



UNIQUE CHOICE

Actor Bhumi Pednekar has 'tried to bring to life' stories of powerful, independent women from the beginning

LEISURE P2



2,995 NEW nCoV CASES

Odisha's Covid-19 tally mounts to 2,40,998 as 2,995 more people test positive for the virus and another 18 die

DOWNTOWN P4



H-1B VISA BLOW

The USA announces new rules for H-1B visa programme with an aim to put American workers 'first'

INTERNATIONAL P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



People are no more interested in communal issues and expect better governance. Seems there's some global conspiracy against you!

RHEA RELEASED

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Oct 7: The Bombay High Court has granted conditional bail to Hindi film actor Rhea Chakraborty, and two others, but rejected the bail plea of her brother Showik, her lawyer Satish Maneshinde said here Wednesday. Justice SV Kotwal, who had completed the hearing on the bail applications September 29 and reserved his ruling, pronounced the much-anticipated order this morning. The Court granted bail of ₹1 lakh to Rhea, and for ₹50,000 each to Dipesh Sawant and Samuel Miranda.

PETROL PUMP BLAST; 10 HURT

Flames as high as 30 feet were seen from several high-rise buildings in the City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Ten people were left injured in a major fire that broke out at an Indian Oil Corporation petrol pump near Raj Bhawan here Wednesday, police said.

Three of the injured persons are said to be critical due to the 'enormous' impact of the explosion.

According to sources, a blast in a Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) tank at the filling station caused the fire. The local administration, taking a quick call, alerted Fire department personnel to douse the fire while ambulance, forensic department, police force and others chipped in to ensure 'zero casualty'.

It is to be noted that the filling station is located at the heart of the City, at Governor House Square, with residences of some high-profile personalities and an office of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) adjacent to it. Due to the impact of the explosion, parts of the roof of the petrol pump, walls and other accessories of the filling station were reduced to rubble. "The incident happened at 1:12pm. There were two LPG gas tanks besides

■ Cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained
■ Of the 10 injured, 3 are critical

■ The impact was so huge that nearby buildings and establishments suffered heavy damage



Flames emanate from the blast site



The exploded LPG tank

tanks for petrol and diesel. We have had talks with IOCL to take back the remaining gas, petrol and diesel from the pump site. We have issued alerts to the people living in nearby areas and asked them to wait for our next instructions. We are examining the incident and filed a criminal case into this

direction," Twin City police commissioner Sudhanshu Sarangi said.

He added that the case was registered suo motto by the police department and there was no damage to the infrastructure of the Governor House.

In the daytime, Dr LD Sahu, Director of Capital Hospital, said that two of the injured were critical and have been shifted to SCB Medical College for further treatment. It is said that one of them, a 65-year-old man suffered head injuries and 60 per cent burn while another person suffered 40 per cent burn

injuries. Six more persons suffered non-serious injuries in the blast, he added. While the Fire department doused it, the Forensic team collected evidence and samples from the site including the CCTV footage.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said the state government will bear the cost of treatment of the injured and wished them speedy recovery. This is the first accident at a petrol pump in Odisha; as per government statistics no such incidents has been officially reported in the last three years.

We held talks with IOCL to take back the remaining gas, petrol and diesel from the pump site. We have issued alerts to the people living in nearby areas and asked them to wait for our next instructions

SUDHANSHU SARANGI | TWIN CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER



Delhi court asks Varsha to appear December 10

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 7: The Patiala House Family Court here directed actor Varsha Priyadarshini to appear before it December 10 in connection with a divorce petition filed by her husband and Biju Janata Dal MP Anubhav Mohanty.

The Family Court's Principle Judge Anju Bajaj Chandana issued notice on the ground that the marriage was not consummated between the couple and Varsha caused agony to Mohanty and his family.

Advocate Ashwini Dubey, counsel for Mohanty, submitted in the court that Priyadarshini has caused mental, physical and emotional cruelty to Anubhav Mohanty and his family. The counsel also submitted



that Priyadarshini meted ill-treatment to Anubhav's family members. Notably, the BJD MP filed the divorce petition in Patiala House Court here July 7. In his petition, Mohanty submitted that his wife Barsha stayed with him only for 18 months from the date of marriage and the period was full of cruelty, tyranny, misery, harassment and suffering for him and his family members at the hands of his wife. The marriage between us has not been consummated due to selfish behaviour of Varsha, the petitioner submitted.



INAUGURAL CEREMONY

OF

ODISHA GRINDING UNIT
THE RAMCO CEMENTS LIMITED

HARIDASPUR, JAJPUR DISTRICT

BY

Sri Naveen Patnaik

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha
on 8th October 2020 at 5 PM

In Presence of

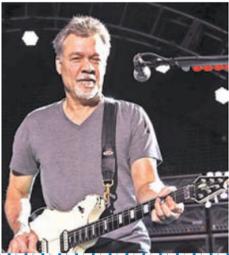
Smt. Sarmistha Sethy, Hon'ble M.P., Jajpur
Shri. Pranab Kumar Balabantaray, Hon'ble MLA, Dharmasala

and

Shri. P.R. Venketrama Raja,
Chairman & Managing Director,
Shri. A.V. Dharmakrishnan,
Chief Executive Officer



MAKE IN ODISHA



ROCK LEGEND EDDIE VAN HALEN DIES AFTER BATTLE WITH CANCER

Eddie Van Halen, the lead guitarist of iconic rock group Van Halen, has died, confirmed his son. He was 65. He died Tuesday morning after a long battle with cancer, reports *variety.com*. His band were best known for their song *Jump*, which got the top spot in the US charts in 1984.

LEVY SLAMS INDIAN CHANNEL FOR CENSORING SHOW

Actor and co-creator Dan Levy of the Emmy Award-winning show *Schitt's Creek* has slammed Comedy Central India for taking out a scene of a same sex kiss between his character David and Dustin Milligan's character, Ted. Levy posted a promo clip on his Twitter account, claiming the channel cut out his kissing scene.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL \$5181

ARIES
You may stomp your feet all you like, but you're not going to get your way today. The days of 'me-myself' are over. Also, today you may invite unwanted trouble. It may do you some good, suggests Ganesh, if you change the hub of your activities.

TAURUS
Never dig a well when your house is on fire, says Ganesh. You will realise the importance of saving money for future needs today. You will feel uneasy in your routine and may feel the urge to get away from the chaos of things. Evening might see you spend a small fortune on loved ones and leisure, predicts Ganesh.

GEMINI
Your quest for spiritual enlightenment continues. You may not want to go to the Himalayas to acquire what you seek, but take a trip to a nearby yoga centre or surf the Internet for Kama Sutra by Deepak Chopra, provided they are for free! It may help you to connect spiritually to your partner, at least.

CANCER
It is highly probable that you will be highly pious and dutiful today, foretells Ganesh. You will spend sparingly in the afternoon. You will stay in excellent health condition. Romantic dinner with sweetheart is likely, hopes Ganesh.

LEO
It is fine to make hay while the sun shines, but do not forget to put aside some for a rainy day as well, says Ganesh. Today is one such day when you can do fantastically well by putting aside some money for your family's future. At work, pending tasks may have piled up, but today you shall do well to try and clear the backlog.

VIRGO
Your position of strength will be shaken badly today. All chances are, this may invite unwanted troubles and furrow deeper lines of worry. But you may yet do good if you shift out of the usual and foray into something new.

LIBRA
Remember the joint account you were going to open one of these days? Well, today is the day best suited for such decisions. Make the most of this propitious day and make well-informed plans concerning your future career growth. Ganesh gives his nod.

SCORPIO
In all probability, backlog is the last word you may like to hear. Professionally, you will remain workaholic for most part of the day. You shall polish off all those files in your 'In' tray. The romantic bee will buzz around in the evening and gladden your heart, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
High-octane action might be in the offing at work today. The day will be highlighted by your workaholic and tireless nature. Your bosses may be lenient with you today on certain issues. Love, affection and devotion of your loved ones will keep you pre-occupied otherwise.

CAPRICORN
Striking a perfect balance between work and passion, you are likely to inspire people and leave them in awe with all that multitasking, says Ganesh. Of course, as the day progresses, work will gain more prominence and demand more attention, but for the time being, you will enjoy the break you may get from work.

AQUARIUS
Today, you will revel in a lot of tender loving and care (TLC). You may also be able to solve certain baffling situations plaguing your peace of mind. Ganesh suggests that you meet people, as any associations you form today will prove beneficial in the long run.

PISCES
You will be in the mood to splurge today. You are likely to find yourself throwing a party or entertaining guests in the afternoon. You might just indulge in some uncalculated extravagance and give your spouse a pleasant, albeit expensive, surprise, says Ganesh.

ANANYA BELIEVES IN LESS ATTITUDE, MORE GRATITUDE

Mumbai: Actress Ananya Panday has shared a mantra she believes in on social media. Ananya took to Instagram, where she is seen posing on a beach with the sea in the backdrop. In the picture, she looks stunning in a casual white and navy blue sweatshirt. "Less attitude, more gratitude," wrote the actress alongside the image, who is currently in Goa to shoot for

Shakun Batra's untitled film. Ananya's latest release is *Khaali Peeli*. The film also stars Ishaan Khatter. She will also be seen in a pan-Indian film opposite Vijay Deverakonda. Ananya recently joined other stars like Kartik Aaryan, Sonu Sood, Janhvi Kapoor, Alaya F and Soha Ali Khan, along with singers Neha Kakkar and Shaan, to be part of an online fundraiser campaign aimed at aiding the Covid affected. The fundraiser campaign was aimed at donating one million masks to underprivileged sections of society and Covid-19 frontline workers across India. It is titled Mission: 1 Million Masks.



Riteish says no to non-veg food, black coffee for a cause

Mumbai: Actor Riteish Deshmukh has given up non-vegetarian food, black coffee and aerated drinks for a cause. Earlier this year, Riteish and his wife Genelia D'Souza had pledged to donate their organs. "I have given up non-vegetarian food, black coffee and aerated drinks. I want to keep my body healthy. And eventually, when the time comes for donating my organs, people should say, 'Jaate jaate healthy organs chhod kar gaya' (he left healthy organs)," said Riteish. He also shared about how he and his wife decided to donate organs. "We (Genelia and Riteish) have been thinking about this (organ donation) for a few years now. During this lockdown, we got a lot of time to think about what

we should do. Unfortunately, we didn't have a lot of information on organ donation like where to go and how to go about the process," said the actor while supporting Dr. Sunil Shroff on the Karamveer Special episode of Kaun Banega Crorepati.



Designers with the models

Top fashionistas join hands to launch affordable clothing line

The way they have joined forces, it is definitely going to be a way forward for many such collaborations, says well known designer Suneet Varma

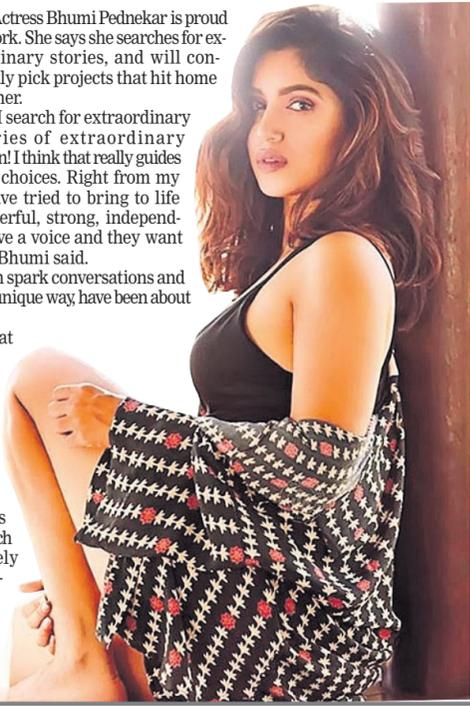
AGENCIES

New Delhi: Four of India's leading designers - JJ Valaya, Ashish Soni, Manish Arora and Suneet Varma have partnered with Amazon fashion to launch a line of affordable clothing called RIVER. The brand is now available to buy on the e-commerce site. Speaking about the novelty of the brand designer Soni said, "With RIVER, we're working pretty much like the rest of the world does. We have manufacturing partners who take that load off of us. We work with a design team at DBS, and there is a range of manufacturers who are producing these goods for us. Therefore, ensuring great quality and being able to produce at those price points, that's very key to all of this." On how they are redefining designer wear in an affordable format, Valaya shared, "What do Karl Lagerfeld, Stella McCartney, Roberto Cavalli, Jimmy Choo, Versace, Victor & Rolf, Lanvin and Kenzo have in common? The fact that they are all super luxury brands which at some point of time collaborated with Swedish fast fashion brand, H&M! ... and I am happy to say that RIVER is at the forefront of a similar revolution in India! RIVER is India's first ever initiative where top high fashion brands have a design collaboration with a

mainstream platform that is Amazon Fashion, in this case to bring forth an accessible line bearing the distinct ethos' of the four designers." Suneet Varma, on the prospect of such collaborations in Indian fashion industry, said "The way we have joined forces, it is definitely going to be a way forward for many collaborations... coming together of creative minds, great strength of design, production and availability along with bandwidth to reach out to a sizable audience. Furthermore, in the light of the current pandemic, people are not going to step out to shop in crowded spaces, so they will be buying sitting in the comfort and safety of their homes and at that point there is nothing better than shopping on Amazon Fashion because of its country-wide reach." Mayank Shivam, Director - Strategic Initiatives, Amazon Fashion India on their future plans in reference to this launch said, "We will continue investing in the fashion segment in India. For RIVER, this is Season 1 with four very celebrated designers, this is the start of a journey where we make designer wear more and more accessible, affordable and reachable to customers. We will continue to grow and scale this. Right now we are focusing on season 1, and the partnerships we have with each of the designers is to make sure it's a big success."

Bhumi searches for stories of extraordinary women

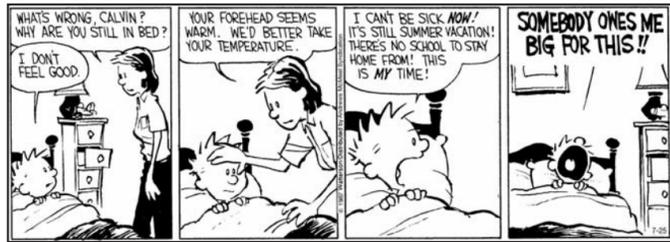
Mumbai: Actress Bhumi Pednekar is proud of her work. She says she searches for extraordinary stories, and will constantly pick projects that hit home for her. "I search for extraordinary stories of extraordinary women! I think that really guides my film choices. Right from my debut, I have tried to bring to life stories of powerful, strong, independent women who have a voice and they want to be heard by society," Bhumi said. She added: "Cinema can spark conversations and all my films, in their own, unique way, have been about achieving parity." Bhumi has shown that she is not afraid to explore roles and diverse genres because she wants to start a positive conversation about being a woman in India. She said: "I'm proud of my body of work and I know I will constantly pick projects that hit home for me. Such subjects are extremely close to my heart because I do feel I have a responsibility to portray women differently on screen."



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

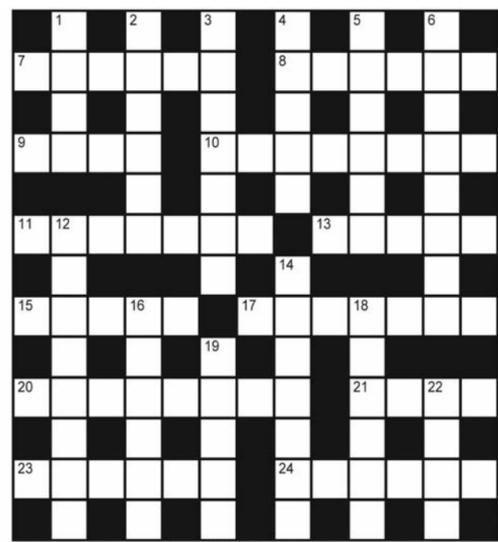


BREVITY



FUN post

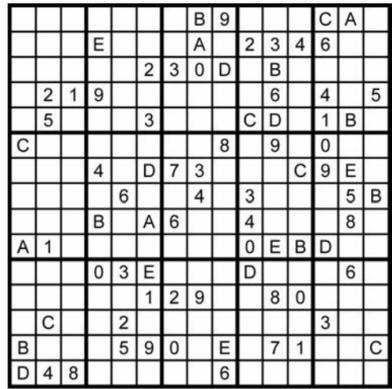
CROSSWORD



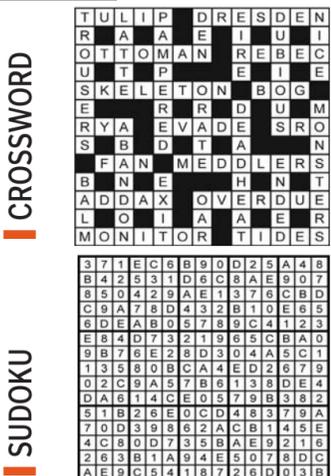
- Across**
- 7 German composer
 - 8 Anaglyphs
 - 9 Paella pot
 - 10 South African port (4,4)
 - 11 Parrot
 - 13 Blue-pencils
 - 15 Flaming
 - 17 Asian donkey relatives
 - 20 They smoke a lot
 - 21 ___ Major (constellation)
 - 23 Paris museum
 - 24 Loathes
 - 4 Sharpshooter's accessory
 - 5 Hammed it up
 - 6 Deep trouble (3,5)
 - 12 Branch
 - 14 Peculiar
 - 16 Jettison
 - 18 Argentine cowboy
 - 19 Cut off
 - 22 Tender

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

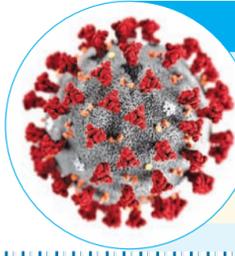


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



AWARENESS DRIVE

A roadshow underway at Nimapara in Puri district to make people aware of the precautionary measures against Covid-19, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	3,61,58,222	2,72,17,111	10,56,381
India	67,57,131	57,44,693	1,04,555
Odisha	2,40,998	2,13,672	958

Explosion leaves locals shocked



Fire brigade personnel at work at the IOCL petrol pump near Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

AVIRAL MISHRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Panic and confusion gripped the denizens of Capital city as a powerful blast took place at a LPG station of Indian Oil Corporation near Raj Bhawan Wednesday afternoon leaving at least 10 people injured.

The blast which created a crater of about 20 ft at the LPG station portrayed a sorry picture with mutilated body parts strewn around the area. Local residents narrated how a deafening sound followed by a fire spitting high into the sky from the filling station left them flabbergasted and scared for several hours. "It felt like a tremor," said a resident.

"I was on my way to Unit-I market through Raj Bhawan when the powerful blast almost made me fall off the bike. The blast was so intense that I was unable to hear anything around me for a few minutes. My left ear is still ringing. I was lucky enough that I had passed the station a few seconds before the explosion," said Sukanti Sahoo, a resident at Jagamara.



Police cordoning off the explosion site

Locals also said that the blast was so powerful that it felt like an earthquake. This could be corroborated from the fact that many nearby buildings suffered cracks and window panes were damaged due to the explosion. "The debris of shattered roofs almost fell on us. Thankfully, I was last in the queue," said a youth who was at the station.

Meanwhile, likening the blast to the one that happened in Beirut, Lebanon earlier this year, Prateek

Jena, who had come for his afternoon tea to the nearby Omfed stall, said, "Initially I thought we have witnessed something similar like Beirut. I got confused and panicked for some time. Thank God, it wasn't as menacing as was reported from Lebanon," Prateek said.

Distancing went for a toss

Throwing pandemic norms to the winds, large number of people had gathered at the spot to witness

Petrol pump accident in state after 3 yrs

Bhubaneswar: Data from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas claimed that not a single incident of fire related mishap was reported from Odisha in the last three years.

The data was tabled in Lok Sabha by Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan September 14, 2020.

According to the report, while states like Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra have seen cases of fire mishaps on petrol pumps, Odisha has not seen even a single case in 2017-18, 2018-19 and till June 2020.

Pradhan, in his written statement, had told the House that oil marketing companies like IOCL, HPCL and BPCL had informed that adequate resources for fire safety had been provided at petrol pumps as per the Petroleum Explosive and Safety Organisation guidelines.

However, several institutions have talked about the safety measures needed to be taken to ensure least casualties in case of accidents in petrol pumps.

Recent guidelines for petrol pumps issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had talked about petrol pumps not to operate within 50 metres of hospitals, residential areas and schools. They were also told to comply with the Petrol and Explosive Safety Organisation (PESO) Rules 2002 on Fire Safety.

the incident.

Even though Commissionerate Police had restricted the area for the public, several groups of 10-15 people crammed up the area right in front of the entrance to Governor's House. While a few of them were found without masks, others pushed and jostled their way to catch a glimpse of the blast area.

State to provide compensation to kin of Covid martyrs: CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Lauding the work done by Covid warriors to control the spread of the virus, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday announced that the government will provide compensation to the family members of Covid warriors who died on the line of duty.

While holding a high-level meeting to review Covid management through video conferencing, Naveen made the announcement.

It is to be noted that the Central government has announced Rs 50 lakh compassionate assistance to the families of the martyred warriors. Accordingly, the state government has sent a list of 60 warriors, who died on the line of duty, to the Centre.

However, the Union government has agreed to help only one martyr. Naveen said the state government will draw the attention of the Union government in this regard.

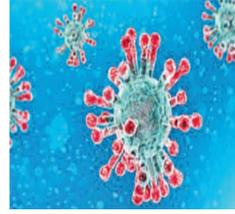
Stating that Covid protocol has now been made more standardised now, he said it is time to improve the health condition of people recovering from Covid.

As 78 per cent of Covid patients in the state are currently under home isolation, the Chief Minister advised the senior officials to contact the patients over phone.

The CM asked officials to check on the patients lodged in Covid Centres and ask for their well-being.

Naveen emphasised on the need to focus on anti-viral drugs. Naveen expressed satisfaction that the number of cured patients in the state now exceeds two lakhs. The state's recovery rate is 85 per cent, while the national recovery rate is 89 per cent.

In the last eight months, 36 lakh tests have been conducted in the



- The Central govt has announced ₹50 lakh compassionate assistance to the families of the martyred warriors
- Accordingly, the state govt had sent a list of 60 warriors, who died on the line of duty, to the Centre
- However, the Centre has agreed to help only one of the 60 martyrs

state, of which 6.75 per cent have tested positive.

The CM urged the people to be more vigilant and strictly abide by the Covid rules as the festive sea-

son is approaching. In addition, the Chief Minister advised the administration to continue regular awareness campaign on Covid regulations and drug use.

HC for relief to temple priests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Oct 7: The Orissa High Court has directed the state government and the state Endowment commissioner to take an expeditious view of providing financial assistance or ration to priests or consider re-opening of temples which are closed for over six months in the wake of the pandemic.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq directed the government to open the temples in a graded manner in accordance with the laid down modalities after assessing the COVID-19 situation as per the earlier orders issued by the High Court.

The order of the High Court came while disposing of two writ petitions seeking its direction to extend financial relief to servitors of registered temples for the period of lockdown on account

of the pandemic.

"Take a view on the grievances of the petitioners with regard to (providing) financial assistance or ration kits, or in the alternative for opening of temples, as expeditiously as possible, but not later than eight weeks from the date of copy of this order is produced before the authority," the bench, also comprising Justice B R Sarangi, ordered Monday.

The petitions were filed by a servitor of Dadhibaman Dev temple of Nayagarh district and an organisation of servitors of the same district.

All the temples in Odisha are closed since the nationwide lockdown was imposed in March.

While the Centre allowed opening of religious places from June 2020, the Odisha government has directed that temples will continue to remain closed for devotees up to this month-end.

LOPAR likely to turn into depression: IMD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: A fresh low pressure area, which is likely to form over Bay of Bengal around October 9, will intensify into depression while crossing Odisha coast, as per the latest prediction made by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The LOPAR is very likely to form over north Andaman Sea & adjoining east central Bay of Bengal October 9. It is very likely to concentrate into a depression over central Bay of Bengal during subsequent 24 hours, the IMD said in a bulletin issued Wednesday.

The system is very likely to move west-northwestwards and cross north Andhra Pradesh and adjoining south Odisha coast as a depression around October 11 afternoon or evening, it said.

Under its impact, heavy rainfall would occur at one or two places in Malkangiri, Koraput, Gajapati, Rayagada, Ganjam, Puri, Kandhamal, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur. There will be squally weather with surface wind speed reaching 45-55 kmph along and off



Heavy rain would occur in Malkangiri, Koraput, Gajapati, Rayagada, Ganjam, Puri, Kandhamal, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur

south coastal Odisha districts, the IMD said. The weatherman has advised fishermen not to venture into deep sea of central Bay of Bengal from October 10 and along Odisha coast from October 11 onwards till further notice.

Portal launched for quick aid to animal-attack victims

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Forest and Environment Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha launched 'Anukampa' portal to mark the 66th Wildlife Week celebrations at Prakruti Bhawan here, Wednesday. This portal will expedite the process of compassionate payments to the victims of wildlife depredation.

This portal will be used for claiming compassionate payments towards loss of human and cattle lives, human injuries, crop damage or house damage by wild animals as per Wildlife Protection (Odisha) Rules, 1974.

The initiative aims to facilitate compassionate payment to victims of wildlife depredation in a time-bound and hassle-free manner.

On the occasion, Elephant Foundation Trust, Odisha got Biju Patnaik Award for wildlife conservation this year.

Arukha said that forest cover consists of 33 per cent of Odisha's geographical area which is higher than national average of 24 per cent.

The state government has also decided to establish a rescue centre for elephants at Kamarkhundi under



Forest and Environment Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha and other dignitaries at the ceremony

Chandaka Wildlife Division to handle the capture of problematic elephants and take care of deserted, old and orphan ones as a part of man-elephant conflict mitigation.

Gajabandhu scheme has been introduced in five most depredation prone divisions - Angul, Dhenkanal, Athagarh, Baripada and Khurda - to minimise man-elephant conflict.

A person designated as 'Gajabandhu' will be chosen by concerned VSS/EDC and the payment of wages are made through VSS/EDC during six-month crop season. Odisha elephant monitor-

ing mechanism is also working in all divisions of the state.

A five-year scheme was introduced in the state in 2016 for development of ecotourism. The scheme has so far been implemented in 47 ecotourism destinations of 18 districts.

During 2019-20, over 46,000 tourists have visited ecotourism destinations and the state generated Rs 685 lakh revenue, said the minister.

Local communities of Similipal and Satkosia have earned more than Rs 2 crore during last two years from these ecotourism destinations, he said.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	39878.95 ↑ 304.38
NIFTY	11738.90 ↑ 76.50
DOLLAR	73.69 ↓ ₹0.11
EURO	86.40 ↓ ₹0.33
GOLD	₹50,070 ↓ ₹456
SILVER	₹60,764 ↑ ₹193

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	32.9°C	32.6°C
TEMP. MIN	24.7°C	23.5°C
Humidity	97%	95%
Rainfall	Trace	2.8mm
Forecast: Generally cloudy sky		

CITY SET TO TAKE UP 'CYCLES4CHANGE' CHALLENGE

CYCLEGIRI, A CYCLE RALLY WILL BE FLAGGED OFF FROM SISHU BHAWAN TO DHAULI TOMORROW

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: In a bid to promote cycling in the Capital city, Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) in association with Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) is going to host 'Cycles4Change' campaign October 9 to make Bhubaneswar one of the most prominent bicycle-friendly cities of India.

The challenge aims to help the city administration connect with the citizens, cycle enthusiasts as well as

experts to develop a unified vision and initiatives to promote cycling as a mode of transport among one and all.

Bhubaneswar is one of the 95 cities in India to have registered for 'India Cycles4Change Challenge', an initiative of Smart Cities Mission of the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.

As part of the campaign, a 12-km long cycle rally called 'Cyclegiri - Respect4Cyclists' will be organised from Ekamra Plaza Janpath to Dhauli at 6:30am Friday.

Through this programme, the city administration urges everyone to embrace cycling as a mode of transport in their daily life and give respect to cyclists on roads as these small efforts will eventually help the city become cleaner and greener. BMC Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary said, "Through



this challenge, registered cities will implement quick interventions to create a safe and cycling-friendly city through community participation. We have accepted the Cycles4Change challenge to promote cycling in Bhubaneswar. We are working on

creating small cycle paths or loops in residential areas to help citizens in doing their daily activities like going to market, offices on cycles."

"Above anything else, we want to promote healthy lifestyle among the citizens by encouraging them to

City admin urges everyone to embrace cycling as a mode of transport and give respect to cyclists

take to cycling," he added.

The Commissioner further said, "Truck, bus and car drivers will take a pledge on how to let a cyclist feel safe on road while appearing for the driving license test."

He said that interested citizens can volunteer and mobilise volunteers for the initiatives, spread the word through social networking platforms and in their communities.

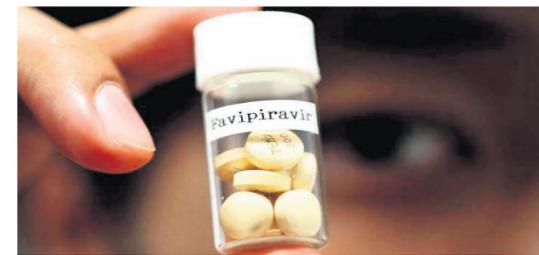
During the event, dedicated cycle routes in the city will be announced, cyclegiri anthem will be launched. The campaign which will con-

tinue till December 14 which includes a host of activities - both online and on ground to create public interest and making cycling an integral part of their lives. The administration hopes over 8,000 cyclists will be registered in the Cycle4Change Campaign by December 13 and become a part of #Cycle4Change social movement.

Celebrities can post videos on their Facebook & Instagram handles with #FridayCycleDay hashtag. Citizens taking part in #CycleGiri and #CycleDayFriday can tag to BMC and Smart City pages.

Cycling offers us a healthy, affordable and COVID-safe solution for a green recovery. Through this challenge, a city will have to create a shared vision with their citizens. Every citizen should come together to ignite a cycling transformation in Bhubaneswar.

Simplify Favipiravir therapy: Chief Secy



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Emphasizing on Favipiravir treatment of Covid patients under home isolation, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy Wednesday asked concerned officials to simplify the process for delivery of the medicine to the patients at their doorstep.

Clinical and technical diligence show that Favipiravir will reduce the risk of deterioration in patients' health condition. It will also reduce chances of the patients going to the hospital. However, adequate precaution should be taken to prevent contra-indications of the medicine.

ASIT TRIPATHY | CHIEF SECRETARY

corporation areas, he directed the municipal and district level health authorities to have real time data of the positive persons in home isolation. He also emphasized on direct contact with the patients in home isolation on day to day basis. It was decided that the senior officers from state headquarters will conduct random checks on maintenance of data base, contact with patients in home isolation and administration of Favipiravir therapy at field level. Further, he advised Information and Public Relations Secretary Sanjaya Singh, present in the meeting to organize sanitization webinars for doctors and other healthcare professionals.

18 fatalities push Covid toll to 958

STATE'S CORONA TALLY MOUNTS TO 2,40,998 AS 2,995 MORE PEOPLE TESTED POSITIVE FOR THE INFECTION

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: State's (novel coronavirus disease) Covid-19 tally mounted to 2,40,998 Wednesday as 2,995 more people tested positive for the infection, while record 18 fresh fatalities pushed Odisha's virus death toll to 958, an official of the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

The state had reported 17 coronavirus deaths October 5, the official pointed out.

Four fresh fatalities were reported in Balasore district, two each in Nayagarh, Puri and Sundargarh, and one each in Boudh, Deogarh, Jajpur, Kandhamal, Khurda, Koraput, Mayurbhanj and Sambalpur, said the official, pointing out that Deogarh district reported its first coronavirus fatality.

Ganjam district has so far reported the highest number of coronavirus deaths at 221, followed by Khurda (155) and Cuttack (82), the H&FW department official said.

As many as 1,737 new cases were detected in quarantine centres, while 1,258 people tested positive for the infection during contact tracing, said the official.

Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, reported the highest number of new cases at 568, followed by Cuttack (166) and Angul (142).

As many as 53 coronavirus patients have died due to other ailments so far, the official said.

The state has so far tested 35.69



FRESH STATS

Four fresh fatalities were reported in Balasore, two each in Nayagarh, Puri and Sundargarh, and one each in Boudh, Deogarh, Jajpur, Kandhamal, Khurda, Koraput, Mayurbhanj and Sambalpur. Deogarh reported its first coronavirus fatality

Khurda, under which Bhubaneswar falls, reported the highest number of new cases at 568, followed by Cuttack (166) and Angul (142)

Ganjam district has so far reported the highest number of coronavirus deaths at 221, followed by Khurda (155) and Cuttack (82)

lakh samples for COVID-19, including 45,358 Tuesday, he added.

CITY'S VIRUS TALLY BREACHES 24K-MARK As many as 314 new Covid-19 cases were detected in the Capital

city in a single day, taking the tally post 24,000, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) tweeted, Wednesday.

Of fresh cases, 230 were local contacts and remaining 84 are quarantine cases. With the fresh cases,

96-year-old defeats virus

BHUBANESWAR: A 96-year-old freedom fighter under treatment at the SUM Covid Hospital here has emerged victorious spreading cheer all around.

Loknath Nayak, who tested positive for coronavirus September 29, was admitted into the hospital on the same day complaining of fever, weakness and breathing problem. He was discharged from the hospital, the largest Covid-19 facility in the state, Wednesday.

Having joined the freedom movement in his young days, Nayak served the government as an officer till his retirement.

Nayak was diagnosed with Covid-19 and also had underlying co-morbidities including

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and diabetes, the critical care team treating the nonagenarian, said. Nayak, who was under antiviral treatment, was in the ICU for a few days till he recovered fully.

The treatment I received was beyond my expectation. The doctors and nurses treated me with much care and compassion. I am grateful to them

LOKNATH NAYAK, COVID WARRIOR

Manoranjan Nayak, son of Nayak, thanked the treating team profusely saying the care and treatment received by his father was of the highest order.

"We are grateful to the hospital," Manoranjan said.

City's Covid-19 tally stands at 24,228.

The new cases have been reported from almost all the areas under BMC in the last 24 hours. While 15 more persons have tested positive for Covid-19 in Old Town area, 10 new cases have been reported from Unit VI locality. Similarly, 12 new cases have been detected in Jharpada

area here, the civic body said.

Meanwhile, 354 more patients in City recovered from the disease in the last 24 hours. With this, the number recoveries increased to 20,571 and the number of active cases slipped to 3,531. The virus has so far claimed 105 lives in the Capital city.

BJP moves Gov over Bill on universities

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: A delegation of BJP led by Leader of Opposition Pradipta Naik Wednesday met Governor Ganeshi Lal and strongly opposed implementation of the Odisha Universities Amendment Bill, which was passed by Assembly Tuesday.

Terming it a Black Bill, Naik said the Bill is an attack against the autonomy of universities and the institutions will not take any decision on development of research and study, independently.

The BJP delegation urged the Governor either to return the Bill or send it to President of India for his approval.

PLEA TO GUV



Former student leaders and activists demonstrate near Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, urging the Governor not to give his consent to the Odisha Universities Amendment Bill

2 minors drown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, Oct 7: Two minor girls drowned while taking bath in a pond at Gandapada village under Delang police limits here, Wednesday.

The two deceased girls have been identified as Liza, 10, daughter of one Biranchi Behera and eight-year-old Dipti, daughter of Bijaya Behera, they said. Four minor girls had gone to the nearby pond to take a bath. While bathing, the two slipped into deep water and drowned. The girls were rescued and rushed to a hospital at Delang where doctors declared them brought dead. A case of unnatural death has been registered with Delang police.

Artisans seek relief

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Odisha Shilpi Mahasangha Wednesday demanded relief package and necessary help for the craftsman and weavers of the state amid Covid-19.

They said that more than 30,000 stone craftsman are out of jobs due to no sales and no tourists. They alleged that despite state government decision of buying all crafts and arts of the local craftsman and weavers, authorities failed to do that. Recently, minister Handicrafts and Handloom minister Padmini Dian informed that the government paid Rs 25 crore to Boyonika and others to buy material from artists.

MeD Robo to assist healthcare professionals in fighting virus



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: In light of COVID-19 pandemic, ECoR Central Hospital at Mancheswar is now utilising a medical robot called Med Robo to assist hospital staff to serve COVID patients and to assist the management of medical wards in serving medicines, food and remote assistance, without any need for physical contact.

With the help of this robot, doctors, nurses and other medical staff will now be prevented from repeatedly wearing PPE kits while entering the COVID wards for routine rounds. It will help them to stay away from the risks of con-

This is an in-house innovation by East Coast Railway. Diesel Loco Shed at Visakhapatnam has fabricated this Robot to assist hospital staff to serve COVID patients. Before being deployed for use in Central Railway Hospital at Mancheswar, the MeD ROBO underwent extensive trials and demonstrations.

MeD ROBO features remote control driving unit for movement in all directions by monitoring physically or from mobile or desktop. It can be controlled from 30 - 40 ft. distance and has a sensor-based hand sanitizer unit for sanitization. Besides, it has sensor-based thermal scanner for taking body temperature, UVC sanitizer box to sanitize personal belongings like mobile, spectacle, papers etc. 2-way device for communicating between patient and Doctor/nursing staff.

This equipment is capable of carrying about 15 Kg of items and can be controlled by remote from 30-40 feet distance by seeing its position in a mobile or desktop. The camera having speaker facility staff can interact with the patient and advise accordingly. The movement of camera to view from different angles can be controlled through mobile/desktop.

Fresh estimate for Bankibahal-Tapia road, says Mallik

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: State Works Minister Prafulla Mallik Wednesday stated that a fresh estimate is being prepared for development of the Bankibahal-Tapia road under Hemgir block in Sundargarh district. Mallik replied it in a written form at the state assembly.

The minister also said though work for improvement of the Bankibahal-Tapia road was started with an estimated investment of Rs 64.70 crore approved by the Centre in 2017-18, the "crust provision" in the estimate was not in accordance with the existing guidelines of the Indian Road Congress.

"Since more numbers of heavy vehicles (including coal-laden trucks) are plying on the road, the crust provision is being upgraded keeping in mind the existing traffic load on the road," said Mallik. The minister said fresh tender will be floated after preparation of fresh estimates and taking necessary administrative and technical approvals.

Mallik said that an estimate of Rs 131.36 crore has been prepared for improvement of Sundargarh to Duduka road, which is now at scrutiny stage. The Mahanadi Coalfields Limited authorities will arrange funds for the project. Tender for the project will be floated after obtaining necessary administrative and technical approvals for the road project.

Rlys maintains delivery of essential goods amid nCoV



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Though there are limited passenger train services in view of COVID-19, the chain of supply of essential commodities through time-tabled parcel trains, SLRs and through Parcel vans is being maintained by Indian Railways.

At present, the Khurda Road division is dealing with 6 pairs of Time tabled Parcel trains along with Parcel vans and SLRs (Sleeper cum luggage van) at different parcel loading points like Bhubaneswar, Khurda Road, Cuttack, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Brahmapur, Palasa etc.

In the month of September-2020, the division has transported 1383 Tonnes of essential commodities like Medicines, vegetables, Cashew,

At present, the Khurda Road division is dealing with 6 pairs of time-tabled parcel trains along with Parcel vans and SLRs (sleeper-cum-luggage van) at different parcel loading points like Bhubaneswar, Khurda Road, Cuttack, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Brahmapur and Palasa

Fish, Dairy products and other hard parcels to different parts of the country like Mumbai, New Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai etc.

Keeping in view the regular demands received from major parcel loading parties, the Indian Railways has decided that the zonal Railways may allow 120 days advance booking of Parcel space in SLRs and parcel vans attached to passenger carrying trains and Time tabled parcel special trains.

This advance booking of parcel space will enable the Parcel loading parties to plan their logistics in a better way.

Further, Railways has also planned to attach additional Parcel Vans (VPs) to Special trains to provide extra space for the parcel luggage in the specified routes.

OPPOSING PRIVATISATION



Members of AIUTUC Cuttack district committee demonstrate near the railway station, Wednesday, condemning the privatisation of rail services

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

Commuting woes for Nagada back to square one

A ROAD LINK TO HILLTOP TRIBAL VILLAGE CONSTRUCTED AT A COST OF ₹13 CRORE WAS WASHED AWAY IN HEAVY RAIN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kaliapani, Oct 7: Development continues to elude hilltop Nagada village which shot to ill fame for malnutrition and anaemic deaths of children in 2016, a report said.

Nagada has once again become inaccessible after a road which was laid up to the hilltop after the malnutrition deaths was washed away in the monsoon rain. This has pushed the poor tribals to live a life of deprivation and penury. The rain water from the hilltop flows on it like a drain cutting off residents from the outside world.

Nagada is a cluster of villages on a hilltop in Sukinda block of Jajpur district. The hilltop village caught international attention after 21 children died of malnutrition and anaemia in 2016. The deaths of the kids caught the district administration on wrong foot and exposed the loopholes in the administration.

Later, senior officials of the state government and the Centre visited Nagada and directed to carry out developmental works in the area. The revenue divisional commissioner (Central) intervened and stressed road construction at the outset.

He stressed on road construction as this would pave the way for various line departments to reach



The road to Nagada is in bad shape with big boulders lying scattered all over

Nagada and make available various developmental programmes to the poor tribals. The state government and the central team also directed road construction on a war-footing without floating any tender as this would hasten developmental programmes in Nagada.

Initially, the road was repaired for movement of vehicles while a motorable road was constructed after the Chief Minister visited Kalrangi in 2017. A consultancy agency of Andhra Pradesh was assigned the

task of road construction.

The agency bypassed all rules and constructed a road to Nagada by cutting down large trees on both sides at an expenditure of ₹13 crore. As a result, a seven km long road was constructed which connected Nagada with the outside world.

This spread cheers among tribals as they thought the road will help them go downhill and get the benefits of various welfare schemes. However, a few days after the road construction the road has been

damaged at various places.

Later, the state revenue and energy minister visited Nagada and directed the district administration to repair the road. The district administration directed a consultancy agency to repair the road which instead of fully repairing the road only carried out patch work by laying murrums. The road instead of becoming durable was washed away in monsoonal rain. Reports said the district administration has planned to construct

UPHILL TASK

The district administration has planned to construct a cement-concrete road to Nagada with DMF fund. But it has failed to do so as the forest department is yet to give its environmental clearance.

Recently, the tribals met Sukinda MLA Preetiranjana Ghadai and demanded a permanent road to their village. Collector Chakraborty Singh Rathore also saw the bad road condition when he visited the area. BDO says a road will be constructed soon to Nagada

a cement-concrete road to Nagada with funds available from the DMF fund. However, it has failed to do so as the forest department is yet to give its environmental clearance.

Recently, the residents met Sukinda MLA Preetiranjana Ghadai and demanded a permanent road to their villages. District Collector Chakraborty Singh Rathore also admitted to the bad road condition when he visited the area. When contacted, BDO Biswajit Das said a tender has been floated and very soon a road will be constructed to Nagada.

BALASORE ASSEMBLY BYPOLL

BJD, BJP, Cong keep aspirants guessing

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Oct 7: With the bypoll for the Balasure Assembly seat set for November 3, all political parties are weighing choices of their candidates.

As the bypoll date draws near, the seat is going to see a three-cornered fight between the BJD, the Congress and the BJP. The parties are yet to announce their candidates, leaving the political circles guessing. Nomination filing is slated for October 9. While selection of candidates is in a decisive stage, announcement of names is being eagerly awaited.

Social activist Subansini Jena and former Balasure municipality chairman Alok Kumar Sahu are aspiring tickets from the BJD while the BJP is weighing over candidature of Mans Datt (son of late MLA Madanmohan Datt) and party's district unit president Umakant Mohapatra.

The bypoll has become more interesting for the Congress. The names of former district unit secretary Bikram Panda and OPCC general secretary Sanjib Giri are doing the rounds as possible candidates for the party.

The name of Nabajyoti Patnaik, son of OPCC president Niranjan Patnaik, was being considered earlier.

The ticket aspirants have started holding meetings, merger meetings and house visits over last few days, charging the political atmosphere of the constituency. Congress observer for the

Balasure seat, senior MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati along with other senior party leaders has already visited the constituency several times.

Addressing a party meeting here Wednesday, Taraprasad Bahinipati urged party workers to work in tandem for the victory of the party in the bypoll.

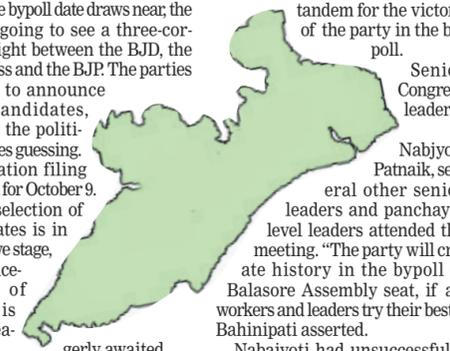
Senior Congress leader Nabjyoti Patnaik, several other senior leaders and panchayat level leaders attended the meeting. "The party will create history in the bypoll of Balasure Assembly seat, if all workers and leaders try their best," Bahinipati asserted.

Nabajyoti had unsuccessfully contested from the Balasure Lok Sabha seat in 2019 elections. Bahinipati had earlier dropped hints that Nabajyoti is not likely to be fielded by the party as he is not interested to contest.

On the other hand, the BJP has appointed Manas Dutt as coordinator of the constituency. BJP's selection of candidate is at a final stage and it will be announced after clearance from the parliamentary board.

The bypoll has been necessitated following the death of BJD MLA Madan Mohan. In view of this, the saffron party is leaving no stone unturned to retain it in a possible tri-cornered contest.

If inner circles of the parties are to be believed, both BJP and BJD cadres are faction ridden. Senior party leaders have been trying to iron out the differences among cadres well before the bypoll.



Eco-tourism project irks Niyamgiri tribals



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Oct 7: Dongria tribals have opposed the Rayagada forest department's move to construct eco-tourist cottages near Niyamgiri hill, under its ambitious project to promote Dongria Kondh culture and development of local tourism as well.

The Dongrias from 27 villages nearby Niyamgiri hill gathered in large numbers at Adisakani village of Kurli panchayat under Bissamcuttack block in Rayagada district, the spot where the forest department has proposed to construct eco-tourist cottages in Rayagada district.

Vehemently opposing the department's move, Dongria tribals claimed that the lands which have been provided to forest department by the Odisha PVTG Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme (OPELIP) for the purpose are their own farmlands.

Reacting to this, a member of the Dongria Kondh community Jitu

Jakesika said, "A meeting was organised at Adisakani village. Huika, Pusika, Kadraka, Jakesika and Misika tribals took part in today's meeting. OPELIP has allegedly handed over lands belonging to the Pusika clan to the forest department for eco-tourism project".

The lands belong to people of his clan, which are their ancestral properties, Jakesika fumed. He claimed that, locals have opposed it and added that there was no need of eco-tourism in this area.

"As tribals belonging to the Niyamgiri hill region do not have sufficient land to construct even kutcha houses to stay, we will not accord construction of any eco-tourist cottages and buildings here under any circumstance even at the cost of our lives," Jakesika said.

Leaders of the Dongria community namely Latak Pusika and Kadraka Nia backed Jakesika, saying that under no circumstances they will allow construction of eco-tourist cottages on their farmlands.

Admin finds negligence by pvt hosp

CHAMPUA SUB-COLLECTOR PROBES NEWBORN'S DEATH ON ROADSIDE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, Oct 7: The district administration took serious note of the death of a newborn after its delivery on roadside in Joda. The administration ordered an investigation into the incident Wednesday.

Notably, a tribal woman of Jalhari panchayat in Joda block delivered a baby on roadside Monday night near Mangala Temple in Joda. The baby had died soon after delivery.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik got to know of the shocking incident after he was tweeted by someone. Keonjhar Collector directed Champua Sub-Collector Pratap Pritimaya to conduct the probe.

The sub-collector visited Tata Steel Hospital where he talked to chief medical officer Mahendra Kumar Tripathy, head of the obstetrics and gynecology department Dr Debajani Pattnayak, doctors of various departments and staff.

The sub-collector also met Sukamati Purty (who lost her baby) and her husband Kapllash Nayak about what difficulties they faced Monday night.

The sub-collector then left for the Joda government hospital and started an investigation about the incident.



Talking to reporters after the inquiry, the sub-collector said that preliminary investigation has found negligence on the part of the Tata Steel Hospital. "I would submit the report to the Collector. Those who are found guilty of neglecting the patient and subsequent death of the newborn will be taken to task," he observed, condemning such an incident.

During the investigation, executive officer of Joda municipality Suryamani Pattajoshi, Tata Steel head Rajesh Kumar, chief medical officer of the Tata Steel Hospital MK Tripathy and several others were

present.

It may be noted here that the woman of Jalhari panchayat was admitted to Joda government hospital at 2 pm Monday. As her condition was critical, she was referred to Tata Hospital where no treatment was provided to her except for a Covid test. She was referred back to a government hospital without arranging an ambulance.

Sukamati flanked by her husband and mother was walking on the road. On way to the government hospital, she delivered a baby on the roadside who died minutes later.

Malkangiri: Mining lease to Andhra firm opposed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 7: Scores of villagers from several villages under the Khairapat block in Malkangiri district Wednesday staged a demonstration against a proposal to grant mining lease to a firm from Andhra Pradesh for a stone quarry at Amakunda village.

Protesting villagers submitted a memorandum to the District Collector through Khairapat tehsildar urging him to cancel the lease. They also threatened that if the district administration does not respond to their request, they will stage another



demonstration.

According to the villagers, they depend on the forest for their livelihood. During winter, they earn good

income as many tourists come here to witness the beauty of nature.

"If stones are dug out from here, it will destroy the natural environment of the area. After this, the tourists will be not attracted to visit the place. Which in turn will affect the livelihood of the villagers," alleged a protester.

Another protester further alleged, "Once the deal is finalised, stone mafias from Andhra Pradesh will get a chance to smuggle the valuable stones. That is why we are strongly protesting against the proposal and have urged the government to cancel the deal".

POLSARA BLOCK COVID FREE

Polsara: Even as COVID-19 positive cases are on the rise in many parts of the state, the district as well as local administrations has been striving relentlessly to break the chain of infections by preventing any probable spread of the deadly virus in Ganjam district. However, amidst such precarious situations, Polsara block under Chhatrapur subdivision in Ganjam has brought good news by becoming the first block to be completely free from COVID-19 infections, Chhatrapur Sub-Collector said. According to official sources, not a single COVID-19 positive case has been detected in Polsara block over past 72 hours. A total of 18,108 swab samples have been tested in the block so far, of which only 580 cases have reported to be positive for coronavirus. Even as 573 patients have already recovered, only seven persons succumbed to the deadly virus with no active cases till date.

Pucaa house eludes family of three differently-abled

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, Oct 7: Despite her physical deformities, Pankajini is taking care of her 80-year-old mother and differently-abled 45-year-old younger sister.

Pankajini Haripal, aged 50, of Khuntabandh village of Baghia panchayat under Tarabha block in Sonepur district is already having enough suffering in her life. She is ipset over not getting a pucaa house. Pankajini crawls on the ground. Her sister Shakuntala is differently-abled since birth. Her mother Laxmi Haripal has also lost her mobility owing to problems associated with old age. The family depends on neighbours to get water from tube well. For cooking, they wait for hours for water.

Tarabha BDO Chinmayee Kuanr said a family is not in SECC list, it has not got a pucaa house under government schemes.

'CORONA TU PHERIJA' BAGS AWARD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 7: Even as COVID-19 positive cases are on the rise in many parts of the state, an Odia film which was screened last month at the 'COVID-19 International Tribal Film Festival 2020' was awarded Tuesday in the 'Best Story' and 'Best Regional Film' categories.

A production team led by Kukudakhandi block development officer (BDO) in Ganjam district came up with a short film 'Corona tu pherija' (Corona, go back), in order to create awareness among people on the deadly virus and its probable threat to human beings.

The short film 'Corona tu pherija' not only brought laurels to Ganjam administration and the state as well, but its storyline also earned accolades from across the world, an official source informed.

However, the story was written by BDO Gadadhar Patra and the short film was produced by his better half Susmita. Patra including



Madhusudan Mishra and Smruti Ranjan Patnaik played lead characters in this 13-minute-long film. Mishra works as a physical education teacher (PET) at Kukudakhandi Adarsha Vidyalaya. Notably the film festival which

was organised by Orifarming India, JBS Entertainment and Education Corporation was based on 'Resurrection and sustainability of tribal culture and rituals amid COVID-19'. After being deeply motivated with this novel concept fol-

PANDEMIC VIEW

THE STORY WAS WRITTEN BY KUKUDAKHANDI BDO GADADHAR PATRA AND THE SHORT FILM WAS PRODUCED BY HIS BETTER HALF SUSMITA. PATRA INCLUDING MADHUSUDAN MISHRA AND SMRUTI RANJAN PATNAIK PLAYED LEAD CHARACTERS IN THIS 13-MINUTE-LONG FILM

OVER 450 SHORT FILMS WITH 15 MINUTE DURATIONS FROM 36 COUNTRIES WERE SCREENED AT THE 'COVID-19 INTERNATIONAL TRIBAL FILM FESTIVAL 2020' IN VIRTUAL MODE

lowing the pandemic, filmmakers/participants from over 36 countries came up with respective storylines and shot films of three to 15 minutes duration. Over 450 short films were screened at the film festival in virtual mode.

'Airavat' bus service to curb jumbo menace in Dhenkanal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Parjang, Oct 7: Owing to a rise in human-elephant conflict in Dhenkanal during past couple of months, the district forest department launched 'Airavat' bus service in Parjang block Wednesday to curb jumbo menace and save lives.

The specially designed bus has been manufactured at a cost of ₹21 lakh. It has a charging system, public address systems, equipped with pachyderm tranquilisers and other advanced equipment needed to drive away elephants from farmlands and human settlements effectively, Dhenkanal divisional for-

est officer (DFO) Prakash Chand Gogineni informed.

Forest personnel including elephant squads will be able to patrol forest areas in the bus, keeping a strict vigil on the movement of elephant herds. Apart from driving herd(s) from human habitations, the squad will be able to protect the pachyderms from attack of poachers.

Local villagers of Mahabirod and Kamakhyanagar Western Range under Dhenkanal forest division have appreciated the efforts of the forest department at a time when crops are just about to be reaped.

No. B-322

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
GANJAM (R&B) DIVISION NO. 1, BERHAMPUR
Phone/Fax: (0680) 2233683, E-mail: eernb1_bam@yahoo.com
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. EE R&B Divn. No. 1 Bam. 19/2020-21
Dtd. 05.10.2020

Lr. No. 6748

Name of Work	: Electrical Work
No. of Works	: 8 (Eight) Nos.
Estimated Cost	: Approximately Rs. 5.76 to Rs. 19.27 lakh
Period of Completion	: Two Calendar Months
Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 10.00 hours of 14.10.2020 to 16.00 hours of 21.10.2020
Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	: Upto 16.00 hours of 21.10.2020
Name & address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Engineer, Ganjam (R&B) Division No. 1, Berhampur

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd./- Executive Engineer
Ganjam (R&B) Division No. 1, Berhampur
OIPR-34109/11/0009/2021

email ID: eesherabho@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, HARABHANGI
IRRIGATION DIVISION, ADAVA, DIST.- GAJAPATI
INVITATION FOR BIDS
e-Procurement Notice No. EE-HID-05/2020-21
No. A-235: Bid document consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-Procurement Portal <http://tenderodisha.gov.in>.

1. Type of the work	: Concrete Lining, Road & Flood protection works
2. No. of Works	: 12 (Twelve) Nos.
3. Class of Contractor	: "D", "C" & "B" Class
4. Bid Identification No.	: EE-HID-No. 36/20-21 to 47/2020-21
5. Estimated Cost	: Rs. 8.68 lakh to Rs. 30.95 lakh
6. Period of Completion	: 2 (Two months) to 4 (Four months)
7. Date & time of availability & submission of bids in the portal	: From 11.00 A.M. of 13.10.2020 to 5.00 P.M. of 27.10.2020
8. Date of Opening of Bid	: 28.10.2020, 11.00 A.M. in the e-Procurement Cell, Harabhangi Irr. Division, Adava
9. Name of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Engineer, Harabhangi Irrigation Division, Adava, Gajapati
10. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.	
11. Further details can be seen from Government website: http://tenderodisha.gov.in .	

Executive Engineer
Harabhangi Irrigation Division, Adava, Gajapati (761217)
OIPR-32021/11/0007/2021

Life is life -- whether in a cat, or dog or man. There is no difference there between a cat or a man. The idea of difference is a human conception for man's own advantage.

SRI AUROBINDO



We are still cannibals

I am reading A Curious History of Food and Drink, by Ian Crofton, and the more I read the sadder I get. It is a compilation of such savagery, such insane greed for destruction, such insensitivity, that I wonder what an alien reading it would think of us humans.

In the 1990s archaeologists, examining a Neanderthal site in southern France, uncovered human bones of 100,000 B.C. which had been eaten in the same way as the bones of deer that lay nearby. Clearly the humans were cannibals. But did they evolve? In 2009 archaeologists found bones in Germany's Rhineland of modern humans of 5,000 B.C. - barely 7,000 years ago - when India already had kingdoms, coins, gods and sacred books. The human bones showed clear signs of butchery for consumption, so humans were still cannibals until then.

We have not come very far in the last 100,000 years. Humans eating humans is called cannibalism, but all animals are sentient beings like us and when we kill them we are still cannibals. All commercial biscuits and a lot of bread are made L-Cysteine which is made of human hair. Is that not cannibalism?

The earliest soup of 6,000 B.C. is of hippopotamus bones. But in 1864 the English explorer, Samuel Baker, is still writing about boiling the head of a hippo with vinegar and chopped onions to make soup.

A thousand years ago people ate the teats of pregnant cows and sows. In India, we are exporting the meat of pregnant and lactating buffaloes to the Middle East - and the company that kills these mothers illegally put their teats with each slab of meat so that the buyer knows that they were pregnant. The Deonar slaughterhouse in Mumbai takes pictures of the buffaloes being milked before they are cut and puts the pictures with the consignment. So how far have we come?

Chocolate was treated as a sacred drug by the Aztecs. When it was discovered in the 1500s by the West, and mixed with sugar and vanilla, it became popular to dip insects such as cicadas in chocolate and crunch on them. This disgusting tradition carries on: in parts of India, for instance, a vat of burning oil is put under a strong light. The insects that fly towards the light are caught, dipped live in the oil and eaten as snacks. In Japan they put wasps into chocolate biscuits.

We think about the Roman feasts as the ultimate decadence: a country that destroyed so much of the world for its own pleasure. The slaves, the wild animals brought in for live combats, the food made with animals all over the world - live fish swimming in wine till they drowned, jellied bat feet, stewed spleen of frog, lamprey eels cooked in their own blood. But are we any better now? In America they eat Fried Rattlesnake dipped in egg, flour and breadcrumbs. In Vietnam they slit the poor struggling cobra in front of you and place its still beating heart into a glass of its own blood. In West Bengal and Kerala they turn live turtles upside down, slit their stomachs and dip their shot glasses into the blood as the heart carries on pumping it out.

In Namibia the intestines of the Warthog are pulled out of its anus, the faeces is squeezed out and it is roasted and eaten unwashed. Dwaejimachang is a popular dish made out of the rectum of pigs in Korea. In Singapore they stir fry and eat the fallopian tubes and uteruses of pigs.

In Canada the Inuits eat the raw eyeballs of seals immediately after they kill them. In Japan, Tuna eyeballs are sold in supermarkets and eaten with a little garlic. Moose Noses are removed by Alaskans, sliced and boiled. Yak penises are eaten in Beijing (what isn't) to fight acne in women.

People who are aghast at the French eating snails, will eat the eggs of a sturgeon fish, cut out of its pregnant stomach while she is alive. This is called caviar. In Mexico, Escamolol 'insect caviar' is made of the larvae and pupae of ants. The idea of eating human male sperm makes one sick, but in Japan, Shirako-raw, steamed or fried white gooeys of fish semen filled with sperm - is considered a creamy delicacy. Milt means the sperm of fish - and it tastes like human sperm. It is popular in so many countries (Romania, Russia, Indonesia, Japan) where the testicles of fish are eaten with the milt.

People pay lakhs to eat Pâté de Foie Gras, a raw paste made from the cancerous liver of a goose. As revolting is the national Nordic delicacy of beheaded Greenland shark which is buried in sand and then taken out after three months, when the meat is truly rotten, and then eaten. Or the fermented head of a king salmon, buried underground for a few weeks and eaten as mush.

Frog legs are cut from live frogs and are a staple part of French and Chinese food, besides being eaten in many European countries. We may be disgusted by such brutality, but till 1977 India was the largest exporter of frogs legs and the population of frogs has still not recovered from the genocide that we perpetrated on these clever useful beings. As of 2014, the world's largest exporter of frog legs is Indonesia.

You feel sick at the thought that royal families in Rajasthan used to put dead pigeons into wine to ferment, and create a liqueur called Asha. But normal wine which is drunk by millions of India - and even made tax free in Maharashtra for many years in order to popularize it - is filtered through dead fish bladders, called Isinglass, so that the drinker does not suspect! Beer is also processed through fish bladders.

Eggs are the period blood of a hen or duck which will turn into birds if you let them. The Philippines have gone one step further: they want the yolk and the white and the meat all together. So they incubate eggs of ducks for 18 days till the embryo is partially developed. And then they eat all three together in the national dish called Balut.

All over India people are disgusted by the eating of dogs. Over 1.27 lakh emails were sent to Nagaland alone in just three days to stop the practice. But are goats and chickens less sentient? Not at all. I have lived my life closely with animals and I find goats, camels, donkeys, and especially ducks and chickens, as intelligent and easy to love as dogs. But the rest of India considers it normal - even essential - to kill these beings.

Compassion is an essentially part of being civilised. The human is just as savage today as he always was - and no amount of art and poetry will change that.

To join the animal welfare movement contact gandhim@nic.in, www.peopleforanimalsindia.org



Maneka Gandhi

The human is just as savage today as he always was - and no amount of art and poetry will change that



Ashok Mahapatra

IT IS TIME THE WORLD JOINED HANDS TO COUNTER THE CHINESE HEGEMONY AND NOT ALLOW HISTORY TO REPEAT ITSELF

China's hegemonic ambitions are well-documented, and these continue for long. Notably, after gaining complete control of the mainland, the Communist Party of China (CPC) established the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949. The CPC forced Kuomintang (KMT) led by Chiang Kai-shek to Taiwan, then known as Formosa. At that time, Taiwan was under the governance of China, ruled by KMT as a part of a settlement following the surrender of Japan in 1945.

Expanding its territory as part of the long-term strategy for global dominance has been an obsession for the CPC ever since it took power. Shortly after that, Xinjiang, then the short-lived Second East Turkestan Republic, surrendered to become a part of Communist nation. Both the PRC and KMT had always maintained that Tibet was a part of China. Hence the CPC made it a top priority to incorporate Tibet, Taiwan, Hainan Island, and the Pescadores Islands into the PRC peacefully or by force. This was followed by the so-called peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1950. The annexation of Xinjiang and the Tibetan plateau more than doubled the landmass of China.

However, the world let this go unnoticed as it was engrossed in rebuilding the global economy after the war. This allowed the CPC to keep proceeding slowly but steadily with its aim for long-term global dominance. The earlier governments of China had shown the boundary in Aksai Chin as per the Johnson Line. Nevertheless, during the 1950s, China built a road connecting Xinjiang and western Tibet which ran south of the Johnson Line through the Aksai Chin. India did not know of its existence until 1957. Hence, through the 1950s, China surreptitiously captured Aksai Chin and consolidated its position in the 1962 war.

Furthermore, Pakistan ceded a part of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir to China as appeasement as well as to ensure China's support as an all-weather friend in its dealings with India. The CPC has been extremely smart at masking its duplicity during bilateral negotiations. Zhou Enlai (negotiator par

FOCUS WORLD

DRAGON'S LONG MARCH



Expanding its territory as part of a long-term strategy for global dominance has been an obsession for the CPC ever since it took power

excellence) led not only Nehru up the garden path, but also both Nixon and Kissinger while skilfully hiding the true intent of becoming the only dominant power on earth. The leaders that followed him continued to pursue the same line of action. The CPC famously considers goodness and fair play as sign of weakness and submission.

Following the United States-China rapprochement in 1972, there was a slight but significant change in tactics by the CPC to enforce China's so-called historical rights. A more confident China occupied the Paracel Islands in 1974, the Johnson Reef in 1988, the Mischief Reef in 1995 and the Scarborough Shoal in 2012. Similar actions have been constantly taking place on the India-China border. These small actions, often referred to as "salami slicing", do not really provoke or lead to war but over time lead to a strategic advantage to further China's perceived historical rights. These tactics, rather than overt aggression, seriously limit options for the targeted countries by limiting their deterrence plans for proportionate and effective counteractions.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, and afraid of the sensitive Xinjiang region becoming a part of the Great Game, China displayed urgency in settling the border with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The Chinese negotiation tactics employed were a blend of Chinese

incentives with coercion. Even though on paper Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan seemed to come out as victors, China gained a bit of land, mixed the Uyghur issue, and pushed its economic agenda by making Xinjiang a pivotal link of reviving the erstwhile Silk Route to the West.

A different tactic was adopted for Russia's Far East region; wherein weaker states are induced to let out agriculture and forestland to Chinese farmers. Border and river domains are thus being altered to suit China's new interests. Furthermore, the CPC has employed a unique set of tactics in the economic and information domains that undermine many developing countries' democratic institutions and future prosperity as their dependence on China grows. China has made huge investments in the Central Asian countries to make these nations financially vulnerable.

It is estimated Kyrgyzstan has borrowed almost 43 per cent of the country's total external debt from the Chinese Exim Bank. Similarly, China has a very dominant role in Kazakhstan's energy sector. A slightly different form of economic dominance was followed for countries in Africa and South East Asia. The net result, though, has been the same.

China has been claiming territory from 23 countries when it has land borders with only 14. This claim is based on what it calls 'his-

torical rights'. These 'historical rights' emanate from ancient and medieval Chinese eras when boundaries did not have the same sanctity as they have in today's times of nation-states. If for a moment we agree with this Chinese claim, then what stops Mongolia from claiming China, which they had ruled under the Mongol Yuan dynasty. Wonder what Beijing's reaction would be if Ulan Bator made this claim? China's duplicity has never been truly appreciated by the civilised democratic world. Ever since the opening of their economy in 1970s, successive CPC leaderships have worked surreptitiously to make the world totally dependent by becoming their most-dominant supplier of cheap goods. The world was so seduced by the availability of cheap goods on shop shelves that they have been blindsided by China's true intentions.

It is said that if we do not learn from history then we are doomed to repeat it. Germany, after its defeat in World War I, invoked nationalistic pride to reclaim the territories which had once been theirs. We know the price the world paid for this. We are once again faced with a similar situation. The question is, are we repeating the same mistakes? The civilised world needs to join hands and negate the CPC's design to be the only dominant world power in the era of nation-states. Yes, an offensive would be initially difficult and painful. A bitter and distasteful medicine is often prescribed to cure a disease. We need to ensure that the legacy for our future generations of an orderly and peaceful world is secured.

In the words of exiled Chinese writer Liao Yiwu, "The West is so tolerant, passive, accommodating and naive towards Beijing. Westerners are seduced like an old man in front of a young girl. Europe shows all its weakness. It does not realise that the Chinese offensive threatens its freedom and values." It is time the world joined hands to counter the Chinese hegemony and not allow history to repeat itself.

The writer is retired Director, Maritime Safety Division, International Maritime Organisation (United Nations).

SPECTRUM RIGHTS

How labour codes help in reforms

Ten Central Trade Unions have announced a nationwide general strike on November 26 as a protest against the recent labour codes law passed by Parliament. They are mainly sore over diminution of their right to strike.

Three labour codes have been passed by Parliament in the last week of this session, and one on wages was adopted in August 2019. Union Minister for Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar stated that codification of labour laws will help remove red-tape and rigidities in law so as to make establishment of big factories easier. The objective of self-reliant India, promotion of Make in India project, the climate of ease of doing business - all require labour law reforms. The task is to promote industries and safeguard labour rights. The two are not antagonistic to each other.

India has ratified the Tripartite Consultations (International Labour Standards) Convention 1976, and is hence bound to consult stakeholders like trade unions in law-making. Labour laws must be based on social dialogue. Opposition members were not present in Parliament

when the bills were passed. But, the Parliamentary Committee on Labour, which comprises a large contingent of 31 members, had gone through the bills. Extensive discussions with all stakeholders were also done.

The three codes relate to three major aspects of industrial sector - industrial relations, social security and occupational safety, and health and working conditions, and comprise 25 labour laws. Another code on wages adopted earlier includes four laws. Health coverage of workers is a separate scheme under Ayushman Bharat and the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

Over 70 per cent of India's workers in the service and industrial sectors are estimated to be in informal jobs, according to the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector. This sector suffers from unhygienic and hazardous working conditions, lack of social security for workers and low wages. The idea of codifying labour laws was given in the report of the Second Labour Commission (2002) set up by the Vajpayee government in 1999. Codification can bring about cohesion of the laws passed at dif-

ferent times and eliminate complexities due to different criteria for coverage under labour laws and introduce uniformity. It will also help identify gaps and discrepancies.

The first labour code was adopted in Soviet Union in 1918 which ensured the right to work and then in many socialist countries in central and east Europe. Canada adopted a labour code in 1985 superseding the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigating Act 1948.

A key element of the Social Security Code, which covers nine laws, is expansion of security cover to unorganised workers and their families. It includes a proposal to define 'migrant worker' and to enlarge the scope of the current scheme of including only contractual employment to cover all those outside the organised sector. The provision for temporary accommodation near worksites has been removed, but a journey allowance from their homes to place of work is added. Registration of all unorganised and platform workers and insurance, maternity, and crèche facilities and old age protection are provided.

Inter-state workers and contract labourers are given equal statu-

tory benefits in addition to existing benefits. Contract workers cannot be employed in core activities. Number of days of work to get earned leave has been reduced from 240 to 180. There cannot be gender discrimination in wages.

Codification of labour laws has come at a time when labour rights are receiving big blows under the pandemic. Some states have even suspended labour laws for varying lengths of time. Trade unions object to cancellation of labour laws and the ILO has appealed to PM Modi against diluting labour protective laws.

A major change which has brought the trade unions together to fight against the entire exercise of codification, pertains to the right to strike. The threshold relating to layoffs and retrenchment in industrial establishments is raised as 300 workers from the present 100 providing more flexibility to employers for hiring and firing without government permission.

On the whole, the codes are labour-friendly and also helpful to industries.

The writer is a former director, ICSSR, New Delhi. INFA

WISDOM CORNER

- The poetry of the earth is never dead. JOHN KEATS
- Silence is a source of great strength. LAO TZU
- Sometimes dreams are wiser than waking. BLACK ELK

WORDSWORTH

TUNDRA

The word was initially imported from Russian in the nineteenth century. English etymologists say Russians acquired it in turn from the Sami people, who live in northern Norway, Sweden, Finland and western Russia, the direct source being Kildin Sami, spoken around Kola, near Murmansk in western Russia. In the Sami language, tundra means a treeless plain. French etymological sources assert, however, that the source of the Russian word was the Finnish tunturi. As the Sami and Finnish words are related (Sami belongs to the same language family as Finnish) and the two peoples have had a very long association, non-specialists may feel that this is a distinction that makes little difference. As an aside, tundra is the only word in English which is said to derive from Sami.

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

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

Safety at filling stations

Sir, A mishap occurred at a filling station in the capital on Wednesday, causing a huge fire, damage to vehicles and injury to several people. The oil company that runs the filling station is urged to hold an inquiry into the probable cause of the mishap, but it must be noted that we, the customers, are not following the required safety instructions at CNG filling stations. CNG is natural gas (methane) compressed and stored at very high pressure. Methane with air makes an explosive mixture, and hence sparks are to be avoided. Mobile phones are not allowed nearby, as it is a probable cause of spark. It is to be switched off before entering the area. In factories dealing with natural gas, mobiles are not allowed in. This safety step is not followed at CNG stations.

Gopal Mittal, BHUBANESWAR

Govt tightens control

Sir, Recently, the Odisha government passed the universities amendment bill 2020 and turned it into law. Now important decisions cannot be taken by universities on their own. The government has tightened its control. What is autonomy and its essence? Democracy permits an organisation certain powers by which decisions could be taken for its smooth functioning. In a vast democratic country like India, it is the duty of the government to decentralise the power structure. Instead of devolving power and authority, both the state and central governments are trying to centralise power. More of centralisation leads to autocracy and people are unhappy with this state of affairs. What is also not to be ignored is the fact that our universities are not functioning in a satisfactory manner. With big salary, teachers are allegedly taking things easy.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Sign language

Sir, The Union Government has initiated steps to develop Sign Language and offer study materials to deaf children. An MoU was signed between the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center and NCERT to make educational materials accessible for deaf children in their preferred format of communication via Indian Sign Language. As part of this MoU, educational print materials such as NCERT textbooks, teachers' handbook and other supplementary materials and resources of Class I-XII in both Hindi and English mediums will be converted into Indian Sign Language in Digital format. This is a laudable move and ensures inclusive education for deaf children.

Amit Singh Kushwaha, SATNA



Crisis blows over for AIADMK

OPS names Palaniswami as CM pick for 2021 polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 7: Incumbent Chief Minister K Palaniswami was Wednesday named by the AIADMK as the party's Chief Ministerial candidate for the 2021 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, ending a brewing crisis triggered by differences between him and his deputy O Panneerselvam over the leadership issue.

The two top leaders buried the hatchet and reached a workable understanding as AIADMK coordinator Panneerselvam himself announced the name of Palaniswami, while the latter declared constitution of a 11-member Steering Committee, acceding to a long pending demand of the former. During April-May next year, the assembly elections are due in Tamil Nadu.



ROADBLOCKS CLEARED

The two top leaders buried the hatchet and reached a workable understanding ironing out differences in parleys over a week involving ministers and party leaders, the announcements have removed intra-party roadblocks

The move is significant as the issue would have cast a shadow over the AIADMK's prospects in the polls next year had it not been resolved and it also has ended a nearly two month long speculation over the matter

over the matter.

The Deputy Chief Minister said apart from him and Palaniswami, party deputy coordinators K P Munusamy, R Vaithilingam, senior leaders and members of the Steering Committee have unanimously resolved to nominate Palaniswami as the AIADMK's Chief Ministerial candidate.

Later, Fisheries Minister D Jayakumar told reporters that rivals and betrayers had a wishful thinking of problems erupting in the party over the leadership issue so that they could derive political mileage and it has not happened.

He said the choice of the CM nominee and constitution of the panel were based on consultations and consensus.

The churning in AIADMK over the CM candidate began August 10 with Minister for Cooperation, Sellur K Raju saying that elected MLAs would choose the Chief Minister following the Assembly elections next year if his party was voted to power again.

AIADMK leader and Minister K T Rajenthra Bhalaji contradicted his colleague and pitched for projecting Palaniswami as the Chief Ministerial candidate to emerge

victorious in the next year polls.

One leader after the other began airing their views and party deputy coordinator, Munusamy, seen as a confidant of Panneerselvam said the AIADMK top leadership would decide the CM choice.

A poster war later erupted with a section of partymen projecting Palaniswami for the top post and others rooted for Panneerselvam.

The September 28 AIADMK Executive Committee Meeting saw a verbal duel between Palaniswami and Panneerselvam over who should be the Chief Ministerial candidate and on setting up of the panel.

On that day, the party said its CM choice for 2021 polls would be declared on October 7 and from that day consultations began. Amid discussions, though Forest Minister Sreenivasan told media that Palaniswami would be the CM nominee, others said such public utterances should be avoided. While Palaniswami became the Chief Minister months after the demise of party supremo Jayalalithaa, the factions led by him and Panneerselvam merged in August 2017 easing out V K Sasikala (Jayalalithaa aide) and her kin from the party.

Dalit MLA's inter-caste marriage stirs row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 7: A Dalit AIADMK MLA's marriage to a 19-year-old Brahmin woman has met with staunch opposition from her father, who after a scuttled suicide attempt, alleged that the legislator abducted his daughter, a charge denied by both the bride and groom.

When the MLA, A Prabhu, tied the knot with S Soundarya at his residence at Thiyyagadurugam in Kallakurichi district Monday, her father Swaminathan, a temple priest, dropped in, the police said.

He reportedly said he would 'gift' the couple his 'life' and attempted to set himself ablaze after pouring petrol on his body.

However, he was overpowered by police personnel and party workers. At the local police station,



We were in love for about four months and when I sought the permission of her parents to marry her they denied it...I did not threaten or intimidate her family members or lure Soundarya. Our marriage was based on mutual consent

the priest was advised against taking extreme steps and asked to give an undertaking

The priest said his objection to the marriage was not the caste factor, but the difference in age between his daughter and the MLA.

The legislator was 36 years old and his daughter was 19 and a groom who was 17 years older than the bride would not be a suitable match, he said. Also, Swaminathan alleged that his daughter was abducted by the MLA and that she was 'lured and

diverted' and made to marry Prabhu against her wishes. Soundarya, however, asserted that she married Prabhu out of her own volition, adding she was in love with the MLA for about four months. In a video post, in which she appeared alongside her husband, the MLA, a B Tech graduate, too dismissed the claim of the priest that his daughter was kidnapped.

"We were in love for about four months and when I sought the permission of her parents to marry her they denied it," the MLA said.

Later, he said he married Soundarya only based on her wish and with her whole hearted consent.

Swaminathan claimed that due to the influence of the legislator he could not lodge a complaint with police against him and alleged that he has received threats. The MLA, however, dismissed the priest's claim as false.

"I did not threaten or intimidate her family members or lure Soundarya. Our marriage was based on mutual consent," Prabhu said.

2 scribes booked for running 'fake news' during Gehlot-Pilot tussle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Oct 7: Two journalists have been booked by Jaipur police for allegedly putting out fake news in August during the power tussle between Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot, police said Wednesday.

The FIR, lodged with Vidhyakpuri police station, was registered October 1 against Sharat Kumar of Rajasthan Tak (Aaj Tak) and Lokendra Singh of XYZ news agency. Singh is associated with Pilot and handles his press releases on social media.

Reacting to the FIR, Singh said, "The matter is politically motivated."

In the FIR, Station House Officer (SHO) of special offences and cyber crime-commissionerate has accused them of fabricating a news report that illegal phone tapping of Congress MLAs and ministers, who were staying in a hotel in Jaisalmer at that time, was being done from a hotel in Mansarovar in Jaipur.

During the crisis in July, the



Rajasthan Congress shifted the MLAs of the Ashok Gehlot camp, who were confined to a hotel in Jaipur, to Jaisalmer fearing horse trading ahead of the assembly session in August.

"Misleading, baseless, fake and sensational news was created and circulated on social media and broadcasted on news channel by Sharat Kumar of Rajasthan Tak (Aaj Tak)," the FIR stated.

The news was run August 7. The case was registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including section 76 of the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008.

The FIR stated that a 'misleading information' was being circulated on WhatsApp August 7 that illegal phone tapping of ministers and

MLAs staying at Jaisalmer's Suryagarh hotel was being done and four jammers were installed in the hotel, and this was being executed from a hotel in Jaipur's Mansarovar area, which involved officers of a private telecom company.

The matter was informed to the SHO of special offences and cyber crime by the duty officer of police control room in Jaipur August 7, following which a complaint was registered and probed by the SHO, the FIR stated.

After a probe into the complaint, the police lodged the FIR October 1. Investigating Officer Omprakash Matwa was not available for comment. Targeting the chief minister over the matter, BJP state president Satish Poonia said Gehlot talks big about democracy but is suppressing the media.

The feud between Gehlot and Pilot came out in the open after Pilot along with 18 other MLAs revolted against his leadership in July, which led to a political crisis for nearly a month.

Raj govt to crowdsource data on artists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Oct 7: The Rajasthan government will launch an initiative October 10 to create a database of artists through crowdsourcing, an official said Wednesday.

Secretary of Art and Culture Department Mugdha Sinha said the artist database will have basic details along with genre of art forms including performing arts, visual arts, literary arts, dying arts, wandering arts (ghoomantu), folk arts, tribal arts and others.

"Reaching out to and involving stakeholder artists themselves in collecting this data through Google Form is truly participative policymaking and inclusive approach. With the database of artists, the government can extend necessary help to them," Sinha said in a statement. In April this year, the government launched the 'Mukhyamantri Lok Kalakar Protsahan Yojana' (Chief Minister Folk Artist Encouragement Scheme) to extend help to folk artists.

Fearing loan sharks, workers ask govt for cash assistance

REUTERS

Chennai, Oct 7: Informal workers in India urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a petition Tuesday to grant emergency financial aid to protect them from loan sharks and labour traffickers as the pandemic erodes their incomes.

India is one of the countries worst affected by the coronavirus, and a strict lockdown earlier this year took a heavy toll on informal workers, who represent 90 per cent of the nation's 450-million-strong workforce.

Tuesday's petition, signed by 1.5 million people including migrant workers, street vendors and home-based labourers, calls for cash hand-outs of 6,000 rupees (\$81) for at least the next four months to help prevent risky borrowing, human trafficking and child labour.

"This assistance will provide liquidity to the vulnerable families below poverty line," said P Balamurugan, a member of the Tamil Nadu Alliance - a coalition of 100 charities seeking to improve the conditions of garment industry workers.

The petition, which was initiated by the charity coalition, included signatories from 23 Indian states, the organisers said.

Asked about the appeal, Principal Government Spokesman K.S.

Dhatwalia said "a slew of measures for all categories of workers" had been announced since the start of the pandemic.

"These initiatives have been updated along the way to meet the needs of people," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Modi's administration has pledged to spend Rs 35 billion (\$463 million) on food for migrant workers and offer them local jobs under a rural employment scheme.

But many informal workers fear lacking documentation or a bank account will hinder their access to government aid, and labour rights activists say large numbers have turned to informal lenders often charging high rates of interest.

India's home affairs ministry issued an advisory in July urging state governments to launch anti-trafficking awareness campaigns, amid increasing fears that countless people without work, food or money may fall prey to traffickers. The petition said the cash aid would act as a "safety net", minimising hunger and reducing the likelihood of human trafficking, child marriage and child labour among the informal labour force.

"The cash aid will give them access to essential food commodities, medical care, payment of rent, and other supplementary expenses," it said.



Jaipur's gems & jewellery industry sees silver lining

There are around 1.50 lakh workers engaged in the gemstone industry and roughly the same number engaged in jewellery-making in the Rajasthan capital

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Oct 7: The gems and jewellery industry seems to be bouncing back in Jaipur after being badly hit during the COVID-19 pandemic as the wedding season approaches and the jewellers have started receiving orders for the same.

Jewellers are also adapting to the 'new normal' while going the e-commerce way during the pandemic. Also the artisans who lost their work during the lockdown have been engaged again as the industry seems to be picking up, said Sanjay Kala, president, Jewellers Association.

There are around 1.50 lakh workers engaged in the gemstone industry and roughly the same number engaged in jewellery-making in Jaipur. While gemstone workers are from Jaipur and around the area, jewellery makers



ers are predominantly from Bengal, he said. "For three months, everyone from across sectors suffered as there was no work due to the lockdown. However, thereafter, traders started enhancing their stock. For example, our Kalaje Jewellery outlet opened three months back and we are busy enhancing our inventory. All our artisans are at work, in fact, we have increased the strength of workers marginally in Sitapura industrial area also, factories are working at full capacity," he said, adding that only a few artisans who

left Jaipur in the first phase are jobless. "However, those who are in Jaipur have ample work. These are the ones who were not allowed in their villages. Everyone including society government and employers supported these artisans."

Now with the Navratri season coming in October, there will be a rush as the wedding season is approaching. This is called a double season because many weddings were

The idea is that everyone should get work...We want artisans to survive for they are the pillars of our industry

JALAJ AGRAWAL | JEWELLER

cancelled in March-April and are now being solemnised, so the market is picking up. As wedding guest numbers are limited during the pandemic, people will definitely be spending more on jewellery, he added.

Nirmal Kumar Bardiya, Regional Chairman, Rajasthan Chapter of Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council says, "The industry in Jaipur was already geared up to start its operations as soon as the first Unlock was to be announced. As a result of this, the SEZ and DTA zones were the first one in the country to start their production and exports immediately after Unlock.1."

"Jewellers in Jaipur have quickly learnt newer ways to survive the COVID-19 times. They adapted by accepting virtual events as the smart tool which helps in taking their products to international customers via virtual meeting. We have been organising virtual buyer-seller meets for gold jewellery and diamonds. The studied jewellery VBSM is scheduled on October 19 which will be followed by coloured gemstones and silver jewellery. We are garnering a good response in these international meetings."

Jinxed theory comes to fore again after Raj MLA's death

In the last nearly two decades, it has never happened that all 200 MLAs have simultaneously finished their five-year terms

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Oct 7: Non-believers may call it a coincidence but there are rumours of witchcraft, ghosts, or even 'vastu dosh' in Rajasthan Assembly building - in the last nearly two decades, it has never happened that all 200 MLAs have simultaneously finished their five-year terms.

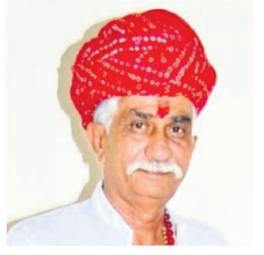
This has been due to the deaths of several sitting legislators before completion of their terms at various points in time or due to election of a sitting MLA to Parliament.

The recent death of Sahada Assembly MLA Kailash Trivedi is a case in point. The House strength

has now been again reduced to 199 MLAs.

Interestingly, it is not the first time that the figure has gone below 200. This trend has been witnessed since 2001 when the Assembly was shifted to a new building. Earlier, the Assembly was convened in the old city of Jaipur. Soon after the Assembly shifted to the new building, then MLAs Bhimsen Chaudhary and Bhikha Bhai died. In 2002, Congress MLA Kishan Motwani and BJP MLA Jagat Singh Daima passed away.

In 2003, MLA Rooplal Meena died while in 2004, then Minister in the Gehlot government Ram Singh Vishnoi passed away. Similarly, in



2006, MLAs Arun Singh and Nathuram Ahari breathed their last. The Assembly terms from 2008 to 2013 brought troubled times for sitting MLAs in one or the other form and the situation repeated it-

self from 2013 to 2018. In 2017, Mandlagarh MLA Kirti Kumari passed away while Nathdwara MLA Kalyan Singh died in February 2018. In April 2018, Mundawar legislator Dharmapal Chaudhary passed away.

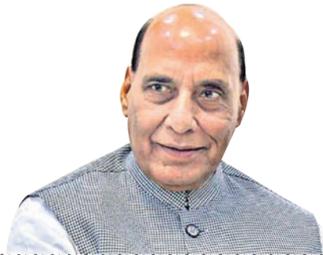
Even during Assembly election campaign in 2018, BSP candidate Laxman Singh from Ramgarh seat died and hence voting was held for 199 segments only. Eventually, only 199 MLAs were in the House when the first session of the Assembly was held.

In by-election for the Ramgarh seat, Congress' Safiya won but by then, Hanuman Beniwal of the National Democratic Alliance

reached Parliament after winning the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Thus, the number of MLAs in Rajasthan Assembly was reduced again to 199. With MLA Trivedi's demise, the number has gone down to 199 once again.

There have been talks among MLAs about ghosts and witchcraft for the last many years.

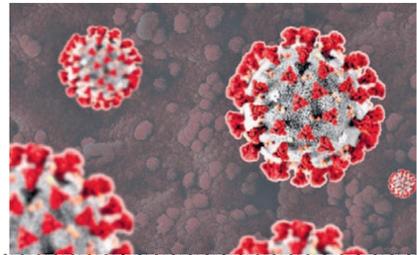
During the 15th Vidhan Sabha session, MLA Kalulur Gurjar had demanded 'purification' of the Assembly premises by conducting a 'yajna' or by sprinkling Gangaajal. MLA Habeeburehman had also claimed the presence of ghosts in the Assembly complex for the number of MLAs falling below 200.



India can prove to be an excellent base for the defence and aerospace industry, for provision of repair, overhaul, maintenance and servicing facilities
RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

72K FRESH COVID CASES

With a fresh spike of 72,049 coronavirus cases and 986 deaths in 24 hours, India's tally Wednesday went past the 67 lakh-mark



of the day quote

It is your (police) responsibility to ensure that no one creates unrest in Bengal by using money power; the police has to be more active
MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

The government ensured higher crop procurement during COVID-19 pandemic, which is an indication of the sensitivity with which Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the team led by him are committed to respond to the needs of farmer community during crisis times
JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

It is clear from the reaction of BJP leaders that the ruling party is upset
RAJIV SHUKLA | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Ex-CBI director found dead

Shimla/New Delhi: Former CBI director and Nagaland Governor Ashwani Kumar was found hanging at his residence in Shimla Wednesday, officials said. Kumar became CBI director in 2008, succeeding Vijay Shanker, in the midst of the agency's probe into the Aarushi Talwar murder case that hogged the headlines. Kumar later became Governor of Nagaland, they said. He was presently Vice Chancellor of a private university in Shimla, they said.

India, Pakistan trade heavy fire

Srinagar: Pakistan used small arms and mortar shelling to target Indian positions on the Line of Control (LoC) Wednesday in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district. Defence Ministry spokesman, Colonel Rajesh Kalra said, "Pakistan initiated the unprovoked ceasefire violation along the LoC in the Keran sector of Kupwara district in the afternoon today by firing mortars and other weapons."

Himachal minister Covid positive

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh Urban Development Minister Suresh Bhardwaj has tested positive for coronavirus Wednesday, doctors said. He has been under home quarantine since October 2. Bhardwaj said his elder son tested negative, while the younger one tested positive on October 5.

Tiger kills farmer

Pilibhit (Uttar Pradesh): A young farmer was mauled to death by a tiger in Mala forest range of the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR), officials said Wednesday. Sukhveer Singh, 36, resident of Piparia Karam village, under Gajraula police station, was on his way home near the Mala forest range on Tuesday evening when he was attacked. The farmer's blood-stained body was later spotted by passers-by who informed his family.

Minor girl rescued

New Delhi: The Delhi Commission for Women has rescued a minor girl from southeast Delhi's Jamia Nagar who was allegedly being married off. A call was received on the Commission's 181 helpline on an anonymous complaint that the family was planning to marry off the girl on October 10. The matter was escalated to DCW chief who constituted a team to take action in the matter.

HATHRAS INCIDENT

Scribe, 3 others booked for sedition by UP police

Charges under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the IT Act have also been filed against the four who were later remanded in judicial custody for 14 days by a Mathura court, officials said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow/Mathura, Oct 7: The Uttar Pradesh police Wednesday booked four persons including Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan on sedition and other charges at Maant police station in Mathura, two days after they were held while on their way to Hathras.

Charges under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the IT Act have also been filed against the four who were later remanded in judicial custody for 14 days by a Mathura court, officials said. The FIR claimed that police recovered pamphlets "Justice for Hathras victim", six mobiles and a laptop from them, and during the initial probe it was found that they were going to Hathras with an intention "to breach the peace" as part of a "conspiracy".

The four were held Monday when they were on their way to Hathras, where a Dalit woman had died after allegedly being gangraped - an incident that has sparked widespread outrage.

Police had earlier claimed that

the four, identified as Kappan, a journalist of Malapuram in Kerala, Atiq-ur-Rehman of Muzaffarnagar, Masood Ahmad of Bahraich and Alam of Rampur, had links with alleged radical group Popular Front of India and its affiliates.

They were Wednesday booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) including 124A (sedition) and 153A (Promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), according to the FIR. They have also been charged with IPC Section 295A (Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious belief).

"The recovered pamphlets, Am I not India's daughter, made with Carrd.co, encourage social discord and public unrest," the FIR said. "The FIR alleged that internet platform 'Carrd.co' and website 'Justice for Hathras' were being used to instigate caste violence, riots and collecting donations."



GJM delegation meets MoS Home

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: A delegation of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) met Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy Wednesday and demanded the creation of a separate state of Gorkhaland comprising Darjeeling and its adjoining areas in West Bengal.

The GJM team came to the national capital to participate in a tripartite meeting convened by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to discuss "issues related to the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA)", officials said. However, no representative of the West Bengal government attended the meeting, they added.

GJM working president Lopsang Lama said they did not discuss the GTA, but submitted a memorandum demanding the creation of a separate state of Gorkhaland. "We have not discussed anything about the GTA. We have submitted a memorandum on how and why the GTA has failed. The GTA is not working. Our only demand is a Gorkhaland state and we have raised that," Lama told reporters after the meeting.

He also said the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had promised in its poll manifesto that it would find a political solution to the Gorkhaland issue. GJM leader Kalyan Dewan said the Union minister gave them a patient hearing and assured them that the dialogue on their demands would continue.

Later, in a statement, Lama said the seven-member delegation raised the demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland and grant of ST status to 11 Gorkha sub-communities.

"When the issue of Gorkhaland Territorial Administration was raised, the GJM delegation submitted that the delegation was there to discuss the statehood demand and grant of Scheduled Tribe status and not the GTA since the Memorandum of Agreement signed between the Union of India, government of West Bengal and Gorkha Janmukti Morcha in 2011 was not honoured by the State of West Bengal," the statement said.

Babita Phogat resigns as deputy director of Haryana Sports Dept

Though in her resignation letter she cited "unavoidable reasons" behind her step, Phogat said that she has decided "to devote full time to active politics"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 7: Wrestler Babita Phogat Wednesday resigned from the post of deputy director of Haryana's Sports and Youth Affairs Department, saying she wants to devote herself fully to active politics.

Though in her resignation letter she cited "unavoidable reasons" behind her step, Phogat said that she has decided "to devote full time to active politics".

"I want to devote full time to active politics. Baroda bypoll in Sonapat and Bihar state assembly polls are going to be held next month and I have decided to work for the party (BJP) in these elections," she said. Baroda assembly seat had fallen vacant after the demise of main opposition Congress' Shri Krishna Hooda in April.

Earlier in the day, Phogat sent her resignation to the principal secre-



tary of the Haryana Sports and Youth Affairs Department. "Her resignation letter was received today," a senior official of the Department said.

In her resignation letter, Phogat mentioned that she had recently joined the Department but due to some "unavoidable reasons" she was unable to continue the government service. Notably, Phogat had unsuccessfully contested the

2019 assembly polls from Dadri assembly constituency in the state as a BJP candidate. Babita Phogat is the daughter of Mahavir Phogat, a noted wrestling coach.

The Phogats became a household name in the country after the success of Hindi film "Dangal", which is based on the lives of Phogat sisters, all of them wrestlers, and their father who coached them against all odds.

Goldenrods provide new hope for UP farmers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh), Oct 7: The goldenrod flower, also known as 'Solidago' can now be grown in the climate of Prayagraj.

Sai Bharath, a research scholar at the Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, popularly known as SHU-ATS, has successfully grown this high-yielding and commercially viable flower round the year, including in extreme weather conditions in winter when the mercury plunges to near three degrees Celsius in the region.

The origin of goldenrod's common name refers to both the flower's colour and the plant's spindly presentation. The genus name comes from two Latin words - solidus (meaning 'whole') and 'ago' (mean-

ing 'make'). Its botanical name is Solidago canadensis.

The research scholar at SHU-ATS, Naini has been successful in growing 'goldenrod' that is mostly used for decorative purposes, in the climatic conditions of Prayagraj.

Bharath has developed this plant variety under the guidance of Dr. S.S. Saravanan, associate professor of the horticulture department at SHUATS, and with the help of Dr. Vijay Bahadur, head of the department.

"A Pune based farm provided me with the mother plant with a word of caution that this will not survive in the climate in Prayagraj. The crop can be cultivated throughout the year. Bright sunny warm weather is best suited for its healthy growth and can be grown in sandy loam to red loam soils with proper



drainage. These factors were challenging for me to find out in Prayagraj," said Bharath.

This drought-tolerant flower can be grown under varied climatic conditions and is less prone to attack of pests and diseases. Although

UGC declares 24 universities as fake; maximum from UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: The University Grants Commission (UGC) Wednesday announced a list of 24 "self-styled, unrecognised institutions" in the country, terming them as "fake" with the maximum of them operating from Uttar Pradesh followed by Delhi.

"Students and public are informed that currently 24 self-styled, unrecognised institutions are functioning in contravention of the UGC Act, which have been declared as fake universities and these are not empowered to confer any degree," UGC Secretary Rajnish Jain said.

The majority of eight of these universities are from Uttar Pradesh - Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi; Mahila Gram Vidyapith, Allahabad; Gandhi Hindi Vidyapith, Allahabad; National University of Electro Complex Homeopathy, Kanpur; Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Open University, Aligarh; Uttar Pradesh

Vishwavidyalaya, Mathura; Maharana Pratap Shiksha Niketan Vishwavidyalaya, Pratapgarh and Indraprastha Shiksha Parishad, Noida.

Delhi has seven fake universities - Commercial University Ltd, United Nations University, Vocational University, ADR Centric Juridical University, Indian Institution of Science and Engineering, Vishwakarma Open University for Self Employment and Adhyatmik Vishwavidyalaya (Spiritual University).

Odisha and West Bengal have two such universities each. Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Pondicherry and Maharashtra have one fake university each. They are - Sree Bodhi Academy of Higher Education, Puducherry; Christ New Testament Deemed University, Andhra Pradesh; Raja Arabic University, Nagpur; St John's University, Kerala and Badaganvi Sarkar World Open University Education Society, Karnataka.

VENTING ANGER



Members of Trinamool Mahila Congress shout slogans during a protest rally against the death of a 19-year-old Dalit woman who was allegedly gangraped in Hathras (UP), in Kolkata, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

Can't block public places to express dissent: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Occupying public places for protests is not acceptable and areas like Shaheen Bagh - which had seen prolonged anti-CAA demonstrations starting December last year - cannot be occupied "indefinitely", the Supreme Court held Wednesday.

It said protests should be at a designated place and any occupation of public places or roads by demonstrators, which cause inconvenience to a large number of people and violate their rights, is not permissible under law. The apex court also said that the authorities concerned should not hide behind courts and act on their own in such situations.

A bench headed by Justice S K



Kaul said balance has to be struck between the right to protest and other public rights like the right to movement.

"Democracy and dissent go hand in hand," said the bench, also comprising Justices Aniruddha Bose and Krishna Murari. It does not mean that the agitating people should adopt means and modes of protest that were used against colonial rulers, it said,

adding that public places cannot be occupied "indefinitely" for protests like in the Shaheen Bagh case.

The verdict came on a plea against the anti-CAA protests which had led to the blocking of a road in Shaheen Bagh here last December. Pronouncing the verdict via video conferencing, the bench said the authorities like Delhi Police ought to have taken action to clear Shaheen Bagh area from the protesters.

The authorities have to act on their own and cannot hide behind courts in dealing with such a situation, it added. The verdict came on a plea of lawyer Amit Sahni against the blockade of a road in Shaheen Bagh area by persons protesting against the CAA which aimed to provide Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities of Pakistan,

Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

The top court had reserved its verdict in the case on September 21 by observing that there cannot be a "universal policy" on right to protest and possible curbs as also balancing it with acts like blocking of roads are needed because the situation may "vary" from case-to-case.

Sahni had initially approached the Delhi High Court seeking directions to Delhi Police to ensure smooth traffic flow on the Kalindi Kunj-Shaheen Bagh stretch, which was blocked by anti-CAA protesters on December 15. The high court had urged local authorities to deal with the situation keeping in mind law and order. Sahni then filed a special leave petition in the apex court against the high court's order.



The fact is Rahul Gandhi is on Congress yatra in support of middlemen not farmers and it doesn't astonish anyone in the country

DELHI AIR TURNS 'VERY POOR'

With the smoke from the burning of paddy stubble in Punjab and Haryana blowing to the national capital and its surrounding regions, the air quality of the region dipped to the 'very poor' category Wednesday



of the day quote

Goa will not compromise on the ongoing Mhadei river water sharing row with Karnataka and the state is on the right track, especially with the filing of a contempt petition against the neighbouring state for violation of apex court's orders

Greetings to RAF personnel & their families on their 28th anniversary. RAF has distinguished itself in dealing with the challenges relating to law & order. Time and again, their commitment in several humanitarian works & UN peacekeeping missions has made India proud

Spoke to my friend President Vladimir Putin @KremlinRussia_E to greet him on his birthday today. Appreciated his immense personal contribution to strengthening the Special & Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia

RHEA GETS BAIL IN DRUGS CASE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 7: The Bombay High Court Wednesday granted bail to actor Rhea Chakraborty in a drugs case related to her boyfriend Sushant Singh Rajput's death.

The court rejected the argument that celebrities deserve specially harsh treatment in such cases so as to 'send out a message'. After spending 28 days in jail, Rhea stepped out of the Byculla women's prison here around 5.30 pm amid a scrum of mediapersons.

While granting her bail on a personal bond of ₹1 lakh, the court asked the actor to appear before the Mumbai police for 10 days and before the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB, which had arrested her) once a month for the next six months.

Justice Sarang Kotwal of the HC also granted bail to Rajput's domestic aides Dipesh Sawant and Samuel Miranda, but rejected the bail plea of Rhea's brother Showik Chakraborty. The court also rejected the bail plea of alleged drug peddler Abdel Basit Parihar.

The HC observed in its order that Rhea did not have any criminal antecedents, and it was unlikely that she would tamper with evidence or affect the probe while out on bail. Rhea, however, can't leave Mumbai without the NCB's permission and for traveling outside the country, she will need permission from the special NDPS court here, the HC said.

The NCB has charged Rhea under the stringent Section 27-A of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act that per-



tains to "financing and harbouring illegal drug trafficking". It entails imprisonment up to 10 years in prison and a bar on the grant of bail.

The HC said simply paying for a particular drug transaction does not qualify as financing drug traffic. "The allegations against the applicant of spending money in procuring drugs for Sushant Singh Rajput will not, therefore, mean that she had financed illicit traffic," the court said.

It also noted that harbouring an offender as described under the Act would mean providing money for that person's drug consumption while also giving him shelter and food. Rajput, for whom Rhea allegedly procured drugs, had no apprehension of arrest and therefore, the charge of harbouring too could not be applied, it said.

The court also dismissed the argument that Rhea's bail be rejected to 'send out a strong message' to society

'Report lacks credibility'

NEW DELHI: Actor Sushant Singh Rajput's family lawyer Vikas Singh Wednesday claimed that the report submitted by the AIIMS forensic team "lacks credibility" and they have written to the CBI to constitute a fresh medical team to look into case. Demanding that the CBI investigate the conduct of the AIIMS team and probe "who all they have met in recent time", the senior advocate said Rajput's family will approach the court if a new forensic panel is not formed. The lawyer said only the CBI can ascertain whether Rajput's death was a case of suicide and that AIIMS has "no right" to say if it was suicide or hanging. "We want to take all steps to ensure that a fair probe is conducted and we will even go to the court for formation of a new panel and get justice," he said.

"The learned ASG (additional solicitor general) had argued that celebrities and role models should be treated harshly so that it sets an example for the young generation... I do not agree," Justice Kotwal said.

"Everybody is equal before law. No celebrity or role model enjoys any special privilege before the court of law. Similarly, such person also does not incur any special liability when he faces law in the courts," he said. The HC, however, rejected the bail plea of Rhea's brother Showik. "The applicant (Showik) was facilitating procurement of drugs from one party for supplying them to Sushant Singh Rajput. He was clearly involved in illicit trafficking or illegal trade of drugs," the court said.

SHORT TAKES

Girl gangraped

Barmer (Raj): A 15-year-old girl was allegedly abducted and raped by two men in Rajasthan's Barmer district, police said Wednesday. The incident took place under the Sheo Police Station area on Tuesday evening when the victim's family members had gone to cast their votes in the panchayat election, they said. Two men took the minor on a bike to a secluded place and raped her. They also clicked pictures of the act, police said.

Woman, son die

Jamtara (Jharkhand): A 25-year-old woman and her eight-month-old son died after she set herself and the child on fire in Jharkhand's Jamtara district, police said Wednesday. The incident took place in Suriyapani village in Nala police station area on Tuesday, a police officer said. Preliminary investigation has found that the woman was depressed as her child was suffering from an illness for the last three months, Nala Sub-divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Manoj Kumar Jha said.

Two arrested

Thane: Police have arrested two persons for allegedly stabbing to death one of their neighbours over some minor dispute in Maharashtra's Thane city, an official said Wednesday. The incident occurred in Kisan Nagar locality shortly after Tuesday midnight, police said. The accused, who were arrested soon after the offence, were identified as Aditya Chowdhary and Nihar Belose, DCP S S Burse said.

BJP LEADERS LAUD MODI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: BJP leaders Wednesday heaped praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his leadership as he entered his 20th year without a break as the head of an elected government, including close to 13 years as chief minister of Gujarat.

Party president J P Nadda said October 7, 2001, when Modi was sworn in as Gujarat chief minister for the first time, is a "milestone" in India's political history. Modi has since been notching up bigger victories and his popularity has only gone up, Nadda said on Twitter.

The party also tweeted details of many of Modi's key schemes during his 19 years as the head of a government. Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri lauded Modi for "20 years in service of humanity & Maa Bharati with dedication, vision & selflessness".

"Heartiest congratulations to PM @narendramodi Ji for becoming the only democratically elected world leader to serve the people continuously for 20 years since 2001," Puri said. Be it as chief minister of Gujarat or as prime minister of the world's largest democracy, Modi has always been a crusader for people's welfare, the party said.

"PM Sri @narendramodi Ji has completed 6941 successful days in total as CM of Gujarat & PM of India. One of the unblemished tenures ever seen. Kept public welfare as a priority and never worried about himself. Always kept sovereignty & pride of India intact," its spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi tweeted.

Govt to launch Covid awareness campaign

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi Oct 7: The government would launch a campaign from Thursday to spread awareness on the measures people need to follow to check the spread of coronavirus, Union minister Prakash Javadekar said.

Addressing a press conference here Wednesday on the decisions taken by the Union Cabinet, he said till the time a vaccine is available, people need to wear masks,

maintain distance and sanitise hands as part of efforts to check the spread of the virus. He said following the three rules is a major defence against the virus.

The government has all along been urging people to follow these measures to prevent the spread of the virus.

Posters, banners and stickers would come up at public places and on metros, auto rickshaws and other public transports to spread the message, he said.

BREAST CANCER ON THE RISE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 7: Breast cancer is on the rise in India, with various health experts attributing it to lifestyle changes, changing reproductive preferences and hormonal imbalances in the body. As per an expert, one in 22 females in urban India is likely to develop the disease.

According to WHO, there are about 1.38 million new cases and 458,000 deaths from breast cancer each year. The Breast Cancer Awareness Month, marked in countries across the world every October, helps to increase attention and support for awareness, early detection and treatment as well as palliative care of this disease.

According to Dr (Col) R. Ranga Rao, Chairman of Paras Cancer Centre at Paras Hospital, Gurugram:

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in Indian females, accounting for 14 per cent of all cancers

"Breast cancer is increasing by 10 per cent every year and the reason behind is changing reproductive preferences and hormonal imbalances in the body. So, late children, no children, few children and late marriages are the few causes of it."

"Apart from hormonal factors, lifestyle issues like overweight, excessive consumption of calories, low exercise, less consumption of fruits and vegetables and less breastfeeding. Moreover, in India, women have bigger breast lumps as compared to the western



Workers collect the winnowed paddy crop at Gehri Mandi grain market, after paddy procurement commenced in Punjab, near Amritsar, Wednesday

POLITICS GETTING MURKIER

BJP leader's shocking remark on Hathras victim

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Barabanki (Uttar Pradesh), Oct 7: The politics over the Hathras incident is getting murkier by the day.

Ranjeet Bahadur Srivastava, a BJP leader from Barabanki, has claimed that the four upper caste men accused of brutally assaulting the 19-year-old Dalit girl in Hathras are 'innocent' and it is the victim who was 'awaara' (wayward).

The controversial Bharatiya Janata Party leader, who has over 44 criminal cases against him, made this shocking statement in an interview to a news channel Tuesday night. He claimed that the teen was having an affair with the accused and had called him to the millet field on September 14 (the day of the crime).

In the interview, Srivastava can be heard saying, "The victim must have called the boy to the field because they were having an affair. This news is already out on social media and news channels. She must have got caught after that."

However, the BJP leader did not stop there. He claimed that "such women are found dead in a few spe-

cific spots". "Such girls are found dead in only some places. They will be found dead in sugarcane, corn and millet fields or in bushes, gutters or forests. Why are they never found dead in paddy or wheat fields?" he asked.

He implied that crops like sugarcane, corn and millet are taller in height and can conceal a person while wheat and paddy grow up to only three or four feet in height. Then the BJP leader went on to claim that no one ever witnesses such crimes when they occur or sees the victim being dragged away from the crime spot.

Srivastava goes on to defend the four men accused of the crime, saying they should be released from prison till the CBI files a charge sheet in the case. "I can say with guarantee these boys are innocent. If they are not released in time, they will keep facing mental harassment. Who will return their lost youth? Will the government give them compensation?" he demanded.

Taking note of Srivastava's statements, the National Commission for

Yogi gives extension to Hathras SIT

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has given a 10-day extension to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) that is probing the Hathras incident. The SIT, led by Home Secretary Bhagwan Swaroop, had initially been given seven days' time to complete the probe. Other members of the SIT are DIG Chandra Prakash and commandant PAC Poonam. The SIT was set up on September 30 and asked to wrap up investigations within seven days. According to Additional Chief Secretary Home, Avanshi Awasthi, the SIT has been given additional ten days to complete the probe and submit its report. The SIT has been camping in Hathras since October 1 meeting the families of the victim and the accused, police and district officials and local people and recording their statements.

Women chief Rekha Sharma said, "He is not fit to be called the leader of any party. He is showing his primitive and sick mindset and I am going to send a notice to him." The horrifying statements come days after BJP MLA from Ballia, Surendra Singh said that "sanskar (values) should be instilled in girls to prevent incidents of rape".

HONOUR KILLING

16-year-old pregnant Dalit girl killed in UP

The father has confessed and has been arrested but the brother is on the run, police said

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shahjahanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Oct 7: Honour killing was witnessed in Shahjahanpur district of Uttar Pradesh, where a 16-year-old pregnant Dalit girl was brutally attacked and killed by her father and elder brother and then her body was mutilated for 'bringing shame' to the family.

The father has confessed and has been arrested but the brother is on the run, police said. The body was recovered on Tuesday and police cracked the case within hours. The girl had been missing since September 23 but no complaint was lodged by the family.

According to reports, the girl was beaten and strangled to death. Her head was severed from the body which was then buried near the river bed. "The father has confessed to having killed his daughter because she was pregnant. People had started insulting him publicly. The girl's elder brother

is also involved in the murder and we have booked both of them under IPC sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence)," Shahjahanpur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) S. Anand told reporters. "We have also questioned the mother and other relatives but their involvement has not been established," he added.

During preliminary inquiry, the family told police that the girl was living with a relative. The girl, who was never sent to school, never informed her family about her sexual encounter: It was only when her baby bump started showing that the family came to know about her pregnancy.

She did not reveal the name of the person responsible. Police are trying to find out about the person, who could be the rapist as she is a minor. "We are also trying to identify the person responsible for the girl's pregnancy as having a sexual relationship with a minor girl is also a crime," SSP Anand said.



FRIENDS HERE AND OPPONENTS THERE

Bihar polls witnessing different shades of politics

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Oct 7: The Bihar Assembly election is witnessing different shades of politics as the same parties are allies at one place and opponents at another.

The Lok Janashakti Party which is part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) at the Centre seems miffed with the leadership of JD-U supremo and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in Bihar. On the other hand, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) is enjoying the perks of power in Jharkhand in alliance with the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) but was reluctant to give seats to the JMM candidates in Bihar.

In such a situation, the LJP, the Janata Dal (United), the RJD and



the JMM are facing off in Bihar. In Jharkhand, the only winning candidate of the RJD was included in the Cabinet. But in the Bihar elections, the RJD apparently could not stomach the JMM's alliance

and the JMM announced to go solo in the polls.

JMM general secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya said the party cannot compromise on its honour. He added that the RJD was doing political

manipulation, against which the party was forced to speak out. Bhattacharya asked what was the status of the RJD in Jharkhand. Its poll symbol, the lantern, was flickering in Jharkhand only due to the JMM. Also, the JMM had given the RJD more than its due share of seats in the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabha polls.

He said that the JMM won in Jharkhand through its hard work and struggle and the victory was not a gift to it. The party has decided to field candidates from Jhajha, Chakai, Katoriya, Dhamdaha, Manihari, Pirpaiti and Nathnagar in Bihar.

The LJP is in more or less the same situation. LJP chief Chirag Paswan likes the NDA at the Centre, but chose not to ally with it for the

Bihar elections. He announced putting up candidates against NDA partner, the JD-U.

At the Centre, former LJP president Ramvilas Paswan is a minister. LJP chief Chirag also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is his ideal and he has learned to struggle from him, but still decided not to go with the NDA in Bihar.

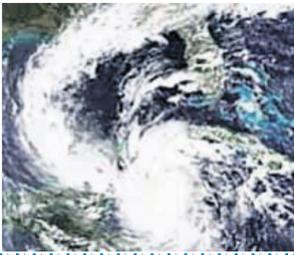
The NDA is contesting the Bihar elections under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. In a joint press conference of the NDA on Tuesday, BJP leaders made it clear that those who do not like the leadership of Nitish Kumar in Bihar cannot be with the NDA. Now it is up to the voters how they like this 'friends here and opponents there' game.



Turkey is the most developed and the biggest electricity and gas market in the region MEVLUT CAVUSOGLU | TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER

DELTA BECOMES DANGEROUS

Hurricane Delta, a slightly weakened but still dangerous Category 4 storm, barreled toward Mexico's Yucatan peninsula with winds of 130 mph (215 kph) for an expected landfall south of the Cancun resort before dawn Wednesday



of the day quote

The government is seeking to build at least one Freeport in each nation of the UK RISHI SUNAK | BRITISH POLITICIAN

We're still willing to be engaged, but I'm not optimistic for a comprehensive deal. I am optimistic that there's about 10 things that we can do on a piecemeal basis if the speaker is willing to put it before her members MARK MEADOWS | WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF

Mexico and China have an important institutional framework for the development and strengthening of our bilateral economic ties LUZ MARIA DE LA MORA | UNDERSECRETARY FOR FOREIGN TRADE AT MEXICO'S ECONOMY MINISTRY

2 women scientists win Nobel in chemistry for gene editing

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Stockholm, Oct 7: In a historic moment, two women scientists have been awarded the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for developing the tools to edit DNA, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced on Wednesday.

Professor Emmanuelle Charpentier and US biochemist Jennifer Doudna are the first women to share the prize (first time without a male collaborator) for their discovery known as Crispr-Cas9 genetic scissors.

The winners will share the prize money of 10 million krona (\$1,110,400). "I wish that this will provide a positive message specifically for young girls who would like to follow the path of science... and to show them that women in science can also have an impact with the research they are performing," said Charpentier. "This is not just for women, but we see a clear lack of interest in following a scientific path, which is very worrying".



It has not only revolutionised basic science, but also resulted in innovative crops and will lead to groundbreaking new medical treatments," said Claes Gustafsson, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry.

Using the CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors, researchers can change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with extremely high precision. This technology has had a revolutionary impact on the life sciences, is contributing to new cancer therapies and may make the dream of curing inherited diseases come true.

Trump puts 'Americans first' by unveiling new H-1B visa guidelines

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 7: The Trump administration has announced new restrictions on H-1B nonimmigrant visa programme which it said is aimed at protecting American workers, restoring integrity and to better guarantee that H-1B petitions are approved only for qualified beneficiaries and petitioners, a move which will affect thousands of Indian IT professionals.

The interim final rule announced by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Tuesday, ahead of the US presidential election on November 3, will narrow the definition of "specialty occupation" as Congress intended by closing the overbroad definition that allowed companies to game the system.

It will also require companies to make "real" offers to "real employees," by closing loopholes and preventing the displacement of the American workers.

And finally, the new rules would enhance the department's ability to enforce compliance through worksite inspections and monitor compliance before, during and after an H-1B petition is approved.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

According to the DHS, the interim final rule to be published in Federal Register will be effective in 60 days. It said the US Citizenship and Immigration Services is forgoing the regular notice and comment period to immediately ensure that employing H-1B workers



The technology companies depend on H-1B visas to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China

Such a decision by the Trump administration will have an adverse impact on thousands of Indian IT professionals

Already a large number of Indians have lost their jobs and are headed back home during the pandemic that has severely hit the US economy

will not worsen the economic crisis caused by COVID-19 and adversely affect wages and working conditions of similarly employed US workers, it said.

The pandemic's economic impact is an "obvious and compelling fact" that justifies good cause to issue this interim final rule, the DHS said in a press release.

The White House defended the move and said that the President is improving America's work visa programmes to prioritise the highest-skilled workers and protect the American jobs and wages amidst the severe impact on the economy due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Pence, Harris to clash in VP debate

REUTERS

Washington, Oct 7: Vice President Mike Pence and Democratic challenger Kamala Harris will square off on Wednesday in their only debate, as President Donald Trump's coronavirus diagnosis and the ongoing pandemic continue to roil the U.S. presidential contest.

The televised clash comes at a precarious moment for the Trump-Pence re-election campaign, less than a week after the president announced he had contracted COVID-19 amid a White House outbreak that has infected numerous high-profile Republicans. Former Vice President Joe Biden, the Democratic presidential nominee, is leading Trump in national polls, includ-



ing an advantage of 12 percentage points in the latest Reuters/Ipsos survey of likely voters, with less than four weeks until the Nov. 3 election. Late Tuesday, the two sides were still arguing over Harris' request for plexiglass barriers on stage to lessen the chance of infection. CNN reported that a member of the commission that oversees the debate said Pence would be permitted to appear without a barrier, while Harris would have one on

her side of the stage if desired. Both Pence and Harris, a U.S. senator, tested negative for the coronavirus on Tuesday. Current government guidelines call for anyone exposed to someone with COVID-19 to quarantine for 14 days regardless of test results.

Pence's spokesman did not respond to requests for comment. In preparation for the debate, Harris got help from former Democratic presidential primary rival Pete Buttigieg, a former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, who is familiar with Pence's past record when he was governor of the state. The debate is unlikely to match the sheer chaos of the first presidential debate last week, when Trump repeatedly interrupted Biden and the two traded insults.

SHORT TAKES

Russia evacuates many villages

Moscow: Russian authorities rushed to evacuate people from more than 10 villages in the region of Ryazan Wednesday after a blaze broke out at an ammunition depot, sending thick smoke belching into the air, the Interfax news agency reported. Munitions could be heard detonating at the depot in footage circulated on social media. A witness in one of the videos said shrapnel and ash was falling from the sky.

PIO couple, son found dead in UK

London: Scotland Yard in London launched a probe after three members of an Indian origin family were found dead in their flat at Golden Mile House on Clayponds Lane, Brentford. The bodies of Poorna Kaameshwari Sivaraj, 36, and her three-year-old son Kailash Kuha Raj were found when officers from the Metropolitan Police entered their flat Tuesday, as per media officials.

China under pressure

Beijing: China, the world's largest creditor, is increasingly coming under pressure to cancel its huge debt to coronavirus-hit poor countries under the Group of 20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), according to a media report. World Bank President David Malpass Monday called on China to cancel debt to coronavirus-hit poor countries, blaming Beijing's well capitalised official lenders of not fully participating in the DSSI.

Rare snow leopards spotted

Beijing: An infrared camera has captured the movements of two snow leopards, which are Class A Protected Animals, in a forest farm in northwest China's Qinghai Province, according to a research team of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

Protests in Indonesia

Bandung: Thousands of Indonesian students and workers protested Wednesday against a new law they say will cripple labour rights and harm the environment, with some clashing with police. One student was apparently shot. Authorities in Bandung, the capital of West Java province, blocked streets leading to the local parliament building and city hall.

PROTEST TURNS UGLY



Greek riot police officers charge protesters during scuffles as part of an anti-fascist rally, outside the courthouse in Athens. A Greek court has ruled that the far-right Golden Dawn party was operating as a criminal organisation, delivering a landmark verdict in a marathon five-year trial. PTI PHOTO

ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN CONTINUE FIGHTING

Iran warns of regional war

REUTERS

Yerevan, Oct 7: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday there was a danger that fighting between Azeri and ethnic Armenian forces could turn into a regional war.

Rouhani also told a cabinet meeting that it was "totally unacceptable" for any mortar bomb or missile to land on Iranian soil after Iranian media said stray shells from fighting over the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave had fallen on villages near Iran's north-western border, wounding a child and damaging buildings.

Iran lodged a formal protest to Azerbaijan and Armenia on Wednesday over violations of Iran's "territorial integrity," Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a statement carried by local media.

"We must be attentive that the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan does not become a regional war. Peace is the basis of our work and we hope to restore stability to the region in a peaceful way," Rouhani said.

"Our priority is the security of our cities and villages," he said in remarks carried by state television. He also said Iran, which borders

Armenia and Azerbaijan, would not allow states to "send terrorists to our borders under various pretexts".

His comments followed accusations, first levelled by French President Emmanuel Macron, that Turkey has sent Syrian jihadists to the region. Ankara, which is a close ally of Azerbaijan and backs rebels fighting Syrian government forces, has denied this.

Fighting broke out September 27 in Nagorno-Karabakh, which under international law belongs to Azerbaijan but is populated and governed by ethnic Armenians.

Earth experienced its hottest Sept ever in 2020

REUTERS

London, Oct 7: Last month was the world's hottest September on record, with unusually high temperatures recorded off Siberia, in the Middle East, and in parts of South America and Australia, the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service said Wednesday.

Extending a long-term warming trend caused by emissions of heat-trapping gases, high temperatures this year have played a major role in disasters

from fires in California and the Arctic to floods in Asia, scientists say.

Over the final three months of 2020, climate events such as the La Niña phenomenon and projected low levels of autumn Arctic sea ice will influence whether the year as a whole will become the warmest on record, the Copernicus service said.

The last five calendar years were the world's warmest on record. Average global temperatures have already climbed to roughly 1 degree Celsius above pre-industrial times.

PANDEMIC'S HIDDEN THREAT

'150mn people likely to be in extreme poverty by 2021'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 7: The World Bank on Wednesday warned that by 2021, as many as 150 million people are likely to be in extreme poverty because of the coronavirus pandemic and countries will have to prepare for a "different economy" post-COVID by allowing capital, labour, skills and innovation to move into new businesses and sectors.

The COVID-19 pandemic is estimated to push an additional 88 million to 115 million people into extreme poverty this year, with the total rising to as many as 150 million by



2021, depending on the severity of the economic contraction, according to the Washington-based global lender. This would represent a re-

gression to the rate of 9.2 per cent in 2017, according to the biennial Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report. Had the pandemic not convulsed the globe, the poverty rate would have been expected to drop to 7.9 per cent in 2020, it said. "The pandemic and global recession may cause over 1.4 per cent of the world's population to fall into extreme poverty," World Bank Group President David Malpass said. Noting that the new poor will be in countries that already have high poverty rates, the report said that a number of middle-income countries will see significant num-

bers of people slip below the extreme poverty line. About 82 per cent of the total will be in middle-income countries, the report estimates.

The convergence of the COVID-19 pandemic with the pressures of conflict and climate change will put the goal of ending poverty by 2030 beyond reach without swift, significant and substantial policy action, the World Bank said, adding that by 2030, the global poverty rate could be about seven per cent.

In its report, the World Bank noted that the lack of recent data for India severely hinders the ability to monitor global poverty.

business



The world is at a critical inflection point and there will be use of AI at scale, given the extreme digital acceleration seen amid the COVID-19 pandemic
SANDIP PATEL | INDIA AND SOUTH ASIA MD, IBM

SAVLON TO BECOME A ₹1,000 cr BRAND

ITC has said that Savlon is on course to become a ₹1,000 crore brand. Sameer Satpathy, CEO, ITC's Personal Care Products Business, said that going by the growth trends in H1, Savlon is all set to be a ₹1,000 crore brand and will be ITC's first ₹1,000 crore brand in personal products category



of the day quote

At a time when hygiene and sanitisation have become increasingly significant in our lives, we are delighted to partner with Urban Company and bring to our customers important home services all under one roof
SUDHIR PAI | CEO, MAGICBRICKS

Ergos is bridging the large gap between the selling price of produce and the realisation of farmers at the farm-gate by using technology to facilitate credit and market linkages to the grains stored with it
TCM SUNDARAM | FOUNDER AND MD, CHIRATAA VENTURES

During the year (2019-20) 2 million plus customers visited our Hyderabad store and 25 million plus people visited us online. As more people have been forced to stay home, the interest in home furnishing has increased and online shopping grew significantly
PETER BETZEL | CEO AND CSO, IKEA INDIA

SHORT TAKES

₹11K cr highway works underway

New Delhi: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Wednesday said highway works worth ₹11,000 crore were underway for Tamil Nadu-Puducherry connectivity. Dedicating to the nation ₹35 crore road-over-bridge on NH 45-A at Puducherry, the minister said this will ease traffic congestion. Inaugurating the one-kilometre long Road-Over-Bridge across Railway Level Crossing on NH 45-A at Arumparthapuram, Puducherry, built at a cost of ₹35 crore, the minister said the project is envisaged to bring relief to public.

Khara appointed new SBI Chairman

New Delhi: Dinesh Kumar Khara Wednesday took charge as the new Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI) for a period of three years. He succeeds Rajnish Kumar, whose term ended October 6. Khara was appointed the Chairman Tuesday. Prior to his new role, he was Managing Director, Global Banking & Subsidiaries at the SBI. Khara has over three and a half decades of rich and diverse experience in all facets of banking such as retail, corporate credit, and international banking.

Hero's new Maestro Edge 125 launched

New Delhi: The country's largest two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp Wednesday said it has launched a new trim of its Maestro Edge scooter range priced at ₹72,950 (ex-showroom Delhi). The Maestro Edge 125 Stealth comes with a 125 cc BS-VI compliant engine with power output of 9 BHP. "Our scooter brand Maestro Edge remains highly-popular with the customers and this new addition will add to the brand's appeal," Hero MotoCorp Head - Sales & Aftersales Naveen Chauhan said.

HDFC to give instant loans

Mumbai: HDFC Bank Wednesday announced a tie-up with Apollo Hospitals through which its customers can avail unsecured loans of up to ₹40 lakh to pay for medical expenses incurred at the healthcare chain. The loans will be disbursed almost instantly as and when a need for money arises, and the hospital patients who are customers of HDFC Bank will also receive preferential treatment, its CEO and MD Aditya Puri said.

Google to face antitrust probe over abuse in smart TV market

The case has been filed by two antitrust lawyers, Kshitiz Arya and Purushottam Anand

REUTERS

New Delhi, Oct 7: Alphabet Inc's Google is facing a new antitrust case in India in which the US tech giant is alleged to have abused its Android operating system's position in the smart television market, a source and two lawyers involved in the case told Reuters.

The case is Google's fourth major antitrust challenge in India, one of its key markets where it is currently facing public criticism from local startups for enforcing certain policies and company charges they contend hurt their growth.

It also comes as Google faces new antitrust challenges in the United States, and a potential antitrust probe in China that is set to look into how it allegedly uses its dominance of its Android mobile operating system to stifle competition. Google has denied any wrongdoing.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has since June been looking into allegations that Google engages in anti-competitive practices by creating barriers for firms wanting to use or develop modified versions of Android for smart TVs, such as Amazon Fire TV's operating system, according to the source, who has direct knowledge of the case.

The case has been filed by two Indian antitrust lawyers, Kshitiz Arya and Purushottam Anand. They both confirmed the case filing against Google for alleged abuse in the smart television market, but declined to comment further.



The case is Google's fourth major antitrust challenge in India, where it is currently facing public criticism from local startups

The source said the CCI had directed Google to submit its written responses to the allegations and that the company has sought more time.

A Google spokesman declined comment, since the case with the antitrust body was pending. Amazon and the CCI did not respond to requests for comment.

Unlike Indian court cases, filings and details of cases reviewed by the CCI are not disclosed publicly.

The antitrust watchdog could order a wider investigation against Google if it finds merit in the allegations, or throw out the case completely.

Smart TVs, or WiFi-enabled TVs with apps for streaming services like Netflix and YouTube, have become increasingly popular in India.

Data from Counterpoint Research shows 8 million smart TV sets were sold in India in 2019. Three in five smart TVs sold in India are based on Google's Android system, which also powers nearly 99% of India's half a billion smartphone user base.

The latest case alleges that Google's agreements with companies such as Xiaomi and TV manufacturer TCL India effectively stop them from using both the Android system and a modified version of it on different devices they make, according to the source.

In Covid times, I-T refunds ₹1.22L cr to 36L taxpayers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 7: In pursuance of the exercise to meet liquidity needs of taxpayers during Covid-19 pandemic, the Income Tax Department has fast tracked its tax refund process and processed 35.93 lakh cases amounting to more than ₹1,21,607 crore up to October 6 in FY21.

The Income Tax Department has worked at breakneck speed to process the refund claims. It issued tax refunds at a speed of 76 cases per minute between April and June and continued the momentum well into October.

In a tweet the Income Tax Department said that between April 1 and October 6, tax refunds of ₹3,238 crore have been issued in 34,09,246 cases and corporate tax refunds of ₹88,370 crore have been issued in 1,83,773 cases.



Refunds of this magnitude and numbers have been issued completely electronically and have been directly deposited into the bank accounts of the taxpayers.

Unlike what used to happen some years ago, in these refund cases no taxpayer had to approach an officer of the department to request for release of refund. They have got refund directly into their bank accounts.

Cabinet approves cyber security pact with Japan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved signing of a memorandum of cooperation (MoC) in the field of cybersecurity between India and Japan. Both sides, through the MoC, will affirm cooperation in the international arena including in the United Nations, discussing and sharing strategies and best practices to promote the integrity of the supply chain of ICT (information communication technology) products, an official statement said.

"The memorandum will enhance cooperation in areas of mutual interest, which include inter-alia, capacity building in the area of cyberspace, protection of critical infrastructure; cooperation in emerging technologies; sharing information on cyber security threats/incidents and malicious cyber activities, as well as best practices to counter them," it added.

Under the agreement, India and Japan will develop joint mechanisms for practical cooperation to mitigate cyber threats to the security of ICT infrastructure.

The agreement will aim at strengthening the security of ICT infrastructure through government-to-government and business-to-business cooperation, continuing dialogue and engagement in internet governance fora, and to support active participation by all the stakeholders of the two countries in these fora.

"India and Japan commit to an open, interoperable, free, fair, secure and reliable cyberspace environment and to promote the Internet as an engine of innovation, economic growth, and trade and commerce that would be consistent with their respective domestic laws and international obligations, and with their wide-ranging strategic partnership," the statement said.

Finalise pact for cooperation in 5G tech, AI

The two countries have finalised an ambitious agreement that provides for cooperation in 5G technology, artificial intelligence and an array of other critical areas as the two strategic partners vowed to further broaden their ties including in the Indo-Pacific region.

TCS announces mega ₹16K cr buyback plan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Wednesday announced a mega ₹16,000 crore buyback plan at ₹3,000 per equity share. In 2017 and 2018 too, TCS had undertaken buyback offers of similar sizes.

"...the Board of Directors of the company at its meeting held today has approved a proposal to buyback up to 5,33,33,333 equity shares of the company for an aggregate amount not exceeding ₹16,000 crore, being 1.42% of the total paid-up equity share capital at ₹3,000 per equity share," TCS said in a regulatory filing Wednesday.

The buyback will be conducted via a tender offer route using the stock exchange mechanism, it added.

The buyback offer is subject to the approval of the members by means of a special resolution through a postal ballot, the filing

The buyback will be conducted via a tender offer route using the stock exchange mechanism

said. A public announcement setting out the process, timelines and other requisite details will be released in due course following the buyback regulations, it added.

Meanwhile, smaller rival Wipro has also announced that its Board will consider a buyback plan October 13. However, no other details were provided. The TCS offer price of ₹3,000 per equity share is 9.6% higher than the stock's closing at ₹2,737.40 on BSE Wednesday.

In 2018, TCS had undertaken a share buyback plan worth up to ₹16,000 crore, offering ₹2,100 per equity share and entailing up to 7.61 crore shares.

Housing sales doubled in July-Sept period: Report

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 7: The Indian real estate sector seems to be recovering from a slump in demand during the nationwide lockdown as sales during the July-September quarter jumped over 100 per cent on a quarter-on-quarter basis across seven major cities, according to a report by PropEquity.

Housing sales across these seven cities during the third quarter of 2020 stood at 50,983 units, compared with 24,936 units in the previous quarter.

NCR-Delhi witnessed 295 per

cent home sales growth in Q3, while other cities like Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai Metropolitan Region, and Pune clocked 86, 131, 159, 89, 70, and 72 per cent respectively.

However, on a year-on-year basis, sales fell by 35 per cent and new launches were down by 30 per cent.

"The Indian real estate sector is showing some recovery as many projects were launched in the last quarter. With various schemes and offers, developers were able to clear significant inventory. As we move into the festive season, we forecast this recovery to continue with more



offers, discounts, and attractive payment schemes to attract more customers," Samir Jasuja, Founder and Managing Director at PropEquity, said.

Speaking on the National Capital

Region market, Ankush Kaul, President of Sales and Marketing at Ambience Group, said: "The NCR market, being one of the biggest in the country, continues to be resilient and presents a new level of optimism to the industry. Being well-supplied across all segments of housing, it caters to all categories of home buyers like those seeking affordable, premium, or luxury homes. This remains the biggest USP of this market. On account of the upcoming festive months, it is likely that the sector will see a further revival in terms of sales numbers."

TOP GAINERS 7 OCT		
39,878.95 BSE SENSEX		
POINTS		%
1253.20	Titan	4.44%
3078.70	Bajaj Auto	3.55%
7047.75	Maruti Suzuki	2.28%
2257.15	Reliance	2.13%
4210.60	UltraTech Cem	1.79%
70.50	ONGC	1.66%
1162.00	HDFC Bank	1.56%
2611.80	Nestle	1.49%
17140.10	HUL	1.20%
1066.55	Infosys	1.02%

Amazon India partners with IRCTC

New Delhi: Amazon India Wednesday said it has partnered with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to provide their customers with the facility to book reserved train tickets on its platform. "For the introductory period, Amazon.in has waived off service and payment gateway transaction charges. With this launch, Amazon Pay adds another travel category, thereby offering its customers a one-stop-shop for booking flights, bus and train tickets," Amazon said in a statement. It added that customers will get cashback on their first train ticket booking. With this new offering, customers will be able to check seat and quota availability across all train classes on the Amazon app, and use Amazon Pay Balance wallet to pay for the tickets. Customers will be able to check PNR status for ticket booked through its platform.

BIZ BUZZ

Coal Ministry awards MCL Lakhnapur area

Bhubaneswar: Lakhnapur area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has been awarded first prize by the Ministry of Coal for outstanding contribution and performance during Swachhata Pakhwada in 2019. During a presentation programme, MCL CMD BN Shukla formally presented the awarded to the General Manager, Lakhnapur Area which was adjudged best among about 88 areas/units of various subsidiaries of CIL, for contribution in Swachhata Pakhwada from June 15-30, 2019. Meanwhile, special honour was given to B Sairam, GM (CSR) for significant contributions in organising the Swachhata Pakhwada-2019. The CMD has congratulated Team Lakhnapur Area and their CSR department for this distinguished achievement.



REAL-TIME TRANSACTIONS

'With 41mn payments per day, India leads globally'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 7: Thanks to the pandemic, the country has become the global leader in real-time financial transactions with 41 million transactions per day, which is more than double that of the last year, says an international report.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen India doubling its every day real-time transactions at 41 million, says the latest report from FIS, which is a leading provider of technology solutions for merchants, banks and capital markets firms globally.

According to the report released Wednesday, six other countries also saw more than doubling of their real-time payment transactions year-over-year, while four saw at least a two-fold increase in trans-

action value. But in terms of the growth rate, the list is topped by Bahrain with 657% growth, followed by Ghana clipping at 488%, the Philippines growing at 309%, Australia at 214%, and Poland at 208%.

India's growth was 213%, handling 41 million transactions a day, according to the report.

"India leads global real-time payments, processing 41 million real-time transactions per day, more than any other country in the world," says the report, adding the country continues to innovate with the launch of extensive business services on the real-time rails including IPO subscriptions, mandate management and invoice-in-the-box.

South Korea reported the highest number of real-time transac-



tions per capita, with 75 transactions annually processed. In the US, over 130 financial institutions are currently implementing real-time payments, a five-fold increase since

September 2019. Over half (56%) of all European payments service providers have joined the pan-European Sepa Credit Transfer Instant Payments Network,

which brings cross-border and instant payments to 20 countries.

Vietnam and Hungary added real-time payments networks since last year, bringing the total number of

countries with such schemes to 56. According to FIS, the request to pay (R2P), cross-border payments, and corporate treasury business-to-business payments are driving adoption of real-time payments networks globally. R2P systems offer a convenient and flexible way for people, businesses and governments to request a payment from a third-party.

FIS supports real-time payments across the globe, processing instant transactions in 24 countries including Australia, Britain, China, India, and the US.

"The current pandemic has highlighted the critical importance of instantly getting funds, whether for individuals or businesses" said Raja Gopalakrishnan, the head of global real-time payments at FIS.

KINGS XI TAKE ON SUNRISERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 7: Their bowling attacks struggling to find form, Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) will look towards their power-hitters to do the job when the two erratic teams go head to head in an IPL match here Thursday.

KXIP are currently languishing at the bottom of the table after losing four of their five games, while SRH are only slightly better at sixth following two wins and three losses so far.

KXIP's strength has been in a formidable opening duo. Skipper KL Rahul has been in scintillating form this year, scoring two fifties and a century, while Mayank Agarwal also has a half century



and a ton to his credit. The two have done the heavy-lifting for the team. Nicholas Pooran has also looked sharp but Glenn Maxwell is yet to fire.

But despite the solid batting performances, KXIP have been unable to win because of their disappointing bowling attack. Apart from Mohammed Shami, all the other bowlers have failed to take wickets, conceding far too many runs in death overs.

They were unable to defend 223 against Rajasthan. In their 10-wicket loss in the previous

outing, KXIP bowlers were at their wits end as Chennai Super Kings overhauled a 178-run target with 14 balls and 10 wickets to spare.

And come Thursday, Sunrisers, who are blessed with a strong top order comprising Jonny Bairstow, David Warner, Manish Pandey and Kane Williamson, will look to exploit a low-on-confidence KXIP's bowling unit.

Warner and his men were handed a 34-run defeat by the Mumbai Indians Sunday. Having lost their opening two games due to the middle order, Sunrisers addressed the issue by bringing in Williamson to the playing XI at the expense of an all-round option.

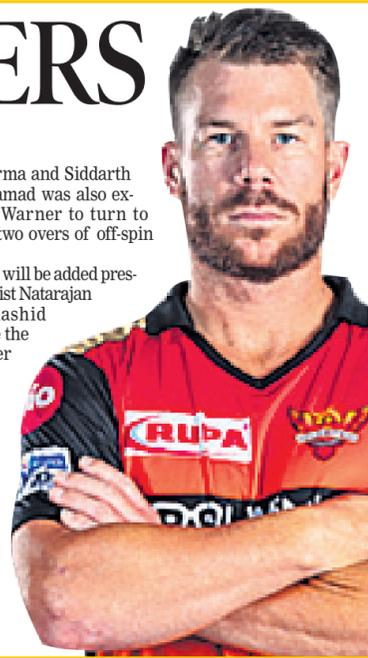
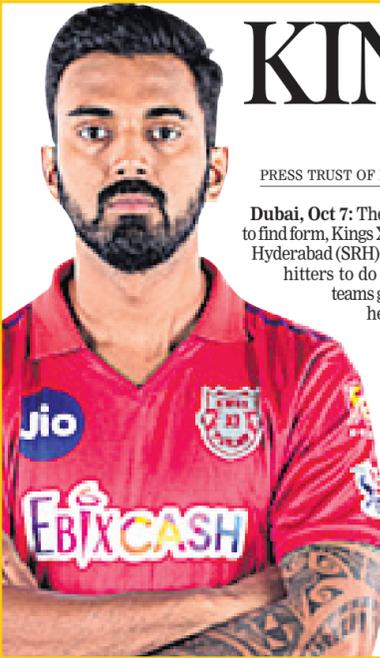
Skipper Warner backed youngsters Abhishek Sharma and Abdul Samad to fill in for the fifth bowler and the risk paid off as the former champions won two games on the trot. However, the Orange Army was dealt a massive blow when senior pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar was ruled out of the tournament with a thigh muscle injury.

In Bhuvneshwar's absence, Sunrisers struggled with their bowling. Apart from T Natarajan,

pacers Sandeep Sharma and Siddharth Kaul leaked runs. Samad was also expensive, which led Warner to turn to Williamson to bowl two overs of off-spin against Mumbai.

Going ahead, there will be added pressure on yorker specialist Natarajan and star spinner Rashid Khan. Sunrisers face the conundrum of either providing stability in the middle order or strengthening their bowling attack.

They have the option of playing experienced Afghan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi or West Indies' Fabian Allen but that would mean Williamson will have to sit out.



Aussie eves match Ponting era record

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brisbane, Oct 7: The Australian women's team beat New Zealand by 232 runs Wednesday to record their 21st consecutive win in ODIs and equal a world mark set by Ricky Ponting's Australian men's team in 2003.

The Australian women haven't been beaten in an ODI since losing to England October 29, 2017. The winning streak started against India and also included series wins over Pakistan, England, West Indies and New Zealand.

Regular captain Meg Lanning, who missed Wednesday's game because of injury sustained while scoring an unbeaten century in

Australia's series-clinching win Monday, said her team wanted to finish off the Rose Bowl series against New Zealand and reach the milestone 21 with an emphatic win.

Australia's total of 325/5 virtually took the game away from New Zealand, who needed the biggest successful chase in women's ODI history to secure an unlikely victory.

Stand-in captain Rachael Haynes led the way for Australia, posting 96 from 104 balls and sharing a 144-run opening stand with Alyssa Healy, who scored a run-a-ball 87 including 13 boundaries and a six.

The New Zealanders were bowled out for 93, with only Amy Satterthwaite (41) and Maddy Green (22) reaching double figures.



Tripathi, bowlers lift KKR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Oct 7: Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) made a superb comeback in the second half of the second innings to seal a 10-run win over Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in their IPL encounter, Wednesday.

Chasing 168, CSK were 90/1 at the end of the 10th over. However some sloppy batting at the death overs, especially from Kedar Jadhav, cost them the points. Jadhav scored 7 off 12 balls including a boundary.

Shane Watson (50, 40b, 6x4, 1x6) and Ambati Rayudu (30, 27b, 3x4) put CSK in a wonderful position after losing Faf du Plessis (17) early. The duo added 69 runs before Rayudu got off a Kamllesh Nagarkoti (1/21) delivery with CSK's scoreboard reading 99/2 in 12.1 overs.

Rayudu's dismissal triggered the middle order collapse. Sam Curran (11-ball 17) played a cameo, while MS Dhoni (12) got out cheaply. Then Jadhav's struggle dashed all the hopes of a win. Ravindra Jadeja (21 n o) finished the innings with three boundaries - 6, 4 & 4 - in the final over; but it was too little, too late.

Earlier, CSK staged a remarkable comeback after opener Rahul Tripathi's (81, 51b, 8x4, 3x6) splendid innings, to bowl out KKR for 167.



(From L): KKR's Sunil Narine celebrates after dismissing CSK's Shane Watson; Rahul Tripathi drives through the off-side in Abu Dhabi, Wednesday



turning with an impressive figures. Tripathi enjoyed his promotion to the top with an excellent fifty but CSK bowlers applied the brakes to bundle out KKR.

At 93/2 at the midway stage, KKR looked set for a big score but Bravo struck after that. Leg-spinner Karn Sharma (2/25), Shradul Thakur (2/28), Sam Curran (2/26) claimed two wickets each as the MS Dhoni-led side bounced back in the back

10 by taking eight wickets while giving away just 74 runs. Dhoni picked up four catches, the last one being his best effort.

BRIEF SCORES: Kolkata Knight Riders 167 (Rahul Tripathi 81; Dwayne Bravo 3/37, Karn Sharma 2/25, Sam Curran 2/26, Shardul Thakur 2/28) beat Chennai Super Kings 157/5 (Shane Watson 50, Ambati Rayudu 30; Andre Russell 1/18) by 10 runs.

PENALTY KING PANENKA IN CRITICALLY ILL

REUTERS

Prague, Oct 7: Czech footballer Antonin Panenka, whose cheeky winning penalty technique against Germany in the 1976 European Championship has been copied by some of the game's greatest players, is in intensive care at a hospital, his former club said Wednesday.



Panenka, 71, led the Czechoslovak national team to their only international title after he lofted the decisive penalty past a surprised and sprawling German goalkeeper Sepp Maier in the shoot-out of the final.

The shot - now called a Panenka - is a simple technique in which the player gently chips the ball down the centre of the goal assuming the keeper will dive to the right or left.

"Antonin Panenka was taken to an intensive care unit today, in a serious condition. We will not comment more on his state. Tonda, let's go!" Bohemians 1905 club said on Twitter. The club later said that Panenka tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

Many of the world's greatest players have attempted Panenkas in big matches. France's Zinedine Zidane gave France a 1-0 lead over Italy in the 2006 World Cup final with the shot while Andrea Pirlo netted one for Italy against England in Euro 2012.

Smith fined for slow over rate

Abu Dhabi: Rajasthan Royals captain Steve Smith has been fined ₹12 lakh for his side's slow over rate during their IPL match against Mumbai Indians here. Rajasthan Royals suffered a 57-run loss to defending champions Mumbai Indians Tuesday. Given that this was his team's first offence of the season, Smith was fined ₹12 lakh under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences. "As it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Mr. Smith was fined ₹12 lakh," IPL said in a statement.

DFB raided on suspicion of tax evasion

Frankfurt: The headquarters of the German football federation (DFB) and the private homes of some of its members were searched early Wednesday as part of an investigation into tax evasion. The Frankfurt public prosecutor said about 200 officers were involved in the raids in the German states of Bavaria, North Rhine-Westphalia, Hesse, Lower Saxony and Rhineland-Palatinate. "The investigations into suspected fraudulent corporate and trade tax evasion in particularly serious cases are directed against six former or current officials of the DFB," public prosecutor Nadja Niesen said, referring to the soccer federation. "They are accused of deliberately wrongly declaring false income from perimeter advertising from home matches for the national soccer team from 2014 and 2015 as income from asset management." The German federation is suspected of avoiding paying taxes of about 4.7 million euros for the period. The authorities did not name any suspects.

Barca start process to reduce salaries

Barcelona: Barcelona have begun a process to reduce the pay of players, coaches and non-sporting staff to adapt to the huge losses suffered due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a club source said Wednesday. Staff have been notified by the club of the need to reduce costs after posting a loss of 97 million euros in their annual financial report, released Monday. The employees, including players, have been asked to nominate a representative over the next two weeks to represent them in the negotiations over the changes to their salaries, added the source.

USA pacer Ali out of IPL with injury

Dubai: Kolkata Knight Riders fast bowler Ali Khan, who had become the first USA cricketer to be signed by an IPL franchise, has been ruled out of the tournament due to an injury. A media advisory from IPL confirmed his injury but did not provide any details. The two-time winners had signed Khan as a replacement for the injured English seamer Harry Gurney ahead of the tournament. "Khan became the first USA cricketer to be signed up by an IPL franchise. Unfortunately, Khan has since been injured and will miss the rest of the Dream11 IPL 2020 season," the statement read.

Rafa on course for 13th clay GS crown



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Oct 7: Add 'latest-finishing match' and '13 semifinals reached' to the considerable roster of French Open records owned by Rafa Nadal.

The 12-time champion at Roland Garros withstood an early challenge from 19-year-old Jannik Sinner and pulled away to win 7-6(7-4), 6-4, 6-1 in a quarterfinal that ended at nearly 1:30 am Wednesday on a windy night with the temperature in the low 50s (teens Celsius).

Competition can continue that deep into the night in Paris this year because it's the first time artificial lights are being used for play at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament.

Their quarterfinal began after 10:30 pm Tuesday. It was the last match of the day on a packed schedule at Court Philippe Chatrier, which included five contests instead of the usual four because one was postponed by rain a day earlier. And Nadal-Sinner also was delayed by No.12 seed Diego Schwartzman's five-hour, five-set victory over No.3 Dominic Thiem.

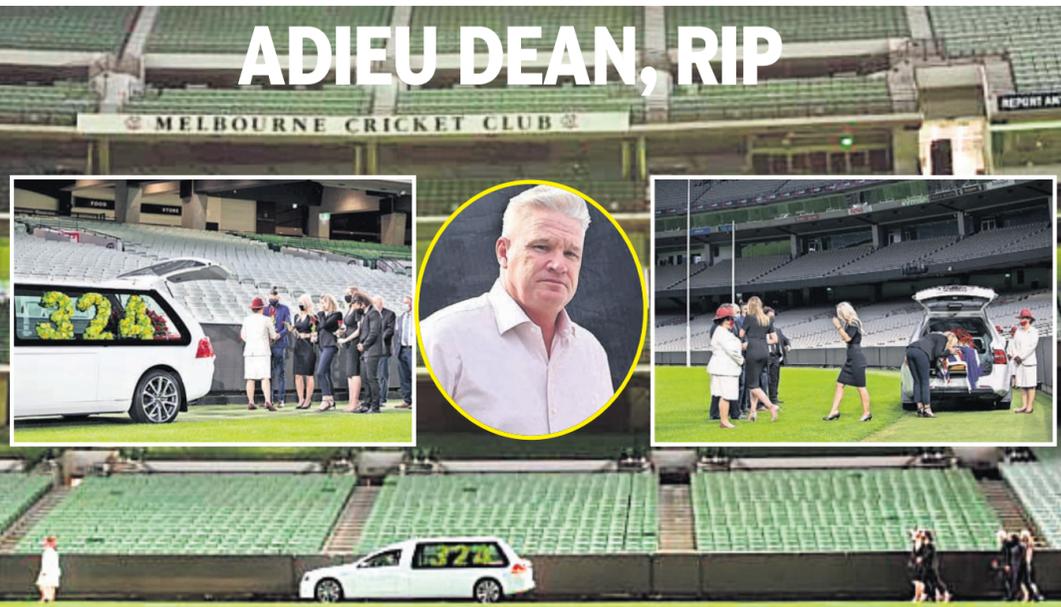
World No.2 Nadal hasn't lost a set in the tournament will take a 9-1

Kvitova in semis

Paris: Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova overcame some potentially costly double-faults to beat 66th-ranked Laura Siegemund 6-3, 6-3 and reach the French Open semifinals for the second time. Kvitova normally dictates play with her big serve and forehand but she double-faulted multiple times when she was broken twice in the second set. The seventh-seeded Czech player bounced back each time and is back in the last four at Roland Garros for the first time since 2012. She lost to eventual champion Maria Sharapova that year. Kvitova has not dropped a set in her five matches at this year's tournament.

head-to-head edge against Schwartzman into their meeting in Friday's semifinals. Schwartzman has this going for him: He won their most recent matchup, beating Nadal last month on clay at a tuneup in Rome. Among the many statistics that stand out about Nadal's track record in Paris: He is 98-2 at the place, which includes 24-0 in semifinals and finals.

ADIEU DEAN, RIP



Former Australian cricketer Dean Jones was privately given a farewell by his close family members with a lap of honour on the hallowed turf of Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG); (inset L) No.324 written on the vehicle indicates Jones' Test cap number; (inset R) Loved ones pay respect to Jones before the lap of honour