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IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I can't take my eyes off the sky, dad! We are driving on a highway where fighter jets can do emergency landing

**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VARIAION
SENSEX	58305.07 ↑ 54.81
NIFTY	17369.30 ↑ 15.80
DOLLAR	73.88 ↑ ₹0.02
EURO	87.58 ↑ ₹0.18
GOLD	₹46,820 ↓ ₹218
SILVER	₹ 64,050 ↓ ₹133

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.5°C	32.0°C
TEMP MIN	25.6°C	25.0°C
Humidity	98%	89%
Rainfall	6.2mm	Nil

Forecast: Light rain very likely

# CAG report slams varsities

Students of both Utkal University and NOU face a bleak future in the job market due to lack of proper guidance and updated syllabi

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 9:** The latest Comptroller and Auditor General of India's (CAG) report regarding higher education and job prospects for students in state-run universities paints a very bleak picture indeed. It has pointed out anomalies in several colleges under Utkal University and North Odisha University (NOU).

The report released Thursday audited records of Utkal University and NOU from 2014-15 to 2018-19. Out of the 299 colleges under these two universities, 32 were randomly selected for checking.



Only **26.10%** Utkal University students managed to get on campus placements in 5 years

Syllabi of a number of subjects in Utkal and NOU still not up to date

The CAG report claimed that majority of the students studying in these universities do not get on campus job placements like those in private institutions. Many of the private universities claim 100 per cent placements while for Utkal University the figure stands at 26.10 per cent and for NOU it is 3.79 per cent. The report also pointed out the distinct lack of job placement and career counselling cells in the colleges.

"On an average 26.10 per cent students of Utkal University and 3.79 per cent of NOU could get placements through placements cells/job fairs. There was less than optimal functioning and, in many cases, complete absence of placement and career counselling cells at universities and colleges checked," the CAG report said.

The report also recommended robust initiatives to give proper coaching to the students for competitive exams. It also pointed out the outdated syllabus and lack of revision of the same on a regular basis.

**MORE P3**

"Audit checked syllabi of 18 out of 42 subjects in Utkal and NOU and found that syllabi of 15 subjects were not revised, though due for revision. In NOU, only a quarter of courses had focus on employability and not a single value-added subject was introduced in any of the test-checked Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs)," the report said.

The report also talked about the low percentage of availability of information and communication technology in such institutions besides large scale vacancy in faculty.

"Shortage of quality faculty coupled with lack of mobility across regions is a major constraint. Thirty eight per cent of faculty positions were vacant in Utkal University for the 2018-19 session while at NOU it was 34 per cent. The student-teacher ratio in HEIs also did not adhere to the laid down norms (20:1), especially at college level," the report said.

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## Stormy finish to Monsoon Session

With the Speaker rejecting the notice for discussing mining irregularities, the Opposition alleged he is trying to save those involved in the scam



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 9:** For the second day in succession, BJP and Congress members moved a notice demanding discussion on irregularities and other issues related to the mining sector. However, Speaker Surjoya Narayan Patro again rejected the notice moved by the members on the last day of the Monsoon Session.

The Opposition accused the speaker of deliberately trying to save those in the government allegedly involved in the mining scam.

The entire pre-lunch session of the last day was washed away as both the Congress and BJP members created a ruckus.

"We gave a new notice for an adjournment motion on the mining issues. We did not talk about corruption, but

## 4 Odisha institutes in top 100

In the latest NIRF list released by the Ministry of Education, a number of educational institutions from the state have fared well

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 9:** Four educational institutes from Odisha have featured prominently in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2021 list which was released Thursday by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The NIRF was launched for the first time in 2015 and has been approved by Ministry of Education. SOA and KIIT have got rankings in multiple categories.



In the overall rankings for top 100 institutes, four from Odisha feature. They are Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA, 37th) Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT, 39th), National Institute of Technology Rourkela (NIT, 41st) and Indian Institute of Technology-Bhubaneswar (IIT, 58th).

In overall 'University' rankings SOA gets 20th position, KIIT is placed

21st while Utkal University is at the 87th position. In the Engineering segment, five from Odisha have found a place in the top 100 with NIT, Rourkela best at 20th. It is followed by IIT-Bhubaneswar (28th), SOA (32nd), KIIT (39th) and CV Raman Global University at 100th position.

In the 'Management' division, KIIT (31st) is the best among Odia institutes and is followed by Xavier University (34th), IIM-Sambalpur (61st) and International Management Institute, Bhubaneswar (62nd).

In the 'Medical' segment, four Odia institutes are among the top 100. They are SOA (21st), AIIMS-Bhubaneswar (31st), KIIT (36th) and SCB Medical College and Hospital (39th).

**P9**

## India gets 1st ELF close to Pak border

**BARMER:** Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari inaugurated India's first emergency landing facility (ELF) at Satta-Gandhav stretch on National Highway (NH) 925 here Thursday for Indian Air Force (IAF) planes. This is the first of its kind landing strip in India. A Hercules C-130J plane of the IAF, carrying the two ministers and Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Bipin Rawat, conducted a mock emergency landing on the runway. Defence Minister Singh while addressing the gathering said, 20 more such strips will be developed in India in the near future to boost security infrastructure. The newly-laid strip is close to India's western borders with Pakistan.

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ARIES

Today, a romantic link-up is about to be delivered at your doorstep, all wrapped in silver and tinsel! So, Ganesha hopes you are prepared. Don your best attire, check your breath and practice some sweet-talking. After all, who knows what the evening will lead to? Only Ganesha,

TAURUS

Chaos will reign supreme as unexpected things occur and expected ones are missed out on, says Ganesha. Luck will favour you and nothing is powerful enough to hamper you other than your own thoughts. You will dodge any trouble that is headed your way and escape easily, much to the embarrassment of others.

GEMINI

You will be able to put forward your proposal and explain your feelings to someone dear to you, and can expect a positive response from them. You will come across as honest and sincere and hence will be accepted. An auspicious and joy-filled day awaits, says Ganesha.

CANCER

You will help others and be cheerful, feels Ganesha. you will inspire and encourage others. Closeness with beloved will gladden you. You will be attracted to special person, and it could benefit you.

LEO

You will spend the day with your family and friends today and feel closer to them. You will try to help others, as always. You will like to guide someone if your own situation is comfortable today.

VIRGO

Consummation of work and success will be the high points today, says Ganesha. You will gain the much needed appreciation for your dedication to work and your desire to succeed in whatever you do. A long-awaited promotion may materialise today, and there is also the bright prospect of some monetary arrears coming your way.

LIBRA

The whole point of being a Libra is that you always have the tendency to be two separate things put together on a pair of scales that somehow balance. Ganesha feels that today, you'll bring to the scales the stability of being your own master and servant.

SCORPIO

Signs indicate you may face unexpected expenses today. But this spending is likely to be on family and friends - especially in entertaining them. But keep track of every penny. To be on the safer side, Ganesha advises you not to have any pockets at all today.

SAGITTARIUS

You feel like going back to carefree, childhood days. You even practice that by taking an impromptu pleasure trip, in the outskirts of the city. And bumping into an old pal, reliving your past is like an icing on the cake.

CAPRICORN

You love the people around you unconditionally and such emotions will be more visible now than ever. Today, you will want to keep yourself surrounded with your loved ones, make them happy and have a good time, says Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

Your will finally end today and you will enjoy the fruits of your hard-work. You are very good at considering all the pros and cons of every situation/project, drawing a plan on paper and distribution of responsibilities, however, execution of those plans is a problem area for you. Be practical to be successful, assures Ganesha.

PISCES

You will come up trumps against your competition today. This will make you enthusiastic about your future prospects. You shy away from the spotlight usually, but today you will find yourself thrust into the role of a leader, as you take on new assignments.

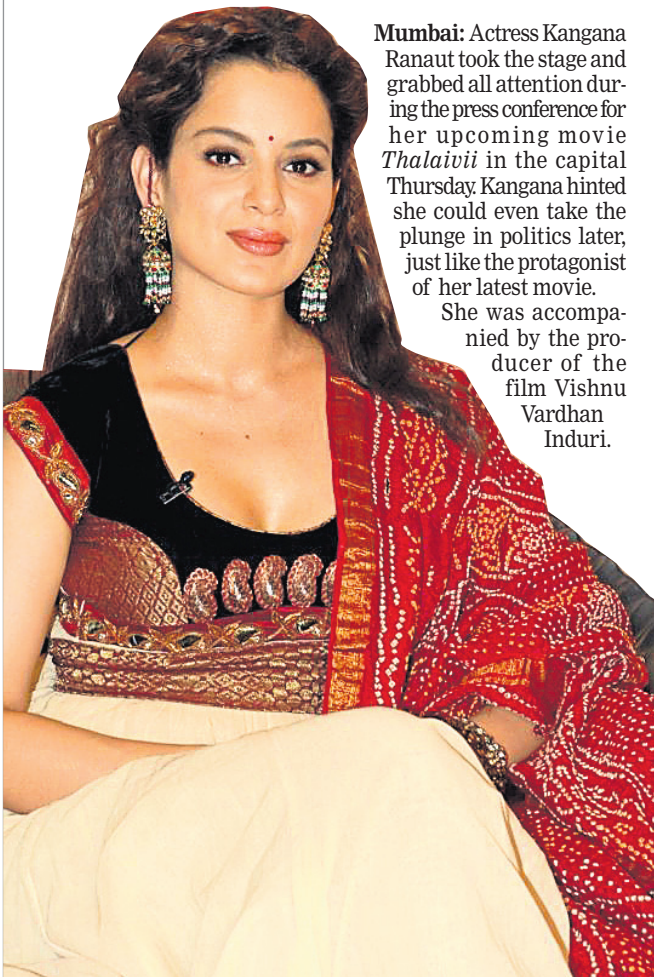
JLAW EXPECTING 1ST BABY WITH HUSBAND MARONEY

Oscar winning-actress Jennifer Lawrence is expecting her first child with her husband and art gallery director Cooke Maroney. The actress' representative confirmed the happy news to people.com. Lawrence and Maroney got engaged in February 2019 and tied knot in October.

AL PACINO, FREEMAN, MIRREN TO STAR IN NOIR GENRE FILM SNIFF

Oscar winners Morgan Freeman, Al Pacino, Helen Mirren and Oscar nominee Danny DeVito will star in Sniff, a stylish reinvention of the film noir genre that will be directed by Taylor Hackford, also an Oscar-winning director.

Kangana hints at entry into politics



Mumbai: Actress Kangana Ranaut took the stage and grabbed all attention during the press conference for her upcoming movie Thalaivii in the capital Thursday. Kangana hinted she could even take the plunge in politics later, just like the protagonist of her latest movie.

She was accompanied by the producer of the film Vishnu Vardhan Induri.

Kangana, who has been vocal on a number of issues related to national interest, was asked if this movie would help her in any way in entering politics as she has now touched the South.

She said: "This movie might not be released in Hindi in multiplexes and multiplexes have always tried to bully the producers. And they are the same. I am a nationalist and I speak for the country not because I am a politician but as a responsible citizen. And as far as entering politics is concerned, I might need a lot of support from the public but right now I am happy to be an actress. But if tomorrow people like me and support me, then definitely I would love to."

Kangana, who plays the role of late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu J Jayalalitha, feels that the movie is more about the journey of Jayalalitha and never meant to try to change any mindset related to male-dominant society.

27th GKCM Award fest concludes on spiritual note

Theatre actor Binodini Devi was honoured with Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award while Arushi Mudgal for Odissi dance and Ramchandra Behera for Odissi music (Mardala) were conferred with GKCM Yuva Pratibha Samman



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: After four consecutive evenings of spectacular classical presentations, the 27th OMC Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award Festival culminated in the award presentation ceremony and the finale by the Srjan ensemble Thursday.

This year, Governor of Odisha Ganeshi Lal presented the Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award 2021 to Binodini Devi for her lifetime contributions to Odia theatre. An Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi awardee, Binodini Devi has also acted in a few Odia films including Para Jhia Ghara Bhangena, Mu Eka Tumara, Agastya and Matira Manisha. The

award carries a respectable allocation of Rs. 1,00,000/- and a citation.

This was followed by the presentation of the Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Yuva Pratibha Samman, which focuses on reviving the all-important role of the solo artiste in the classical idiom.



A presentation by Srjan Ensemble

The award carries a cash prize of Rs 25,000/- and a citation.

Arushi Mudgal for Odissi dance and Ramchandra Behera for Odissi music (Mardala) receive the award for their dedication and inspiring performances. The much-awaited finale was a presentation by the Srjan ensemble, who, under the direction of Guru Ratikant Mohapatra perform extensively within India and overseas, presenting compositions with fast-paced movements within the Odissi idiom. This evening, Srjan presented a bouquet of neo-classical innovations in Odissi dance, the presentations of which were all carefully and aesthetically conceptualized, and choreographed by Mohapatra, the driving force behind Srjan's success.

Beginning with an

invocation to Lord Ganesha, Vinayaka Smarane, the dancers paid their obeisance to Lord Ganesha. The dance presentation was set to the music composition of Vinod Kumar Panda.

In their second presentation, the Srjan ensemble presented a pure dance presentation, Parameshwari Pallavi, set to Raag Parameshwari and Khemta Taal.

This was followed by the dance ballet, Maati, written by renowned Odia poet, Radha Mohan Gadanayak. The dance choreography was done by Guru Mohapatra, music composition by Laxmikant Palit and the script adaptation by Jaydev Das. The finale, an experimental piece, titled Shiva Shangsnam, was an absolute visual delight. Based on the Odissi idiom, this presentation pushes the boundaries of dance innovation with its novel style of execution.

Bhumi uncomfortable calling herself a star

Mumbai: Bhumi Pednekar took critics by surprise, and won awards, by playing an overweight bride who speaks up for her rights in the romantic comedy Dum Laga Ke Haisha. Since then, she has given a string of hits with meaningful cinema.

She has been seen in Toilet: Ek Prem Katha, Shubh Mangal Savdhaan, Saand Ki Aankh, Bala, Pati Patni Aur Woh and Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare, and many more such critically acclaimed films.

But is Bhumi comfortable with the 'star' tag? In an interview, the actress, who started out as an assistant to Shanoo Sharma, the casting director of

Yash Raj Films, made the confession: "I am a little shy to call myself a star."

She insists she is an actor "who has received a lot of love". Bhumi said: "I think the definition of stardom has changed across different generations. But yes, I am grateful that my films are appreciated and people love me and I am going to continue doing whatever I do on and off screen."

ANS



Gulzar, Rahman team up for Subrata Roy biopic

Mumbai: Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman and legendary writer-poet and filmmaker Gulzar are coming together for an upcoming project, a biopic on business tycoon Subrata Roy.

Rahman said: "Gulzar Saab's soulful lyrics are extremely inspiring for a musician and I hope I can do justice to the lyrics and the story. I am looking forward to this collaboration."

Gulzar added: "It will be wonderful to collaborate with Rahman again. Subrata Roy's life is enigmatic and inspiring. Rahman is a wonderful artist and musician and I look forward to this collaboration."

Subrata Roy is the Chairman of Sahara India Pariwar. He and his two companies were barred by the Securities and Exchange



Board of India (SEBI) in 2010.

According to reports, the regulatory body made accusations against the group that they had raised several crores through optionally fully convertible debentures (OFCDs) that SEBI considered wrong. Roy was then jailed for over two years. He has been out on parole since 2016.

ANS

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

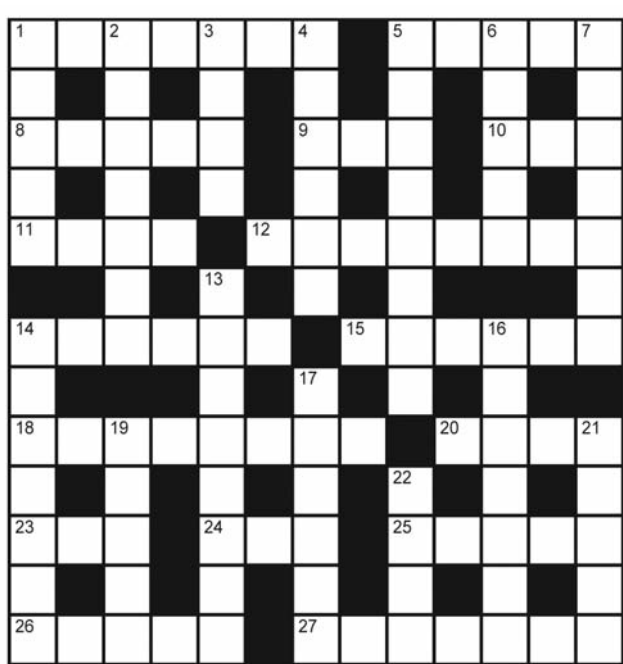


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Plant with poisonous leaves
- 5 Buddies, in Canberra
- 8 Spa feature
- 9 Indisposed
- 10 Blood-typing letters
- 11 Little piggies
- 12 Tepid
- 14 Parting words (3-3)
- 15 Verified
- 18 Pay attention (6,2)

Down

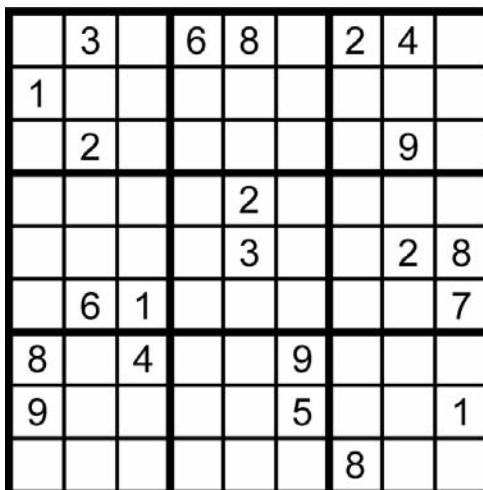
- 20 Perched on
- 23 Mudder's fodder
- 24 Circle segment
- 25 Elephantine
- 26 Skirt fold
- 27 To-do list items
- 1 Furnace button
- 2 Hawaiian strings
- 3 Out of town
- 4 Mediterranean capital

- 5 Fruit tree
- 6 Princess topper
- 7 P. T. Barnum was one
- 13 Like some actors
- 14 Hotel baggage handler
- 16 Old hand
- 17 Type of pie or tart
- 19 Fashion
- 21 Newspapers
- 22 Picture problem

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

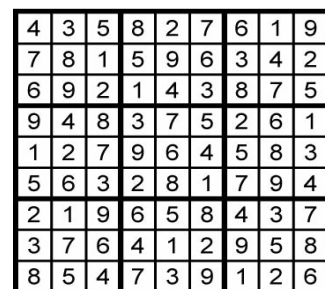


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU





# downtown



## MATTER OF FAITH

Women observe  
*Balitrutiya Brata* at  
Markandeya pond in  
Puri, Thursday

COVID-19 TRACKER			
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	22,37,12,607	20,02,06,487	46,14,151
India	3,31,39,981	3,23,04,618	4,41,749
Odisha	10,14,338	9,99,859	8,078

# House passes resolution on caste census

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 9:** The Assembly, on the last day of the Monsoon Session, Thursday, passed a resolution to urge the Centre for conducting a caste-based census to enumerate the Other Backward Class (OBC) population.

SC & ST Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Minister Jagannath Saraka moved the resolution which was passed in the absence of opposition BJP and Congress members.

Saraka said the population of SC and ST is 22.5 per cent and 16.25 per cent of the entire population of Odisha while the OBC/SEBC population occupies a major share in the remaining population.

As per existing reservation policy of the state government, he said, there is 22.5 per cent reservation for SC, 16.25 per cent for ST and 11.25 per cent for SEBC people to keep the ceiling within 50 per cent, in accordance with the Supreme Court's direction. "The reservation for SEBC is not proportionate to their population. As a result, they are deprived of getting suitable reservation in government jobs and other facilities," he said.

Various institutions including Odisha Administrative Tribunal, Orissa High Court and Supreme Court had quashed state reservation policy due to lack of a detailed scientific database, Saraka said.

Based on the resolution of the State Cabinet, the Odisha Chief Secretary, in January 2020, had intimated the Cabinet Secretary for considering the proposal for conducting Census for SEBC and OBC



## UNWAVERING STAND

As per existing reservation policy of the state government, there is 22.5% reservation for SC, 16.25% for ST and 11.25% for SEBC to keep the ceiling within 50 per cent, in accordance with the Supreme Court's direction

Various institutions including Odisha Administrative Tribunal, Orissa High Court and Supreme Court had quashed state reservation policy due to lack of a detailed scientific database

Based on the resolution of the State Cabinet, the Chief Secretary, in January 2020, had intimated the Union Cabinet Secretary for considering the proposal for conducting Census for SEBC and OBC category population in General Census of 2021

However, the Registrar General and Census Commissioner India had rejected the proposal on the ground that the collection of data of OBC/SEBC/other castes will adversely affect integrity of Census exercise

**The reservation for SEBC is not proportionate to their population. As a result, they are deprived of getting suitable reservation in government jobs and other facilities**

JAGANNATH SARAKA | SC & ST DEVELOPMENT, MINORITIES & BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE MINISTER

category population in General Census of 2021.

However, the Registrar General and Census Commissioner India had rejected the proposal on the ground that the collection of data of OBC/SEBC/other castes will adversely affect integrity of Census exercise, he said.

He appealed to all the members of the House to unanimously resolve to ask the Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes to urge on Union government to raise the reservation cap above 50 per cent in order to accommodate reservation for OBC population and conduct a caste-based census to enumerate the OBC population. The resolution was supported by the treasury bench members only and was passed by Speaker SN Patro.

## 13 Bills cleared during Monsoon Session

**Bhubaneswar:** The Monsoon Session of the state Assembly which began September 1 ended Thursday as per schedule. The session saw passage of 13 Bills. After tabling of several reports including four CAG reports and passing of a resolution, Speaker SN Patro announced that the House was adjourned sine die. The eight-day session was stormy as treasury bench and opposition members locked horns over drought-like situation in some parts of the state, law & order situation, corruption in Odisha State Staff Selection Commission and mining scam. During the eight days, the House passed 13 Bills including the much-awaited Odisha Panchayat Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and the Odisha Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021 to keep the overall reservation in the local bodies within 50 percent. The House also passed two resolutions during the session. Out of 718 starred questions, only 16 were answered in the House during the session. The House discussed three adjournment motions and another special motion on drought. As many as 10 annual reports, three committee reports, one ordinance, 61 other papers have been tabled in the Assembly during the session.

## Lecturer recruitment test September 19

**Bhubaneswar:** The Higher Education (HE) department Thursday said the written examination for recruitment of 972 lecturers in government aided colleges in the state will be conducted at 80 centres in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Balasore, Berhampur and Sambalpur September 19. Around 35,000 candidates are expected to appear for the examination, said HE department Principal Secretary Saswat Mishra.

## Bizman shot at in broad daylight

PNN/AGENCIES

**Cuttack, Sept 9:** A Jagatsinghpur-based businessman suffered gunshot injuries after two unidentified motorcycle-borne miscreants shot at him at Athanga in Kandarpur area of Cuttack city in broad daylight Thursday. After firing at him, they snatched away the cash bag containing ₹1 lakh and sped away from the spot. The businessman, who has been

identified as Khirod Chandra Sahu, received a bullet on his thigh.

According to a source, Sahu runs a grocery shop in Jagatsinghpur. He was coming to Malgond in Cuttack in an autorickshaw to buy articles for his shop. As he neared Athanga, two miscreants on a motorcycle came from behind, opened fire at him and sped away from the spot with the cash bag. Hearing the firing sound,

passersby came to his rescue and rushed him to SCB Medical College and Hospital where he is undergoing treatment.

On being informed, police visited the spot and launched an investigation into the incident. A manhunt has also been started to nab the culprits.

While the exact reason behind the attack is yet to be ascertained, the police suspect loot to be the reason.

## FESTIVE FERVOUR



A girl buying a clay idol of Lord Ganesh from a stall at Unit-I market (top) while shoppers throng the Unit-II market in Bhubaneswar on the eve of Ganesh Puja, Thursday. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has warned of lockdown if Covid norms are violated. In view of the pandemic, the state government has decided to allow Durga Puja, Ganesh Puja and all other festivals without congregation of devotees till November 21 this year

OP PHOTOS

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## State spent less on health, education: CAG report

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 9:** A report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India tabled in the Assembly Thursday claimed that as compared to other General Category states, Odisha spends less on education and health in terms of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

The audit report of the state finances for 2019-20, however, appreciated Odisha's total expenditure as proportion of the GSDP in comparison with General Category states. The report said, "Total expenditure relative to GSDP in Odisha was better than General Category states. Odisha fared favourably in its focus on Development Expenditure, Social Services Expenditure, Economic Services Expenditure and Capital Expenditure vis-à-vis General Category states. The state, however, had lesser expenditure relative to GSDP as compared to General Category states, in the areas of Education and Healthcare Expenditure."

The report also said that outstanding debt increased at a rate higher than the growth rate of the GSDP. "Outstanding debt (₹68,438 crore) increased by 17.48 per cent in 2019-20 over the preceding year, at



## VITAL OBSERVATIONS

Outstanding debt, ₹68,438 crore, increased by 17.48% in 2019-20 over the preceding year, at a rate higher than the growth of GSDP

Despite having an untied cash balance of ₹4,309 crore during 2019-20, the state went ahead with market borrowings of ₹7,500 crore at interest rates ranging from 7.55 to 8.79 per cent

Returns on investments from corporations/companies were also less than the average rate of interest on government borrowings, the CAG observed

companies, joint stock companies and cooperative societies stood at ₹5,699 crore. The return on investments from corporations/companies was 5.64 per cent which was less than the average rate of interest on government borrowings (7.09 per cent)," the report said.

The report also pointed out that despite having an untied cash balance of ₹4,309 crore during 2019-20, the state went ahead with market borrowings of ₹7,500 crore at interest rates ranging from 7.55 to 8.79 per cent.

## IIT-Bhub wins Green Charcoal Hackathon award

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 9:** The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar bagged the innovation award at the prestigious Green Charcoal Hackathon for designing a plant that will convert agricultural residues into charcoal.

Organised by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), the event was initiated with the prime objective to clean the air by eliminating farm fire and produce renewable energy from agro residues (stubbles/straw). It also aims to promote local entrepreneurship and enhance farmers' income.

Led by Dr Remya Neelanchery, a three-member team from the IIT designed a microwave torrier and pelletizer plant which can produce 100 kg charcoal per day from rice straw, one of the agricultural residues. The team presented the complete process and instrumentation of microwave torrier, torrefaction operation details and business model canvas.

Sources at the IIT said that the designed technology is capable of converting agro residues into charcoal at a faster rate than the conventional method. Along with this stunning achievement, the team will also receive financial assistance from NTPC for the development of machine prototype.

**The technology is capable of converting agro residues (stubbles) into charcoal at a faster rate than the conventional method**

A 1,000 MW plant consumes about 5 million tonne coal annually. Studies indicate that India's total coal-fired power generation capacity is about 2 lakh MW, which theoretically can consume approximately 1,000 million tonne coal annually. Even 10 per cent of that, if replaced with green

charcoal, will amount to 100 million tonne of this fuel which will require approximately 160 million tonne of agro residue and municipal waste (considering 60% yield). This is sufficient to wipe out the entire unused agro residues in the country thus eliminating the farm fires and produce approximately 20,000 MW of renewable power and generating revenue worth ₹50,000 crore per year.

Congratulating the winning team, the IIT Director Prof RV Raja Kumar said, "Each faculty member of the institute should strive to foster innovative thinking and creativity amongst their students, in classrooms, laboratories and beyond."

## Hirakhand Exp to run with LHB coaches from Sept 10

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 9:** Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Union Minister of Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan will flag off the LHB rake of Bhubaneswar-Jagadapur-Bhubaneswar Hirakhand Express September 10 through videoconferencing from Rail Bhawan in New Delhi.

To provide comfort and jerk-free journey to the passengers, the Railways has decided to run Hirakhand Express with modern Linke-Hofmann-Busch (LHB) coaches by replacing the conventional coaches. The Hirakhand Express will now run with a load combination of 12 coaches as earlier. Only the conventional coaches will be replaced by the LHB coaches.

State Commerce and Transport Minister Padmanabha Behera, SSEPD minister Ashok Chandra Panda, Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi and MLAs Suresh Kumar Routray, Tara Prasad Bahinipati, Ananta Narayan Jena, Purna Chandra Swain, Rajendra Kumar Sahu, Susant Kumar Rout, Makaranda Muduli and Prabhu Jani will grace the occasion as guests of honour at Bhubaneswar Railway station, sources said.

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**SUBSTITUTED NOTICE**  
Reg: Notice issued under Sec 13 [2] of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 [SARFAESI Act] for recovery of dues in the loan a/c of **M/s The Sai Mobile Point;** sent to the below mentioned:  
**1. M/s The Sai Mobile Point (Borrower)**  
Proprietor: **Mr. A Mahesh Kumar**  
Sai Complex, Gandhi Nagar, Berhampur, Orissa 760001  
**And At** Sastri Nagar 6th Lane, Berhampur, Orissa 760002  
Whereas you have committed default in repayment of loans in the above mentioned loan account to the secured creditor bank, the Bank has issued notice under the SARFAESI Act on **05.08.2021** calling upon you to repay the outstanding amount of **Rs.33,99,677.70 (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Seven and Paise Seventy Only)**. A copy of the notice is also affixed at the premises at **1. M/s The Sai Mobile Point (Borrower)** Proprietor: **Mr. A Mahesh Kumar**, Sai Complex, Gandhi Nagar, Berhampur, Orissa 760001 **And At** Mr. A Mahesh Kumar, Sastri Nagar 6th Lane, Berhampur, Orissa 760002 **2. Mrs. Atmakuri Lavanya (Guarantor)**, Sastri Nagar 6th Lane, Near Ranguni Bhandho Street Berhampur, Orissa 760002  
Whereas the notices sent to **No.1** and **No.2** of you by Regd. Post/Courier have been returned unserved. You are hereby called upon to visit the bank and obtain copy of the notice in your own interest in order to note the full particulars of the loan dues, securities charged to the bank etc.  
You are hereby called upon to pay the amount as shown above together with interest from **01.08.2021** till date of payment within 60 days from the date of the notice failing which, the secured creditor Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of the secured assets hypothecated/ mortgaged to the bank as mentioned below, as per the provisions of SARFAESI Act.

**Date: 09.09.2021**  
**Place: Berhampur**

**AUTHORIZED OFFICER**  
**THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LIMITED**  
**BERHAMPUR BRANCH**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS**  
**1.** All that Piece and parcel of Residential Plot, measuring Ac.0.041 Dec (approx. 1800 sq.ft.) situated at Old Plot Nos. 33 and 34 New Plot Nos. 33/4752, 34/4753, Old Khata No. 323, New Khata No. 703/951, Ankushpur Village, kukudakhandi, Ganjam, Orissa 761100. The property is standing in the name of Mr. A Mahesh Kumar  
**2.** All that Piece and parcel of residential Plot, measuring Ac.0.044 Dec (1916.64 sq.ft.) situated at Old Plot No. 979/1347 New Plot No. 1347/4225, Old Khata No. 109 New Khata No. 410/1649, Kukudakhandi Block, Nimakhandi Village, Kukudakhandi, Ganjam Orissa 760001. The property is standing in the name of Mr. A Mahesh Kumar



# MI syndrome afflicting kids post Covid; parents warned

State’s caseload crosses 10-lakh mark while eight fresh fatalities take the toll to 8,078



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 9:** After 117 more children were found infected with coronavirus Thursday, the Odisha government warned parents that recovered Covid-19 patients in the age group of 0 to 10 years are more susceptible to Multi-system Inflammatory (MI) syndrome.

MI syndrome in children is a condition in which various body parts such as the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin and eyes can become inflamed.

“Children aged below 10 years, after recovering from Covid-19 infection, are now more susceptible to MI syndrome. They develop it within one month of their recovery,” Director of Public Health Niranjan Mishra said.

Of the 771 new Covid cases de-

MI syndrome in children is a condition in which various body parts such as the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin and eyes can become inflamed	The syndrome surfaces within one month of recovery from Covid-19 and the symptoms include headache, diarrhea and vomiting
The rate of coronavirus infection among children stood at 15.17% of the total 771 new cases, while it was 13.38% Wednesday, 14.57% Tuesday and 20.03% Monday	

tected Thursday, 117 are in the age group of 0 to 18 years. “Presently, many children are suffering from MI syndrome and are being hospitalised. They complain of headache, diarrhea and vomiting. Parents should be aware that it is a post-Covid complication. They need to consult doctors,” Mishra said.

He said the MI syndrome in Covid recovered children have increased in the second wave of the pandemic. The rate of coronavirus infection among children Thursday stands at 15.17 per cent of the total 771 new cases. It was 13.38 per cent Wednesday, 14.57 per cent Tuesday and 20.03 per cent Monday, according to the data revealed by the state Health department.

Odisha’s current positivity rate stands at 1.18 per cent as 771 people tested positive for the infection

out of 65,037 samples Thursday.

Khurda district, of which the state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, recorded the highest 327 new cases followed by Cuttack (71), an official in the Health department said. The coastal state’s Covid caseload rose to 10,14,338 while eight fresh fatalities took the death toll to 8,078.

The state now has 7,042 active cases while 9,99,165 patients including 574 Wednesday, have recovered from the disease, the official said.

Odisha has so far conducted over 1.86 crore sample tests including 67,087 Wednesday. The state has so far administered 2,45,90,338 doses of Covid-19 vaccines that includes 60,85,252 beneficiaries inoculated with both doses.

## UU student attacked over past rivalry

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 9:** A student of Utkal University Law College was attacked by some miscreants near the BP petrol station at Vani Vihar Square Wednesday, allegedly over past rivalry. The victim Rashmiranjan Parida, a resident of Nimapada in Puri district, sustained severe injuries and is undergoing treatment at a private hospital here.

Parida claimed in his complaint that he had gone to a shop near the petrol station to buy a water bottle. The attackers were consuming alcohol at the spot which is just a few meters away from the Saheed Nagar police station.

According to sources, the accused persons, who had some past rivalry with the victim, started verbally abusing him leading to a heated argument between both the parties. The situation turned violent when the accused persons attacked Parida with broken bottle pieces, injuring his eyes and throat.

Police, on the basis of the complaint lodged by Parida, arrested one accused namely Manas Pattnaik alias Suba of Dhabaleswar slum under Saheed Nagar police limits. Meanwhile, the prime accused identified as Narayan Rout of GRIDCO colony is still absconding. The police have launched a manhunt to arrest Rout.

## Results of OCS Mains declared

**Bhubaneswar:** The Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) has announced the result of the Odisha Civil Services (OCS) main examination, 2019 on its website [www.opsc.gov.in](http://www.opsc.gov.in). As many as 307 candidates have cleared the second round and have been provisionally qualified for personality test. The list has been made available on the website as well as the commission’s notice board. Document verification and personality test of the successful candidates will be conducted from September 22 at the commission’s office at Dr P K Parija Road, Cuttack. Detailed programme on document verification and personality test will be notified shortly. “Candidates are advised to keep in constant touch with the website of the commission at [www.opsc.gov.in](http://www.opsc.gov.in) for further information,” the OPSC notification stated.

## Mo School reached 35K schools

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 9:** The 8th Governing Council meeting of the ‘Mo School Abhiyan’ was held in virtual mode Thursday in the presence of Abhiyan’s Chairperson Sushmita Bagchi and Satyabrata Sahu, Principal Secretary, Department of School and Mass Education (S&ME).

Highlighting the progress of the mission, Bagchi said, “The ‘Mo School’ project has reached out to 5 lakh alumni members while covering more than 35,000 schools already. In the next six months, we aim to cover 50,000 schools and connect with 10 lakh alumni members.”

Bagchi said that monitoring at the school level will be prioritised in view of the gravity of the projects being implemented through ‘Mo School’. Monitoring drives will be under-

taken at the district and state levels as well to ensure transparency in work. Project details will be made available to the alumni through ‘asset registers’ and public disclosure of projects. “Transformation process in primary schools in Rayagada and Kandhamal districts has started already, while high school transformations are underway in 30 districts. The Mo School Abhiyan is leaving no stones unturned with its efforts to incorporate a greater number of alumni,” informed Bagchi.

Praising the works done under the Abhiyan, Satyabrata Sahu said, “Mo School has revolutionised the essence of quality education in the state. The project cost would soon reach the ₹1,000 crore-mark, and monitoring the project implementation at school level is the need of the hour. Along with de-

## First selection list for Plus III admission out

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 9:** The cut-off list for the Plus III first selection was published Thursday. While 2,44,252 students had applied for admission into the degree colleges of the state, as many as 1,68,537 have been selected in the first phase.

Selected students will have to deposit the admission fees through the SAMS portal between September 9 and 14. After the deposit of fees, students will report to the allotted institutes to complete the admission process between September 11 and September 15.

The second selection list will be released September 21. Students will have to deposit the fees at the SAMS portal from September 21 to 24. The admissions process will be completed by September 25. For filling up of the vacant seats after the two merit lists, guidelines will be issued by the Higher Education department, official sources said.

## AT LORD’S ABODE



Governor Ganeshi Lal on his visit to Srimandir in Puri, Thursday

OP PHOTO

## Central University to reopen Sept 13

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 9:** The Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput is all set to reopen its campus for research scholars and PG/UG students in a phased manner beginning next week.

In the first phase, the research scholars will be allowed to the campus September 13 while the PG/UG students (3rd, 5th, 7th & 9th semesters) will be allowed to the premises September 20 in strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols.

The Vice-Chancellor in-charge of the CUO, Sharat Kumar Palita, urged all the employees, research scholars and students to adhere to Covid-19 protocols in the campus. He said, “It is heartening that students are returning to the campus after more than one-and-half years. Students are the body and soul of an academic institution. Their health issues are matters a lot. Simultaneously their career and academics are of equal importance. CUO will try its best to



**All boarders will undergo the mandatory seven-day quarantine in the allotted hostel rooms**

provide academics maintaining all Covid-19 protocols”.

Similarly, the hostel will be reopened from September 13 and 20 for research scholars and PG/UG students respectively. Outstation research scholars and students have been advised to get the final dose of vaccines and produce the certificates or latest Covid-19 negative test report (RT-PCR) issued in the last three days of their arrival

at the hostel. They should produce the certificates or test reports at the main entrance of the campus.

All boarders will undergo the mandatory seven-day quarantine in the allotted rooms in the hostel on single occupancy basis. The students must bring mask, sanitizer, Aadhaar card, identity card and other essentials for smooth stay during the quarantine period. A notice to this effect will be sent soon, said CUO sources.

Further, the students are required to produce parents’ declaration form. They have to download the declaration form available on the university website and get it signed from their parents.

## ₹3 lakh ex gratia paid to deceased minor’s family

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 9:** Following the intervention of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), authorities of Kodala NAC finally paid ₹3 lakh compensation to the family of a 13-year-old minor who had died due to the collapse of an information pillar in Ganjam in 2018.

The officials also sent separate copies of payment receipt as proof to the state Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department and the complainant Dillip Kumar Das apart from the Commission.

Earlier August 16, the NHRC had asked the H&UD department to pay ₹3 lakh as compensation to the family of the deceased minor. The commission had gone through the district Collector’s report on the issue, and concluded that the negligence on part of the officials during the erection of the information board had violated the human rights of the victim.

## Minor rape: CB told to file fresh report

**Cuttack:** The Crime Branch (CB) Thursday submitted a status report in Orissa High Court here on the probe into the alleged rape of a minor girl in Bhubaneswar last year. In its report, the CB informed the court that a chargesheet has been filed and four persons have been arrested in connection with the incident. However, a bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice BP Routray directed the CB to submit a fresh status report on the case. It has been alleged that the 13-year-old daughter of a woman employee of a media house in Bhubaneswar was raped during the Covid-induced lockdown last year. The victim’s mother had lodged a complaint in this regard with police August 30 last year. The CB had taken up the case October 6 and arrested four employees of the media house.

## EOW seeks OPID nod to take Andhra ex-MLA on remand

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 9:** The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of state Crime Branch Thursday sought the permission of the Odisha Protection of Interests of Depositors (OPID) Court to take Malla Vijay Prasad, the ex-MLA of Visakhapatnam, on a three-day remand for further probe.

Prasad was arrested by the EOW sleuths Monday from his residence at Seethammadhara in Visakhapatnam on the charges of duping investors of crores of rupees promising lucrative returns.

Prasad is the Managing Director of Welfare Building & Estates Private Limited which used to operate in Odisha through its offices at Bhubaneswar, Narsinghpur in

**The sleuths will try to find out the actual amount of money he received from the investors under various schemes**

Cuttack and Nayagarh.

Notably, Prasad, in connivance with other directors, cheated gullible investors of several crores through various sham deposit schemes between 2009 and 2014.

Sources claimed that the EOW sleuths will try to unearth whether he is involved in defrauding other investors or not. He will be asked about the alleged investment from the chit fund firm in making South Indian movies.

## Poor immunity behind breakthrough infection: Experts

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 9:** Even as the grim battle against the novel coronavirus continues for more than 18 months, many are in a dilemma as to whether the mandatory two shots of Covid-19 vaccine would shield themselves against the infections.

Such infections do happen in persons with low immunity even after getting the vaccine shots. In many cases, the patients become seriously ill requiring long treatment, revealed a team of experts at the SUM Ultimate Medicare (SUMUM) here recently.

Prof Banambar Ray, head of the department of Critical Care Medicine in the hospital, told newsmen that death occurred in about 2 per cent of the Covid-19 afflicted people while around 3 per cent of the patients required long

treatment. Of the total patients, around 5 per cent were getting critical while between 12 to 15 per cent needed hospitalisation.

“But, around 80 to 82 per cent of the Covid infected people with minor or no symptoms did not require any hospitalization,” Ray said.

According to Ray, when a fully immunised person was infected by the virus, it was being referred to as ‘breakthrough infection’ implying that the virus had broken through a protective barrier provided by the vaccine.

Individuals with weakened immune system were at higher risk of getting breakthrough infection because the vaccine was less effective in such cases, he said.

Patients who had been infected in spite of having been immunised required hospitalisation for a period of one month to five months



which was being described as ‘long Covid’, Ray said.

Brig (Dr) Biraj Mohan Mishra, chief of medical services, SUMUM,

informed that two persons who were critically-affected by Covid-19 and were treated in the hospital for a long time had recovered due

**WHEN A FULLY IMMUNISED PERSON WAS INFECTED BY THE VIRUS IT WAS BEING REFERRED TO AS ‘BREAKTHROUGH INFECTION’ IMPLYING THAT THE VIRUS HAD BROKEN THROUGH A PROTECTIVE BARRIER PROVIDED BY THE VACCINE**

**INDIVIDUALS WITH WEAKENED IMMUNE SYSTEM WERE AT HIGHER RISK OF GETTING BREAKTHROUGH INFECTION BECAUSE THE VACCINE WAS LESS EFFECTIVE IN SUCH CASES**

to the relentless effort of the treating team comprising doctors, nurses and paramedics. All the departments extended their support to the battle against the pandemic, he said.

The two patients were 72-year-old Gautam Buddha Mukherjee, a retired senior bureaucrat, and 21-year-old engineering student

Mohammed Shafaq Ali. Mukherjee, who had co-morbidities, had spent 16 days in ICU as his oxygen saturation level remained low. He was treated for nearly two months in the hospital as he suffered from ‘long Covid’, he said.

Treatment of Ali was a greater challenge as he remained critical for a long time. He was on ventilator and a tracheotomy was needed to be done as the lungs were in bad shape. “Treating this patient was very difficult but we are glad that we could successfully bring him round,” Ray said.

He said the critical care and microbiology teams received full support from cardiothoracic surgeon Dr Banabihari Mishra, consultant in the general surgery department, Dr Satyajit Rath, senior clinical nutritionist Sushree Sangita Jena and physiotherapist P Balakishore.

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# Khaira bandh against slow probe into ACF's death

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasore, Sept 9:** Protesting delayed progress in ACF Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra's death case, locals united under Khaira Nagarika Manch Thursday observed a 6-hour bandh starting from 6 am at Khaira in Balasore district. They demanded justice to the bereaved family of the deceased. Although 59 days have gone, the investigative body is yet to settle the death case, they alleged. "We demand that the mystery be solved as soon as possible, and that the perpetrators be brought to justice," they added.

The bandh threw normal life out of gear. Traffic was off the road and markets, shops, commercial establishments downed their shutters.

Worth mentioning, Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra along with his wife were staying at his government quarters since their marriage in December last year. At



about 9:30 pm Monday, their neighbours heard his wife screaming. They rushed to his house only to see Soumya Ranjan in flames. He was immediately rushed to the district headquarters hospital. Later, he was shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur and then to a private hospital in Cuttack. The next day he succumbed to his burn injuries.

The deceased ACF's father and uncle had alleged that his death was a pre-planned murder. They accused ACF's wife Bidyabharati, DFO Sangram Behera and cook Manmath of killing him. The Crime Branch, which had previously assisted the police in their probe, is looking into the matter.

# 12 yrs on: Black Rose sinking still a mystery

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Paradip, Sept 9:** Even as the sinking of the Mongolian cargo ship MV Black Rose off Paradip coast completed 12 years Thursday, the reason behind its sinking has remained a mystery.

The 'MV Black Rose' carrying a cargo of 23,847 metric tonnes of iron ores and 920 metric tonnes of furnace oil sank five km off Paradip coast under mysterious circumstances when it was on a chartered voyage to China, September 9, 2009.

The upper portion of the ship was earlier visible, but it has disappeared in the sea with the passage of time. The sinking of the ship is one of the infamous chapters in the history of the Paradip Port. The probe agencies have not been able to resolve its mystery. They have also not been able to reach the ship owner Se Cook in Mongolia.

Out of 27 crew members present

on board the cargo ship, 26 were rescued while the chief engineer of the vessel lost his life. The opposition parties in the state alleged that the vessel was engaged in the illegal transportation of iron ores and other minerals by forging documents.

The sinking of the ship not only became a major political issue in the state, but the matter was even dragged to Orissa High Court and, later to Supreme Court.

Sources said, iron ores were loaded into MV Black Rose September 9, 2009. However, as the cargo was wet, the captain asked to stop loading. Later, the half-loaded ship was asked to leave the berth and wait in the anchorage area of the port. However, the ship sank in the sea in evening while waiting in the anchorage area.

Out of 27 sailors, 26 were rescued by the port's marine department personnel while the chief engineer of the ship Alexandra Illyushchenko drowned along with



the ship. His body was fished out after eight days.

Preliminary inquiries revealed that the ship was operating without a license even 25 years after its commissioning.

The sinking of the vessel was initially investigated by the Paradip Marine Police and then by the state Crime Branch. It was later taken over by the Central Bureau

of Investigation (CBI) after then Paradip Port chairman Rinkesh Ray wrote to the Centre recommending a probe by the central agency in 2018.

In spite of the investigation by the premier probe agency, the exact reason behind the sinking of the cargo ship has remained a mystery. Meanwhile, the complainant Sankhanada Behera has died while

many senior officers of the port have retired or been transferred.

Even 12 years after the sinking of the giant ship, its wreckage are yet to be cleared. However, the sunken ship has proved to be a lurking danger for the fishermen as many fishing trawlers and ships have met with accidents after hitting the wreckage of the cargo vessel in the sea over last 12 years.

Neither the state government nor the port authorities seem to be in a mood to remove the debris of the ship from the sea bed. The PPT has reportedly spent around ₹17 crore so far for clearing the leftover parts of the ship but it could not completely remove the sunken mass. As per reports, ₹120 crore is required to remove the total wreckage from the sea. Though the fishermen and locals have been demanding removal of the submerged ship from the sea, no steps have been taken by the state government or the port authorities in this regard.

# AP min forcibly unseals Gajapati Anganwadi centre

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Paralakhemundi, Sept 9:** Even as Andhra Pradesh has been trying hard to intrude into Gajapati district, its high-handedness crossed all limits Thursday as a senior minister and officials of the neighbouring state barged into the district and forcibly unsealed an Anganwadi centre at Manikapatna village under Gangabada panchayat in Raigad block. The centre was earlier sealed by the district administration.

Tension was palpable in the area as Andhra Pradesh with this forcible intrusion has put its signature in Gajapati district. Accompanied by hundreds of party workers and officials, Dr Apala Raju, minister for fisheries and animal husbandry in Andhra Pradesh government, barged into the village and unsealed the Anganwadi centre.

Raju forcibly broke the lock and started teaching children in the centre. Besides, they undertook a series of programmes related to early childhood education. Raju not only unsealed the centre but

ACCOMPANIED BY HUNDREDS OF PARTY WORKERS AND OFFICIALS, DR APALA RAJU, MINISTER FOR FISHERIES AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY IN ANDHRA PRADESH GOVERNMENT, BARGED INTO THE VILLAGE AND UNSEALED THE ANGANWADI CENTRE

THE MINISTER FORCIBLY BROKE THE LOCK AND STARTED TEACHING CHILDREN IN THE CENTRE. BESIDES, THEY UNDERTOOK A SERIES OF PROGRAMMES RELATED TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. RAJU ALSO DISTRIBUTED EGGS AMONG THE CHILDREN AT ANGANWADI CENTRE



ADM SANGRAM SEKHAR PANDA AND RAIGAD BDO RUSHED TO THE SPOT AND WERE TAKING STOCK OF THE SITUATION WHEN THE AP MINISTER AND OFFICIALS CONFRONTED THEM. THE AP MINISTER AND OFFICIALS ARGUED WITH THE TWO DISTRICT OFFICIALS AND THREATENED THEM

distributed eggs among children. They even went on to say that criminal cases will be filed and legal action will be taken against Odisha officials who are responsible for

sealing the centre.

Speaking to media, Raju and Andhra officials said they will not tolerate any interference of the Odisha government and the district

administration in their work in the area.

On being informed, ADM Sangram Sekhar Panda and Raigad BDO rushed to the spot and were

taking stock of the situation when the AP minister and officials confronted them. The AP minister and officials argued with the two district officials and threatened them.

They allegedly shouted slogans like 'Jai Jagan' in the presence of two Gajapati officials while the two district officials appeared helpless before them. They reportedly claimed that the area belongs to Andhra Pradesh.

The state government will be apprised of the development and a road and police outpost will be constructed in Manikapatna village, ADM Panda said

Sources said, Andhra Pradesh officials established a temporary Anganwadi centre at Manikapatna village under Gangabada panchayat Tuesday.

Being informed, the Gajapati administration sealed the Anganwadi centre immediately as the area belongs to Odisha. The incident had sparked tension, but it was brought under control after officials decided to carry out a demarcation of the border between both the states.

# Another Dhenkanal HS shut as students test Covid +ve



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dhenkanal, Sept 9:** After Kanapura High School in Kamakhyanager area of Dhenkanal district, Siddheswari Government High School at Rai Narasinghpur in the same area has been closed after a female teacher and five girl students tested positive for Covid-19.

After the positive reports of students and teachers came to the fore, the headmaster of the school immediately took the decision to close the institution.

A decision regarding the re-opening of the school will be taken later after taking the situation into consideration.

In case of Kanapura High

School, it was closed for seven days after 20 persons including 14 students contracted the virus. All the students are hostel boarders. Further, the rest of the infected persons included five teachers and a peon. A total of 344 samples were collected from the staff and students for Covid-19 test. The students are presently attending online classes. Meanwhile, two girl students from Kotagara High School have also tested positive for Covid-19. When contacted, Anlaberani medical officer Pramil Kumar Pradhan said a Rapid Response Team (RRT) has visited the schools, provided medicines and advised them for home isolation.

# Gadakhai palace cries for renovation



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Sept 9:** The old royal palace of Keonjhar extends all the way from the foothills of Chulia to the Judia ghats. There are two moats in the west and east to protect it from invasion while the hills provide a natural barrier against enemies.

The moats were dug to protect the palace from external attack. However, they are in a dilapidated state owing to lack of maintenance and encroachments among others. Known as a symbol of the district's heritage,

the ruined and neglected palace now cries for renovation. It is said that the palace and moats were built during the reign of Dhanurjay Narayan Bhanjdeo (1861-1905), then king of Keonjhar.

To the south of the palace is a high hill from Judia to Nalapat Sahi, called 'Indrachhatra Hudi'. To the north, there were two ponds - Gopalbandha and Meenshikata. There was also a pond on the south side. There were four domes on the outer wall of the palace where soldiers used to keep a watch over the area. The ponds are nowhere in their old shape owing

to siltation and encroachments.

The palace features a court hall for the assembly, an armoury, a temple of Dandadevi-Gadachandi, the queen's parlour, a wedding mandap, a bathhouse, and a secret gate.

The two main gates were used by the royals. The north gate had 'Chhatisa Nijog' while the south gate had a pond named 'Chandan Pokhari'. The door on the west side was used only when it was necessary. There is a place of worship near the Hadibandh pond on the east side. Similarly, horses and elephants were worshipped on the fifth day of

Ashwapanchami at Basulishal. There is a temple in the middle of the Chandan Pokhari where the Chandan Yatra of the Lords were held. The palace has a Shiva temple and a temple for Goddess Tarini. The Tarini temple is said to be the oldest one. Researcher Vimbadhar Behera says the scenic views of the royal palace and the moats often fascinate tourists. Commuters travelling on the Judia ghat (National Highway 49) also visit the place. If properly packaged, this palace holds the potential to attract a fair number of tourists to the district.

Another local resident Sujit Patnaik added the palace needs to be preserved for the future generation and more research is required to trace its history.

Many tourists come here to revisit the old glory, but the palace is in ruins amid lack of maintenance and security.

Local researchers, writers, archaeologists and historians are all concerned regarding the condition of the palace.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
Tender No. eT-RPF-KUR-HOV-01-2021  
**NAME OF WORK:** HIRING OF 01 NO. FOUR WHEELER VEHICLE (i.e. TATA SUMO, MAHINDRA BOLERO SCORPIO ETC.) ON REGULAR BASIS FOR CONDUCTING CHECKS, CRIME CONTROL, RAID & SEARCH, TO ATTEND RAIL ROKOS, AGITATION, SUNDRY LAW & ORDER PROBLEM, LIAISON WITH LOCAL POLICE & CIVIL OFFICIAL, DISRUPTION OF RAIL TRAFFIC, INTERFERENCE WITH RAILWAY WORKS BY AGITATORS OR ANTISOCIAL ELEMENTS AND OTHER OFFICE DUTIES ETC. BY RPF PERSONNEL BY ROAD FOR THE USE OF RPF OUT POSTS - KENDRAPARA.  
**Advertised Value :** ₹ 13,29,829.37, Cost of Tender Document : ₹ 2,350/-, Period of Completion : 24 Months  
**Bidding Start Date :** 13.09.2021  
**Tender Closing Date and Time :** At 1500 Hrs. of 27.09.2021  
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.  
Complete information including e-Tender documents and corrigendum is available in website <http://www.i-reps.gov.in>  
Sr. Divisional Security Commissioner, PR-362/M/21-22 Khurda Road

**ITI LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
M-5/26, Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar - 751013  
Phone: (0674) 2567225/2567229  
EOI is invited for selection of Back-end partner for Implementation of CCTV System and Smart Classroom Solution in Odisha.  
Due date: 20.09.2021, at 15.00 hrs.  
For details please visit the website: [www.ititd.in](http://www.ititd.in)  
[www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in)  
Chief Manager, ITI Ltd., Bhubaneswar

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(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)  
एम 5/26, आचार्य विहार, भुवनेश्वर - 751013  
फोन: (0674) 2567225 / 2567229  
ऑडिशन में सीसीटीवी प्रणाली और स्मार्ट क्लासरूम समाधान का कार्यान्वयन के लिये बैक-एंड पार्टनर चयन हेतु ई ओ आई अंतिम तारीख 20.09.2021 (15.00 घंटा)  
वेबसाइट: [www.ititd.in](http://www.ititd.in)  
[www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in)  
मुख्य प्रबंधक, आई टी आई लिमिटेड, भुवनेश्वर

**CUTTACK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE  
No. C-945 Tender ID: 2021\_ORULB\_70967  
Bid Reference No. MC(CMC)/JCTC\_Div.-I No. 7/2021-22  
Tender Call Notice No. 5051 (PW) Date: 09.09.2021  
Name of Works : Civil Works  
No. of Works : 13 Nos.  
Bid Value : Rs.3.64 lakh to Rs.19.06 lakh  
Period of Completion : One Calendar Month to Two Calendar Months  
Date and Time Schedule :

Start	End	Opening
3.00 P.M. on Dt.14.09.2021	5.00 P.M. on Dt.23.09.2021	11.00 A.M. on Dt.29.09.2021

  
Tender details can be seen from the procurement portal: [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in).  
Superintending Engineer, City Div.-I  
OIPR-13031/11/0029/2122

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**P.H. DIVISION, BALANGIR**  
Ph.No. (06652)- 234647, Email ID- eephbgr@yahoo.co.in  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**  
No.C-943:-  
Bid Identification No.SE PH BGR 24/ 2021-22 Dt.06.09.2021  

01 Name to the work	: 4 Nos.
02 Estimated cost	: Rs.9.46 to 38.55 lakhs
03 Period of completion	: 2 (Two) to 3 (Three) calendar months
04 Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 A.M. of dt. 13.09.2021 to 5.00 P.M. of dt. 22.09.2021
05 Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 5 P.M. of dt. 22.09.2021
06 Date & time of opening of bids	: At 11.00 A.M. of dt.23.09.2021
07 Name and address of the officer inviting bid	: Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Balangir, At- Tulsinagar, Dist.-Balangir-767001

  
Further details can be seen from the website <http://tenders.ori.nic.in> or [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in).  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Balangir  
OIPR-13005/11/0016/2122

# Jalaka water rises up above danger mark

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rupsa/Basta, Sept 9:** Following incessant rain that lashed Balasore district over last few days, surging rainwater in Jalaka river continues to get above the danger level, a source informed Thursday.

Rainwater was flowing at a level of 5.88 metre at 3 pm Wednesday near Mathani area under Basta block in the district. It was seen flowing at 5.89 metre at 6 pm. The surging water level of Jalaka river was recorded at 5.70 metre earlier in the morning.

However, the earmarked danger level stands at 5.50 metre, Balasore irrigation department junior engineer Ashok Kumar Das stated. With incessant rains in upper catchment areas, surging rainwater has given rise to a flood like situation in Balasore district. People residing in the riparian areas

of Jalaka are still panicky.


Villages like Mathani, Bahardha, Dudhahansa, Sadanandapur, Baruna Gadia, Basichakuri, Darada, Gadapada, Rautapada under Basta block including Srirampur and Rasulpur under Sadar block will be submerged under flood water while hundreds of acres of farmland will become inundated.

Likewise, there is a high possibility of loss of lives and properties in the riparian villages like Melaka, Pegarapada, Laxmanapada, Sanakhudi, Siba Gadia, Talatapanda, Badakhudi and Dhalasahi as embankments alongside the Jalaka river have become feeble. Another low pressure area has been forming over the Bay of Bengal. The regional centre of India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted that heavy rainfall and thunderstorms are likely in several parts of Odisha in the coming days.



“Our actual enemy is not any force exterior to ourselves, but our own crying weaknesses, our cowardice, our selfishness, our hypocrisy, our purblind sentimentalism.”

SRI AUROBINDO



## Refugee Regime

The debacle in Afghanistan has rekindled the global debate over how to manage refugee flows. There is widespread concern that the Taliban’s return to power will trigger new waves of people fleeing the country. The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is preparing for more than a half-million people to leave Afghanistan in this year alone. The crisis in Afghanistan, like recent crises in Syria, Libya, and Myanmar, has exposed the weaknesses of the global system governing refugees – primarily, the deficiencies in the 1951 Refugee Convention.

The refugee convention was designed for a different age. When it was developed, the world was recovering from the tragedy of World War II, and Europe was the epicenter of the refugee crisis. Today, the epicenter has shifted. More than two-thirds of the world’s refugees come from just five countries: Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Myanmar. As a result, the burden of caring for refugees has shifted away from the West. Globally, Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees – nearly 3.7 million – followed by Jordan (2.9 million), Colombia (1.7 million), Pakistan (1.4 million), and Uganda (1.4 million).

But this significant change in refugee dynamics has not produced any real effort to amend the multilateral framework. The result is a proliferation of transactional bilateral deals like the March 2016 agreement between Turkey and the European Union on Syrian refugees. This agreement essentially allowed the EU to escape its obligations under the 1951 convention by outsourcing its refugee policy. Such deals weaken the global rules-based international system on refugees.

Rather than crafting piecemeal agreements and deals, the international community should revisit the refugee convention and amend it in at least four ways.

The first issue to be addressed is funding. As things stand, the UNHCR has an annual budget of \$8.6 billion, which is grossly insufficient to meet its mandated objectives. As a result, the agency is forced to engage in fundraising from governments every time there is a refugee crisis. For example, it is now scrambling to raise the money it needs to manage the Afghanistan situation.

Compare this to the 2015 Paris climate agreement, under which national governments have committed to leveraging \$100 billion per year to fight climate change. As important as this objective may be, the asymmetry of committed resources is glaring. In its latest Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the EU has committed the equivalent of around \$27 billion to financing international climate programmes, while its yearly contribution to the UNHCR budget stands at \$522 million, or approximately \$3.65 billion over the MFF’s seven years. An appropriate response would be to create a permanent fund for refugees, akin to the Global Climate Fund, under the auspices of the UNHCR. Such a fund would enable the UNHCR to act more effectively and decisively, and, more importantly, greatly enhance its ability to help host countries.

Moreover, the definition of a refugee must be changed to include those displaced by the effects of climate change. Although many studies point to a potential increase in refugee numbers triggered by global warming, the 1951 convention does not recognise climate change as a bona fide justification for granting refugee status. But international humanitarian law is already evolving in this direction. In a landmark 2016 ruling, the United Nations Human Rights Committee found that displaced persons cannot be sent back to home countries where their lives are threatened because of climate change.

The third change should be to strengthen enforcement of the international regime on refugees. The 1951 convention envisaged a very weak enforcement mechanism with a role for the International Court of Justice, which has jurisdiction to resolve disputes on the interpretation and application of the convention. But the mechanism has never been used, and the current system cannot properly address either past or potential violations of international refugee law. As a result, countries are not penalised for transgressions under the convention, which is why Italy and Greece have faced no real consequences for preventing boats carrying migrants from Africa and the Middle East from approaching their shores.

One solution would be to create a standing UN Commission on Refugees composed of elected government representatives, like the UN Commission on Human Rights. Such a commission, in cooperation with the UNHCR, could exercise more direct political oversight of the refugee convention and improve the accountability of the current system of governance.

Lastly, global rules for the protection of refugees need to be linked more concretely to the evolving understanding of the “responsibility to protect.” This concept, which the General Assembly adopted unanimously in 2005 to justify UN-mandated interventions, is limited currently to cases of mass atrocity, such as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing. In light of the recent experience in Syria, Myanmar, and now possibly Afghanistan, governments should not be allowed to nurture conditions that destabilise their near neighbours by generating large outflows of refugees. A violation of this principle should trigger international action under the responsibility to protect.

Embracing these four changes would go a long way toward bringing the global regime on refugees into the twenty-first century. Given the growing number of people driven from their homes by conflict and climate change, there is no time to waste.

*The writer, a former Turkish diplomat, is a visiting scholar at Carnegie Europe.*

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### WISDOM CORNER

- “The time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time.”
- BERTRAND RUSSELL
- “Patience is the companion of wisdom.”
- SAINT AUGUSTINE
- “He who has a why to live can bear almost any how.”
- FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

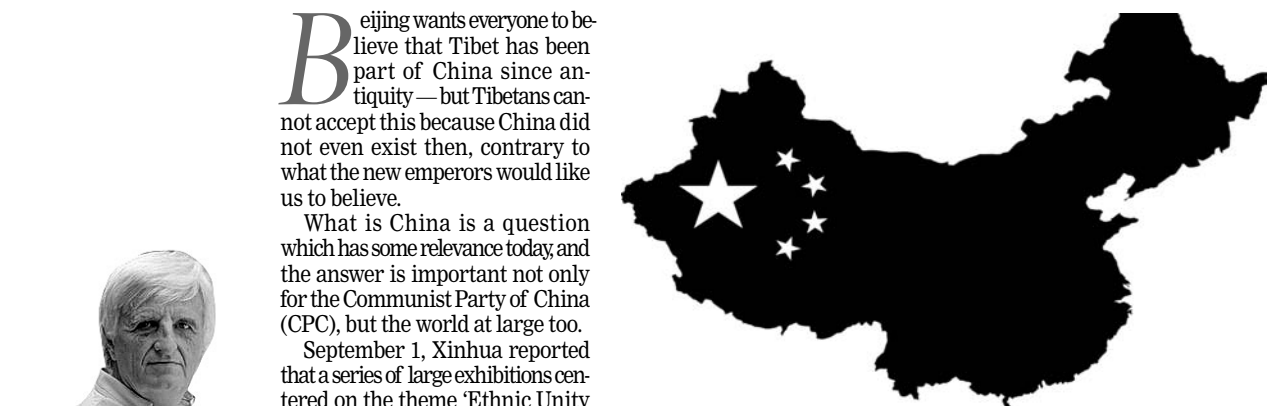
### WORDSWORTH

#### ■ Pareidolia

This is a psychological condition in which the brain falsely creates meaningful patterns, usually pictures of the human face, out of random patterns. This ability lies behind many supposedly miraculous appearances, such as that notorious face on Mars, the image of Jesus Christ on the wall of a church in Ghana last year, or even the Man in the Moon. It can be auditory instead, which has led to the paranormal episodes known as electronic voice phenomena (EVP), in which people claim to hear messages in the random noise of audio recordings. The word is from Greek para-, almost, plus eidolon, the diminutive of eidos, appearance or form. As to the image ... it is nothing more than the human ability called pareidolia to interpret essentially random patterns as recognizable images – such as seeing the face of the Man in the Moon (Skeptical Inquirer, 3 January 2005). The talents of people who believe in the paranormal don’t end there. It seems that they are also better than non-believers at perceiving meaningful patterns in apparently random noise. The classic example of this trait, which is known as pareidolia, is when people claim to see images of the Virgin Mary, say, on the wall of a building or a tortilla (New Scientist 28 January 2006).

### FOCUS HISTORY

## WHAT IS CHINA?





Claude Arpi

THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP IN BEIJING SHOULD DO ITS HOMEWORK AND START STUDYING THE HISTORY OF ITS ‘EMPIRE’, BEFORE ASKING THE TIBETANS, THE UYGHURS OR THE MONGOLS TO SIGN ON A DOTTED LINE

Beijing wants everyone to believe that Tibet has been part of China since antiquity – but Tibetans cannot accept this because China did not even exist then, contrary to what the new emperors would like us to believe.

What is China is a question which has some relevance today, and the answer is important not only for the Communist Party of China (CPC), but the world at large too.

September 1, Xinhua reported that a series of large exhibitions centered on the theme ‘Ethnic Unity – Casting a Firm Consciousness of the Chinese National Community’ sponsored by the National Culture Palace, had officially been launched in Beijing.

It included several displays centered on a multi-ethnic China; the exhibitions were entitled: ‘Treasures of Nationalities’, ‘People of All Ethnic Groups – Hearts to the Party’, ‘National Ethnic Minorities’ Gifts to the Party’, and ‘Cultural Relics in the Collection of the Palace of Nationalities’.

Why suddenly this emphasis on China’s ‘ethnic unity’ and this after 100 years of the CPC’s existence? As always in China, the propaganda’s stress is put on something which is missing (‘unity’ in this case).

Already in August, President Xi Jinping addressed a Central Ethnic Work Conference where he mentioned 50,000 precious cultural relics, more than 200,000 ancient books, some 400,000 other books and more than 3,000 paintings and works of art, kept in the National Culture Palace ‘fully reflecting the connotation of national unity and progress, and letting history speak and letting culture speak.’ Whether these ‘relics’ were forcefully taken away from minorities’ areas, was of course not mentioned.

Has it not been the habit of colonisers to loot their new colonies? Remember the Kohinoor?

According to the party’s general secretary, the intermingling of the different ‘nationalities’ focused on “showing the sons and daughters of all ethnic groups to listen to the party, feel the party’s grace, and follow the party to build a

Why suddenly this emphasis on China’s ‘ethnic unity’ and this after 100 years of the CPC’s existence? As always in China, the propaganda’s stress is put on something which is missing (‘unity’ in this case)

great revival of the Chinese dream.”

Why wait 100 years to remember that the ‘nationalities’ exist?

It raises another issue, is China a nation or only an amalgam of different nationalities recently assembled together, in which case why have the nationalities not been given their due place during the last century?

To give a concrete example, why are so few people of the ‘nationalities’ members of the CPC’s Central Committee and not a single one is in the Politburo or the Central Military Commission? Examples could be multiplied. Many see this as Han Chauvinism.

Today, Beijing would like us to believe that China is a unified entity which since time immemorial included the Periphery of the Middle Kingdom; it is simply not true.

Already in 2015, in a ‘White Paper on Tibet’, Beijing argued that “the only sensible alternative is for the Dalai Lama and his supporters to accept that Tibet has been part of China since antiquity.” Why should the Tibetans accept a lie?

Any serious student of history is aware that tides come and go; where is the mighty British Empire today? But for the sake of argument, let us accept the Chinese con-

tention, then one should ask: what is China?

A few years ago, Professor Ge Jianxiong, Director of the Institute of Chinese Historical Geography at Fudan University in Shanghai stated in an article in The China Review: “It would be a defiance of history to claim that Tibet has always been a part of China since the Tang Dynasty (7th to 10th century).”

Jianxiong went further and questioned the notion of China: “When discussing the peaceful rise of China and the history of the great powers of the world, it is natural to think of ancient China. Can ancient China be considered a great power? If so, how big was it? This is a prerequisite for knowing the history and comparing development.”

For the professor, there was no such thing as China, but dynasties who ruled over small or larger areas: “First of all, China (Zhongguo) only officially became the name of our country with the founding of the Republic of China in 1912. Before this, the idea of China (Zhongguo) was not clearly conceptualised.”

Jianxiong said: “The concept of China has continued to expand. From referring specifically to the central plains of China, the concept has since grown to now refer gen-

erally to a whole nation. Even during the late Qing, China would sometimes be used as a name to refer to the Qing State, including all the territory within the boundaries of the Qing Empire, but other times it would only refer to the ‘18 Interior Provinces’ and not include Manchuria, Inner Mongolia, Tibet, and Xinjiang. Therefore, if we want to understand the extent of ancient China’s territory, we can only speak of how large was the actual territory controlled by a particular dynasty at a particular moment.”

Jianxiong gave Tibet as an example: “If we ask: How big was 8th century China and if we speak about the borders of the Tang Dynasty, we cannot include the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau. This was ruled by Tubo/Tufan [dynasty] and so does not count. Tubo/Tufan was sovereign, independent of the Tang Dynasty. At least it was not administered by the Tang Dynasty; there would have been no need to erect the Tang-Tubo/Tufan alliance tablet [Tibet-Tang Treaty of 821 AD]. It would be a defiance of history if we claim that since the Tang Dynasty, Tibet has always been a part of China – the fact that the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau subsequently became a part of the Chinese dynasties does not substantiate such a claim.”

Jianxiong continued: “Moreover, we must differentiate between territory that was actually under administrative control of a dynasty, that which was a vassal state, and that which was within the reaches of our prestige.”

The present leadership in Beijing should do its homework and start studying the history of its ‘empire’, before asking the Tibetans, the Uyghurs or the Mongols to sign on a dotted line.

And sooner or later, the Communist Dynasty will also collapse, like all other dynasties before; then, the Middle Kingdom will probably shrink again behind the Great Wall.

So why all this noise about ‘ethnic unity’ in the Middle Kingdom in the Chinese media?

*The writer is an author, journalist, historian, Tibetologist, and China expert.*

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### SPECTRUM PHILANTHROPY

## How to give away a million dollars



Peter Singer

DONATING TO SAVE LIVES, RESTORE SIGHT, OR ENABLE A FAMILY TO ESCAPE EXTREME POVERTY DOES MORE GOOD THAN DONATING TO A MUSEUM OR OPERA

It was recently announced that I am the winner of the 2021 Berggruen Prize for Philosophy and Culture, an annual \$1 million award for “major achievements in advancing ideas that shape the world.” I am, of course, delighted that my work has been recognised as doing what I have always hoped it would do: change the world for the better. I am honoured to be joining eminent previous winners, of whom the most recent are Martha Nussbaum, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Paul Farmer, and I am thankful to Nicolas Berggruen for his interest and support – all too rare among wealthy investors – of philosophy and ideas.

Once the excitement of the news died down, I began to think about what I would do with the money. It did not take me long to decide to give it away.

First, my wife and I recognise that we have enough money to live comfortably and do the things that really matter to us, and we feel that our children are in a similar position. It helps, of course, that they live in Australia and, unlike much of the world, have safe drinking water, free or affordable health-care, and free education for their children.

Moreover, I am well-known for arguing that just as it would be wrong to leave a child drowning in a shallow pond because you did not want to ruin an expensive pair of shoes, so it is wrong to spend money on luxuries that could prevent children from dying of malaria or other common conditions that each year cause the deaths of millions of low-income children. Given that, how could I justify using the prize money to buy luxuries for me or my family?

About 10 years ago, I founded The Life You Can Save, a charity that spreads the message that it is surprisingly easy for most people in affluent countries to make a huge difference to those in extreme poverty in low-income countries. The Life You Can Save currently recommends 23 charities that have been independently assessed as offering extraordinary value for money in saving and improving the lives of people in extreme poverty.

I have decided to give half of the prize money to The Life You Can Save. I am doing this because over the last three years, each dollar spent by The Life You Can Save generated an average of \$17 in donations for its recommended non-profits. (To forestall the cynics, I will

add that I have never taken a cent from the organisation.)

But I am not giving all of the prize money to help people in extreme poverty. More than 50 years ago, I learned that many of the animals whose flesh I was then eating were condemned to miserable lives crowded into the dim sheds of factory farms. I became a vegetarian and wrote Animal Liberation, which in turn contributed to the rise of the modern animal rights movement. Factory farming remains a horror, ruthlessly exploiting tens of billions of land animals every year, and vast numbers of fish, too. Animal production is also a major contributor to climate change, and adds to the risk of pandemics. So I plan to donate more than a third of the money to organisations combating factory farming, and recommended as effective by Animal Charity Evaluators.

There will still be some left, and for that, I invite you to help me decide on the distribution, on the basis of the ethical approach outlined in The Life You Can Save, which is available as a free e-book and audiobook on the organisation’s website, where you will be able to tell me what you think.

What about other options? Should

I donate to organisations advocating a more rapid transition to net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions? I thought of that, but decided that the number of organisations working on that already reduced the chances of my contribution making a significant difference. Some thoughtful effective altruists urge us to focus on reducing the risk of extinction. But the uncertainties about how to achieve that objective are so great that I prefer to donate to projects for which the odds of accomplishing something positive are vastly higher.

I am confident that donating to save lives, restore sight, or enable a family to escape extreme poverty does more good than donating to a museum or opera. Other comparisons are more difficult. How does saving a million hens from lives crammed into bare wire cages rank against lifting a dozen families out of extreme poverty?

In the end, there are several causes that it would be good to support. I can claim no more for mine than that they are among the best available.

*The writer is Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University.*

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## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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



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

### Nipah scare

Sir, The outbreak of unheard of viral infections is not uncommon in India in recent times. Kerala was stunned by the Nipah Virus Infection (NiV) in 2018 with two districts of Kozhikode and Malappuram bearing the maximum brunt by reporting 17 casualties. Subsequently, the outbreak was declared ‘over’. The alacrity with which the health professionals diagnosed the infection was commendable though NiV was reported twice in the country earlier – 2001 and 2007 – in West Bengal’s Siliguri and in areas bordering Bangladesh respectively. In this context, an isolated NiV infection in Kerala, claiming the life of a 12-year-old boy, a few days back, should be taken seriously by the authorities. Unlike many viral infections, fruit eating bats are the natural hosts of the disease. Rarely, other animals like pigs and cows also act as hosts. The name says it all – ‘fruit bat’. Fruits contaminated by the bats, harbouring the Nipah virus, when consumed by humans can infect him/her. So, avoiding raw, unhygienic fruits is essential. Fruits should be cleaned and washed before consumption. It is better to stay away from drinking water from wells because bats’ infestation may be a possibility. All infected persons should be isolated to keep them away from human contact especially members of the same family, a method that Kerala adopted successfully in 2018. Best symptomatic and supportive care should help in the long run. One case of NiV was successfully tackled in 2020, again in Kerala. So, the state is ready to ward off further virus spread.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

### Rohit’s return

Sir, Opener Rohit Sharma has been a revelation in the ongoing Test series against England. Insecure of his spot in the Test team just months ago, the dashing batsman has made his bat do all the talking ever since he began opening the innings for India. In the current series, he has scored 368 runs from eight innings at an average of 52.57. His brilliant ton in the second innings of the fourth Test at the Oval was his first three-figure score away from home and turned the match around for the visitors. Having raised the bar in recent months, the Mumbaikar is all set for a long stint with the Test side.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE



# Fake certificates galore in Ganjam

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS INTENSIFIED PROBE AGAINST FAKE TEACHERS; FIVE OF THEM SACKED AND 8 BOOKED

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, Sept 9:** The administration has intensified investigation into cases of forged certificates and documents based on which many people have grabbed jobs of teachers in Ganjam.

Meanwhile, five more teachers were sacked while cases of fraud were filed against eight teachers.

Reports said due to lack of co-ordination at various levels, the administration has failed to receive scrutiny reports about forged certificates of educational qualifications, trainings and castes submitted by teachers.

It was learnt that the block education office at Chhatrapur has filed FIRs against eight teachers at different police stations – five at Chhatrapur police station, two at Chamakhandi police station and one at Aryapalli marine police station.

Cases against two teachers are sub judice at the High Court.

Besides, five lady teachers were



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

sacked from services while departmental proceedings against three teachers are in progress.

So far, documents of seven teachers were found genuine.

It may be noted here that amid allegations of fake teachers across the state, the directorate of education had sought reports from the district administration about detection of fake teachers.

The administration has not yet recovered the salaries which the

sacked and fake teachers had received in their service period.

On the other hand, police investigation against them has allegedly slowed down. All the eight accused are out on bail.

Chhatrapur BEO Abinash Satpathy said the verification of documents of the teachers who have been regularized since 2011 is still going on.

“The school and mass education department had issued an-

**A**mid allegations of fake teachers across the state, the directorate of education had sought reports from the Ganjam administration to detect fake teachers

**C**hhatrapur BEO Abinash Satpathy said the verification of documents of the teachers who have been regularized since 2011 is still going on. Verification reports about certificates of 44 CT teachers, 14 BEd teachers and 262 others teachers are yet to be available from the universities and the board of secondary education concerned

other letter-13216 in 2019 to check the originality of the teachers’ documents,” he added.

Verification reports about certificates of 44 CT teachers, 14 BEd teachers and 262 others teachers are yet to be available from the universities and the board of secondary education concerned,

Satpathy added.

He also said that as verification reports are getting delayed, action against the fake teachers is delayed. Notably, in March 2020, police had arrested a teacher on charge of furnishing fake certificates. The accused person of Aska was posted as the assistant teacher at Sahapur Upper Primary School.

Aska police had busted a racket involved in preparing forged certificates and documents. In this connection, the police arrested two fake teachers. The racket had a close link with Berhampur university where some officials were involved in making fake documents with the help of middlemen. Nine teachers had earlier been booked for allegedly submitting fake B Ed certificates issued by Berhampur University. In 2019, five fake teachers had been arrested in the district. Then, the District Education Officer directed the Block Education Officer to take disciplinary measures against the teachers, who have grabbed jobs with fake certificates.

# Guard injects medicine to patient at Angul

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Angul, Sept 9:** The video of a security guard providing health services to patients at Angul district headquarters hospital (DHH) went viral on social media, Thursday.

**ADMO said he will be able to comment on the incident after a probe into the matter is over**

In the video, the security guard was seen administering injection to a patient at the government-run health facility. As the male patient was in utter distress, the security guard came forward and provided service despite the presence of doctors and nurses, a source said.

On being contacted, Angul additional district medical officer (ADMO) Manas Ranjan Biswal said, “I will be able to comment on the incident after a thorough probe into the matter.”

In a similar incident, another

## VIRAL VIDEO



security guard was seen checking blood pressure of a woman patient who was lying on bed at Hinjili government hospital in Ganjam district August 18, this year.

The patient was from Tankachhai village under Hinjili subdivision and was admitted to hospital after the woman fell sick August 16.

Notably, Odisha government had asked the authorities at major state-run hospitals August 19 to ensure that non-health personnel are not allowed to attend patients admitted to hospitals at any cost.

# Focus on pulse cultivation to deal with drought in Loisingha



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Loisingha, Sept 9:** As paddy farming has been severely affected by insufficient rainfall in Bolangiri and the region is headed for drought, the district administration has underscored the need for promoting pulse farming in a large scale to bring relief to farmers, a report said.

Collector Chanchal Rana held

a review meeting on the drought situation of Loisingha along with officials of the agriculture, fisheries and animal husbandry, soil conservation, minor irrigation and irrigation departments here.

Block agriculture officer Ramchandra Khardia said a target was set to raise non-paddy crops in 10,665 hectares and paddy in 10,550 hectares in 20 panchayats under

the block in this khariff season.

For lack of water, transplantation of saplings could not be carried out in 3000 hectares while post-sowing activities could not be done in 2000 hectares.

Five panchayats were affected by drought-like situation. 17 minor irrigation projects have given irrigation coverage to 1409 hectares in the block. For 57 hectares, there are 47 cluster LI points in the block while 12 LI points have become defunct.

If the defunct LI points are activated, 40 hectares can be irrigated, an assistant engineer said.

To deal with the drought situation, the agriculture department has proposed measures for pulse farming, the animal husbandry department will encourage grass farming in fallow land while the fisheries department and the block administration will create works through MGNREGS.

## AGRARIAN FESTIVAL



A woman is waiting for customers to sell new paddy shoots and harvested rice at Rangadhipa Square in Sundargarh as Nuakhai draws near

OP PHOTO

# Ex-jawan brutally beaten up for not wearing mask

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, Sept 9:** An ex-Armyman was ruthlessly beaten up by police during a helmet and mask checking at Tinimuhani Chowk in Kendrapara town Wednesday night.

The video of the incident is now viral on social media. According to sources, the former jawan, identified as Manoranjan, was returning with his family on a bike. He was stopped by police at College Chowk for not wearing a mask. He was asked to cough up a fine.

After depositing the asked amount, Manaranjan moved on.

However, to his dismay, a few metres away he was again stopped by police at Tinimuhani Chowk and asked to pay a fine for not wearing mask.

Informing them that he had al-

**After depositing the fine, Manoranjan moved on. However, to his dismay, a few metres away he was again stopped by police and asked to pay fine for not wearing a mask**

ready been fined for the same reason, he refused to pay the fine. This led to a verbal duel between the ex-jawan and the police. The ex-Army man ended up being severely thrashed by the policemen.

The police also arrested him for attacking police including a policewoman.

The incident has since been a talk of the town with people accusing the police of using excess force.

# Job racket busted; Angul police arrest couple

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Angul, Sept 9:** A couple from West Bengal has been arrested on charge of running a multi-crore fake job racket in different parts of the country including in Odisha. The accused have been identified as Chaitali Mukherjee of Rourkela and her husband M. Gupta of Uttar Pradesh.

The couple has been arrested by a special team of Angul police from West Bengal. Police said the arrests were made in connection with an inter-state fake job racket which surfaced in Odisha in February this year. So far nine persons, including two from Jharkhand, have been arrested in six different cases registered by various police stations in Angul district.

Preliminary reports revealed that 50 job aspirants in Odisha were duped to the tune of ₹2 crore by the scammers. The number of



victims and the amounts duped are likely to go up as investigation progresses. The gang used to collect money from unsuspecting aspirants by assuring them of jobs.

SP, Angul, Jagmohan Meena said the scammers used to swindle the victims by organising fake job

interviews, workshops and issued fake appointment letters to aspirants. The racket was also active in several other states including in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Maharashtra.

“We suspect there could be over 1000 victims who have been duped

**The accused identified as Chaitali Mukherjee of Rourkela and her husband M Gupta of Uttar Pradesh were arrested by a special team of Angul police from West Bengal**

by this inter-state job fraud racket. We have so far registered six cases in Angul district alone. The mastermind couple were nabbed from West Bengal and they have been produced before a court for remand,” said Meena.

Meena further said many mobile phones, a car, stamps, fake appointment letters and identity cards have been recovered from the duo who are the brain behind the pan-India job racket.

## HEALTHY EATING HABITS



Anganwadi workers participating in a programme in observance of nutrition month at Pujaripara village under Kursi panchayat of Umerkote block in Nabarangapur district

OP PHOTO

# 33 years of dedication to green protection

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Simulia, Sept 9:** He is a teacher by profession, but an environmentalist by passion. He has devoted 33 years of his life to the cause of a healthier and more sustainable environment. He has planted around 35,000 plants throughout this time.

Meet this green crusader: Kanhu Charan Singh is a resident of Sanamaitapur-Mahantipokhari area of Maitapur panchayat under Simulia block in Balasore district.

Working as a headmaster at Government Unnita Ucha Prathamika Vidyalaya in Ishwarpur panchayat, Kanhu believes a protected environment is the key to healthy life on the earth. This belief keeps Kanhu going.

He has already worked at four schools in Simulia and Khaira blocks. He has been planting trees for last 33 years. Most of the trees along the roads, by the sides of canal bund, inside schools’ premises and Maitapur government hospital premises are planted by Kanhu.

He says he has so far planted



over 10,000 fruit bearing trees, flower trees and 25,000 palm trees in different areas of Bhadrak and Balasore districts.

Besides planting trees himself, he advises students to plant at least five trees each. He pays visits to the places where his students have planted trees and take steps to protect them. Every month, he spends ₹2,500 from his pocket to save the plants and environment.

He says teachers teach students

how to save the environment and the earth. But this will be of little impact on them. To inculcate the responsibility of saving nature, their practical involvement is a must.

When asked why he has planted so many palm trees, he says these trees help lessen the impact of lightning.

He is also known as a social worker. He has an organization named ‘Omkar Dibyaseva Samiti’.

At present, the organization has 17 dedicated members and they are carrying out all sorts of activities starting from planting trees to organising blood donation camps. Kanhu himself has donated blood 38 times.

He is also the block secretary of MONA, an anti-liquor drive in Balasore district. Besides this, he is the district general secretary of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bhadrak district and also a member of Rudrashram Goshala in Maitapur and Khadigadia Bhagabat Ashram.

Since he himself belongs to a tribal community, he works relentlessly to wean away tribal people and others as well from the habit of liquor consumption.

Besides being an environmentalist and a social worker, he is also good at acting. As a theatre artiste, he has been felicitated at many festivals. In the year 2106 when he was a teacher at Nuasahi School, he was awarded by Khaira block education department as well as the school, recognizing his excellent work in the field of environment.



3,200-YR-OLD CIVILISATION

# TN to go for extensive excavations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, Sept 9:** To trace Tamil cultural roots, the state archaeological department would undertake excavations in countries including Indonesia and in states such as Andhra Pradesh after obtaining due permission, Chief Minister MK Stalin announced in the Assembly Thursday while unveiling finding of a study that pointed to a 3,200 year-old civilisation in Tamil Nadu.

Releasing key findings of excavations by archaeological department, he said rice with soilhusk found in the offering pot inside of an urn at Sivakalai area in southern Tamil Nadu was sent for AMS (Accelerator Mass Spectrometry) Carbon dating to the Beta Analytical Laboratory at Miami in Florida of USA.

Recently, we have got the test results, I am extremely happy to announce that the rice samples have yielded the date of 1,155 BCE and hence, the Tamiraparani River Civilisaiton (Tirunelveli region in southern TN) is 3,200 years old and this is scientifically validated, he said amid thumping of desks.

According to the government, already excavations at Adhichanallur yielded the result of 9th century BCE and at Korkai 8th century BCE. The current findings have further advanced the date and underscored that a matured civilisation existed along the river Tamiraparani, which was called



river Porunai in days of yore. Adhichanallur and Sivakalai have served as habitations, while Korkai was the port.

The Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department has now undertaken excavations in different parts of the state including at Keeladi, Adhichanallur, Sivakalai, Korkai, Kodumanal, Mayiladumparai and Gangaikonda Cholapuram. After analysing black pottery of Gangetic valley excavated at Korkai, former Director General of ASI, Rakesh Tiwari and Hindu Banaras University Professor Ravindra N Singh opined that these are datable to 6th Century BCE and Korkai port definitely had vibrant trade links with Gangetic valley and other countries, he said.

Stalin said a museum would be set up at a cost of ₹15 crore in Tirunelveli with modern amenities to exhibit the artefacts found during excavations in areas including Adichnallur, Sivakalai and Korkai. Tracing Tamil cultural roots, the

**Recently, we have got the test results, I am extremely happy to announce that the rice samples have yielded the date of 1,155 BCE and hence, the Tamiraparani River Civilisaiton is 3,200 years old and this is scientifically validated**

MK STALIN | CM, TAMIL NADU

Chief Minister said the TN Archaeological Department, after obtaining permission from appropriate authorities would undertake studies and excavations across the Indian subcontinent and abroad where the Tamils made a mark.

As a first step, excavations would be carried out at the Sangam age port town of Musiri which is now known as Pattinam and located in Kerala to ascertain the antiquity and culture of the Chera country.

# Workers welcome, traders oppose Bill on ‘right to sit’

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Sept 9:** The workers across Tamil Nadu employed in shops and establishments are elated as they will soon get a chair in the shops where they are working. A new Bill introduced by the Tamil Nadu government on the ‘right to sit’ has given the workers a much needed relief.

It was Monday that the Tamil Nadu Minister for Labour Welfare and Skill Development CV Ganesan introduced a Bill in the state Assembly to amend the Shops and Establishments Act 1947, making it mandatory for shops and establishments to provide seating arrangements for employees working in shops and commercial establishments.

The Bill stated, Considering the plight of the employees, the premises of every establishment shall have suitable seating arrangements for all employees so that they may take advantage of any opportunity to sit which may occur in the course of their work and thereby

avoid ‘on their toes’ situation throughout the working hours.

While the workers across the state cheered the Bill, the traders organisations and many traders are unhappy on the decision.

Manimekhalai, a worker at a textile shop in Santhome, Chennai told IANS, The Tamil Nadu government bringing out a Bill is a long awaited and cherished moment for people like me who have to stand from morning till evening creating several health and mental issues.

However, the government bringing such a Bill is not welcomed by many traders who are of the opinion that this would lead to lethargy and lack of interest in work among the employees.

Shanmugasundran, a textile shop owner in the T Nagar, Chennai told IANS, “We are providing everything for the employees and there is no need for such a Bill. This will lead to several employees turning lethargic and their productivity will come down and I fear that this would affect the whole round performance of the shop.”



# Land surveys in TN to trace temples’ lost land

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Sept 9:** The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department will carry out extensive surveys using different global positioning systems (DGPS) to trace lost land of temples in the state.

It has already engaged 150 licensed surveyors to complete the work. The land records details of 2019-20 and 1988-90 have shown a startling mismatch of around 50,000 acres of temple land in Tamil Nadu. Department officials told IANS that thousands of land records are missing.

Chief Minister MK Stalin has asked HR&CE Minister PK Sekar Babu to act immediately after reports on the 50,000 missing land records had come out, an official said.



would provide field maps and support the HR&CE teams to carry out the survey. The HR&CE Department has engaged a team of surveyors with teams, comprising 4 to 10 surveyors, to be stationed at major temples.

Talking to IANS, Sekar Babu said The Tamil Nadu government will not allow the temple land to be encroached upon... the difference of 50,000 acres in the land records of 1988-90 and 2019-20 is big and we have already engaged professional surveyors to conduct a proper survey.

# Villagers earn livelihood by fishery in closed CCL mines

*Nearly 100 abandoned coal mines of CCL are lying useless in Ramgarh district that could provide employment to nearly 5,000 people, said a villager*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ramgarh (Jharkhand), Sept 9:** Many educated unemployed youths of Ramgarh district are earning their livelihood from fish farming in an abandoned mine of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL).

The youths belonging to displaced families under Kuju area of CCL started fish farming by forming a cooperative society after they came in contact with Fishery department officials.

Shashikant Mahto (28), a graduate, formed a village cooperative society along with other educated youths of Ara village under Mandu block of Ramgarh district and approached the Fishery department for help to start fish farming in an abandoned coal pit of Kuju area of CCL mine near their village.

“We are thankful to district Fishery department for supporting us that made our dream come true. The fishery department installed a cage at an estimated cost



of ₹3 lakh in an abandoned coal pit full of water and provided various species of small fish free of cost,” Mahto said.

He said they have made little investment in feeding the fish. It was difficult to invest approximately ₹5000 per day in fish feeding. Hence, an innovative idea to reduce feeding cost has been implemented to increase profitability, Mahto said.

He said that once they saw that little fishes out of cage are eating green grass found in the water. So they have started feeding the fishes in cage green grass.

Bhushan Prasad, another villager said that they observed that green grass is a good food for fish and growth rate of fish in the cage also increased.

Village youth now produce nearly 30 tonne of fish in a season and they earn nearly ₹15 to 20 lakh while feeding cost for 1 kg fish was around ₹35 to ₹40 as per the calculation of

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi, Sept 9:** Amid a raging controversy over allotment of a ‘Namaz’ (Islamic prayer) room in the Jharkhand Assembly, Speaker Rabintra Nath Mahto Thursday formed an all party, 7-member panel, on the last day of the Monsoon session to look into the issue and come out with a report within 45 days.

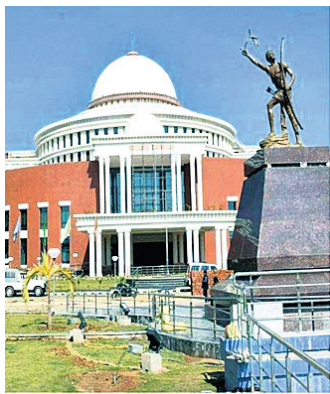
The Monsoon session that began September 3 remained stormy and witnessed protests by the main opposition BJP over the allotment both inside and outside the House.

Amid ruckus by the opposition, Speaker Mahto said disruptions over the issue impacted Assembly as well as the state, sending a wrong message to masses.

We need to end the standoff in the interests of the State and its people. It is not good for MLAs as well. Under the circumstances, I took a decision to place the matter before an all party committee and the Chair will support whatever decision is given by it, the Speaker said.

Fixing a deadline of 45 days for the 7-member panel with legislator Stephen Marandi as its convener, the Speaker asked the panel to come out with its report at the earliest.

The seven-member committee besides Marandi, will have Pradeep Yadav, Neelkanth Singh Munda, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Vinod Singh, Lambodar Mahto & Deepika



**Uproarious scenes were witnessed in Jharkhand Assembly Thursday with BJP MLAs barging into the well over ‘lathi charge’ on party workers protesting allotment of ‘Namaz’ room in Assembly**

Pandey Singh as members.

Earlier, ruling party MLA Sarfaraz Ahmad made a proposal that Speaker should form a committee to study whether there is a need for a Namaz room.

BJP member and former Chief Minister Babulal Marandi objecting to a statement that a ‘Namaz’ room was allotted during his term as CM, said no such allotment was

made while I was CM. Constitution of India does not permit it.

BJP legislators, sporting black straps raised slogans like Lathi, Goli, Wali Sarkar Nahi Chalegi while protesting ‘lathi charge’ and use of water cannon on protesters Wednesday. BJP members also staged a dharna outside the Assembly.

Police had used water cannons and batons on Wednesday to break up protests by the BJP against allotment of the ‘Namaz’ room.

A row broke out in Jharkhand after the assembly speaker allotted a room in the Assembly for offering ‘Namaz’ through a notification last week.

The opposition leaders have been protesting against the decision, calling it unconstitutional. They are also demanding a separate hall for chanting Hanuman Chalisa (prayers to Lord Hanuman).

## PALAMAU TIGER RESERVE

# Over 500 trap cameras to be used in animal census

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Medininagar, Sept 9:** Over 500 trap cameras would be used in the census of animals including tigers in the Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR), an official said.

Altogether 509 trap cameras spread over 1,129 square km will be used in counting the animals including tigers, Director of PTR, Kumar Ashutosh told reporters Wednesday.

He said the process of installing the cameras in identified spots will take place from October to December and 300 trekkers will be pressed into service for the job.

Apart from the photographs, the excreta of tigers will be collected and it would be sent to wildlife laboratory in Dehradun for testing, the PTR Director said. Ashutosh said the counting of wildlife would be conducted under the supervision of four expert forest officials. Currently, the reserve has 72 leopards.

The results of the counting were expected to come in July next year, he said, adding that the counting would be conducted scientifically.

He said a proposal has been sent to the state government to develop Ketchki as a tourist destination. Ketchki is an attractive place of Beta National Park, where several Bollywood stars including Sharmila Tagore and Bimal Roy have filmed their movies, he said.

The Betla National Park will be opened for visitors from October 1, Ashutosh added.



## PIRATE ATTACK

# Kin of kidnapped Indian sailor in distress

SIX PIRATES ATTACKED THE SHIP MV TAMPEN IN GABON, SUNDAY AND KIDNAPPED PANKAJ KUMAR AND SHOT TWO SAILORS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Sept 9:** Family members of the missing Indian sailor Pankaj Kumar believed to be kidnapped by sea pirates from the ship MV Tampen anchored in West African nation Gabon are distressed.

Pankaj Kumar, aged 30, hailing from the Gurdaspur district in Punjab was the Second Engineer of MV Tampen.

Only last year he got married. We are all distressed a lot. There is no information about his whereabouts in Gabon. The shipping company officials are saying that my brother is missing and beyond that there is no information, Sandeep Kumar, the younger brother of sailor Pankaj Kumar, told IANS over phone.

According to Sandeep Kumar, the family consists of younger sister, their parents and wife of Pankaj Kumar.



We have sent an email to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We are yet to hear anything from his office, Sandeep Kumar added.

He said requests have been made to the shipping company the Mumbai based Proactive Shipping Management to do the needful to trace his elder brother.

According to him, aerial search

operations were carried out by Gabon authorities Monday and after that it was stopped.

The ship, with 17 Indian crew on board, was sailing from Cameroon to the UAE when it developed some propulsion problems and was anchored just two kilometres away from Gabon’s Owendo anchorage when pirates boarded the ship

Sunday morning.

While the pirates threw Pankaj Kumar overboard, they also shot and injured Cook Sunil Ghosh and Chief Officer Naurial Vikas who were later admitted to a local hospital.

Ghosh (from West Bengal) is doing fine in the hospital. Family members-wife and others had spoken to him. There is no information about his discharge from the hospital, a relative told IANS.

All the sailors on the ship are distressed and would want to come back home, Nithin Suresh Kuttipravan, a friend of one of the sailors Deepak Udayaraj told IANS. Kuttipravan is reaching out to various official agencies so that the Indian sailors are brought back at the earliest.

An official of the Indian Embassy in Congo is trying to reach out to the sailors. The ship captain is under a lot of stress and is answering the officials from the Gabon

government, Kuttipravan said.

He said as per the information from the sailors on board of MV Tampen, the ship’s satellite phone was not working for the past one month.

They were communicating using email. Now they are using Whatsapp using their Indian SIM cards. We have requested the Indian Embassy to provide the sailors local SIM cards so that they can stay in touch with their family members, Kuttipravan added.

According to Kuttipravan, all the sailors are ready to sign off and reach India at the earliest.

It seems the shipping company wants the sailors to sail to Dubai after setting right the ship, he said. As per my information, the pirates wanted to kidnap about three or four sailors. While resisting the kidnap attempt, the pirates had shot two Indian sailors, Kuttipravan said.



## of the day quote

The changing global scenario, including the developments in Afghanistan, has changed equations between nations quickly as per their interests

**RAJNATH SINGH** | DEFENCE MINISTER

The BJP came to power by misleading farmers with false promises of doubling their income and prompt payment of cane prices. Farmers are now fully aware that this government has done nothing for them

**AJAY KUMAR LALLU** | UTTAR PRADESH CONGRESS CHIEF

Regarding Nipah virus, I have given directions to the Health Secretary and experts. I will get a report on its behaviour in Kerala and its impact on us by this evening, following which necessary action will be taken

**BASAVARAJ BOMMAI** | KARNATAKA CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Single engine boats banned

**Jorhat (Assam):** All single engine boats that operate from Nimati Ghat in Jorhat on the southern bank of Brahmaputra to Majuli, the world's largest river island have been banned. Giving this information here Thursday, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the boat mishap which occurred Wednesday was more due to 'mismanagement' than anything else. Sarma has asked the police to file a criminal case against the owner of 'Kala mati', the private boat.

### 'Love, narcotic jihad exists'

**Kottayam (Ker):** A Catholic bishop Thursday triggered a controversy, saying Christian girls were largely falling prey to "love and narcotic jihad" in Kerala and wherever arms cannot be used, extremists were using such methods to destroy the youth belonging to other religions. Muslim outfits protested the statement of Pala Bishop Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, alleging that it was meant to create a communal divide in Kerala society.

### Woman stabs rickshaw puller

**Patna:** Demanding the fare turned ugly for a rickshaw puller in Bihar's Chapra city Thursday afternoon when a woman stabbed him 4-5 times in broad daylight. Moreover, the woman levelled allegations of eve teasing against the rickshaw puller and escaped from the middle of the crowd which gathered at the spot.

### Activist Sonal Shukla dead

**Mumbai:** Noted women's rights activist Sonal Shukla died after cardiac arrest in Mumbai Thursday, a colleague said. Shukla (80) was the founder and managing trustee of the Vacha Charitable Trust and worked with adolescent girls and women over the last four decades. She was the co-founder of the group Forum Against Rape, now known as the Forum Against Oppression of Women.

### 5 Naxals held

**Raipur:** Five Naxals, three of them allegedly involved in torching machines and a vehicle engaged in the construction of a water treatment plant, were arrested from different places in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said Thursday.



**I have asked the Jorhat Police to file a criminal case. By today evening, we will announce a high-level probe to find out the reasons behind Brahmaputra boat capsizes**

**HIMANTA BISWA SARMA** | ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

## MAHA SADAN SCAM

### Chhagan Bhujbal, kin discharged

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Sept 9:** Spelling a huge relief for embattled Maharashtra Food and Civil Supplies Minister Chhagan Bhujbal, he, his son Pankaj and nephew Sameer, and five others were Thursday discharged by a special court for "lack of evidence" in the alleged corruption cases pertaining to the Maharashtra Sadan in New Delhi and other projects.

Special Judge HS Sathbai, in his July order, has also discharged former PWD engineer Arun Devdhar, construction firm KS Chamankar Ent officials Prasanna Chamankar, Krishna Chamankar, Praveena Chamankar and Praneeta Chamankar, in the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB).

The ACB case related to the 2005 deal entered with the firm KS Chamankar Ent, without calling for tenders when Chhagan Bhujbal was the PWD Minister in the then Congress-Nationalist Congress Party alliance Democratic Front government in the state. Contending that there was "no evidence" to prosecute them, the Bhujbals had sought discharge, terming all the allegations levelled against them in the ACB case as "fake, based on wrong calculations and assumptions". The special judge said that there is no evidence that the contractor had paid the bribe of Rs 13.50 crore to the Bhujbals, their staffers or their family members named as accused in the case.

# India gets first ELF close to Pak border

*The development of the emergency landing facility is a clear signal to the neighbouring country about India ramping up its defences*



AGENCIES

**Barmer, Sept 9:** Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari inaugurated an emergency landing strip at Satta-Gandhav stretch on National Highway 925 here on Thursday for Indian Air Force (IAF) planes.

A Hercules C-130J plane of the IAF, carrying the two ministers and Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat, conducted a mock emergency landing on the national highway Thursday. NH-925 is India's first national highway to be used for emergency landing of IAF aircraft. The two ministers also witnessed multiple aircraft operations on the emergency landing facility (ELF) of NH-295. Thursday Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jet conducted a mock emergency landing at the ELF. IAF chief R K Bhadauria was also present on the occasion. An-32 military transport aircraft and Mi-17v5 helicopter of the IAF also landed at the ELF, showing its complete operational readiness to act as an auxiliary military airbase. In his speech, the defence minister said that a total of 20 emergency landing strips, similar to the one in Barmer, are being developed across the country right now. "Many helipads are also being created with the help of the Union Roads Ministry.

This is an important step to strengthen our security infrastructure," he added. There was this thinking that if much is spent on defence, then development in the country would be affected, he said. "But today, seeing an emergency landing strip on a national highway, I can safely say that defence and development can go hand in hand," Singh mentioned. The National

Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has developed the 3-km section of Satta-Gandhav stretch of NH-925 as an ELF for the IAF.

Singh said, "By creating a strip so near the international border, we have given a message that we will stand up for unity, diversity and sovereignty of our country at whatever the cost." Such creation of an emergency landing strip creates immense sense of confidence in the Indian psyche, he said.

This emergency landing strip will be helpful not only during a war but also during the times of natural calamities, Singh said, adding that a natural calamity is no less than any war. In October 2017, fighter jets and transport planes of the IAF had conducted mock landings on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway to show that such highways can be used by the IAF planes for landing in case of an emergency. The Lucknow-Agra Expressway, which is not a national highway, comes under the Uttar Pradesh government.

The emergency landing strip, which was inaugurated on Thursday, is part of newly developed two-lane paved shoulder of Gagariya-Bakhasar and Satta-Gandhav section having total length of 196.97 km and costing Rs 765.52 crore under the Bharatmala Pariyojana. This highway project will improve connectivity between villages of Barmer and Jalore districts located on the international border. Apart from the emergency landing strip, three helipads (size 100x30 metres each) have been constructed in Kundanpura, Singhania and Bakhasar villages under this project, according to the requirements of the IAF and the Indian Army.

## Farmers' unions to meet Sept 11

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Karnal, Sept 9:** With the ongoing farmers agitation at the mini-Secretariat in Haryana's Karnal entering its third day Thursday, the farmers unions have decided to meet again Saturday to finalise the future course of action on their demands.

Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait on Wednesday announced that they will continue the peaceful protest here and will not obstruct any official day to day activities. He said that farmers across the state will continue the agitation on the lines of ongoing protests at the Delhi borders. However, farmers are not in a mood to stretch the protest here and have decided to meet on Saturday where all unions' leadership will participate and decide their actions ahead.

# PM chairs 13th BRICS summit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 9:** The BRICS has adopted a counter-terrorism action plan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Thursday while chairing a virtual summit of the five-nation grouping.

The summit, which was hosted by India, was attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro.

The BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) brings together five of the largest developing countries of the world, representing 41 per cent of the global population, 24 per cent of the global GDP and 16 per cent of the global trade.

In his opening remarks, Modi said India has received full cooperation from all BRICS partners during its chairmanship and listed



various achievements of the grouping. "Today we are an influential voice for the emerging economies of the world. This platform has also been useful for focusing attention on the priorities of developing nations as well," he said.

The BRICS has created strong institutions like the New Development Bank, the Contingency Reserve Arrangement and the Energy Research Cooperation Platform,

he noted. "These are all very strong institutions," he added. "However, it is also important that we do not become too self-satisfied and we must ensure that BRICS is even more result-oriented in the next 15 years," he said.

The Prime Minister said the grouping has achieved several "firsts" and referred to the holding of the first-ever BRICS digital summit recently.

## GANPATI PROCESSIONS PROHIBITED IN MUMBAI

Citing the Covid-19 situation, police Thursday imposed orders under CrPC section 144 in Mumbai, prohibiting assembly of five or more persons during the Ganesh festival between September 10 to 19



## NIRF RANKING

# IIT Madras ranks best institution

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 9:** The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras retained the top spot among institutes all over India for the third consecutive year whereas the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore was the best among research institutions, according to the Ministry of Education's National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings.

The sixth edition of NIRF rankings was announced on Thursday by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) - IIT Madras, IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur, IIT Guwahati and IIT Roorkee - figured in the top 10 in the overall rankings.

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Banaras Hindu University (BHU) were ranked ninth and tenth in the overall rankings. In the 'universities' category, IISc Bengaluru bagged the top spot followed by JNU and BHU at second and third rank, respectively.

Calcutta University, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Jamia Millia Islamia, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Jadavpur University, University of Hyderabad and Aligarh Muslim University bagged the subsequent positions in the universities category.

"Rankings are the measure of



quality and excellence of an institution. We must develop regional ranking frameworks and also work to ensure that our ranking framework emerges as a benchmark not only in the country, but also globally, especially for the developing economies," Pradhan said.

"The New Education Policy (NEP) also provides us with an opportunity to internationalise our education system. We must work collectively to bring more and more institutions under our rankings framework and also establish India as a preferred global study destination," he added.

Eight IITs - Madras, Delhi, Bombay, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Roorkee, Guwahati and Hyderabad - have bagged the top eight ranks among the 'engineering institutions' category. The National

Institute of Technology (NIT) Tiruchirapalli and Suratkal have ranked ninth and tenth in the category.

Among colleges, Miranda House has been announced as the best college in the country followed by Lady Sri Ram College for Women and Loyola College, Chennai at second and third rank, respectively.

St Xavier's College, Kolkata; Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, Howrah; PGSR Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore; Presidency College, Chennai have bagged the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh rank, respectively.

Delhi University's St Stephen's College, Hindu College and Shri Ram College of Commerce, have been ranked eighth, ninth and tenth, respectively.



Performers attired as Goddess Durga and Mahishashur pose ahead of Durga Puja festival, at New Town on the outskirts of Kolkata

PTI PHOTO

# GOVT DEVELOPS VAX TRACKER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 9:** The Centre has developed a Covid-19 vaccine tracker by synergising data from three platforms to give information on various aspects of vaccination like effectiveness post inoculation.

Speaking at a briefing of the Union health ministry, ICMR Director General Balram Bhargava said the vaccine tracker has been developed by synergising data from CO-WIN portal, National Covid-19 testing database and Covid-19 India portal. "The data have been synergised based on ICMR identification number and on the basis of mobile numbers. We have been able to get a vaccine tracker which is going to be online very soon on

the Ministry of Health's website," he said. The tracker gives week by week coverage of the first and second dose of vaccine and also their effectiveness. Citing the data from Covid-19 tracker from April 18 to August 15, Bhargava said vaccine effectiveness in preventing mortality is 96.6 per cent and 97.5 per cent after the second dose. "It is clear that after two doses, there is near for total protection of serious diseases and death," V K Paul, NITI Aayog member (Health) said.

Vaccine is an important shield for protection against the novel coronavirus infection. This will change the scenario very dramatically, he said. Ahead of the festive season, both the officials noted that mass gatherings have to be discouraged.

# ISI sending ISKP cadre to PoK to hit J&K in a big way: Intel

AROUND 25 YOUTHS FROM KERALA HAVE RECENTLY GONE TO AFGHANISTAN AND HAD JOINED THE ISKP CADRE

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 9:** Keeping its nefarious eye on Jammu and Kashmir, the Pakistan's intelligence wing - Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) has been sending the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) cadre to the Pak occupied Kashmir (PoK) with an aim to hit J&K in a big way.

As per the latest intelligence inputs, these ISKP cadres were released from the Afghanistan jails recently and had returned to Pakistan and now the ISI has instructed to execute its terror agenda in the Valley. The sources have re-

vealed that the security agencies in Kashmir have tracked the movement and presence of ISKP commander Munsib who has been reportedly coordinating with various terror outfits for this purpose. He has been quite active on social media for the past few months, they added.

Around 25 youths from Kerala have recently gone to Afghanistan and had joined the ISKP cadre, now the inputs are coming that ISI can use those radicalised youths of Kerala to carry out attacks in India, the sources further said, adding that their movements are

on the agencies' radar. After the Taliban occupation in Afghanistan, now the ISI has been actively planning to push its trained and supported terror outfits like Jaish-e-Mohammad, Lashkar-e-Taiba and al-Badr into the union territory for the last two months and now the ISKP ultras to various launch pads in PoK along with the line of control, the sources in the intelligence agencies also revealed.

The intelligence inputs also confirmed that the launch pads in Pakistan have been humming with activities near the border indicating an increase in planning for in-



filtration. These launch pads were abandoned after a ceasefire was

announced in February this year. Indian security agencies are

also getting inputs that the presence of Pashtun speaking terrorists in some of the terrorist camps located in PoK, which has increased the possibilities of ISKP ultras in these launch pads near the border areas in Jammu and Kashmir. "The J&K Police is aggressively trying to track down those over-ground workers who can give shelter to foreign terrorists and make their mission even easier. They are constantly trying to ensure that the infiltrating terrorists do not find any hideout or take shelter in the villages of Kashmir", a senior official in the security set up said.



of the day quote

There has been little change in the global situation since then, so today I am calling for an extension of the moratorium until at least the end of the year, to enable every country to vaccinate at least 40 per cent of its population

**TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESU** | DIRECTOR-GENERAL, WHO

Today, we want to show with the reopening that Germany is and will remain a committed partner of Libya. We want to have a voice in the Libyan capital again

**HEIKO MAAS** | FOREIGN MINISTER, GERMANY

France will not accept any practice that goes against maritime law, nor financial blackmail. Safeguarding human lives at sea takes priority over considerations of nationality, status and migratory policy

**GERALD DARMANIN** | INTERIOR MINISTER, FRANCE

SHORT TAKES

Dozens injured in West Bank clashes

**Ramallah:** At least 100 Palestinian protesters were injured in clashes with Israeli soldiers near the northern West Bank city of Nablus, medics and witnesses said Thursday. The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said in a statement that clashes took place in the villages of Beita and Huwara near Nablus. The statement added that 10 people were shot, including nine with rubber-coated metal bullets, and 90 others suffered suffocation after inhaling teargas fired by the soldiers to disperse the protesters.

Fire in US Covid hosp claims 14

**Skopje:** Police and public health officials in North Macedonia say at least 14 people have died and many others have been injured by a fire at a makeshift hospital for Covid-19 patients. The blaze occurred late Wednesday in the western city of Tetovo, where the facility was set up following a recent spike in infections in the region. The cause of the fire was not immediately known, but Prime Minister Zoran Zaev said in a Facebook post that the blaze followed an explosion at the site.

France to offer free birth control

**Paris:** France will offer free birth control to all women up to age 25 starting next year, the health minister announced Thursday. The measure will also include free medical visits about contraception, and will start Jan 1, Health Minister Olivier Veran announced on France-2 television. "It's intolerable that women aren't able to protect themselves, aren't able to use contraception if they make that choice, because it would cost too much," Veran said.

Vessel runs aground, briefly blocks Suez

**Cairo:** A bulk carrier vessel became wedged Thursday in Egypt's Suez Canal, briefly blocking traffic in one lane of crucial global waterway, Egyptian authorities said. The Suez Canal Authority said in a statement that the Panama-flagged Coral Crystal ran aground in a double-lane stretch of the canal, forcing the officials to redirect other vessels in the convoy to the other lane. It said the canal's tugboats managed to float the vessel, which carries cargo weighing 43,000 tons. The Coral Crystal then resumed its voyage, the canal said.

Women protest for rights, face violent crush

THE TALIBAN USED WHIPS AND STICKS AGAINST THE WOMEN PROTESTERS IN THE LATEST CRACKDOWN ON DISSENT IN AFGHANISTAN

AGENCIES

**Kabul, Sept 9:** Afghan women, who were protesting against the all-male Afghanistan's new interim government Wednesday in Kabul, were driven away by the Taliban.

The Taliban used whips and sticks against the women protesters in the latest crackdown on dissent in Afghanistan, reported agencies. Videos and images show the women chanting, "Long live the women of Afghanistan".

Some held placards declaring "No government can deny the presence of women and I will sing freedom over and over".

One woman at Wednesday's protest said, "We have gathered here to protest the recent announcement of the government where there is no woman representation in this government."

As she spoke, she held a poster saying "A cabinet without women is a loser, a loser."

The women called on the Taliban to uphold their commitments made in the past to ensure women's rights



The protestors demand inclusion of women in high-ranking government positions

Women barred from playing cricket or any other sport, in which their bodies could be seen

are preserved, as per reports. "We are not women of yesterday. We want our rights. We faced violence yesterday, but will continue our fight," said Diba Farahmand, another activist.

If confirmed, not only must we cut off all aid, we must enact sanctions. Pakistan is now showing what they lied about for years, they created and protected the Taliban

**ADAM KINZINGER** | CONGRESSMAN, US

SCRIBES THRASHED WITH CABLES FOR COVERING STIR

Taliban authorities in Afghanistan have been detaining and assaulting journalists and imposing new restrictions on media work, the Human Rights Watch said.

September 7, Taliban security forces had detained Taqi Daryabi and Nemat Naqdi, both journalists from the Kabul-based media outlet Etilaat-e Roz. The reporters were covering a protest by women in Kabul demanding an end to Taliban violation of women and girls' rights.

Etilaat-e-Roz reported that Taliban authorities took the two men to a police station in Kabul, placed them in separate cells, and severely beat them with cables. Both men were released the next day after which



they received treatment at a hospital for the injuries they suffered on their backs and faces.

"Taliban authorities claimed that they would allow the media to function so long as they 'respect Islamic values', but they are increasingly preventing journalists from reporting on demonstrations," said Patricia Gossman, Associate Asia Director at Human Rights Watch.

INTERIM GOVT ALLOWS FOREIGNERS TO LEAVE

**Kabul:** Two hundred foreigners in Afghanistan, the majority among them Americans have been allowed to leave, after the new Taliban government agreed to their evacuation, a US official said, Thursday. They will all be leaving on chartered flights. Confirming this development, a Qatari official here informed that 100-150 Americans are expected to be evacuated. This will be the airport's first such flight since US forces withdrew from Afghanistan. They will fly out Thursday itself on a Qatar Airways flight. "Call it what you want, a charter or a commercial flight, everyone has tickets and boarding passes," said Mutlaq bin Majed al-Qahtani, a Qatari special envoy from the tarmac of the Kabul International airport. Informing that another such flight will take off Friday, al-Qahtani added, "Hopefully, life is becoming normal in Afghanistan." The departure of a large group of Americans for the first time since the US finished its frantic airlift at the end of August would also signal that the country's officials have come to an arrangement with the new Taliban rulers, who have just announced the formation of a new interim government.

Taliban restrict demonstrations

The Taliban's latest decree is aimed at deterring women from holding protest demanding their rights from the country's headline Islamic rulers. A statement from the new Taliban Interior Ministry said that in order to avoid disturbances and security problems, anyone holding a demonstration should apply for clearance 24 hours beforehand. Protests will be now subjected to demonstrators getting prior permission, including approval of slogans and banners, according to news agency AP. Some of the protests witnessed heavy-handed assaults on protesters. The decree is expected to restrict any such protest as the ministry said: "It is announced to all citizens not to attempt at the present time to hold any demonstrations under any name whatsoever."

MONEY LAUNDERING PROBE

German finance ministry raided

AGENCIES

**Berlin, Sept 9:** German prosecutors raided the finance and justice ministries Thursday as part of an investigation into the government's anti-money laundering agency, putting the spotlight on Germany's failings in tackling financial crime.

The probe into the Financial Intelligence Unit, an agency of the finance ministry under Social Democrat chancellor candidate Olaf Scholz, is looking at whether the unit was told to ignore warnings from banks of suspect payments to Africa.

The FIU, along with the Germany's financial regulator, Bafin, both under the finance ministry, have previously been criti-



cised for failing to detect problems at payments company Wirecard, which collapsed in the country's biggest post-war fraud scandal.

This is a security risk for Germany, said lawmaker Fabio De Masi. We need a financial police with criminal expertise. Germany is a paradise for criminals.

The Finance Ministry said it

The raids come at a pivotal moment for Scholz, who opinion polls suggest has a good chance of becoming German chancellor in national elections Sept 26

had bolstered staff at the FIU agency from 165 to more than 460, as well as giving it more responsibility and technical resources.

The ministry said in a statement that it supported the investigation and noted that suspicion was not directed at the ministry's employees.

Smoke alarm goes off at ISS

AGENCIES

**Moscow, Sept 9:** A smoke alarm was activated in a Russian service module on the International Space Station (ISS), the Russian space agency Roscosmos said Thursday, and Russian news agencies reported that cosmonauts had smelled burning plastic.

The RIA news agency quoted Roscosmos as saying all systems were later working properly. Plans for a spacewalk later Thursday were still in force, the space agency said.

Roscosmos said a smoke detector and an alarm were set off on the Zvezda service module, which provides living quarters for crew members on the ISS, when batteries were being recharged overnight.

The space station has suffered a number of recent mishaps.

Russian official Vladimir Solovoyov told state media 1 September that the ISS could suffer irreparable failures due to outdated equipment and hardware.

At least 80 percent of in-flight systems on the Russian segment had passed their expiry date, Mr Solovoyov, chief engineer at space company Energia, told state media. Energia is the lead developer of Russia's ISS modules. He also said small cracks had been discovered on Russia's Zarya cargo section and they could worsen over time.

The ISS was built in 1998 as part of a joint project between and was originally designed for a 15-year lifespan.

China orders to cut unmanly gender imagery

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Beijing, Sept 9:** Chinese authorities have ordered gaming giants to end their focus on profits and cut content perceived to be breeding "effeminacy", as Beijing tries to direct youth culture, gender ideals and the reach of big tech.

The move is the latest by authorities to tighten their grip on the embattled technology sector and sparked a collapse in the share prices of some of the industry's biggest names.

Officials Wednesday summoned gaming enterprises including Tencent and NetEase, the two market leaders in China's multi-bil-



lion-dollar gaming scene, to discuss further curbs on the industry, which has already been ordered to limit children gaming time to three hours a week.

Among the new targets are media representations of men, which experts say are a cause for anxiety among the conservative, older generation of Communist Party leaders.

In recent days, regulators have ordered broadcasters to resist "abnormal aesthetics" such as "sissy" men, calling for more masculine representations in programming.

"Obscene and violent content and those breeding unhealthy tendencies, such as money-worship and effeminacy, should be removed," it said. Enterprises who flout rules will be punished, authorities warned.

The target is driven by a per-

ception among sections of society that "effeminate men are physically weak and emotionally fragile," University of Hong Kong associate professor Geng Song said, with the inference that 'feminine' men cannot defend the nation.

Song added that heterosexuality is seen as the only gender norm, leading to "anxiety" over more ambiguous representations of sexuality and identity.

China has also temporarily suspended approval for all new online games in a bid to curb a gaming addiction among young people, the South China Morning Post reported Thursday citing people with knowledge of the matter.

SRI LANKA, WHICH RECORDED ITS FIRST MATERNAL CORONAVIRUS DEATH IN MAY, IS BATTLING A SPIKE IN DELTA VARIANT INFECTIONS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Colombo, Sept 9:** Sri Lankan women were urged to delay getting pregnant after more than 40 ex-

pectant mothers died of Covid-19 in four months, the health ministry said Thursday.

The island nation, which recorded its first maternal coronavirus death in May, is battling a spike in Delta variant infections after travel restrictions were eased for local new year celebrations in mid-April.

"Usually, we have 90 to 100 maternal deaths a year, but since the start of the third wave we have recorded 41 deaths of pregnant women from Covid alone," Chitramali de Silva, a director of the government's Health Promotion Bureau, told AFP.

Government obstetrician and



gynaecologist Harsha Atapattu said he was urging "newlyweds, as well as those who are trying to have a baby, to delay it by at least a year because of the risks of Covid-19".

"If it's possible, delay pregnancy by 1 year," Dr Harsha Atapattu requested.

De Silva said about 5,500 expectant mothers had been infected. About 70 percent were fully vaccinated, he added.

Experts have urged pregnant women to get the jab, with Sri Lankan health officials stating the Delta variant appears to increase their risk of severe symptoms.

The nation of 21 million people

has been under a lightly imposed lockdown since August that the government expects to lift in mid-September.

But World Health Organisation experts in Sri Lanka have called for tougher restrictions until the start of October.

Hospitals have been overwhelmed during the surge, despite efforts to speed up the vaccination drive with nearly half of the total population receiving two doses.

Sri Lanka has recorded nearly 475,000 infections and more than 10,500 deaths from Covid-19, but doctors say the actual figures could be much higher due to under-reporting.



2 Indian teachers shortlisted for 2021 Global Teacher Prize

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, Sept 9:** Satyam Mishra, a mathematics teacher from Bhagalpur in Bihar, and Meghana Musunuri, a social studies, English and math teacher from Hyderabad have made it to the top 50 shortlist for this year's USD 1-million Global Teacher Prize announced Thursday.

The USD 1-million Global Teacher Prize, organised by the Varkey Foundation in partnership with UNESCO, attracted over 8,000 nominations and applications from 121 countries.

"It is only by prioritising education that we can safeguard all our tomorrows. Education is the key to facing the future with confidence," said Sunny Varkey, founder of the Varkey Foundation.

Mishra made the cut for his determination to change the way children look at the world and uses cool multiplication tricks to bring his subject alive for students.

Musunuri, the second Indian teacher on the 2021 shortlist, is described as an education futurist, philanthropist and a passionate entrepreneur as the founder and chairperson of Fountainhead Global School & Junior College and also Hyderabad Champion for Google's Women Entrepreneurs On The Web (WEOW), guiding women entrepreneurs in establishing their online presence.

"UNESCO is a proud partner of the Global Teacher Prize, which has done so much to highlight teachers' transformational role in young people's lives. Inspirational teachers and extraordinary students alike deserve recognition for their commitment to education," said Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director General for Education at UNESCO.



of the day quote

We have conveyed our serious and major concerns about cryptocurrencies to the government from a point of view of financial stability. The government will take a decision

**SHAKTIKANTA DAS** | RBI GOVERNOR

Chip shortage is a global phenomenon. We have already procured chipsets and for next year also. We have started planning to make sure that we do not face any chip shortages in the India market. So we have completely made sure that there's no shortage during the festive season from Realme

**MADHAV SHETH** | VP AND INDIA AND EUROPE CEO, REALME

Since our core culture is based on innovation while working with mainstream and cutting-edge technologies, the company plans to leverage the large pool of tech talent in India with the remote or hybrid model

**RASHI SRIVASTAVA** | EXECUTIVE VP, QENTELLI

SHORT TAKES

Mercedes-Benz expands EV footprint

**New Delhi:** Luxury car maker Mercedes-Benz India has expanded the retail footprint of its EV EQC on the back of healthy demand. The EV will now be retailed in all the Mercedes-Benz dealerships across the country under the 'Phase II' expansion strategy. The EQC launched in 2020 was until now available in six select cities across 14 locations, as part of the Phase 1 launch plan. Mercedes-Benz India has also re-opened bookings for the next batch of EQCs.

Joblessness rate rises to 10.3%

**New Delhi:** Unemployment rate for all ages in urban areas rose to 10.3% in October-December 2020 as compared to 7.9% in the corresponding months a year ago, showed a periodic labour force survey by the National Statistical Office (NSO). Joblessness or unemployment rate (UR) is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force. The UR for all ages in urban areas was 13.3% in July-September 2020, the ninth Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) showed.

Deadline for ITR filing extended

**New Delhi:** The CBDT has extended deadlines for several compliances, including the filing of Income Tax returns (ITR) for AY 2021-22. The due date of furnishing of returns of income for the assessment year 2021-22, has been extended to December 31, 2021, from September 30. In a statement, the Finance Ministry said that the decision has been on consideration of difficulties reported by the taxpayers and other stakeholders in filing of ITRs and various reports of audit for AY 2021-22.

Gold ETFs witness net outflow in Aug

**New Delhi:** Gold-backed exchange traded funds (ETF) experienced net outflows in August of 22.4 tonnes, as North American outflows outweighed inflows into European and Asian funds, the World Gold Council (WGC) said. In a report, the WGC said that gold faced headwinds early in August as the dollar briefly strengthened and rising Treasury yields weighed on investment flows, triggering momentum selling shortly thereafter.



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**SHEENA PARIKH** | FOUNDER AND JOINT MD, TECHNOVA GROUP

CENTRE TO RELEASE OVER ₹56K CR

The Centre has decided to release ₹56,027 crore as dues for all pending export incentives in FY22. The amount includes claims relating to schemes such as MEIS, SEIS, RoSL, RoSCTL amongst others relating to earlier policies and the remission support for RoDTEP and RoSCTL for exports made in the fourth quarter of FY21



Ford to stop manufacturing cars in India

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 9:** After nearly three decades of struggling to make a mark in India, US auto major Ford Motor Co Thursday said it will stop vehicle production at its two plants in the country and will sell only imported vehicles going ahead as part of a restructuring exercise.

The company, which invested about USD 2.5 billion at its Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Sanand (Gujarat) plants, has accumulated operating losses of around USD 2 billion in India in the last ten years. Its decision will impact over 4,000 employees and 150 dealer principals who operate over 300 outlets.

It will, however, continue to manufacture engines from its Sanand plant which will be exported to



the company's global operations.

With shutting down of the vehicle manufacturing operations, the automaker will stop selling vehicles such as the EcoSport, Figo, Endeavour, Freestyle and Aspire, which are produced from these plants.

In an announcement, Ford said it will wind down vehicle assembly in Sanand by the fourth quarter of 2021 and vehicle and engine manufacturing in Chennai by the second quarter of 2022.

"As part of our Ford+ plan, we are

As part of our Ford+ plan, we are taking difficult but necessary actions to deliver a sustainably profitable business longer-term and allocate our capital to grow and create value in the right areas

**JIM FARLEY I**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO, FORD MOTOR CO

taking difficult but necessary actions to deliver a sustainably profitable business longer-term and allocate our capital to grow and create value

in the right areas," Ford Motor Company's president and CEO Jim Farley said in a statement.

Despite investing significantly in India, Ford has accumulated more than USD 2 billion of operating losses over the past ten years and demand for new vehicles has been much weaker than forecast, he noted.

"I want to be clear that Ford will continue taking care of our valued customers in India, working closely with Ford India's dealers, all of whom have supported the company for a long time.

India remains strategically important for us and, thanks to our growing Ford Business Solutions team, will continue to be a large and important employee base for Ford globally," Farley stated.

Country's fuel demand jumps 11% in August



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 9:** India's fuel demand soared almost 11% in August when compared with the same month last year but lower than the previous month as monsoon rains slowed mobility and consumption.

Fuel consumption totalled 16 million tonnes in August, up from 14.42 million tonnes a year back but lower than 16.83 million tonnes in July 2021, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPA) of the Oil Ministry showed.

Sales of petrol, which had reached pre-Covid levels a couple of months back, rose 13% y-o-y to 2.69 million tonnes and was up 2.5% over July 2021.

Consumption of diesel - the most used fuel in the country - jumped 15.6% to 5.6 million tonnes from a year earlier but fell 8.7% from the previous month as monsoon rains stalled the mobility of trucks.

Cooking gas or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) sales increased 2.4% to 2.3 million tonnes, while naphtha sales fell 5.1% to 1.02 million tonnes. LPG sales fell 1.6% m-o-m. Sales of bitumen, used for making roads, were 3.1% up, while fuel oil use edged up 8% in August.

US on track to default on national debt, says Yellen

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Sept 9:** US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has warned congressional leaders that the US is on track to default on the national debt in October if the White House and Congress are unable to raise the debt limit.

In a letter, Yellen said that the Treasury Department would likely run out of cash and exhaust "extraordinary" measures to keep the federal government within its legal borrowing limit at some point next month, The Hill reported.



"Once all available measures and cash on hand are fully exhausted, the United States of America would be unable to meet its obligations for the first time in our history," Yellen said.

"Given this uncertainty, the Treasury Department is not able to provide a specific estimate of how long the extraordinary measures will last. However, based on most recent information, the most likely outcome is that cash and extraordinary measures will be exhausted in October," she said.

'V-shaped recovery shows strong macro-economic fundamentals'

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 9:** The V-shaped recovery in the first quarter of 2021-22, despite the brutal second wave of the coronavirus pandemic, is a testimony to India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals, according to the Finance Ministry.

In its latest Monthly Economic Review, the Finance Ministry also expressed concern over high incidence of Covid-19 cases in Kerala and Maharashtra and underlined the need for strengthening pandemic control and management in these two states.

The Indian economy grew by 20.1% in the first quarter of the current financial year reaffirming, "India's resilient V-shaped recovery despite an intense second wave," it said. Hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, the economy had dipped



by 24.4% during the first quarter of the previous fiscal.

Going forward, the report said the agriculture sector continues to offer comfortable prospects with Kharif sowing at 101% of normal levels as on September 3, despite a 9% deficient monsoon so far in the year.

Record-high paddy procurement and increasing tractor sales augur well for strengthened rural demand in the coming months, it said, adding, Industry is steadily gaining lost ground with June's IIP witnessing a broad-based growth, having recovered close to 95% of pre-pandemic levels of June 2019.

More recently, the eight-core industries index for July 2021, rose by 9.4% Y-o-Y with all sectors except crude oil and refinery products surpassing pre-pandemic levels, it said.

"The fast-paced recovery is further evident in growth of power consumption, rail freight, highway toll collections, e-way bills, digital transactions, air passenger traffic and robust GST collections. India's PMI Composite index including both manufacturing and services is comfortably placed at 55.4, signalling commencement of economic expansion," it said.

'RBI optimistic about 9.5% GDP growth estimate'

**MUMBAI:** RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said many fast indicators are showing an uptick in economic activity and the RBI is quite optimistic about its 9.5% GDP growth estimate for FY2021-22 at present. He said the impact of the second wave of Covid-19 has waned by August and economic growth will be better from the second quarter onwards on a sequential basis. Speaking at an event, Das said the RBI has decided to give more emphasis on growth because of the pandemic and operate in the 2-6% inflation band set by the government for it. The central bank will seek to gradually move towards achieving the 4% target over a period of time, he said, adding that the possibility of a sustained increase in inflation is unlikely. Easy liquidity conditions in the global markets are among the conditions which are leading to a surge in markets domestically, he said, making it clear that there is no evidence of the high asset prices affecting the inflation situation.

BoB, Bhub Region organise SHG disbursement camp

**BHUBANESWAR:** Bank of Baroda (BoB), Bhubaneswar Region has organised SHG disbursement camp at Gudum, Khurda, Jatani and Nirakarpur Branch in Khordha district.



The above mentioned branches have disbursed ₹2.46 crore in 71 new SHG groups. On this occasion, Rajeev Krishna, Asst. General Manager & Regional Head of Bhubaneswar Region handed over the sanction letters to the Group members in the camp. The same camp has been organised in line with his vision as he is committed to give emphasis on micro credit including SHG, agriculture, retail and MSME segments for overall credit upliftment in Odisha since he took charge of this region as Regional Head.

Jio-bp to set up EV charging infra in India

**MUMBAI:** Jio-bp, the fuel and mobility joint venture between Reliance Industries Ltd and bp, has announced a partnership with BluSmart, an all-electric ride-hailing platform to set up a network of commercial large scale EV charging stations. As part of the partnership, Jio-bp will set up these stations for passenger electric vehicles and fleets across the country, said a statement. BluSmart, through its all-electric fleet, has been disrupting the mobility landscape by providing reliable, zero-surge and zero-tailpipe emission ride-hailing service in Delhi NCR. Running the largest fleet of EVs, BluSmart aims to expand its network into other major cities across India, it said.



Adidas launches digital flagship store

**NEW DELHI:** Leading sportswear giant adidas launched its digital flagship store Thursday for consumers across the country. The all-new website was conceptualised and curated keeping in mind comments and reviews received from consumers. The focus of the digital flagship store is to provide a seamless experience, innovation, state-of-the-art UI, and a fast interface, thereby giving consumers a global online shopping experience, which is digitally superior and seamless. The website offers an innovative tech-driven experience that enables consumers to navigate effortlessly across the digital store and purchase their favourite products with ease.



THE GREAT REBOOT

HOW BIZ TRAVEL MAY NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN

REUTERS

**Berlin/Milan, Sept 9:** Sylvia Burberry is delighted that she no longer spends most of her life travelling for work. "I am grateful that the pandemic has forced us to step back and look at ways of working we took for granted," said the regional president for emerging markets at Mars petcare brand Royal Canin.

"I am very happy not to go back to spending 80% of my time travelling. I am not even sure it will be 50%," Burberry said from her home office in Paris.

Burberry's sentiments are echoed by workers around the world who are tired of the grind of corporate travel. This is bad news for the airlines, hotels and conference centres that rely on this lucrative business.

Mars, the family-owned snack and pet food company, said cost, environmental and health considerations were behind its decision to keep travel to less than half pre-pandemic levels, meaning 145,000 fewer flights per year.

Nici Bush, Mars global vice president for workplace transformation, said reducing travel could also make senior jobs more attractive to people with families. She said 700 staff members could attend online strategy or sales events compared with the 100 people who used to meet in person: "You can really be more surgical about when you travel."

Niklas Andreen, the chief operating officer of global corporate travel management firm CWT, knows the prospects are slim for a quick bounce back to pre-pandemic



levels for the business travel sector.

While 58% of people polled by CWT say they are keen to resume expenses-paid junkets, bookings are only gradually recovering, with 80% of travel domestic now, compared with 67% pre-pandemic in

2019. "It's going to take several years before we're back," Andreen said.

In one of the first tests of the appetite of the business community for global gatherings, Germany's auto show in Munich this week has seen many major car compa-

Pre-pandemic, airlines made the bulk of their profits from business travel because companies are more likely to book at short notice and are prepared to pay more for convenient times

nies like Toyota and Jaguar's Land Rover choosing to stay away.

German airline Lufthansa has nevertheless seen demand for its regional flights between Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Belgium jump 15% in recent weeks, and rise 30% for flights within Germany, CEO Carsten Spohr said.

Lufthansa is putting on more

flights for business travellers in September, but it only expects a return to 90% of pre-pandemic trips in the long term.

COUNTING THE COST

Pre-pandemic, airlines made the bulk of their profits from business travel because companies are more likely to book at short notice and are prepared to pay more for convenient times.

US spending on corporate travel are expected to only reach 25%-35% of 2019 levels by the fourth quarter of 2021, and 65%-80% a year later, according to a Deloitte survey of 150 travel managers. "As firms look forward, they are thinking about how to keep some of the cost savings they have realised," said Anthony Jackson, head of Deloitte's US aviation practice.



INDIAN PLAYERS NEGATIVE FOR COVID-19 AS GAME ON AT MANCHESTER AS SCHEDULED  
DESPITE ONE SENIOR PLAYER'S OBJECTIONS

# TEST AMID COVID CHAOS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Manchester/Kolkata, Sept 9:** All players of the Indian cricket team have tested negative for COVID-19, clearing the decks for the fifth and final Test against England to go ahead as scheduled from Friday despite objections of "one senior player" after assistant physio Yogesh Parmar's positive test triggered uncertainty.

The negative tests of all 21 players increased the chances of the match at Old Trafford going ahead even though concerns remain. India lead the series 2-1.

"All the players have tested negative and that's the good news. But let's keep our fingers crossed that the match would go ahead," a senior BCCI source told this agency Thursday.

BBC Test Match Special tweeted: "The ECB (England



and Wales Cricket Board) say that all the India players PCR COVID Tests have come back negative and the Old Trafford Test goes ahead as planned."

This was after it came to light late Thursday evening that the Indian contingent had gone into a huddle after the senior cricketer voiced his concerns about the situation becoming turn worse if a playing member tested positive on one of the match days.

It is learnt that ECB chairman Tom Harrison is trying to talk to the high-profile player and address his concerns. All the other members of the side are in favour of match



going ahead. If the situation reaches a dead-end as the player's family wants him to withdraw, then the BCCI might just politely ask him to rest for the game.

## JADEJA, BUMRAH ALL SET TO BE RESTED

It is learnt that if the Test match goes ahead as per schedule, then pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, having bowled 151 overs, will be rested and Mohammed Shami, as re-

ported by this agency, will take his place.

In another development, Ravichandran Ashwin could finally get his first game of the series as Ravindra Jadeja is suffering from a leg strain.

If the reluctant senior player decides to sit out then Suryakumar Yadav or Hanuma Vihari might get into the playing XI.

Earlier, Parmar's positive COVID-19 report had prompted BCCI president Sourav Ganguly to admit that there was uncertainty around the Test.

After head coach Ravi Shastri and bowling coach Bharath Arun, another member of the support staff testing positive forced the team to cancel its practice session on Thursday.

"We don't know if match will happen at the moment. Hopefully we can get some game," said Ganguly at the book launch of 'Mission Domination' in Kolkata as a part of Tata Literature Festival.

There was speculation that the ECB proposed that India forfeit the match in

case reports of the players come out positive. However, India had turned down the idea.

Parmar testing positive leaves the team without a physio with the main physio Nitin Patel already in isolation after Shastri contracted the virus during the Oval Test.

It is learnt that the BCCI has asked the ECB to spare a physio. Besides Shastri and Patel, fielding coach R Sridhar and Arun are also isolating in London. Only batting coach Vikram Rathour was with the team when it won the fourth Test at the Oval on day five.

All the players and the support staff are fully vaccinated but both teams are not operating in strict bubbles with life in UK almost back to normal.

Shastri is likely to have got the symptoms after attending the launch of his book in the team hotel where outside guests were also allowed. Arun, Patel and Sridhar attended that function in person.

## TEAM ENGLAND ALSO EXPECTING MATCH TO GO AHEAD

**MANCHESTER:** England vice-captain Jos Buttler Thursday said he expects the fifth and final Test against India to proceed as scheduled despite a fresh COVID-19 case in the visiting camp. England need to win the final Test, starting Friday, but fresh concerns arose when the Indian team's junior physio Yogesh Parmar tested positive for the virus on the eve of the match, resulting in cancellation of the side's practice session. Their head coach Ravi Shastri and bowling coach Bharath Arun have also contracted the infection and are in isolation in London. "I don't know too much, to be honest, at the moment. At present we are expecting the game to go ahead. Things are all fine in our camp. We are looking forward to the game," Buttler said during a media interaction when asked about the latest development. Buttler, who was on paternity leave during the Oval Test, said his team is all fired up to square the series, which India leads 2-1 at present.

## LAUDS DHONI'S APPOINTMENT

# Sunny hopes there is no clash with Shastri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 9:** Legendary batsman Sunil Gavaskar says while MS Dhoni's return to the Indian team as a mentor is a big boost for the side but if there are tactical differences between him and head coach Ravi Shastri during the T20 World Cup, it could have an adverse impact as well.

The 40-year-old Dhoni was Wednesday named as team mentor for the upcoming T20 World Cup in the UAE. "Dhoni's appointment as mentor will be a big boost for India. Under his leadership, India won 2011 World Cup and before that the 2007 T20 World Cup. He has so much experience, knows everything. There was nobody more destructive than Dhoni when he was playing," Gavaskar told 'Aaj Tak' channel.

"But if there are disagreements between Ravi and Dhoni over tactics and team selection, then that may have effect on the team. I am just praying there is no clash (between them). But if Ravi and Dhoni can get on the same wave length, then it will immensely benefit India."

He cited an example how his appointment as a consultant for India in 2004 had created insecurity in the mind of then head coach John Wright.

"I was made consultant of the team in 2004, that is the current term for mentor. John Wright was nervous, he probably thought I was going to take his place," said the former captain. "But it is different here in this case, Ravi knows that Dhoni has no interest in coaching." Asked if Dhoni agreeing to mentorship could be an indication from Dhoni that he may take up the coach's job in future, Gavaskar said he can do so after two or three years.

"There is no problem for becoming a mentor but I have been saying that for a former player to become a selector or a coach there should be a cooling off period of two or three years from his retirement. "You were part of the dressing

## Conflict of Interest complaint against MSD appointment



**NEW DELHI:** The BCCI apex council Thursday received a complaint against former captain MS Dhoni's appointment as the Indian team's mentor for the T20 World Cup, citing the conflict of interest clause in the Lodha Committee reforms. Former Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association life member Sanjeev Gupta, who has previously filed a series of Conflict of interest complaints against players and administrators, has sent a letter to the apex council members that Dhoni's appointment is a violation of the Conflict of Interest clause, under which one person cannot hold two posts. Dhoni is also captain of Chennai Super Kings IPL franchise. "Yes, Gupta has sent a letter to apex council members including Sourav (Ganguly) and Jay (Shah). He has cited clause 38 (4) of the BCCI constitution which loosely states that one person cannot be holding two separate posts. The Apex Council will need to consult its legal team to check the ramifications," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity. It is understood that Dhoni being a player in one team and mentor in another raises questions for which clarity is needed.

room where there could be disagreements and arguments and you can do something against a player whom you perceived was against you," he reasoned. "So if Dhoni wants to be a coach, it would be good for him to do that after two or three years."

**Dhoni's addition to the side is to use his experience for the T20 WC. I also thank Dhoni for accepting BCCI's offer to help the team for this tournament**

SOURAV GANGULY | BCCI PRESIDENT

## Pramod meets Sachin

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 9:** The Paralympic gold medallist shuttler Pramod Bhagat met Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar Wednesday at the latter's residence in Mumbai. The Odisha superstar termed this meeting a 'dream come true' moment.

Pramod had a lengthy conversation on the sport, his experiences and the Tokyo Paralympics. He gifted his racquet, the one which he used in the final of the Tokyo Paralympics, to Sachin while the 'Master Blaster' gifted the para shuttler an autographed T-shirt and his autobiography book. "Childhood dream comes true," wrote Pramod in his Instagram post. "I can't believe how happy I am. As a kid I took inspiration from Sachin Sir for always being positive and motivated."

"I always imagined I would get a chance one day to meet you. I also wished that day should come post

the biggest achievement of my life and God aligned all the stars for me.

"I won Paralympics gold. The joy of medal hadn't even settles that I got a chance to meet you. I was falling short of words at start as I couldn't believe I was sitting next to you. Your kindness is heart-touching.

"The words you spoke to me will stay with me forever and keep inspiring me for life. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I will be sleepless tonight (Wednesday)," wrote Pramod.

In response, Sachin, in a post in Twitter, wrote: "Even I was delighted to meet you, Pramod. It pleased me to know about your childhood. What you did for your country at the Paralympics is a very big achievement."

"You are a source of inspiration for the entire world, not only for India. Continue shining our country's reputation in a similar fashion in the future!"



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**New York, Sept 9:** When Emma Raducanu got to Flushing Meadows to try to win her way through qualifying and earn what would be a berth in her second Grand Slam tournament, she was not planning on a particularly long stay.

Look at her now, two weeks into this adventure: The 18-year-old from Britain is the first qualifier in the professional era to reach the US Open semifinals. And she hasn't even dropped a set yet.

"My flights were booked at the end of qualifying," Raducanu said with a chuckle Wednesday, "so it's a nice problem to have."

Showing off the shots and poise of someone much more experienced, the 150th-ranked Raducanu became the second unseeded teen in two days to secure a spot in the final four, eliminating Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Belinda Bencic 6-3, 6-4 in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Not bad for someone ranked outside the top 350 in June after going about 1 1/2 years without a match — in part because of the coronavirus pandemic, in part because her parents wanted her to finish high school.

"I'm not here to chase any records

This is no dream! Emma Raducanu laughs in disbelief after beating Belinda Bencic to seal a semifinal berth



right now," said Raducanu, only the third woman not ranked in the top 100 to make it this far at the US Open and only the fourth qualifier to advance to the semifinals at any major tournament since the Open era began in 1968.

Raducanu has won all 16 sets she has contested through eight

matches in New York — three during the qualifying rounds and another five in the main draw. On Thursday, she will face No.17 seed Maria Sakkari of Greece, a semifinalist at this year's French Open.

Sakkari won 22 consecutive points she served in one stretch and beat No.4 Karolina Pliskova, a

two-time major runner-up, 6-4, 6-4 Wednesday night to follow up her victory over 2019 US Open champion Bianca Andreescu in the previous round.

The other women's semifinal will be 19-year-old Leylah Fernandez of Canada against No.2 seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus.

In the men's quarterfinals Wednesday, Olympic champion and 2020 US Open runner-up Alexander Zverev stretched his winning streak to 16 matches with a 7-6(8-6), 6-3, 6-4 victory over unseeded Lloyd Harris.

His second consecutive U.S. Open semifinal will come against No.1 Novak Djokovic, who is bidding for the first calendar-year Grand Slam by a man since Rod Laver in 1969 and moved two wins away by defeating No.6 Matteo Berrettini 5-7, 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 in the quarterfinals.

Raducanu made her Grand Slam debut at Wimbledon thanks to a wild-card invitation and she made it to the fourth round before stopping during that match when she had trouble breathing.

That tournament allowed the world to begin to get familiar with her style of crisp, clean tennis, managing to attack early in points from the baseline without sacrificing accuracy.

## INDIA TO TOUR SA IN DEC-JAN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Johannesburg, Sept 9:** India will tour South Africa for an all-format series in December-January, Cricket South Africa (CSA) said Thursday. According to the itinerary announced by CSA, India is set to play three Test matches, as many ODIs and four T20Is during the tour.

Two Tests are scheduled in Johannesburg from December 17 to 21 and January 3 to 7, while Centurion will host the second Test from December 26 to 30. The three-match Test series will be part of the World Test Championship.

The Test matches will be followed by three ODIs and four T20Is to be played in Cape Town and Paarl. South Africa's home season from November 2021 to April 2022 will also feature series against Netherlands and Bangladesh for the men and a white-ball series against West Indies for the women.

"It is probably the most congested home summer we have ever had. It is wonderful in these challenging times that there will such high-quality cricket being played on our shores," said CSA Director of Cricket Graeme Smith.

# Odisha FC rope in Brazilian forward Jonathas

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 9:** Indian Super League (ISL) franchise Odisha FC Thursday announced the signing of experienced Brazilian forward Jonathas Cristian de Jesus ahead of the upcoming ISL season.

The 32-year-old Jonathas has played in various leagues in countries like Brazil — his home country, Netherlands, Spain, Italy and Germany. He started his professional career with Brazilian club Cruzeiro in 2006 after playing for their youth team. He had also represented Ipatinga and Villa Nova

on loan in Brazil before signing for Dutch club AZ in 2009.

The experienced striker has played in the Serie A, La Liga and Bundesliga in Europe and represented clubs like Pescara, Torino, Elche, Real Sociedad, Hannover 96 among others and has more than 100 career goals to his name.

Before joining the Bhubaneswar-based side, he was with UAE Pro League club Sharjah FC and played for Hatta Club on loan in 2021. Jonathas had also donned the Brazil U-19 colours during Sendai Cup in 2008.

"I am very excited for this new challenge in my career. The proj-

ect that Odisha FC showed me had a big impact on my decision. I am looking forward to play in the ISL and achieve greater things with Odisha FC," Jonathas said in a release from Odisha FC.

Odisha FC head coach Kiko Ramirez said, "Jonathas has to be our goal scorer. He will give us work inside the pitch and he will make it very difficult for opposing defenders. In addition, he comes to the club with a lot of hunger and motivation to make a big impact in the ISL. Apart from his great character, he has a lot of quality, he is good in the air and he can create chances on his own."

