- and post-cyclone situations. The state government has gathered enough expertise in handling the situations. Over the years, it has evolved a tested template to minimize the loss of lives and properties due to cyclones. However, the same is not the case with regard to floods. The government's record with regard to flood management has left much to be desired. Floods are regular phenomena here. Breaches on the river embankments are regular. The administration has not been able to identify the vulnerable areas even though breaches take place year after year. Even after they are identified, repairs do not happen. Worse, after repairs are carried out they are not failsafe against floods.

Odisha is an agrarian economy. Over 75 per cent of its people depend on farming for their living and livelihood. This number is likely to go up as lakhs of unemployed youths, who had gone outside the state for livelihood, have returned home. Jobless for most part of the year and a majority of them not willing to go back to their workplaces, they have very little option but to turn to farming. A bulk of the farmland across the state is rain-fed. Except for western Odisha, most of the farm land in the state are non-irrigated and hence depend on monsoon. Inasmuch as paddy is the main crop here, monsoon and the consequent floods make and break the fortune of farmers here every year. The state is blessed with a network of large rivers. However, an absence of proper infrastructure on rivers to tame floods and similar calamities has rendered them unruly. Floods in September and October damage grownup crops. Lakhs of hectares of farmland get inundated with floods. Roads, bridges and communication lines are destroyed. Villages in hundreds get marooned. People in rural areas are more prone to such disasters.

The government's response system to the recurring floods has marked by adhocism. Instead of developing permanent anti-flood infrastructure, it gives away dollops of relief, both in kind and cash, to affected people. The Mahanadi river system, currently in the middle of a discord between Odisha and Chhattisgarh, accounts for a lion's share of the state's problems arising from floods. The Hirakud Dam, built across the Mahanadi in Sambalpur district, is one of the longest in the world. Although it is one of independent India's early multipurpose projects, its primary mandate is to prevent low-lying areas in the river's downstream from being inundated. However, the authorities have failed to carry out this basic mandate here. There seems to be poor coordination between the local authorities with their Chhattisgarh counterpart and the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) to put in place a foolproof mechanism to minimize the monsoon ravages. The dam authorities should keep releasing water at regular intervals from the dam in sync with the changing climatic conditions and rain forecasts instead of waiting for reservoir to brim over. There has been a change in the rainfall pattern due to climatic changes and other factors. To this extent, the rule book devised in 1988 that governs the release of water from the dam may have become obsolete. The government may revisit this and put in place a sound scientific mechanism. Floods are a chronic problem here. They may not be prevented but their adverse impact can be.

WISDOM CORNER

- When you say one thing, the clever person understands three things. PROVERB
- A bit of fragrance clings to the hand that gives flowers. PROVERB
- A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. PROVERB

WORDSWORTH

Tinhorn

A greenhorn was originally a young ox with newly grown horns; later on it came to mean anyone young or inexperienced. The usual sense of tinhorn, on the other hand, is of someone contemptible, especially a person who is pretending to have money, influence, or ability. Tinhorn has a much more interesting history than greenhorn. To find the origin of tinhorn we must delve into the murky world of gambling with dice. There was a game in the 19th century called grand hazard (nothing to do, however, with the old French and British dice game from which our noun hazard derives and which was the origin of the game of craps). A cruder version of grand hazard was usually given the name chuck-a-luck in North America. Both games were played with three dice, a chute containing a set of inclined planes that tumbled the dice as they fell, and a flat area on which the dice fell and whose layout determined whether the player had won or not. The difference between grand hazard and chuck-a-luck was that the former's layout was much more complicated, with possibilities for betting on odds or evens or other combinations (rather like roulette); the chuck-a-luck layout consisted only of six areas numbered from one to six. Chuck-a-luck was unsophisticated and easy to set up, so it was the province of small-time gamblers on river boats, on street corners, or in low gaming establishments. Though the proper chute was made of leather, those with limited resources used a cruder one made of tin. The term tinhorn referred to this cheap chute. It's actually an abbreviation of the fuller phrase tinhorn gambler. This was a term of contempt for these small-time operators of games of chuck-a-luck, whose patrons (tinhorn sports) played for small stakes.

Tinker's damn

There are two theories about this one. One points to the very low social status of tinkers, itinerant menders of pots and pans, and to their well-known tendency to include a swearword in every sentence. So to say that something "isn't worth a tinker's damn" is to say that it's of no value at all, not worth even a moment's consideration. A more ingenious explanation was put forward in the latter part of the nineteenth century: when a tinker was soldering a pot, he would make a small wall out of bread dough around the place he was to flood with solder in order to stop it from spreading. After he had finished, he would naturally throw the dough away as being of no further use, so that "a tinker's dam" was equally something of no value. A century ago, the compilers of the First Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary were scornful of this attempt to make a simple matter more complicated, though it is still to be found in current works on phrase histories. It speaks to that part of us that wants to convert the mundane to the magical, to find something of mystery and interest in even the most ordinary of expressions.

LOL

UN QUESTION

A worldwide survey was conducted by the UN. The only question asked was: "Would you please give your honest opinion about solutions to the food shortage in the rest of the world?" The survey was a huge failure. In Africa they didn't know what "food" meant. In Eastern Europe



they didn't know what "honest" meant. In Western Europe they didn't know what "shortage" meant. In China they didn't know what "opinion" meant. In the Middle East they didn't know what "solution" meant. In South America they didn't know what "please" meant. And in the USA they didn't know what "the rest of the world" meant.

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

End of road to many is midway through life

Adopting a 'now-or-never' approach in his last Civil Services try, a die-hard aspirant strained every nerve, secluded himself from all circles, avoided calls wishing him happy birthday, and skipped all social events during his period of preparations. Yet, he could make it to only the P&T cadre of the allied services, far from the IAS.

In another case, a schoolgirl mentally aligned herself with parental wishes and the precept of garnering all efforts in the board exams to get into the Economics Honours stream of a college under Delhi University. Her 96 per cent score was below the cut-off level in the college of choice.

Both these developed depression and attempted suicide. By any yardstick, each of the two was still in a coveted position that's the dream of the legions in the fray. But, as we see, the two failed to see merit in what have got and chose to be cursed.

An unappreciative, thankless mindset shatters our lives. Difficulty in compromising with the existing resources and assets invokes vengeance from Nature in the form of loss of one's peace and happiness.

Apologies of two workplace colleagues or school batch-mates from

identical backgrounds and similar socio-economic conditions, one is ever-bemoaning his plight on all fronts and the other eternally in a happy mode, looking forward. The latter is welcomed everywhere, while it is the perception of the former category that more likely drives one to commit suicide.

Globally, the coronavirus along with associated problems due to the lockdown, loss of employment and mental enervation had a devastating impact on the mental and physical health of the people across the board. Even irrespective of the corona, deteriorating mental health culminating to suicide in stray cases has been a serious concern of health specialists, leaders and others.

In this country, as many as 1,39,123 suicides took place last year, an increase of 3.4 per cent over 2018 (1,34,516), as is reported by the National Crime Records Bureau. The incidence was the highest in Maharashtra, followed by Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka; these five states make for half the total suicides. Among metro cities, on top has been Chennai with 2,461 cases, while Delhi had 2,423, Bangalore 2,081 and Mumbai 1,229 incidents. A substantial number of young men and women are ending their lives.

The NCRB report states: "Each suicide is a personal tragedy that prematurely takes the life of an individual and has a continuing ripple effect, dramatically affecting the lives of families, friends and communities". WHO treats suicide as a 'health problem' that is preventable with timely, evidence-based, low cost interventions. Symptoms like mood swings, living alone, talks of suicide, procuring suicide-related devices, changed or erratic routine, increased alcohol intake, drug abuse, feelings of regret or shame indicate suicide-tendencies and need to be monitored and addressed.

As for causative factors, besides an unhealthy mindset, chronic illness or unbearable suffering, unreciprocated love and inability in handling crisis situations prompt many to take to suicide. Mind being an intriguing, complex entity with its precise mechanism yet to be decoded, even the sensible persons are known to falter at times and resort to acts like suicide. Jain guru Tarun Sagar, known for his witty adages, said: "We rarely find one who, at some point in life, did not seriously contemplate, if not actually endeavour ending one's life."

Religious texts say that even gods aspire to be (re)born as human be-

ings since it is in this particular avatar (version) of the soul's cyclical journey that a bewildering array of opportunities are available to be harnessed for maximum growth, and achieving whatsoever. Yet, unaware of one's enormous potential for staying in bliss, many people use only one gear or two out of several, and lead a life of mental and material deprivation.

Anti-life ethos needs to be nipped in the bud. Contemporary lifestyle has much to do with promoting a culture of confining to one's or one's family's interests. A child born and brought up in traditional family has a stronger sense of belongingness that comes to the fore as tremendous relief when he or she feels being checkmated.

Those aligning themselves with God, it is said, understand that not only are they imbued with an element of divinity but also that the heavens come to their rescue when such need arises. They also know that the God shall not leave them in the lurch, and that a way out shall always be open. It is in this perspective that motivator Napoleon Hill said, "When you have exhausted all possibilities, remember; you haven't."

The writer is a senior journalist.

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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Covid's impact on kids

Sir, The impact of Covid-19 on the education system is clearly visible and widely felt. Children are separated from their peers and teachers and deprived of their usual socialising activities, including sports, for fear of coronavirus affliction. The United Nations Children's Agency has said that at least a third of the world's kids can't access remote learning when Covid-19 has forced the schools to be closed, creating a global education emergency. It is quite worrisome that nearly 1.5 billion children are affected by school closures. At least 463 million children, whose schools are closed due to the pandemic, have no remote learning facility. Their education is completely disrupted for months. Schoolchildren mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa are the most-affected. Some 147 million students are directly or indirectly affected. Notably, children in poor homes and rural areas bear the brunt of this situation. They are missing out on remote learning classes due to non-availability of such facilities at home. Many children are not able to learn from schools due to work pressure at home. During the lockdown or shutdown, parents lost their jobs massively, and this too has a bearing on the children's mental and physical health. Such children deserve more care and help.
Hitesh Kumar Parida, JAJPUR

Phone-bound society

Sir, In the age of 4G, people have no time or patience to listen to those around them even in their families. Most people are always busy speaking over the phone. In many meetings, speakers address the gathering for a long time, but few would listen to the speech. Also, some speakers have no idea how to give a speech in a short time. In family, office, and community, most people have lost their patience to listen to others. Like speaking, listening is also an art.
Santosh Kumar Mohanty, CUTTACK

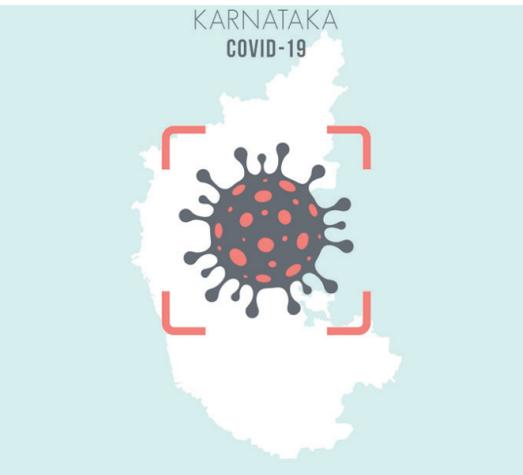
Unruly Mumbai

Sir, It is shocking that the Maharashtra government has proven itself to be a lawless entity. Home Minister Anil Desmukh and Shiv Sena spokesman Sanjay Raut are seen either acting in an unlawful manner or defending such actions. The authorities there have demolished the home of Kangna Ranaut, a Padmashree-winner. Outsiders living in Mumbai have a hard time. Drug peddling is also a serious problem there. The government must do its job, ensure law and order, and allow people to live in peace.
Naresh Mandal, BHADRAK



Karna's death rate is rattling CM Yedi

THE DEATH RATE IN THE STATE STANDS AT 1.62 PC AND THE GOVT INTENDS TO REDUCE IT TO BELOW 1 PC



over 900 doctors will be appointed to districts soon," he added.

For some time now, Karnataka has been reporting over 100 deaths daily and among the districts Bangalore Urban tops the tally.

According to Medical Education Minister K Sudhakar, the death rate in the state is at 1.62 per cent and the government intends to reduce it to below 1 per cent.

As of September 9 evening, cumulatively 4,21,730 COVID-19 positive cases have been confirmed in the state, which includes 6,808 deaths and 3,15,433 discharges.

Bangalore urban district tops the list of positive cases, with a total of 1,57,044 infections.

Out of 9,540 fresh cases reported in the state Wednesday, 3,419 cases were from the city alone. Noting that loss to the state due to recent floods is to the tune of ₹8,071 crore, the Chief Minister said information in this regard has been shared with the Central team that visited the state to assess the damage.

He hoped that the information shared with the team and the reports that it will submit to the Central government will be helpful in getting more relief funds.

Yediyurappa instructed officials to take forward the relief and rehabilitation work without giving room for any complaints, adding that to address the situation arising out of floods and Covid-19, ₹460 crore has been released from State Disaster Relief Fund, and there is no dearth of funds.

The Chief Minister has already indicated that he will also be going to New Delhi to seek more relief from the Central government.

Pointing out that funds have been released to accounts of Deputy Commissioners of districts, he asked them to work in coordination with district in-charge ministers and secretaries to bring the coronavirus and flood situation under control quickly.

Asking officials to resolve issues if any, Yediyurappa during the meeting sought information, among others, on measures taken to control COVID-19 in their jurisdiction and about providing relief to those who have lost their houses due to floods.

IN DELUGE



A woman wades through a waterlogged area following heavy rains at Horamavu in Bangalore, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

SC miffed with Punjab over 36-yr-old case

The apex court in 2015 directed the trial in cases against sitting and ex-lawmakers shall be conducted on a daily basis and concluded in one year from the date of framing of charge(s)



"Are you not responsible for prosecuting criminal cases?" Justice Ramana wondered.

"Yes we are, I will seek information and file a report," the lawyer said.

As many as 35 sitting and former MPs and MLAs in Punjab were facing criminal cases, Hansaria said in an affidavit filed in the court.

"There are 35 cases (in Punjab), out of which in 21 cases sitting MPs/MLAs are accused," he said.

The list included one case, each relating to murder and drugs, the affidavit said, adding the proceedings in these cases had been stayed by the Supreme Court.

One of the cases related to a 1983 incident was punishable with life

party positions after senior advocate Vikas Singh pointed out that the court had said it will decide this issue of lifetime debarment in the end.

In all, there were 4,442 cases pending against MPs/MLAs (sitting and former) in different courts including Special Courts set up for MPs and MLAs, it said.

"In 2,556 cases, sitting legislators are accused persons. The number of legislators involved is more than the total number of cases since there are more than one accused in one case, and the same legislator is an accused in more than one case. There are 413 cases in respect of offences, which are punishable with imprisonment for life, out of which in 174 cases sitting MPs/MLAs are accused," the affidavit stated.

The Supreme Court had in 2015 directed the trial in cases against sitting and ex-lawmakers shall be conducted on a daily basis and concluded in one year from the date of the framing of charge(s).

It is to be noted that Uttar Pradesh has the most number of legislators (current and former) who are facing criminal cases.

There are 1,217 pending cases, in which 446 cases sitting legislators are accused. Further, 35 sitting legislators and 81 former legislators are accused of heinous crimes which are punishable with a life term. After UP, the state with the highest number of legislators facing criminal cases is Bihar, where 531 sitting and former MLAs and MPs are accused.

This is shocking! Who is the counsel for the state of Punjab? No one is visible
THE SC BENCH OBSERVED

Haryana has a total of 42 lawmakers — 11 sitting and 31 former MPs and MLAs — who are facing criminal cases while the number stood at 48 in Himachal Pradesh where 35 of them were sitting MPs/MLAs.

The three Union Territories in the northern region — Chandigarh (1 MP), Jammu and Kashmir (1 MP) and Ladakh (6 former MLAs) also figured in the list.

The Bench asked the Centre to respond in six weeks to an amended plea of the petitioner seeking to debar convicted politicians from contesting elections and holding

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Sept 10: Cautioning about high number of Covid-19 cases being reported from the state, Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa Thursday asked the district administrations to work towards bringing down the death rate.

He said providing immediate treatment to those with Covid-19 symptoms and saving the lives of those infected is his government's priority. The Chief Minister also instructed officials to see to it that there are no issues or complaints regarding relief to those affected by the recent floods triggered by heavy rains in the state.

"Covid infections in the state are increasing day by day...due to some reasons in Bangalore and few districts, the cases are increasing in a big way. With the state reporting a higher number of cases, it is something that we have to take seriously," Yediyurappa said.

Speaking at the virtual meeting with Deputy Commissioners, Zilla Panchayat CEOs, SPs and Health Officers of the all districts, he said following the unlock phase, almost all economic activities have re-

sumed, as it is inevitable for people to live with Covid.

"Taking precaution for not getting infected and paying special attention to bring down the death rate is vital," he said,

noting that the government was taking all measures to control Covid-19.

Covid infections in the state are increasing day by day. Due to some reasons in Bangalore and few districts, the cases are increasing in a big way. With the state reporting a higher number of cases, it is something that we have to take seriously

BS YEDIYURAPPA | CHIEF MINISTER, KARNATAKA



Further asking of officials to ensure that needy patients get treatment from trained doctors and thereby bring down the death rate, Yediyurappa said the government's priority is providing immediate treatment to those with symptoms and saving the lives of those infected.

He also issued a series of instructions for increasing tests, making adequate number of testing kits available, appointment of doctors, strengthening booth level taskforce, ensuring availability of oxygen, beds and ventilators, also conducting door-door surveys, efficiently identifying contacts, among others. "Already counselling of PG medical students has been completed and

From a doc to auto-rickshaw driver, courtesy bureaucracy

After his plight came to notice, Dr Ravindranath MH got posted as the new District Family Welfare Officer in Koppal

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Sept 10: Dr Ravindranath MH, a veteran Karnataka Health and Family Welfare Department doctor, has got his first posting in two years following wide-scale media coverage of him being forced to drive an auto-rickshaw to earn a living. Photos and videos of him riding an auto with -Harassed by IAS Officers' Misrule - painted in the front and back had gone viral. The wide-scale media coverage had led to the Health Minister taking notice of Dr Ravindranath's plight with the former saying that he will look into the issue.

The posting was given to Dr Ravindranath after Health Minister B Sriramulu intervened.

An elated Dr Ravindranath said he will join as the new District Family Welfare Officer in Koppal.

"I am happy with the posting. I am currently on my way to Koppal and will report to duty in the evening," he said.

It was Sunday that the issue of alleged harassment by IAS officers leading to Dr Ravindranath being left without a posting for two years came to light during this pandemic.

Dr Ravindranth who had joined government service more than 20 years ago, was posted in Ballari district. His last posting was the district Reproductive and Child Health Officer.

But left without a posting and his salary withheld for more than a



Photos and videos of him riding an auto with -Harassed by IAS Officers' Misrule - painted in the front and back had gone viral

year, he was working as an auto driver in Davanagere.

He said his ordeal started in 2018 when he apparently did not cooperate with an IAS officer and as a result he was wrongly penalised regarding hiring outsourced medical staff. While he had got relief from the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal (KAT), he was short-changed by IAS officers yet again.

He said while he had served in rural areas for 17 years, he was given a taluk-level post upon reinstatement. He approached the KAT again, where it was said that he be reinstated at a district level post within a month in 2018. But the KAT orders were not complied and he has been left without a post since then. It was only after that he was left without a post, Dr Ravindranth decided to buy an auto to earn his living.

Once upon a time this was a hub of Punjabi literature

AGENCIES

Amritsar, Sept 10: With 25 publishers abounding the Bazaar Mai Sewan, it was considered once the world's largest setting of Punjabi (Gurmukhi) books. But as of now, all glory has been lost in the mists of time.

The original area starting from Darshni Deorhi to Chowk Ghanta Ghar, which was more than 200 sqft, has been reduced. Several historic buildings, including Udasi Akhara, Sangal Wala Akhara, Gianian Wala Bunga and Hathi Khanna dotting the bazaar are all gone.

Meanwhile, a big chunk of the history was demolished by the government for the construction of Galiara around the Golden Temple in 1988. Most of the book sellers and publishers were moved to other markers, while many left the business. Today, you could say the market is totally no-nostalgia-evoking, unrecognisable remnant of its past grandeur: Only shops of drafting materials, hotels and religious symbols can be seen. A scanty of booksellers is the only reminder.

During the much-condemned attack of the Indian Army on Akal Takht in 1984, a number of shops were reduced to ashes. Come 1988, the government's decision of Galiara at the expense of market left many sellers in turmoil. Many were displaced.

With the emergence of Gurumukhi printing press, a large number of these were established in Lahore and Amritsar. The first Punjabi printing press (using Gurmukhi font) was established through a Christian mission in



Ludhiana in 1835. Eminent Punjabi writer Bhai Vir Singh established Wazir Hind Press in the city in 1899. During the 1980s, Lahore became a hub of Gurmukhi printing presses publishing religious text and Qissas.

Meanwhile, Amritsar emerged as the main market of religious and Gurmukhi literature. During the early 20th Century, a large number of publishers settled in the Bazaar Mai Sewan and established their machines. Famous Qissakar (story writer) Kishan Singh Arif (1836-1904), whose father Narain Singh was a publisher and bookseller in the same bazaar, published Qissa Shirin Farhad, Puraan Bhagat, Raja Bhathari, Raja Rasaloo, Dulla Bhatti and Kaliawali Heer.

A number of publishers, including Mehar Singh and Sons, Buta Singh-Partap Singh, Chatter Singh-Jewan Singh, Singh Brothers, Khalsa Brothers, Jawahar Singh-Kirpal Singh, Uttam Singh-Gurmukh Singh, Ameer Bhandar, Kastoori Lal and Sons, Munshi

Chirag Deen, Bhai Fakeer Singh and sons and Ladha Singh-Kartar Singh among others had established their presses later on and published religious literature.

The Bazaar Mai Sewan started early in the Ranjit Singh era (1780-1839). It was Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who dedicated this bazaar to a lady named Mai Sewan. She was the wife of a military commander Fateh Singh Kaaliawaala. Mai Sewan was known for her dedicated services at the Durbar Sahib and was one of the most respected figures among the locals.

Interestingly, a myth also runs parallel to the belief. It is said that it belongs to Mai Sewan, a devotee of the third Sikh Guru — Amardas ji. Once, she expressed her desire of wanting her name to live forever to the master. The Guru is said to have complied with the demand. When fifth Guru Arjan Dev developed the city and allotted land to the settlers, a bazaar leading to Guru Ke Mehal (residence of Guru) was dedicated to Mai Sewan.

Police smell Odisha link in ₹4cr worth B'lore ganja seizure

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Sept 10: The Bangalore City police busted an inter-state ganja sale network and seized a whopping 1,350 kg of the drug worth nearly ₹4 crore Thursday. The police have arrested four persons in this connection.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the ganja sale network was spread over Odisha, Telangana and Karnataka. The alleged drug smugglers had dug a huge pit (like a silo) in a sheep-rearing farm situated at Kamalapur Taluk in Kalaburagi district which was located nearly 750 km from Bangalore in the upper-most northern part of Karnataka.

"These accused had stored as many as 600 packets totalling 1,350 kg of ganja in this pit," the police said.

The pit was filled with the ganja packets and covered with a wooden plank which was then covered with a thick layer of mud. Speaking to

reporters, Bangalore City Police Commissioner Kamal Pant said this was the biggest such seizure in the history of Bangalore Police.

"A day-to-day investigation led to a small clue of an accused selling ganja within Seshadripuram Police station limit, where the police had seized two kg of ganja from the accused. But detailed investigations threw light on how the ganja trade was flourishing as far as Odisha to Bangalore," the Police Commissioner explained.

According to him, the ganja was allegedly grown in the interior forests of Odisha and transported through Telangana in trucks or vehicles carrying vegetables.

"These accused used to store it in a pit in a sheep-rearing farm, as nobody could suspect that any such activity was happening in such a remote area. The packets were systematically packed and stacked in this pit," he added.



The accused had stored as many as 600 packets totalling 1,350 kg of ganja

national



Many festivals are approaching in the coming months. While the pandemic is under control in Delhi, it is important to have preventive measures in place to contain the spread of COVID-19 at religious places of worship

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

UPSC EXAM GUIDELINES DURING PANDEMIC TIME

Wearing masks or face covers is mandatory for candidates appearing for the civil services (preliminary) examination scheduled for October 4, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has said



of the day quote

In sharp contrast, lockdown was withdrawn due to Bakrid. This shows that the Bengal govt's policies are driven by an anti-Hindu mindset and appeasement politics

J P NADDA | BJP CHIEF

The shortage of oxygen was worrying me a lot. I spoke to Uddhav Thackeray and requested him not to stop the supply to MP at this difficult time

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

Swami Vivekananda worked tirelessly for national transformation through religious purification, spiritual emancipation and social regeneration

M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Pak violates ceasefire

Jammu: Using heavy firing and shelling Thursday Pakistan violated ceasefire in many places on the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir. Colonel Devender Anand, Defence Ministry spokesman said, "Pakistan initiated the unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along the LoC in many locations."

Insurgent killed in Nagaland

Kohima: A cadre of NSCN (K-NK) was killed and another apprehended by security forces in Nagaland, Army sources said Thursday. Defence PRO Lt Col Harsh Wardhan Pande said that militants belonging to National Socialist Council of Nagaland (K-NK faction) fired upon the security forces during an operation at Baimho village in central Nagaland's Zunheboto district late Wednesday.

Nadda likely to meet Nitish Kumar

New Delhi: BJP president J P Nadda will be on a two-day visit to Bihar from Friday and is likely to meet JD(U) president and state Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, as the ruling National Democratic Alliance gears up for the assembly polls, expected to be held in October-November. Nadda will preside over a number of BJP meetings, including of its core committee and election coordination committee, the party's media co-ordinator Sanjay Mayukh said in a statement.

Mumbai Mayor tests Covid +ve

Mumbai: Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar Thursday said she has tested COVID-19 positive. She shared the information on her Twitter handle. Pednekar said her rapid antigen test came positive, but she is asymptomatic. She has also appealed to the people, who had come in her contact, to take necessary precautions.

Man lynched in UP

Azamgarh (Uttar Pradesh): In yet another incident of mob lynching, a 25-year-old youth was beaten to death by a girl's family members at a village in Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh district. The incident happened Wednesday. The police have detained five persons, including the girl, for interrogation.

India, Japan cement defence ties

The signing of the agreement comes at a time when India is locked in a bitter border row with China, and rising concerns among countries in the Indo-Pacific region over increased Chinese assertiveness in the area

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: After years of negotiations, India and Japan have inked a landmark agreement that will allow their militaries to access each other's bases for logistics support, a key development that comes in the backdrop of growing concerns over China's military muscle flexing in the region. The acquisition and cross-servicing pact was signed by Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar and Japanese Ambassador Suzuki Satoshi, a defence ministry spokesperson said Thursday.

The agreement provides for creation of an enabling framework for closer cooperation and interoperability, besides allowing militaries of the two countries to use each other's bases and facilities for repair and replenishment of supplies, the official said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe, who held a telephonic conversation earlier in the day, welcomed the signing of the "Agreement on Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services" between the Indian Armed Forces and the Self-Defense Forces of Japan.

The two leaders concurred that the pact will further enhance the depth of defence cooperation between the two countries and contribute to peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region, according to a release from the external affairs ministry here.

A statement by Japanese foreign ministry said the agreement will promote closer cooperation between the militaries of the two



Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar and Ambassador of Japan Suzuki Satoshi during the signing of an agreement

countries, and enable them to actively contribute to international peace and security.

The defence ministry said the pact will enhance the interoperability between the armed forces, resulting in further expansion of bilateral defence engagement under the Indo-Japan special strategic and global partnership.

"The agreement establishes the enabling framework for closer co-operation between the armed forces of India and Japan in reciprocal provision of supplies and services," it said. In June, India and Australia sealed a similar Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) while resolving to scale up their overall defence cooperation. India has already signed similar agreements with the US, France and Singapore.

India has been signing MLSAs with countries primarily eyeing deeper maritime cooperation which is important considering China's rapid military expansionism in

the Indo-Pacific, Indian Ocean and South China Sea.

The pacts signed with the US and France provide for accessing various crucial bases by Indian military in Djibouti, Guam and the Reunion Islands among others. India is also expanding overall strategic cooperation with Japan in the Indo-Pacific region under the framework of four nation coalition 'Quad'.

In November 2017, India, the US, Australia and Japan gave shape to the long-pending "Quad" to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence.

The US has been pushing for a greater role for India in the Indo-Pacific which is seen by many countries as an effort to contain China's growing clout in the region. In June, the Indian Navy carried out a maritime exercise with the Japanese navy as part of efforts to bolster military cooperation.

Cong amps up attack on govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: The Congress Thursday demanded jobs and relief for the youth amid the alleged rise in unemployment with Rahul Gandhi urging the Modi government to transfer money directly in the bank accounts of the poor, protect small and medium businesses and stop privatisation.

'SPEAK UP FOR JOBS'

Several senior Congress leaders urged the government to implement the Congress-proposed minimum income guarantee scheme NAYAY and create job opportunities for the youth as part of its 'Speak Up for Jobs' campaign being run Thursday from 10 AM for 10 hours. As part of the campaign, Rahul Gandhi also put out

Before the coronavirus pandemic, I had said that a storm is going to come, prepare for it, but the government made fun of me

RAHUL GANDHI



a video in support of the youth in which he also attacked the government over alleged job losses. He also questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi for remaining "silent" on issues such as the state of the economy and China.

The BJP has dismissed all such allegations made by Gandhi and the Congress in the past. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra claimed that there is a "big threat" to jobs due to "increasing

privatization, cuts in government spending and the bad economic policies of the BJP government". Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the promise was of providing two crore jobs every year and claimed that instead of providing 12 crore jobs in six years, 14 crore jobs were "snatched away". "Join our #SpeakUpForJobs campaign & raise your voices against BJP's misadventures," the party tweeted.

BACK ON TRACK



A vendor wearing mask sells accessories during Unlock 4.0, in Kolkata

PTI PHOTO

WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

Man hangs himself in COVID-19 centre



SEPTEMBER 10 IS OBSERVED AS THE WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY ACROSS THE WORLD. INCIDENTALLY, KERALA STANDS IN THE FIFTH POSITION IN TERMS OF SUICIDES IN INDIA. A TOTAL OF 8,556 SUICIDES WERE REPORTED IN THE STATE IN 2019, WHILE THE NUMBER WAS 8,237 IN 2018

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 10: It might be no coincidence, but it happened in a Covid-19 observation centre in Kerala's Pathanamthitta district, where an under observation 41-year-old person committed suicide Thursday.

September 10 is observed as the World Suicide Prevention Day across the world.

Nishanth was found hanging from a ceiling fan in the Covid observation centre run by the state government.

The authorities said he was restless for a few days as he used to consume liquor regularly. But in the observation centre, he could not get liquor resulting in

the development of withdrawal symptoms in him.

On Thursday morning, he spoke to his wife over the phone and said that he will commit suicide.

Incidentally, Kerala stands in the fifth position in terms of suicides in India. A total of 8,556 suicides were reported in the state in 2019, while the number was 8,237 in 2018.

According to the latest National Crime Records Bureau data, while the national rate (number of suicides per lakh of population) of suicides was 10.4 per cent in the previous year, Kerala had a rate of 24.3 per cent.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands leads the country with a rate of 45.5 per cent.

BIHAR ELECTIONS

Raghuvansh Prasad Singh quits RJD

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Sept 10: Giving a strong jolt to the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) ahead of Bihar Assembly elections, senior leader Raghuvansh Prasad Singh Thursday quit the party.

Currently, he is admitted at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi following some health issues. Singh has sent a letter to RJD chief Lalu Prasad announcing his resignation from the party.

Addressing Lalu, he wrote: "I kept standing behind you for 32 years after the demise of Karpuri Thakur; but not any longer." Singh has sent this letter to journalists here. Issuing an apology to the people he wrote, "Party, leaders, workers and people gave me lots of love. Regrets." The RJD leader



have been keeping mum over Singh's resignation, but the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Janata Dal United are terming his decision as the "right" one. On the other hand, RJD spokesman Mrityunjay Tiwari said: "I got to know about his resignation from the media. I have not received any official information." "I'll only give any statement after official information is re-

ceived," he said. Meanwhile, JDU spokesman Ajay Alok said: "Singh is a senior leader, he should have taken this step long ago."

"The RJD has become an Acacia tree that's why people are running from it," he said.

Over a question over whether there was a possibility of Singh joining the JDU, he said: "Any party would welcome a big leader like him."

It must be recalled that Singh was angry over talks about former MP Rama Singh's entry into the RJD. Earlier, he had resigned from all party posts to register his dissent. However, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav had met him in the hospital and tried to convince him but the efforts were futile. Admitted at AIIMS, New Delhi, Singh could not be contacted.

Andhra CM plans to double farmers' income

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati, Sept 10: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy Thursday vowed to double farmers' income, making it a priority and promised to do whatever it takes to achieve it.

"We will do whatever it takes to make the lives of our farmers better and sustainable," said Reddy. Aiming at making agriculture sustainable, the Andhra Pradesh

government has decided to establish multi-purpose facilities offering 13 kinds of services at Rythu Bharosa Kendralu (RBKs, farmer assurance centres) across the state.

This move was for providing an infrastructural cushion for the state agricultural system.

Depending on the requirement of the cropping pattern, these integrated facilities will provide godowns, drying platforms, collection centres, cold storages,

custom-hiring centres, primary processing centres and assaying equipment.

They will also include janata bazaars, bulk milk cooling units, aqua-infra projects in select villages, cattle sheds in select villages, procurement centres and e-marketing.

Representatives from multiple departments proposed setting up 5,531 godowns, cold storages and collection centres.

Cong ready to tie up 'with Left' in Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 10: Newly appointed West Bengal Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said Thursday that his party is ready to forge a poll alliance with the CPI (M)-led Left Front in the state to put up a 'spirited' battle against the TMC and the BJP in the 2021 Assembly elections.



Chowdhury, who is also the Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, further said that the fight was primarily between secularism and communalism.

"Secular ideals of the Congress will ultimately defeat the communal rhetoric of the BJP and the TMC. The Congress, in alliance with the Left parties, wants to put up a spirited battle against the misrule of the TMC," he said at a press meet, his first after taking over as the West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee (WBPC) president. Chowdhury had earlier served as the WBPC chief from 2014 to 2018. Under his leadership, the party had joined hands with the Left Front and fought the 2016 state elections.

ALERT ALONG LOC

ISI USES DRONES TO DROP WEAPONS FOR TERRORISTS

AS SMALL DRONES ARE TOUGH TO DETECT, AN EXTRA VIGIL USING ALL HIGH-TECH GADGETS ALONG WITH HUMAN SCRUTINY IS BEING MAINTAINED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 10: A quadcopter used by Pakistani spy agency ISI in Jammu and Kashmir has necessitated alert along the Line of Control (LoC) in the valley as the Army believes it could be used for dropping weapons for terrorists.

Talking to PTI, General-Officer-in-Command of strategically located XV corps in Kashmir Lt Gen B S Raju said after an incident "across Peer Panjal", a reference to Jammu region in army parlance, "we have alerted all formations to keep a check on any flying object

seen along the LoC". He said the terrorists holed up in the Kashmir valley have been facing acute shortage of arms and ammunition and they are desperately looking for some help from across the border for the same.

In June, BSF had shot down a Pakistani drone, loaded with a sophisticated rifle and seven grenades, located XV corps in Kashmir in Kathua district of Jammu region.

The Chinese-made drone weighed about 17.5 kgs and had a payload of 5.5 kg including a sophisticated US-made M4 semi-automatic carbine and seven Chinese grenades. Four



batteries, a radio signal receiver and two Global Positioning Systems (GPS) were also recovered.

"Instructions have been passed on to the forward formations to keep an eye on any flying object coming from across the border (LoC) and hit it hard to bring it down," he said.

As small drones are tough to detect, an extra vigil using all high-tech gadgets along with human scrutiny is being maintained.

A strict watch is also being maintained for movement of civilians along the Line of Control as terrorists may disguise themselves as nomads or shepherds to pick up an arms consignment.

"We have discovered some dumps of arms and ammunition in recent

past along the LoC. This is a clear indication that people across the border are making shallow infiltration, dumping the weapons and returning to their launch pads across the border. This may be because of robust anti-infiltration grid being in place."

On whether Pakistan is gathering its troops along the LoC in the view of increased tension in Ladakh sector between India and China, Gen Raju said, "We have not noticed any such attempts so far but let me assure that we are prepared for any eventuality and ready to give a befitting reply".



“
Nirbhaya case is the first instance in India where men came out openly and raised their voice for women's safety
SMRITI IRANI | UNION MINISTER

CHANGE IN RAJ EDU SYLLABUS

Community service will now be a credited subject in Rajasthan to instill values like 'Joy of Giving' in students in higher education institutes who will be familiarised with community service as part of their syllabus in this session



of the day quote

According to the extended range forecast, monsoon rains will continue until September end. The withdrawal is likely to happen in the initial days of October

KULDEEP SRIVASTAVA | HEAD OF THE IMD'S REGIONAL FORECASTING CENTRE

Coronavirus is an unprecedented challenge for us and for the entire mankind. But we are fighting against it in a well-planned manner under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the whole world has recognised our efforts

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

The abrogation of Article 370 has demolished the speed breaker of redundant laws which had obstructed the development process in Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | UNION MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

5 RAFALE JETS INDUCTED INTO IAF

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, his French counterpart Florence Parly, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria and Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar attended the ceremony at the Ambala Air Force Station, the country's oldest Air Force base

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ambala, Sept 10: Five French-made multirole Rafale jets were inducted into the Indian Air Force on Thursday at a glittering ceremony here, in a major boost to the country's air power at a time it is engaged in an escalating border dispute with China.

Using the occasion to send a signal to China over the border row in eastern Ladakh, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the induction was crucial considering the atmosphere being created along the frontier and called it a "big and stern" message to those eyeing India's sovereignty. Singh said Rafale is considered one of the best combat aircraft globally and the deal to procure the jets was a "game changer" for India's national security.

A traditional 'sarva dharma puja', a ceremonial water cannon salute to the Rafale fighter jets and an aerial drill featuring breathtaking manoeuvres by the aircraft marked their induction into the IAF's Golden Arrows' squadron at the Ambala Air Force station.

Plea in SC seeks contempt proceedings against Sardesai

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 10: A plea has been moved in the Supreme Court seeking contempt proceedings against journalist Rajdeep Sardesai for his tweets critiquing the court verdict in the Prashant Bhusan case and other tweets connected with the judiciary.

The petitioner Astha Khurana, through advocate on record Om Prakash Parihar, has contended that Sardesai's statement is not only a cheap publicity stunt but a deliberate attempt to spread hatred in form of an anti-India campaign to resist in every way against the top court and judiciary as a machinery.



"That the Contemnor tweet is of serious nature putting a big question on sovereign function of Supreme Court and their abiding nature to the Constitution", said the plea. The petitioner has also written to the Attorney General K K Venugopal seeking his consent as per Supreme Court Rules to initiate contempt proceedings against Sardesai. The petitioner cited one of the tweets by Sardesai where he had criticised the one-rupee penalty imposed on Bhusan by the court; and the other tweet citing that the top court cannot debar any lawyer from practice.

"The Respondent (Sardesai) has wilfully disobeyed the decision of this Hon'ble Court and their conduct is contumacious. Therefore, a serious view of the conduct of the Respondent is required to be taken for ensuring proper administration of justice," said the plea.

PM lauds Nitish

New Delhi: Setting the tone for electioneering for the upcoming Bihar assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday lauded Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's good work to ensure safe drinking water supply in villages and said 75 lakh farmers in the state have been handed out Rs 6,000 crore cash under the PM-Kisan scheme.

Python rescued

Agra: An eight-foot-long python was rescued from a waterlogged railway underpass in Dhana Shamsabad village in Mathura. The reptile was kept under observation for several hours and later released back into its natural habitat.

MUSCLING UP



Arrows' squadron at the Ambala Air Force station.

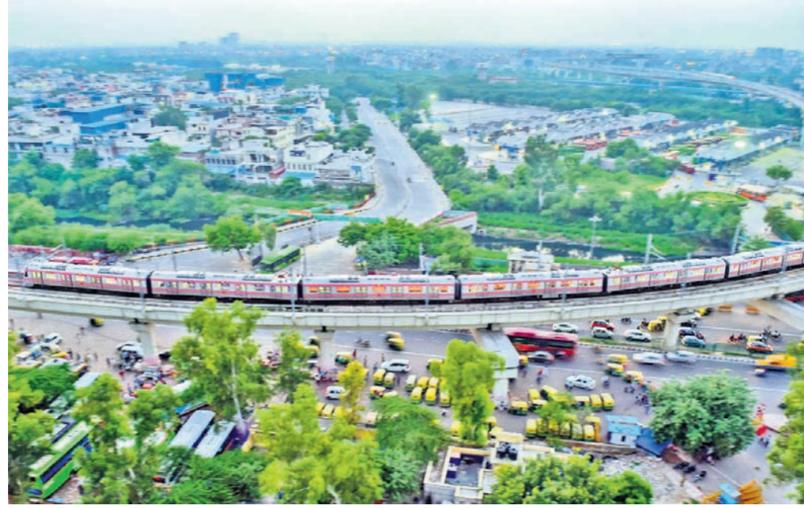
"The induction of Rafale jets is a big and stern message to the entire world, especially to those eyeing our sovereignty. This kind of induction is very important for the kind of atmosphere that has been created on our borders," the defence minister said. "We understand very well that with changing times, we also have to prepare ourselves. I feel proud to say that our national security has been a big priority for Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

Besides Singh, the nearly two-hour ceremony was attended by French Defence Minister Florence Parly, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhaduria and top executives

of major French defence firms involved in the Rafale deal. In a tweet, the IAF welcomed the "new bird" into its arsenal. The multirole Rafale jets, built by French aerospace major Dassault Aviation, are known for air-superiority and precision strikes. The first batch of five Rafale jets arrived in India on July 29, nearly four years after India signed an inter-governmental agreement with France to procure 36 of them at a cost of Rs 59,000 crore.

The French delegation at the ceremony included French envoy Emmanuel Lenain, Air General Eric Autellet, Vice Chief of French Air Force, Chairman and Chief Executive of Dassault Aviation Eric Trappier, and CEO of missile maker MBDA Eric Beranger. The 17 Squadron of the IAF was resurrected on September 10 last year. It was originally raised at Air Force Station, Ambala on Oct 1, 1951. In 1955, it was equipped with the first jet fighter, the legendary De Havilland Vampire.

RETURN TO NORMALCY



A metro train runs on its tracks in New Delhi, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

Covid creates gadget world inside homes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Sept 10: Has Covid-19 made us innovative, receptive, efficient and self-dependent while bringing diverse gadgets inside our homes?

Yes, says Ajay Data, member, FICCI, who opined that electronic items' sale seems to have gone up by 200 per cent in the last few months and credits online education which has boosted their demand in many households.

Besides online education, many families have bought automatic washing machines and electronic gadgets to clean the houses in the absence of maids in the wake of the pandemic, he said, adding that many households have also bought bigger screens to ensure their kids' education and entertainment remain unaffected and smooth. The e-commerce segment

was booming and people have started ordering bread and eggs online, too, to avoid physical contact. Robots were cleaning houses, he said. His statement found strong support from Rajasthan Computer Traders Association member Shyam Sharma.

He told IANS, "Sale of computers and laptops has increased many times, credit online education. Traders say it seems like Diwali time here. However, in the wake of rising tensions on the border and trade ties with China going south, RAM and motherboard supplies from China have slowed," he added. Electronic gadgets come under the second category - day-to-day need-based buying. In the present circumstances it might not be wrong to say that the Covid-19 pandemic has created a gadget world inside homes.

'Not a marginalised community': SC refers Maratha quota to larger bench

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 10: Referring the Maratha quota issue to a larger bench, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court has held the community which comprises 30 per cent of the population in Maharashtra cannot be compared to marginalised sections of the society living in far-flung and remote areas.

Staying the operation of the Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act 2018, and referring the issue to a bench of five judges or more for final adjudication, a bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao, Hemant Gupta and S. Ravindra Bhat on Wednesday said that the state has failed to make out a special case for providing reservation in excess of 50 per cent.

"The social, educational and economic backwardness of a community, existence of quantifiable data relating to inadequacy of representation of the community in public services and deprivation of



the benefits flowing from reservations to the community are not exceptional circumstances for providing reservations in excess of 50 per cent," the bench said.

The apex court said it is prima facie of the opinion that the Bombay High Court committed an error in treating the above factors as circumstances which are extraordinary, warranting relaxation of the strict rule of 50 per cent. "Admittedly, reser-

vations provided to the Maratha community were implemented in educational institutions for one academic year only.

Implementation of the Act for admissions in educational institutions and appointments to public posts during the pendency of these appeals will cause irreparable loss to the candidates belonging to the open category," said the bench. Staying the Maratha reservation in jobs and education, the bench observed that it will be difficult to cancel the admissions made in the educational institutions and appointments made to the public posts by implementing the reservations as per the Act. However, the top court said the admissions made to postgraduate medical courses shall not be altered.

The top court observed it was categorically held that reservations contemplated in Clause (4) of Article 16 should not exceed 50 per cent. The relaxation of the strict rule of 50 per cent can be made in certain extraordinary situations.

WHO'S SEA Region countries resolve to fight nCoV as 'ONE'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 10: All the member countries of WHO South-East Asia Region Thursday resolved to collectively fight Covid-19 and strengthen the region's response with better-equipped health systems to deliver essential health services during the pandemic.

"The spread of Covid-19 has impacted almost every community, overwhelmed health systems and disrupted economies and livelihoods with effects reaching far beyond the health sector. It has also disproportionately impacted the most vulnerable. WHO recently surveyed countries to understand better the

priorities in the South East Asia Region. At the top of the agenda is maintaining essential health services," said WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Signing the Declaration on 'Collective Response to Covid-19' along with Ministers of Health and representatives of member countries, WHO South-East Asia Regional Director, Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, said: "People's ordinary health needs do not disappear during such extraordinary events. Health security is not only about building capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond to acute events. It must also be about building capacity to maintain essential health

services for the duration of response and into the recovery."

The Declaration was signed at the end of a ministerial round table on the second and final day of the Seventy-third Regional Committee Session, hosted by Thailand, and held virtually for the first time ever due to Covid-19 pandemic.

During the roundtable, all member countries shared their various Covid-19 response measures and efforts being made to maintain essential health services and restore those impacted due to the pandemic. All countries agreed to the importance of universal health coverage and primary health care as a safety net for people, including the most



vulnerable population, to access quality health services - both Covid-19 and other essential services.

The Declaration calls for efforts to ensure countries sustain essential health services and public health programmes during public health

emergencies and use the current pandemic as an opportunity to build back their health systems to be better. The member countries agreed to allocation of adequate budgets to ensure uninterrupted services during and beyond the pandemic, while prioritising health of the people.

They also resolved to strengthen health information systems by leveraging digital technologies which capture timely reporting of outbreaks and sharing information for policy decision.

With health workers playing a crucial role in the pandemic, member countries pledged to ensure occupational health, safety and well-being of health professionals and

other related workers.

Addressing the Health Ministers of the 11 member States, Dr Khetrpal Singh said: "Continued efforts should be made to keep health workers safe from infection and violence and to provide mental health and psychosocial support."

The Declaration also calls for strengthening safety of patients and the people through adequate public health and social measures and access to quality personal protective devices, and strengthening occupational and environmental safety through medical waste management systems and making biomedical and systems research stronger.

international



Turkey is no longer a partner in this region (EU). We Europeans need to be clear and firm with Erdogan's government about its inadmissible behavior
EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE

FB LIKELY TO STOP SENDING DATA

Facebook may be forced to stop sending data about its European users to the US, in the first major fallout from a recent court ruling that found some trans-Atlantic data transfers don't protect users from American government snooping



of the day quote

We need to rapidly scale up our clinical trials, manufacturing, licensing and regulation capacity so that these products can get to people and start saving lives
TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS | DIRECTOR-GENERAL, WHO

It is possible to stream data without negatively impacting the climate if you do it right and choose the right method for data transmission
SVENJA SCHULZE | ENVIRONMENT MINISTER, GERMANY

President Trump was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his work in brokering an Israel-UAE peace deal. It was a historic deal and the first such deal in over two decades
KAYLEIGH McENANY | PRESS SECRETARY, WHITE HOUSE

MONTH AFTER EXPLOSION

Major fire breaks out at Beirut port

Beirut, Sept 10: A huge fire broke out Thursday at the Port of Beirut, triggering panic among residents traumatised by last month's massive explosion there that killed and injured thousands of people.

It was not immediately clear what caused the fire at the facility, which was decimated by the August 4 explosion when nearly 3,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate detonated, triggering a shock wave explosion that blasted windows, doors and walls miles away. A column of black smoke billowed from the port at midday Thursday, with orange flames leaping from the ground.

The Lebanese army said the fire took place at a warehouse where oil and tires are placed in the duty free zone at the port adding that fighting the blaze is ongoing and that army helicopters are taking part in the operation. Army helicopters were taking part in efforts to extinguish the fire.

Panicked residents cracked open

windows and called each other to warn them of the new fire. Local TV stations said the companies that have offices near the port have asked their employees to leave the area. Lebanese troops closed the major road that passes near the port referring traffic to other areas.

The Aug. 4 explosion killed more than 190 people, injured around 6,500 and damaged thousands of buildings in the Lebanese capital. The sight of another huge fire a month later created panic among residents traumatized by last month's explosion.

State-run National News Agency said the fire was at a warehouse where tires are placed. It added that firefighters are dealing with the blaze.

Police spokesman Col. Joseph Msalam said they have no information about what is happening at the port adding that the facility is currently under control of the army. Asked about reports that the fire was caused by burning tires and oil, he said "I don't know. It could be containers. I really don't know what is there."



Global Covid deaths hit 900,000

New York, Sept 10: The global death toll from the coronavirus passed 900,000 Wednesday, as worldwide cases topped 27.7 million, according to a Reuters tally. The United States remains the world's worst-affected country, with deaths exceeding 190,000 and cases exceeding 6.3 million. Brazil is in second place with more than 127,000 deaths followed by India with nearly 74,000 dead.

India, Monday, reported 90,802 new confirmed infections - its highest-ever daily jump - bringing its total to over 4.3 million and bumping Brazil and its 4.1 million cases to third place.

As the epicentre of the pandemic shifts to India, there is no sign of a peak in the world's second most populous nation. As bars reopened Wednesday for the first time since lockdown, it is adding more cases each day than any other country since the onset at the start of the year. It is recording more deaths than

DEATH TOLL MOUNTS

The United States remains the world's worst-affected country, with deaths exceeding 190,000 and cases exceeding 6.3 mn

The sharp rise of almost 3,000 new cases in the UK over the weekend was the highest jump since May

any other country - an average of more than 1,000 daily for the last two weeks. The Americas still account for more than half of all fatalities worldwide owing to high death counts in Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Chile and Ecuador.

An average of more than 5,600 people die each day from COVID-19, according to Reuters calculations based on data from the last two weeks. The rate of deaths is holding steady taking 18 days to climb

PAINTED ORANGE



The Bay Bridge is seen under an orange sky darkened by the smoke from California wildfires in San Francisco, California

China approves first nasal spray Covid vax for trials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Sept 10: China has approved for trials its first nasal spray vaccine to combat the novel coronavirus that has claimed over 904,000 lives and infected more than 27 million people globally, official media here reported on Thursday.

China's only nasal spray vaccine against the coronavirus is expected to start phase I clinical trials in November, and it is recruiting 100 volunteers.

It is the only vaccine of its type approved by China's National

Medical Products Administration, the state-run Global Times reported.

The vaccine is a collaborative mission between Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland that involves researchers from the University of Hong Kong, Xiamen University, and Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy.

Microbiologist from the University of Hong Kong, Yuen Kwok-yung, said the vaccine stimulates the natural infection pathway of respiratory viruses to activate the immune response.

The nasal spray vaccination

could generate double protection for vaccine recipients - influenza and the novel coronavirus - if it also contains influenza viruses including H1N1, H3N2 and B, Yuen said, adding that it would take at least another year to finish the three clinical trials.

A Beijing-based immunologist told the daily that compared with injections, a nasal spray vaccination is easier to administer and would also be easy to mass-produce and distribute as it adopts the mature influenza vaccine production technology.

US revokes visas for 1K Chinese students

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Washington, Sept 10: The US State Department said that it has revoked the visas of more than 1,000 "high-risk" Chinese students and researchers, it was reported Thursday.

The Department gave no further details on the move, but a spokeswoman said they were only a "small subset" of the total number of Chinese students coming to the US, reports the BBC.

"We continue to welcome legitimate students and scholars from China who do not further the Chinese Communist Party's goals of military dominance," she was quoted as saying in a statement.

Nearly 370,000 students from China enrolled at US universities in 2018-19. Thursday's development follows the May 29 proclamation by President Donald Trump aimed at Chinese nationals suspected of having ties to the military.

It accuses China of engaging in a "wide-ranging and heavily resourced campaign to acquire sensitive US technologies and intellectual property" and said it was using some students "to operate as non-traditional collectors of intellectual property."

'West trying to victimise Moscow over Navalny'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Sept 10: Russia's top diplomat Thursday accused the West of leveling accusations of poisoning top Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny without providing evidence, staunchly denying any official involvement.

Navalny, the most visible opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was flown to Germany two days after falling ill August 20 on a domestic flight in Russia.

German chemical weapons experts have determined that the 44-year-old was poisoned with a Soviet-era nerve agent, prompting Berlin to demand that Russia investigate the case.

The German hospital treating him said Monday that Navalny's condition has improved, allowing doctors to take him out of an induced coma.

Russian authorities have prodded Germany to share the evidence



that led them to conclude "without doubt" that Navalny was poisoned with a military nerve agent from the Novichok group, the same class of Soviet-era agent that British authorities said was used on former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in England in 2018. Russian doctors said they had found no trace of poison in Navalny's system.

Speaking at a news conference Thursday, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov charged that Germany, the United States and other Western allies who urge Russia to conduct a probe into Navalny's poisoning squarely expect Russia to accept blame for something it hasn't done.

Jaishankar attends SCO Foreign Ministers' meet



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moscow, Sept 10: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Thursday attended the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the eight-member Shanghai Cooperation Organisation here in the Russian capital.

"At the formal opening of the meeting in Moscow of the Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization," Jaishankar tweeted along with a group photo of the foreign ministers of the SCO member states including China and Pakistan.

It was the third SCO foreign ministers meeting that India attended as a full member of the eight-nation bloc.

The SCO-CFM is the highest forum of SCO after the Council of Heads of State (CHS) and the Council of Heads of Government (CHG). It deliberates on important regional and international issues and considers documents for approval and adoption by the Council of Heads of State.

In a year of social distancing, virus alters 9/11, too

IN NEW YORK, THE DOUBLE BEAMS OF LIGHT THAT EVOKE THE FALLEN TWIN TOWERS WERE NEARLY CANCELLED IN THE NAME OF VIRUS SAFETY, UNTIL AN UPROAR SPARKED A CHANGE OF HEART

AGENCIES

New York, Sept 10: In a year when the coronavirus pandemic has reshaped countless American rituals, even the commemoration of 9/11 could not escape unchanged.

The 19th anniversary of the terror attacks will be marked by dueling ceremonies at the September 11 memorial plaza and a corner near the World Trade Center, reflecting a divide over the memorial's decision to suspend a cherished tradition of relatives reading victims' names in person.

Vice President Mike Pence is expected at both those remembrances in New York, while President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden plan to attend a truncated ceremony at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania.



In New York, the double beams of light that evoke the fallen twin towers were nearly cancelled in the name of virus safety, until an uproar sparked a change of heart.

The Fire Department has cited the virus in urging members to stay away from any observances of the

2001 attacks that killed nearly the 3,000 people, among them almost 350 firefighters.

Some victims' relatives say they understand the ground zero observance had to change in a year when so much else has. Others fear the pandemic is making plain what

they have feared was happening unspoken: that the commitment to "Never Forget" is fading. "It's another smack in the face," says Jim Riches, who lost his son Jimmy, a firefighter.

The father is staying home on the anniversary for the first time this year because he doesn't want to take chances with the coronavirus after a prior illness.

But he feels others should have the option of reciting the names of the dead on the memorial plaza, instead of listening to a recording.

Memorial leaders said they wanted to avoid close contact among readers, who are usually paired at the podium. But to Riches, a retired fire battalion chief and frequent critic of the memorial organization, the decision sounds like an excuse for sidelining the families'

role in commemorating 9/11.

"I wish they wouldn't forget, but they're trying to," he says.

But Anthoula Katsimatides sees the differences this year as an effort to ensure victims' relatives feel comfortable attending - including her mother, who hasn't left home since March because health issues make her especially worried about the virus. But she is determined to go in honor of her son John, a bond trader, her daughter said.

In a year, when many events have been called off, "this wasn't cancelled. It's just been changed in such a way where we still get to pay tribute to our loved ones in a respectful and safe way," said Katsimatides, who's on the memorial board. She says the change wasn't motivated by anything except a public health emergency.

business



With the gradual reopening of the economy post lockdown, advertisers from FMCG, e-commerce, automobiles and online education sectors are back on TV channels, recording higher ad volumes
SUNIL LULLA | CEO, BARC

CRISIL REVISES FY'21 REAL GDP

Credit rating agency Crisil has revised FY21 real GDP growth forecast for India to (-) 9% from (-) 5% projected in May. According to Crisil, with the pandemic's peak not yet in sight and the government not providing adequate direct fiscal support, the downside risks to its earlier forecast have materialised



of the day quote

As more companies look for innovative CX and BPM solutions to not just weather the storm but plan for growth beyond the Covid crisis, we're adding customer care professionals, engineers, and IT support personnel to our staff to keep up with the demand
NARASIMHA MURTHY | PRESIDENT, HGS

There is a need to strengthen corporate governance and India Inc should look at adopting global best practices and benchmarks in the interest of consumers
ANURAG THAKUR | MOS FOR FINANCE

Businesses all over the world are facing critical challenges with regards to data protection. Our Data Security Firewall offers advanced data protection; it understands the data and its criticality to the enterprise and prevents breach and leak of this critical piece of information
SONIT JAIN | CEO, GAISHIELD INFOTECH

Further fiscal stimulus warranted in India: IMF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Sept 10: The IMF Thursday said that there is a need for another stimulus, especially expenditures on health, food and income support for vulnerable households, and support for businesses in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gerry Rice, Director of Communications Department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), told reporters at a virtual news conference here that the Washington-based global financial institution supports the Indian government's responses to the pandemic including fiscal stimulus with a focus on low income workers and households.

"We support the monetary easing and liquidity and regulatory measures for the financial sector and borrowers that have taken place. "We believe further fiscal stim-



The near-term growth outlook continues to be clouded by the global and domestic slowdown and uncertainties from the pandemic with significant downside risks
GERRY RICE | DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT, IMF

ulus is warranted, especially expenditures on health, food and income support for vulnerable households, and support for businesses," Rice said, responding to questions on the massive contraction that the Indian economy has experienced in the latest quarter due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In the short term, a detailed well

communicated and credible medium-term fiscal consolidation plan is also important, alongside an increase in fiscal transparency, the IMF spokesperson said.

"We hope that would help boost market confidence, thereby helping to reduce the cost of borrowing, as well as help the economy overall," he said.

Noting that the impact of the coronavirus pandemic is significant in India on development, and on poverty, Rice said that given the unprecedented shock, the immediate priority needs to be a coordinated policy response to fight the virus.

After the US, India has the second largest number of people who have been infected by coronavirus with more than 4.2 million positive cases. The US has the largest number with 6.4 million cases and 193,250 deaths.

Over 70,000 Indians have died due to coronavirus, as it has had an

unprecedented impact on the India economy. The preliminary GDP estimate for 2020, second quarter performance in India, came in weaker than expected, around 23% as year on year, reflecting on the severe impact of the pandemic, and the ensuing lockdowns.

"The contraction and economic activity reflected broad base weaknesses in industries and services with construction, manufacturing, hotels and transportation sectors, suffering the most," Rice said.

In its last World Economic Outlook Update, the IMF projected India's growth at minus 4.5% and six per cent for fiscal years 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively, he said.

Rice also said that the IMF would be revising India's growth projections during the next World Economic Outlook release on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the IMF in October.

'Investments by PE, VC funds more than halve to \$1.9 bn in Aug'

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 10: Investments by venture capital (VC) and private equity (PE) funds more than halved to \$1.9 billion (about ₹13,950 crore) in August as there were no large deals, consultancy firm EY said Thursday.

Investments stood at \$4.3 billion in August last year and \$4.1 billion in July this year on the back of deals struck by the Mukesh Ambani-led Jio Platforms, data collated by EY said.

"Although PE/VC investments of \$1.9 billion in August 2020 are over 50% lower than that in August 2019 as well as July 2020, it has been better than the sub-\$1 billion monthly run rate seen in the initial months of the pandemic," EY Partner Vivek Soni said.

He said there is a "perceptible improvement" in investor confidence as the Indian as well as global markets begin to open up. The USD 1.9 billion was invested across 75 deals.

The financial services sector reclaimed its top position for PE/VC investments after a gap of three months, with investments worth USD 1.1 billion in August, while the education space is also receiving considerable attention with USD 1.1 billion invested this year, he said.

Exit activity continued to be subdued with only USD 67 million worth of transactions, primarily coming from open market activity, EY said, adding that buoyant equity markets with many PE-backed IPOs lined up for listing may reverse the trend.

'Covid likely to force govt to borrow more'

REUTERS

New Delhi/Mumbai, Sept 10: Revenue shortfalls in India, the major economy hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic, are likely to force the government to borrow more, but it will only consider monetising its deficit as a last resort, sources familiar with discussions told Reuters.

Borrowing plans for the second half of the financial year, ending March 31, will be reviewed by government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials later this month, the five sources said.

The officials have already discussed the possibility of monetising the debt, whereby the central bank prints money to bridge the fiscal deficit, but they were in no hurry to return to a bad habit India kicked in 1997.

"There will definitely be higher borrowing in the current year but whether we will print money that is not yet decided. We will have to have patience and see how things go," a senior official said.

A senior government official said debt monetization was "not the preferred option right now."

"We have seen what some of the countries have done in this regard, but we think that such a move would be the last resort for us," the official added.



Borrowing plans for the second half of the financial year, ending March 31, will be reviewed by government and RBI officials later this month

Aside from potentially harming India's credit rating, monetisation carries inflation risks that would be politically worrying in a country where voters are extremely sensitive to changes in food prices.

The senior government official said the central bank could ease liquidity through open market operations to keep yields in check while helping the government to increase borrowing, already targeted at a record 12 trillion rupees (\$163 billion).

RBI has pumped in over 11 trillion rupees of liquidity into the market, helping to keep 10-year bond yields below 6% even as the government decided to borrow 70% more than last year as a result of the pandemic.

Despite being under one of the strictest lockdowns for over four months India currently has the

second highest number of coronavirus cases globally with economic activity curtailed and government revenues severely affected.

India's GDP contracted 23.9% on year in the April-June quarter, with Goldman Sachs now projecting a full-year contraction of 14.8%.

Officials, however, are still pinning some hopes on raising revenue from the sale of the state-owned firms even though they do not expect to meet the target of over 2 trillion rupees for divestment sales this year.

"The dilemma over deficit monetisation is not unique to India," said Radhika Rao, economist with DBS. "The primary challenge is to communicate and ensure that this is a one-off pandemic-induced arrangement and not a recurrent financing line."

India ready to sign limited trade deal with US: Goyal

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 10: Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal Thursday said that India is ready to sign a limited trade deal with the US at the earliest. Addressing the students of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade through video conferencing, Goyal assured that the deal will entail substantive gains for the country.

He also said that India wants to sign free trade agreements (FTA) with developed countries like the US, and the UK as well as the European Union (EU). All the forthcoming trade deals will be undertaken after discussions with all the stakeholders, and the interests of dairy, agriculture, and MSMEs, he said.

| TOP GAINERS 10 SEP | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------|
| 38,840.32 BSE SENSEX | | |
| POINTS | | % |
| 2314.65 | Reliance | 7.10% |
| 2062.90 | Asian Paints | 4.25% |
| 447.15 | Axis Bank | 3.70% |
| 3938.25 | UltraTech Cem | 2.79% |
| 620.65 | IndusInd Bank | 2.51% |
| 3499.00 | Bajaj Finance | 2.20% |
| 6140.00 | Bajaj Finerv | 1.89% |
| 198.15 | SBI | 1.67% |
| 177.90 | Power Grid Corp | 1.51% |
| 73.65 | ONGC | 1.31% |

Pandemic hits auto industry, retail sales tumble 29%

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: In the wake of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the retail automobile sales in Odisha continued to remain down by 29% in August on Y-o-Y basis but showed some improvement due to the ongoing festivities when compared to M-o-M, as per the data showed by Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations of India (FADA). In July, the retail sales declined by 40.6% in the state.

According to FADA's report, automobile retail sales saw only 39,353 units in all categories in Odisha for the month of August, 2020. Tractor segment was the only category that showed a positive re-



tail sales trend with a growth of 40.65% to 1,730 units compared to the same month of 2019. The passenger vehicles sale in August was declined by 2.08% and around 3,757 units were sold in same month.

While the two-wheeler sales were down nearly by 29.39% to about 32,165 units in the state. Also, the commercial vehicles retail sales

down by 62.08% and the three-wheeler category registered negative growth of 69.01%. In August, commercial vehicles sales were 1,116 units and three-wheeler sales were 585 units.

The automobile sales across India, in overall, dipped 26.81% in August.

FADA says that entry level passenger vehicles shows initial signs of demand revival as customers sitting on fence finally conclude their purchase with Janmashtami and Ganesh Chaturthi during the month. Overall demand still not back to pre-covid levels as despite abundant liquidity, risk averse mood of Banks and NBFC's coupled with stricter CIBIL scores, fails to capture demand in the current month.

Walmart tests drone delivery amid battle with Amazon

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

San Francisco, Sept 10: Retail giant Walmart has started testing drone delivery of grocery and household essential items in a bid to take on e-commerce giant Amazon. Walmart said it has partnered with Israel-based drone delivery company Flytrex to launch the pilot in Fayetteville, North Carolina, Wednesday.

"Our latest initiative has us exploring how drones can deliver items in a way that's convenient, safe, and - you guessed it - fast," Tom Ward, Senior Vice President, Customer Product, Walmart, said in a blog post.

"The drones, which are controlled over the cloud using a smart and easy control dashboard, will help us



gain valuable insight into the customer and associate experience, from picking and packing to take-

off and delivery," Ward said. Walmart's move comes at a time when e-commerce has gained promi-

nence due to Covid-19 restrictions. Amazon late last month said that it had received approval from the

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the US for drone delivery of packages. With the possession of

what is called Part 135 air carrier certificate, Amazon can run its fleet of Prime Air delivery drones.

Following the crucial approval, Amazon said it will start testing customer deliveries.

Walmart said that the learnings from pilots such as the one started in North Carolina will help shape the potential of drone delivery on a larger scale.

"We know that it will be some time before we see millions of packages delivered via drone," Ward said.

"That still feels like a bit of science fiction, but we're at a point where we're learning more and more about the technology that is available and how we can use it to make our customers' lives easier," he added.

THE e-COMM WAR

- Walmart has partnered with Israel-based drone delivery company Flytrex to launch the pilot in North Carolina
- Walmart's move comes at a time when e-commerce has gained prominence due to Covid-19 restrictions
- Meanwhile, Amazon in August, said that it had received approval from the FAA in the US for drone delivery of packages
- Walmart said that the learnings from pilots such as the one started in North Carolina will help shape the potential of drone delivery on a larger scale

RUSSIAN YOUNGSTER ENTERS US OPEN SEMIFINALS WITHOUT DROPPING SET SO FAR SETTING UP A CLASH WITH THIEM

Medvedev through

ASSOCIATED PRESS

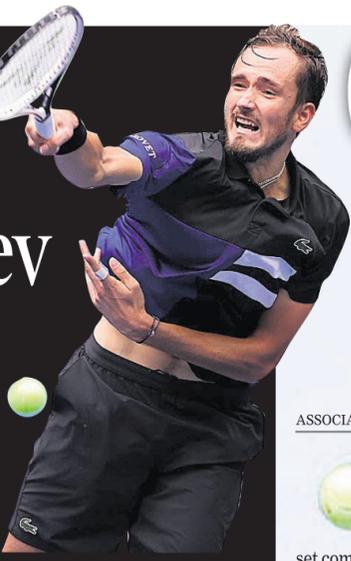
New York, Sept 10: Not only had 2019 runner-up Daniil Medvedev not dropped a set in this US Open entering his all-Russian quarterfinal against long-time pal Andrey Rublev, but Medvedev hadn't allowed more than four games in any set.

So when Rublev grabbed a sizable lead in the opening-set tie-breaker Wednesday and three times was a single point from closing it, the moment felt momentous.

Turned out it was. The No.3-seeded Medvedev fought off that trio of chances for No.10 Rublev in the tie-breaker by reeling off five points in a row, and was on his way to a 7-6(8-6), 6-3, 7-6(7-5) victory to return to the semifinals at Flushing Meadows.

The only concern for Medvedev in the latter stages was whether his body would hold up — he was dealing with cramps and needed his right shoulder massaged by a trainer in the third set — but he did, indeed, hold on. "It was tough at the end," Medvedev said. "I felt like I could get in trouble."

He took 51 of 57 points when his first serve went in, never faced a break point and wound up with a 51-23 edge in total winners. In all, through five matches, Medvedev has won 65 of his 68 service games, saving 6 of nine break points.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 10: They were just two particular points from Serena Williams' latest three-set comeback at the US Open, yet they were pivotal and consisted of the sorts of lengthy exchanges filled with athleticism and brilliance that in any other, non-pandemic year would be marked by thousands of folks rising to their feet for delirious roars and raucous applause.

She needed both of these points, one of which included a shot she hit left-handed, to reverse a deficit that reached the scale of a set and a break after 45 minutes of her quarterfinal against Tsvetana Pironkova on a cloudy Wednesday in empty Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Williams needed both of these points during a five-game, match-altering run — along with 20 aces, her most in a match in eight years — to end up on the right side of a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 score after more than two hours to get to the semifinals at Flushing Meadows for an 11th consecutive appearance.

"It's not how you start, it's how you finish, right?" Williams said. Two more victories would allow her to claim a record-tying 24th Grand Slam singles title.

"In the beginning, I was a little fatigued, for whatever reason," Williams said. "Obviously, I can't do that if I want to keep winning, so I need to figure that out."

How big an upset would this have been if Pironkova had held on? Not only is she not seeded at Flushing Meadows, she doesn't

even appear in the WTA rankings at all — this was her first tournament of any sort in more than three years, because she left the tour to become a mother.

"It's unbelievable," Williams said about Pironkova's impressive return to competition. "Wow, I couldn't even do that."

When the players stepped out onto the court, the stadium announcer — announcing for whom, exactly, was something of a mystery — referred to Pironkova, a 32-year-old from Bulgaria, as "Alexander's mom" and then to Williams as "Olympia's mom" during the pre-match introductions.

"It just shows me how tough moms are," Williams said afterward. "You play a match and you go home and you're still changing diapers," said Williams, whose daughter turned three September 1 and is a little older than

Pironkova's son. "It's

like a double life. It's really surreal."

The American, who turns 39 in less than three weeks, has won six US Open championships; she was the runner-up the past two

years. Williams last lost before the semifinals in New York in 2007, when Justine Henin eliminated her in the quarterfinals.

Williams, Thursday, will face Victoria Azarenka, who returned to the US Open semifinals for the first time since 2013 by overwhelming Elise

Mertens 6-1, 6-0 Wednesday night. Williams

leads her head-to-head series against Azarenka 18-4, including beating her in the 2012 and 2013 finals in New York. It was in a 2012 match against Azarenka at Wimbledon that Williams last topped 20 aces, producing 24. The other women's semifinal Thursday will be 2018 champion Naomi Osaka against No.28 seed Jennifer Brady.

ON RECORD-EQUALLING COURSE



ATP adds four more events to provisional calendar

LONDON: Four new tournaments have been added to the provisional ATP calendar for the remainder of the 2020 season, the men's Tour announced Thursday. The German city of Cologne will host back-to-back ATP 250 events on indoor hard while Sardinia will stage a claycourt event and Nur-Sultan in Kazakhstan will host an indoor event. The events will be on single-year licence as the ATP offers professionals the opportunity to earn money and ranking points in the wake of the coronavirus shutdown. The Cologne events begin October 12, the same day as the claycourt tournament in Sardinia. The Astana Open in Nur-Sultan starts October 26.

RR reveal new jersey with dramatic skydiving video

DUBAI: Rajasthan Royals Wednesday revealed their new jersey for the 2020 season of the IPL in a rather dramatic fashion. The franchise teamed up with Red Bull Skydiving and wingsuit athlete Dani Roman, who skydived and descended down to the One & Only Resort, Royal Mirage here to hand the RR players their new jerseys. In the video shared by the franchise, the Spanish skydiver could be seen jumping out of a plane, several thousand feet above the Palm Islands, carrying with him a RR bag. Flying over the players as he left a strew of smoke through the air, he parachuted onto the beach and dropped off a bag full of jerseys for the players to grab.



Sindhu, Srikanth to lead India in Thomas & Uber Cup Finals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: World Champion PV Sindhu and former World No.1 Kidambi Srikanth will lead a 20-strong Indian badminton squad for next month's Thomas and Uber Cup Finals, the Badminton Association of India (BAI) said Thursday.

With World Championships bronze medalist B Sai Praneeth pulling out of the event due to knee injury, Srikanth along with Parupalli Kashyap and the in-form Lakshya Sen will take the onus of the singles events.

For the two doubles events men's pairing of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy, and Dhruv Kapila and MR Arjun have been selected in the team along with Krishna Prasad Garaga.

The women's team for Uber Cup will be led by Sindhu, who made herself available for the tournament after initially deciding to give it a miss.

The squad will be further bolstered by the presence of former World No.1 Saina Nehwal and Commonwealth Games bronze medalists Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy, who will be helming the doubles department. Youngsters Aakarshi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SQUADS
THOMAS CUP: Kidambi Srikanth, Parupalli Kashyap, Lakshya Sen, Subhankar Dey, Siril Verma, Manu Attri, B. Sumeeth Reddy, MR Arjun, Dhruv Kapila and Krishna Garaga;
UBER CUP: PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal, Aakarshi Kashyap, Malvika Bansod, Ashwini Ponnappa, N Sikki Reddy, Pooja Dandu, Sanjana Santosh, Poorvisha S Ram and Jakkampudi Meghana;

DENMARK OPEN & DENMARK MASTERS: Kidambi Srikanth, Saina Nehwal, Lakshya Sen, Ashwini Ponnappa, PV Sindhu and N Sikki Reddy.

Kashyap and Malvika Bansod were also included in the 10-member squad.

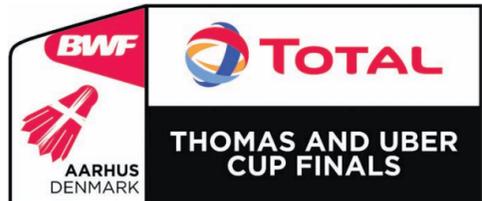
In Thomas Cup, India have been placed in Group C with Denmark apart from Germany and Algeria. In Uber Cup, India

find themselves in Group D with China, Germany and France. However, China are yet to confirm their participation.

Sindhu, Saina, Srikanth, Lakshya and women's doubles pair of Ashwini and Sikki will also participate in the two Super 750 events — Denmark Open (Oct 13-18) and Denmark Masters (Oct 20-25) which will be held after the Thomas and Uber Cup Finals.

The Sports Authority of India had proposed a preparatory camp in Hyderabad which was originally scheduled to start September 7 and conclude September 27 for the event set for October 3-11 in Aarhus, Denmark.

However, the camp was cancelled Thursday after it became clear that players would not get any relaxation on the 7-day mandatory quarantine period and BAI then decided to announce the team.



Watson believes CSK have a great chance to win IPL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 10: The experience and quality of Chennai Super Kings' (CSK) battle-hardened players should see the team through in the upcoming IPL despite a turbulent build-up caused by 13 COVID-19 cases in the contingent, feels veteran all-rounder Shane Watson.

"Having an experienced team means your players have more understanding of being able to get their skills to execute under pressure from game one," Watson said on Nabeel Hashmi's YouTube show.

Hashmi is the head of player acquisitions at the Quetta Gladiators, Watson's team in the Pakistan Super League. The former Australian all-rounder added, "That is why we believe we've got a great chance of having a great year because of the quality of players and the experience we've got. We've got more chance of not making many mistakes trying to get up to speed as quickly as we possibly can."

As one of T20 leagues' biggest freelancers, Watson has been playing across the world for the past few seasons, and he is banking on that experience to shine in his next assignment.

Vettel to drive for Racing Point team

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON, Sept 10: Four-time Formula One (F1) champion Sebastian Vettel will drive for Racing Point starting next season.

The team, which will be renamed Aston Martin, announced the move Thursday, a day after driver Sergio Perez said he was on his way out. The team said Vettel has signed for the 2021 season 'and beyond' but did not reveal the length of the contract.

"The signing of Sebastian is a clear statement of the team's ambition to establish itself as one of the most competitive names in the sport," the team said in a statement. "As a four-time World Champion, Sebastian brings a fresh mindset to the team."

One of the most successful drivers in F1, Vettel is leaving Ferrari at the end of this season after he was not offered a new contract. He will be replaced by McLaren driver Carlos Sainz at Ferrari next year.

Vettel has won 53 Grand Prix races, a tally only surpassed by Michael Schumacher and Lewis Hamilton. He won four consecutive titles with Red Bull from 2010-13 and joined Ferrari in 2015 with the aim to win another.



But he never had a car really capable of challenging Mercedes during his stint with the Scuderia, where he lost his No.1 status as teammate Charles Leclerc came to prominence.

"It's a new adventure for me with a truly legendary car company," Vettel said. "I have been impressed with the results the team has achieved this year and I believe the future looks even brighter. I still have so much love for Formula 1 and my only motivation is to race at the front of the grid."

Currently fourth in the constructors' standings, Racing Point was handed a 400,000 euro fine and docked 15 points last month for copying a Mercedes design for its brake ducts. The team, however, was allowed to continue to use the offending components this season.

Oz need to find a permanent No.3 in ODIs: Ponting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, Sept 10: Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting feels that the national team management needs to find an ideal 'No.3' in ODIs, someone who will own that slot in years to come.

The next ODI World Cup is scheduled to be played in India in 2023 and Ponting believes Australia have 'work to do' on their one-day cricket ahead of the quadrennial event.

"They need to find someone that's going to bat at No.3 for them for a long time. It's such a pivotal role, they need to find someone who's going to be a long-term player there," Ponting said while talking to 'cricket.com.au'.

It could either be Marnus Labuschagne or Steve Smith, according to the two-time World Cup

winning skipper. "Whether that's Marnus (Labuschagne) there (at No.3) and Smith at four, or whether it's the other way round, who knows what it's going to be."

"We'll see how the Aussie boys go, but they've still got some work to do on their one-day cricket, I think," Ponting said.

While Australia lost 1-2 to England in the T20 series, Ponting isn't worried about the shortest and the longest (Tests) formats.

"We know their T20 cricket of late has been good and we know their Test cricket has been outstanding, but there's still a few little holes in their one-day game and hopefully they can patch them up over the next week or so."

Australia will head into the three-match ODI series that begins in

Manchester Friday. "There's not too many holes, but I think they just have to work out what their brand of one-day cricket is going to be and how they're going to go about it because there's no doubt the talent's all there," he said. "You look at that squad right now and that group of players you've got over there, it's a very good squad."

Talking about England's World Cup winning skipper Eoin Morgan, Ponting said: "I think back three or four years ago and I thought Morgan was gone. I thought he was done as an international player."

"He was in the IPL, on the bench for Sunrisers (Hyderabad) and couldn't get a game, moving around different franchises as a spare overseas player. But now he just seems like he's found another gear and he's probably playing better than he's played in his life."



Ricky Ponting wants Marnus Labuschagne (L) or Steve Smith to be Australia's long-time No.3 in ODIs