



SHRADDHA GETS TROLLED

Actor Shraddha Kapoor was trolled on social media for ignoring a poor man who approached her for alms

LEISURE

P2



TWO DECADES OF 9/11

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the devastating events of Sept 11, 2001 that shook the US

SPECIAL

P10



5TH TEST CANCELLED

In an unprecedented turn of events, Covid-19 forces cancellation of India-England 5th Test

SPORTS

P12

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 162 | www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 | 2021

12 PAGES | ₹5.00



July industrial output zooms 11.5%

NEW DELHI: India's industrial production rose 11.5 per cent in July, according to official data released Friday. As per the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector's output surged 10.5 per cent in July 2021. In July, the mining output climbed 19.5 per cent and power generation increased 11.1 per cent. The IIP had contracted 10.5 per cent in July 2020. During April-July this year, the IIP grew 34.1 per cent.

P11



Nuakhai fervour grips western Odisha

Sambalpur: Amid Covid restrictions and fears of drought, there is an air of festivity and gaiety across western Odisha. The stage is all set for the famous agrarian festival Nuakhai, which will be celebrated with traditional fervour and gaiety Friday. Chief priest of Samaleswari Ambika Prasad Ray offered vermilion and castor oil to Goddess Samaleswari and side deities Friday amid chanting of mantras. On this auspicious day, the presiding deities 'Maa Samaleswari' in Sambalpur, 'Manikeswari' in Kalahandi and other deities are offered 'Navanna'.

P5

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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Mumbai woman raped, brutalised like 'Nirbhaya'

MUMBAI: In an incident reminding of the heartrending 2012 'Nirbhaya' case, a 34-year-old woman was raped and brutally assaulted inside a stationary tempo in suburban Sakinaka and her condition was stated to be serious, police said Friday.

Mohan Chouhan, 45, the accused, was arrested within a few hours of the incident, said an official. The police control room received a call in the early hours of Friday that a man was thrashing a woman on Khairani Road, he said.

A police team rushed to the spot to find a woman lying in a pool of blood. She was taken to the civic-run Rajawadi hospital, the official said. As per the preliminary probe, she had been raped and also assaulted with an iron rod in her private parts, he said, adding that the incident had taken place inside a tempo parked on the roadside.

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	33.1°C	33.4°C
TEMP MIN	25.6°C	25.2°C
Humidity	81%	76%
Rainfall	Trace	Nil
Forecast		
Light rain very likely		

Taliban takeover could fuel terror plots: MI5

■ MI5 Director General Ken McCallum flagged concerns that UK could face more risk because of the withdrawal of NATO troops and overthrow of the internationally backed Afghanistan government

AGENCIES

London, Sept 10: The Taliban takeover in Afghanistan has "emboldened" the extremists and could lead to the return of major "al-Qaida-style" attack plots against the West, the head of Britain's domestic intelligence agency said Friday.

MI5 Director General Ken McCallum said the UK could face "more risk" because of the withdrawal of NATO troops and the overthrow of the internationally backed Afghan government.

"Terrorist threats tend not to change overnight in the sense of directed plotting or training camps or infrastructure — the sorts of things that al Qaida enjoyed in Afghanistan at the time of 9/11," McCallum told the BBC in a rare interview. "But what does happen overnight, even though those directed plots and centrally organised bits of terrorism take a bit longer to

rebuild ... Overnight, you can have a psychological boost, a morale boost to extremists already here, or in other countries. "So we need to be vigilant both for the increase in inspired terrorism which has become a real trend for us to deal with over the last five to 10 years, alongside the potential regrowth of al-Qaida-style directed plots."

Britain has seen several violent attacks by Islamist-inspired extremists in the past two decades. The deadliest was July 7, 2005, when four suicide bombers killed 52 commuters on London subway trains and a bus.

More recent knife and vehicle attacks have largely been the work of individuals inspired by militants such as the Islamic State group, but not directed by them.

McCallum said UK authorities had disrupted 31 attack plots in the past four years, by both Islamic and far-right extremists. He said it

was hard to say whether Britain was safer or less safe, 20 years after the September 11 attacks in the United States.

'Taliban should stick to its commitment'

UNITED NATIONS: Terming the situation in Afghanistan as "very fragile", India has said it is important that the Taliban adheres to its commitment to not allow the use of Afghan soil for terrorism, including from terror groups designated under Security Council resolution 1267 that lists Pakistan-based outfits Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti said at the UN Security Council Debate on Afghanistan Thursday that as Afghanistan's neighbour, India is privileged to preside over the adoption of a substantial and forward-looking product of the Council during its presidency of the 15-nation UN body last month.

Pak: Isolating Af will have serious consequences

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi Friday urged the international community to adopt a 'new positive approach' towards Afghanistan, warning that isolating the country will have "serious consequences" for the Afghan people, the region and the world at large. Qureshi made the comments during a joint presser along with Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares, who arrived in Islamabad Friday to discuss the latest Afghan situation. He also said Pakistan is contributing towards the improvement of the situation in Afghanistan and sent an aircraft

September 9 with food and medicine supplies and promised to extend more humanitarian assistance through air and land routes.



PROUD MOMENT

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik felicitates shuttler Pramod Bhagat, who bagged gold medal at Tokyo Paralympics recently **(REPORT ON P3)**

OP PHOTO

₹13,753cr UCs pending with Panchayati Raj dept: CAG

■ Since non-submission of UCs is fraught with the risk of misappropriation, it is imperative that the state govt should monitor this aspect closely, the CAG observed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: The latest report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) on the state finances for FY 2019-20 took a dig at several departments which floundered in furnishing details of the usage of funds allocated to them.

The audit report claimed that several departments failed to submit utilisation certificates (UCs) to the government raising doubts

about assurance of funds for these departments.

The CAG report claimed that the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department failed to submit UCs to the tune of ₹13,753.25 crore. The department had been entrusted with the task of handling works like rural housing schemes and drinking water projects.

About defaulting nature of the departments, the CAG report said that besides the Panchayati Raj department and several other key departments also faulted on the issue, "Five major defaulting departments that had not submitted UCs are: Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water (₹13,753.25 crore), Housing and Urban Development (₹6,463.83 crore), Planning and Convergence (₹2,963.17 crore), School and Mass Education

(₹2,961.14 crore) and Health and Family Welfare (₹2,553.17 crore)," the audit report said.

The audit report claimed that non-submission of the UCs meant that there were administrative failures and authorities failed to explain as to how funds were spent over the years.

"There is also no assurance that the intended objectives of providing these funds have been achieved. Since non-submission of UCs is fraught with the risk of misappropriation, it is imperative that the state government should monitor this aspect closely and hold the persons accountable to submission of UCs in a timely manner," the CAG report said.

UCs for an amount aggregating ₹36,193.89 crore remained outstanding against 36 departments.

No outdoor festivities; idol height fixed at 4ft

■ In view of relentless reporting of Covid-19 cases, the SRC has imposed restrictions and urged people not to lower guards against the pandemic

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Pradeep Kumar Jena Friday said that the government has decided to continue with the restrictions being imposed during festivals including the ones regarding congregation of people near pandals and idol height.

This comes at a time when a series of festivals would be celebrated this month and next month starting from Nuakhai to Durga Puja.

The SRC said that Covid-appropriate behaviour like 6-feet distance, masks and others would continue to be enforced during the festivals



while the idol height would also be fixed at maximum 4 feet as decided earlier.

"We have decided to allow the people to celebrate the festivals in a low-key manner keeping in view the pandemic. The restrictions on height of idols at puja pandals would continue as usual with the maximum ceiling of 4 feet," he said.

He also urged the people not to lower guards when the state has been reporting cases of Covid-19 every day.

"The state is reporting 600 to 1,000 cases of Covid-19 daily. We cannot say that the second wave is over yet. Thus we need to continue with the precautions we have been taking to prevent the spread of the disease," he said.

The official also requested the people to abstain from taking steps which can lead to more congregations in and around temples in the wake

of lined-up festivals during the next few days.

As per the norms shared by SRC, congregations would not be allowed during celebrations of Ganesh Puja, Durga Puja, Laxmi Puja, Kali Puja and other festivals in the state. The puja committees, however, were allowed to conduct the rituals in compliance with Covid-19 protocols with due permission from the police.

The SRC claimed that the pujas should be done only indoors without public participation while public address systems have also been barred.

Presence of more than seven persons at puja pandals has been barred. The new order also claimed that the processions for idol immersion would not be allowed. Community feast has also been barred by the government in its latest order for the festivities.

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ARIES

All eyes may be on you today – for your looks, skills, or even your funky bag! Make hay while the sun shines, and charge your batteries with all that attention. You can get some decent work done with that energy, says Ganesha.

TAURUS

This day you will be inclined to act tough and pick up a fight with everyone whom you are likely to encounter, warns Ganesha. Those who know you well will be at a loss to make anything out of your belligerent attitude and may not be able to keep up with you for too long. You'll simply be making a lot of enemies, alienating a lot of good friends.

GEMINI

You will be in the mood to pursue your heart's many desires today. You will want to spend more time with your family and your children. You need to translate desires into action by better balancing your schedule, says Ganesha.

CANCER

You will have enthusiasm for swift action. Variety adds spice to life. So you may change job or trade. Ties with superiors will be good. Ganesha says this is the time for challenges.

LEO

It is a good day to renew old acquaintances and make new relationships. Your friends and relatives will probably visit you today. A jovial feeling will pervade your home. You may throw a grand party for your guests, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

A medley of good and bad awaits you today. Emotional people will find you immature and inconsistent. But your bag o' jokes is never empty, and you remain the jester as always. Ganesha advises you to meditate and engage in spiritually rich activities to channel and focus all your talents.

LIBRA

There is no end to work, so buckle up, as it is highly probable that work pressure will take up most of your time today. This leaves precious little for your family, but as always, they fully understand. Ganesha expects you to be both hard-working and conscientious today. You may also launch a new business scheme, especially if you are self-employed.

SCORPIO

Relationships are the crux of life. It's very important how you make your near and dear ones feel when you are around. Make someone feel special today. Try to sort out misunderstandings if any. Don't dominate your friends or family members, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Pack your bags today for a long business trip, which will bear rich fruits. Be ready to pick up important business pointers and learn your way into your trade. Ganesha predicts pleasant surprises in store later in the day.

CAPRICORN

Everything you do today will be driven by the desire to meet the expectations of your family members, says Ganesha. For those of you pursuing studies, pending projects will finally get completed, and you will look forward to taking up new assignments. Giving free rein to your imagination will help you excel in areas of your interest, but don't go overboard or else you may lose touch with reality.

AQUARIUS

God helps those who help themselves. You have experienced this plenty of times as your efforts have been paid off. While your colleagues at work may pass negative comments at your work, your boss will not have any complaints with you. For investments purposes, real estate and construction seem to be a wise option, suggests Ganesha.

PISCES

You will be able to come up trumps against the competition today. You should be wary of hidden enemies, for they might be involved in slandering you. It is best to reach out to others and make friends before they take it upon themselves to hinder your progress. Apart from this, no other significant event is indicated today, says Ganesha.

R&B STAR CHLOE'S DEBUT SONG 'HAVE MERCY' OUT

Chloe Bailey, of the R&B sister duo Chloe & Halle, released her debut solo single *Have Mercy* Friday. Chloe took to her Instagram page and shared the release announcement with a glimpse of the music video.

KORN GUITARIST JAMES 'MUNKY' SHAFFER TESTS COVID+VE

Nu metal band Korn's co-founder and guitarist James 'Munky' Shaffer has tested positive for Covid-19 and will not play at their upcoming shows, the band announced on their Insta page Thursday night. He is doing OK, but the tour is going on as scheduled despite these circumstances.

Preity gets nostalgic as *Salaam Namaste* clocks 16 years

Preity Zinta Friday marked 16 years anniversary of one of her much-loved cult-classic *Salaam Namaste*, also starring Saif Ali Khan in the lead role. Taking to her Instagram handle, Preity shared a video featuring a few of the memorable shots of the film. She also added the popular track from the film *My Dil Goes hmmm* in the background score of the video clip.

Sharing the clip, Preity wrote, "*Salaam Namaste* turns 16 today and *my dil is still going Hmmm*."

Fans of the film flooded the comments section with a string of emoticons and heartfelt messages.

"One of the best movies of that time....," one fan wrote.

Another wrote, "I still remember me driving listening to this song ...my dil goes hmmm."

"I was in class 7 when this movie was released. I used to have cassette of this movie full songs playing in my car daily," a social media user wrote in the comments section.

The romantic comedy which marked filmmaker Siddharth Anand's first directorial project was well-received by the moviegoers upon its release in 2005.

Produced by Aditya Chopra and Yash Chopra under the Yash Raj Films banner, the film stars Saif Ali Khan as Nikhil and Preity Zinta as Ambar in the lead roles. Jaaved Jaffrey, Arshad Warsi, Tania Zaetta and Jugal Hansraj appear in supporting roles. The film revolves around two young Indians Nikhil and Ambar, living in Australia, and their decision to move in together without marriage. They part ways when Ambar gets pregnant.

IAN S

RANA ON SHARING SCREEN WITH PAWAN KALYAN

Hyderabad: Actor Rana Daggubati will soon be seen sharing screen space with renowned Telugu star and politician Pawan Kalyan in their project *Bheemla Nayak*. While Rana's look is still kept under wraps, he is excited to work with Pawan.

Bheemla Nayak is the Telugu remake of Malayalam film *Ayyappayum Koshiyam*, in which Pawan will be seen playing the titular character, who is a cop.

Talking about working with Pawan Kalyan, the actor said: "Getting an opportunity to work with the power star Pawan Kalyan has truly been wonderful and I'm grateful to be sharing screen space with him in a film of such a grand scale. Now that the shoots have started in full force, I'm all geared up for the movies."

Besides this Rana is also awaiting the release of his film *Virataparvam*.

He says all his projects are truly exciting. "All these stories are very exciting and have appealed to me on various levels. I'm truly excited to be a part of these interesting projects," he says.

IAN S

Manju Warriar announces Indo-Arab film

Thiruvananthapuram: Popular Malayalam actress Manju Warriar celebrated her 43rd birthday by announcing on Facebook that she's all set to roll out what she describes as the 'first-ever commercial film' to be released simultaneously in Malayalam and Arabic. The film is titled *Ayisha*.

In her Facebook statement, Warriar said: "Looking forward to this exciting journey with Aamir, Zakariya and the entire super-cool team! Stay tuned in for more updates."

According to its director Aamir, the film will see Arabic actors and will be launched later this year from Qatar. It will be shot partly in other countries as well in the Middle East. Warriar will play the lead role.

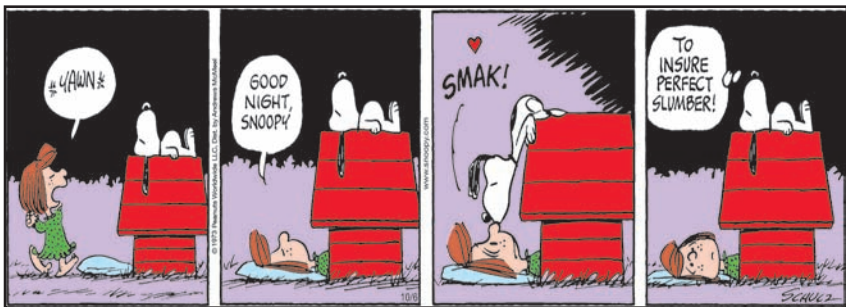
Sharing her joy, young star Dulquer Salmaan wrote on his Facebook page, "Many many happy

returns of the day, Manju 'chechi'. This poster of *Ayisha* looks fun and colourful, much like you. All the best to you, director Aamir Pallickal and the entire team behind this project."

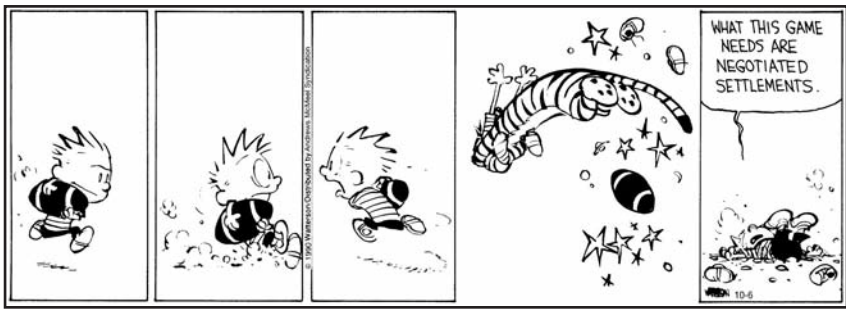
Warriar was in her prime when she quit acting after getting married to actor Dileep in 1998. The two separated and she returned to the silver screen in 2014. Since then, she has been busy, appearing in a number of films and signing up more.

IAN S

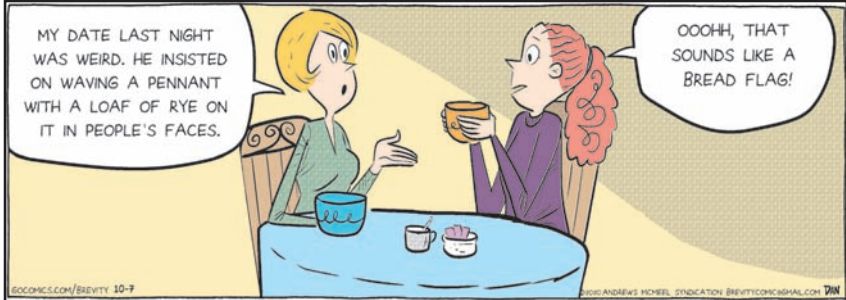
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

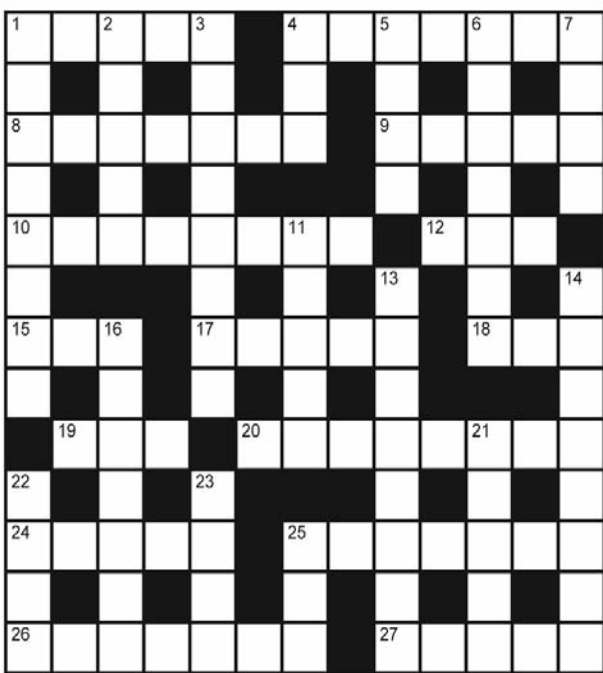


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Bashful
- 4 Defraud
- 8 Tackle
- 9 Spherical
- 10 Kid's winter wear
- 12 Feathery wrap
- 15 Rascal
- 17 Hopping mad
- 18 Health resort
- 19 Canny
- 20 Blood feud

Down

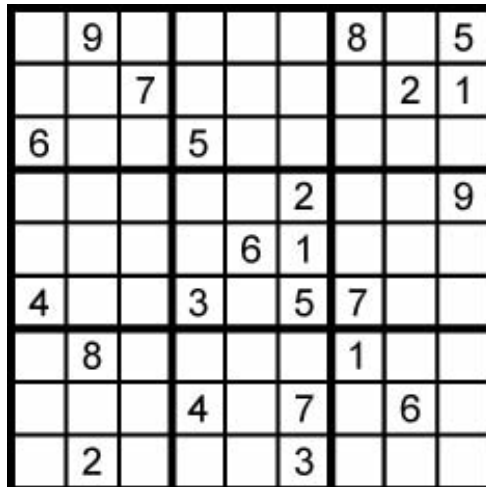
- 1 Send
- 2 Words to remember
- 3 Housekeeper
- 4 Lush
- 24 Spiralled-horned antelope
- 25 Pungent herb
- 26 Lizard type
- 27 Colossus

- 5 Like some wills
- 6 Questionable
- 7 Icelandic epic
- 11 Fatuous
- 13 Draw (4,4)
- 14 Chewy cookie
- 16 Champion
- 21 Breakfast bread
- 22 Unguent
- 23 Door sign
- 25 Paddle

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



HANUMAN TEMPLE DEMOLITION

NGT directs Cuttack DM to clear debris from Mahanadi basin



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 10: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed Cuttack district administration to clear the debris of the Panchmukhi Hanuman Temple from Mahanadi river bed. The temple was demolished September 2 following an order from the tribunal.

A bench of NGT, comprising Judicial Member B Amit Sthalekar and Expert Member Saibal Dasgupta, has asked the Cuttack District Magistrate-cum-Collector to clear the debris from the riverbed and file a compliance affidavit by September 13 which is the next date of hearing.

During the hearing, advocate Shankar Prasad Pani said that the construction and demolition waste

are still lying in the river bench which needs to be cleaned for free flow of the river and for the restoration of the bank to its original character.

“Since the eviction operation has been carried out and the temple structure has been demolished, it would be futile to keep this application pending any longer. We, therefore, dismiss this application as having become infractions but with a specific direction to the Collector-cum-District Magistrate, Cuttack to ensure that the waste is removed before the next hearing and the river bed is restored to its original sight,” the NGT said.

Earlier, the Supreme Court had dismissed an appeal by the temple trust against the order of the NGT wherein the tribunal had directed the demolition of the temple.

12 held for using fake RT-PCR –ve report in Puri

AGENCIES

Puri, Sept 10: Puri police Friday arrested 12 persons, including 4 masterminds, for trying to enter Srimandir furnishing fake RT-PCR negative reports.

According to Puri Superintendent of Police K Vishal Singh, two criminal cases were registered at Simhadwar police station and one in Kumbharpada police station under sections 465, 471, 120(B) and 34 IPC.

The Police seized computers used in preparing fake reports

and a number of incriminating documents. A number of people are absconding. The arrests include two devotees from Madhya Pradesh, one from Chhattisgarh and another from Angul. Besides, four persons who aided the malpractice by providing them fake reports have also been arrested.

Police urged the devotees coming for darshan of Lord Jagannath not to indulge in malpractices to enter the temple. It has been made mandatory for the devotees, intending to enter the 12th century

Con-woman held in City for duping youths

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: The Commissionerate police Friday arrested a con-woman who reportedly duped many persons of lakhs of rupees using fake social media accounts. The lady has been identified as Priyanka Priyadrasini Parida.

According to sources, Parida used to open fake accounts on various social media platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp using the images of other 'attractive and beautiful' ladies as profile pictures. She would later send friend requests to different persons, especially youths having good professional background.

She used to identify herself as an educated woman like doctor or engineer. Subsequently, she would demand money from her targets weaving false tales related to some financial and medical emergencies.

Police during the course of investigation came to know that Parida had earlier duped several others too. Sources claimed that she was cheating another youth of Rs 2.50 lakh following the same modus operandi.

The cops have managed to recover Rs 1.50 lakh from Parida's possession. She was Friday sent to judicial custody after rejection of her bail plea by court here.

FELICITATION CEREMONY



Olympians from Odisha Birendra Lakra, Amit Rohidas, Namita Toppo and Deep Grace Ekka (not in the pic) being felicitated by Jay Bharat Foundation at Ramdaspur near Cuttack, Friday

Lopar to trigger downpour: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Odisha may receive very heavy rainfall over the next few days as the meteorological department said Friday that a low-pressure area would likely form in the next 24 hours.

A cyclonic circulation lies over the east-central Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood, and extends up to 7.6 km above mean sea level, Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said in a release.

Under its influence, a low-pressure area is likely to form over central Bay of Bengal during the next 24 hours. It is very likely to move west-northwestwards and concentrate into a depression during the subsequent 48 hours, it said.

Widespread light to moderate rain, isolated heavy to very heavy downpour, and extremely heavy falls at one or two places are likely Sunday and Monday over the state, the Met department said.

It may help the agriculture activity, but may as well cause temporary waterlogging in low-lying areas and traffic disruption in urban areas, it added.

Light to moderate rain has occurred at many places over the districts of south Odisha and at a



few places in north Odisha over the past 24 hours, the bulletin stated while forecasting heavy rainfall at isolated places in Gajapati, Ganjam, Malkangiri, Koraput, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara districts Saturday.

The weatherman issued an orange warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall in Puri, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Bhadrak and Jajpur for Sunday. It also suggested the administration to keep arrangements in place for drainage of excess water.

On Monday, heavy to very heavy

rainfall and isolated extremely heavy showers are very likely to occur in Bolangir, Sonepur, Boudh, Angul, Sambalpur, Bargarh and Deogarh districts, it said, warning of the possibility of damage to kutchra roads.

Squally weather with wind speeds reaching 45-55 kmph and gusting up to 65 kmph is probable along and off the coast from Monday to next Tuesday. Fisherfolks have been advised not to venture into the sea during the period. Those in deep sea area have been advised to return to the coast by Saturday night.

Library-cum-waiting hall inaugurated at DCP office

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Visitors coming to the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) at Vani Vihar square can now relish good books in order to get rid of the agonising waiting hours, thanks to the opening of a library-cum-waiting room here Friday.

The SAI International School group helped in setting up of the library and waiting hall in the premises of DCP office.

While inaugurating the hall, Police Commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi said, “People coming to the DCP grievance cell and Executive Magistrate's court have to wait



for hours every day. So, there was an urgent need for a wait-

ing hall at the spot.” Saumendra also informed the

The SAI International School group helped in setting up of the library and waiting hall in the premises of DCP office

media that the library consists of more than 300 books and adequate furniture for the visitors to read comfortably while waiting for their turn in the court or meeting with DCP.

He also praised the authorities of the private educational group for helping to set up the library-cum-waiting hall.

New twist to suicide near Assembly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: The death of a 30-year-old man, who allegedly committed suicide by consuming pesticide while protesting denial of treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH), Cuttack, took a new turn Friday as the police in Jagatsinghpur district registered a case of murder in this connection.

The man had allegedly consumed pesticide and slit his wrist near the Assembly Wednesday and subsequently died, sparking a state-wide resentment over the alleged negligence on part of the health officials.

However, the deceased Dusmanta Das's mother Basanti Das, in her FIR at the Kujang Police Station in Jagatsinghpur, alleged that her son was killed and he did not commit suicide. “How can my son go to



Bhubaneswar when he was not able to walk? He was taken by some people to the state Capital and also given pesticide bottle to commit suicide,” she mentioned in her FIR.

The man had allegedly consumed pesticide and slit his wrist near the Assembly Wednesday and subsequently died

The deceased Dusmanta Das's mother Basanti Das, in her FIR at the Kujang Police Station in Jagatsinghpur, alleged that her son was killed and he did not commit suicide

The BJP demanded the state government to provide financial assistance of Rs 30 lakh to the deceased's 3-year-old daughter, Rs 20 lakh to his elderly parents and a job for his wife

Noting that negligence of treatment at the SCBMCH is not the lone factor behind her son's death, the mother demanded stern action against those who took Dusmanta to Bhubaneswar and let him die.

“We have registered a case under section 302 (murder) at the Kujang Police Station based on the complaint of the deceased person's mother,” Jagatsinghpur SP Akhileswar Singh told reporters. The SP said that the case will be transferred to the Commissionerate Police in Bhubaneswar where the incident occurred.

Meanwhile, the opposition BJP demanded a CBI probe into the death of Das. “There are several loose ends to Dusmanta's death case. Why did the police conduct his postmortem in the middle of the night and why did his funeral take place in a hurry at Puri instead of his village,” asked senior BJP leader Manmohan Samal.

The saffron party also demanded the state government to provide financial assistance of Rs 30 lakh to the deceased's 3-year-old daughter, Rs 20 lakh to his elderly parents and a job for his wife.

Vaishnaw flags off modern LHB coaches in Hirakhand Express

LHB COACHES ARE ANTI-TELESCOPIC, SAFER, LIGHTER, JERK-FREE AND MORE COMFORTABLE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw and Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan flagged off the new modern Linke-Hofmann-Busch (LHB) Rake of the 08445/08446 Bhubaneswar-Jagadaldpur-Bhubaneswar Hirakhand Express Friday evening through video conferencing from Rail Bhawan, New Delhi.

Addressing the participants of the event, Vaishnaw said, “Our vision is to make a wholesome transformation and not just incremental changes. Our Government is pursuing these projects on an express mode. Every year, about Rs 6,000 crore to Rs 7,000 crore are being sanctioned in the budget for the development of rail infrastructure in Odisha. This Union government is committed to provide better connectivity and amenities to our passengers.”

During his recent visit to Odisha, Vaishnaw had travelled with the passengers in Hirakhand Express and taken their feedback about the rail services. The express covers its journey of 784 kilometers from Bhubaneswar to Jagadaldpur having stoppages at 21 intermediate stations in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh under the East Coast Railway's (ECoR) jurisdiction.

Vaishnaw highlighted that the LHB coach in Hirakhand Express will provide better comfort and jerk free journey to the passengers with its bigger windows and



aesthetic modular interiors as added advantages. Railways have decided to run the train while replacing the currently running conventional coaches with the modern LHB coaches. LHB coaches are anti-telescopic, safer, lighter, jerk free and more comfortable. Replacement of the conventional ICF coaches with LHB coaches is being done in a phase wise manner from safety point of view.

The Hirakhand Express will now run with a load combination of 12 coaches as earlier i.e. one 2-tier AC, two 3-tier AC, four sleeper class, three second class seating and two guard cum luggage & divyangian coaches.

Bhubaneswar North MLA Susant Kumar Rout demanded that the Union government should take

steps towards starting the ‘Bhubaneswar New’ railway station in the North Bhubaneswar area. He also asked Vaishnaw to do more developmental work to make the Bhubaneswar railway station world class.

Bhubaneswar Central MLA Ananta Narayan Jena asked Vaishnaw to focus more on the railway projects in Odisha as the Minister belongs to the coastal state. Ananta opined that the Minister should do his best to focus on complete railway connectivity within the state. He also demanded immediate starting of more than 250 stations in the state which were put to temporary stoppage due to Covid-19. “All new trains of Odisha should have LHB coaches,” he added.

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Farmers to block NH-55, warn of boycotting polls

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 10: Farmers are up in arms over failure to get crop insurance in Sambalpur Friday. They accused the district administration of doing nothing to ensure they receive their crop insurance. Paddy crop was damaged in 2020 due to pest attacks and poor rainfall in five panchayats including Kayankunda, Lipinda, Gadaluisingh and Kesapalli. They alleged that farmers of other panchayats had received their insurance claims while their claims have remained unattended. In the joint survey reports made by the agriculture, revenue and statistics departments, names of affected farmers had found place, but their claims have not been considered till date, they alleged. “Nobody is listening to our plight when drought situation is at the

door,” they lamented. Farmers of four panchayats under Jujumara block have resolved to block NH-55 September 13. They also warned of boycotting the upcoming panchayat polls. “Leaders, politicians and ministers will not be allowed to enter villages. Officials cannot enter villages,” they fumed. They also alleged that the government and insurance company concerned have been exploiting farmers. Affected farmers had taken up the issue with the district administration earlier, seeking quick disposal of their claims. Farmers alleged that though they are frequenting the office for claims, no step is being taken. “We had taken loans from banks and raised paddy last year. We are in a fix about how to pay off loans after the crop failure last year,” they added.



Third planetarium work to start soon

IDCO signs an agreement with a construction agency to develop the infrastructure

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Sept 10: After much dillydallying, the administration has finally demarcated a patch of land for a planetarium-cum-science park at Bikrampur in Gopalpur area of Ganjam. Meanwhile, IDCO has signed an agreement with a construction agency to develop the planetarium. It was learnt that 8.48 acres of land has been identified in the presence of Kainsi tehsildar and Gopalpur revenue inspector for the ambitious project instead of 10 acres. The land has already been handed over to the science and technology department. However, there are still hiccups hampering the project. In a letter, the divisional head of the Berhampur IDCO has intimated the Collector about the land demarcation. The letter stated that a 100-ft approach road will be laid in front of the planetarium. A patch of land as wide as 30 ft-wide being used as a bus stop will be made part of the 100-ft road. Besides, an LT power line has passed through the area. The electric infrastructure will be shifted elsewhere. The work of the project has failed to take off as land demarcation by the administration was getting delayed. In the initial phase, the con-



struction agency has been assigned to raise the boundary wall of the planetarium. The divisional head of the Berhampur IDCO has requested the director of the Pathani Samanta Planetarium (Bhubaneswar) to visit the place and make suggestions for the project. This planetarium will be the state's third after Bhubaneswar and Sambalpur. The planetarium will help in creating awareness about astronomy, astrophysics and space science. Activities such as night sky viewing and audio-visual programmes and poster shows, display of astronomical devices for students as well as visitors will be organized. Notably, the first planetarium of the state was set up in Bhubaneswar in 1980. Following the demand from different parts of the state to set up more planetariums, the government inaugurated the state's second planetarium named Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Planetarium at Burla in Samablpur at a cost of nearly ₹15 crore.

Festive fervour grips western Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 10: Amid Covid restrictions and fears of drought, there is an air of festivity and gaiety across western Odisha. The stage is all set for the famous agrarian festival Nuakhai, which will be celebrated with traditional fervour and gaiety tomorrow. Chief priest of Samaleswari Ambika Prasad Ray offered sindoor and castor oil to Goddess Samaleswari and side deities Friday amid chanting of mantras. On the auspicious day, the presiding deities Maa Samaleswari in Sambalpur, Manikeswari in Kalahandi, Pataneswari in Bolangir, Sureshwari in Sonepur and Sekharbasini in Sundargarh are offered the ‘Navanna’ (rice cooked out of new grains of newly harvested paddy crop) as per ‘lagna’ (propitious moment) fixed by priests. This year, the ‘Navanna’ will be offered to Goddess Samaleswari and 104 other deities at 8 am Saturday morning. However, bhet ghat programmes have been banned by the administration this year due to the pandemic. Thousands of migrants have returned to the district to celebrate the festival. On the eve of the festival, market



Nuakhai is primarily an agrarian festival imbued with the rituals of the fertility cult. It is an occasion for people across western Odisha to express their gratitude to Mother Earth to sustain them and to invoke her blessings for better productivity in the coming agricultural season

places in Sambalpur town were thronged by people for purchase of

AT LORD’S SERVICE



Devotees, denied to visit famous Siddhivinayak peetha in Rangilunda block of Ganjam as part of Covid restrictions, offer puja materials for Lord Ganesh near a barricade on way to the shrine, OP PHOTO

Over 300 fake teachers work in Nayagarh dist

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Sept 10: A teacher identified as Jayanti Sahu, who served at Manikia Government UP School at Fategarh in Nayagrah district was found to have furnished fake certificates to grab the job. It came to the fore during an investigation launched by the police. The police had initiated the probe on the basis of a complaint lodged by Bhapur block education officer. Jayanti's case is a tip of the iceberg. As per the complaints received, there are 300 such teachers who have been appointed on the basis of forged certificates. The number of such teachers is more in blocks like Nayagarh, Odagaon, Nuagaon, Dasapalla and Ranapur. Many wonder how officials of the education department fail to detect these fake teachers despite routine verification of certificates. In another case, a teacher in Odagaon block is learnt to have two certificates in one academic year. After his father's voluntary retirement, Kartikeswar Panda was appointed as untrained teacher July 11 1989, only after he passed Plus II.

He again completed CT training after studying for two years (1990 and 1991) and had the certificate. At the same time, he completed his graduation from Utkal University in 1992. Here the question arises how a teacher could be able to have CT training and pursue his graduation simultaneously. And from where he managed to get two certificates to study? It suggests use of fake certificates. It has long been alleged that there are many such teachers in



Jayanti's case is a tip of the iceberg. As per the complaints received, there are 300 such teachers who have got appointments by furnishing fake certificates. The number of such teachers is more in blocks like Nayagarh, Odagaon, Nuagaon, Dasapalla and Ranapur

It is yet to be understood as to how these fake teachers are still in service as the certificate inspection drive is being carried out from time to time

In another case, a teacher in Odagaon block is learnt to have had two certificates in one academic year. After his father's voluntary retirement, Kartikeswar Panda was appointed as untrained teacher July 11, 1989, only after he passed Plus II

Odagaon and several other areas in the district. Meanwhile, 37 block education officers' salaries have been held up as they were not being able to submit reports about the fake teachers before the deadline. Of them, two BEOs are in Nayagarh district

₹518cr spent on Hirakud dam repair

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 10: The state government has spent over ₹518.14 crore towards maintenance and repairing of the Hirakud dam in Sambalpur, a report said. The matter came to the fore in a reply to a question from Rengali MLA Nauri Nayak by Water

Resources Minister Raghunandan Das in the State Assembly, Thursday. The minister said efforts are on to construct an additional spill-way of the dam for which the government has sanctioned ₹623 crore. A tender will be floated for the purpose and its work will start soon. A building will also be

constructed for the security personnel engaged at the dam. A sum of ₹11.70.21,000 for maintenance in 2018-19; ₹15.53.46,000 in 2019-20 and ₹21.5, 25,000 in 2020-21 were spent. Moreover, ₹30.75 crore has been spent till date in the current financial year so as to complete the work with in the deadline.

ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରିତ ବଜାର କମିଟି, ଅତାବିରା, ଜିଲ୍ଲା- ବରଗଡ଼

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THE MOTHER



Little time to lose

The 1985-batch IRS officer Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra has little time to settle into his seat after finally being confirmed as chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), three months after the extended tenure of his predecessor PC Mody ended. The biggest challenge for Mohapatra is to resolve the issues with the new income tax portal which has been facing continued glitches more than two months after it was launched with much fanfare. It's an embarrassment that the Finance Ministry would like to put behind it at the earliest. With the last date for filing IT returns approaching fast, there is little time to lose.

Apparently, Mohapatra's confirmation as chairman was pretty much along expected lines. He did not face a lot of competition. His only rival was his batchmate Anuja Sarangi who is currently member, administration at CBDT, but he had a clear edge.

Some have pointed out a curious detail that is missing in Mohapatra's appointment letter issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). By not defining the duration of his term, observers say that the government has indicated that Mohapatra may serve well beyond his retirement due in April next year. The precedent was set when his predecessors Mody and Sushil Chandra were retained as chairmen after their retirement on contract.

Haryana CM Khattar has his way

The tussle between Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Khattar and Home Minister Anil Vij is also being played out in the state bureaucracy. They have often clashed over policy as well as transfers and appointments of officers to key positions in the government. In the latest round of jousting, Khattar has overruled Vij and ordered the appointment of IPS officer Kala Ramchandran as Principal Secretary of Transport, a cadre post held by the IAS. Interestingly, this is in addition to being Additional Director General for crimes against women.

So, once again, the simmering IAS-IPS rivalry has been forced into the open. Vij, sources have told DKB, was opposed to appointing an IPS officer on a cadre post designated for IAS officers and had cited IAS cadre rules which required the state government to take prior approval of the Central government. Curiously, Khattar also ignored the advice of Chief Secretary Vijai Vardhan who too reportedly objected to naming non-cadre officers to cadre posts of the IAS.

Khattar is, however, used to having his way. He has earlier appointed nine IPS, IFoS and IRS officers to posts reserved for the IAS, which prodded the Centre to demand an explanation from the Haryana government. No one knows what became of that!

Kerala babus are overstretched

The situation couldn't be more ill-timed. Kerala is not just battling COVID-19 but also an acute shortage of IAS officers, especially in the secretary rank, leaving Chief Secretary VP Joy with an over stretched and stressed team just when he needs all hands on board.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has admitted that the government is functioning with only 62 per cent of the allotted strength of IAS officers and 52 per cent of the allotted strength of IPS officers. The situation is no better in the IFoS with only 62 per cent of the allotted 107 posts occupied.

While there are several factors responsible for the situation, including the natural increase in the number of posts over the years, informed sources have told DKB that the biggest reason is the sheer number of IAS officers who chose to leave on deputation to the Centre or their home state on inter-cadre deputation. Apparently, 22 IAS officers are currently on Central deputation while two are serving in their home states. Similarly, 23 IPS officers are on Central deputation while one is on inter-cadre deputation in his home state.

Kerala now has a mere 10 secretary-rank officers and 12 principal secretaries, who together are holding multiple portfolios. To make up for the deficit, the state government had, earlier this year, appointed additional and joint secretary rank officers to secretary-rank posts, but surely more can be done.

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

WISDOM CORNER

- “ Know thy self, know thy enemy. A thousand battles, a thousand victories.”
SUN TZU
- “ Most folks are as happy as they make up their minds to be.”
ABRAHAM LINCOLN
- “ Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.”
ALBERT EINSTEIN

WORDSWORTH

■ Paroemiological

The word is from Latin, in which language it appeared in the third century AD as a borrowing from Greek paroemia, a proverb. In 1639 John Clarke, the headmaster of Lincoln grammar school, published an early work on proverbs, from the works of Erasmus. He gave it the title Paroemiologia anglo-latina, Proverbs English and Latin. Many paroemiological collections, those relating to the study of proverbs, have been created since. It is a paroemiological commonplace (a proverb scholar's proverb) that proverbs and sentences are often difficult and sometimes very enigmatic indeed (Studies in Philology, Summer 2004). As it's comparatively easy to find examples, it's surprising that the recent revision of the letter P in the online Oxford English Dictionary doesn't feature paroemiological. However, it does have a number of close relatives, such as paroemiologist, a student of or an expert in proverbs and proverb lore, and paroemiology, the study itself, as well as paroemiographer, a collector of or writer on proverbs, and paroemia itself, an adage or proverb.

■ Pastinaceous

Something pastinaceous is like a parsnip. It's a very rare word in English: the OED has just the one citation for it, from Richard Tomlinson's 1657 translation of a Latin medical work by Jean de Renou, who is better known by the Latin version of his name, Renodaeus. The word derives from the Latin pastinaca, which could be the parsnip but often also referred to the carrot. Related words in that language are pastinare, to dig, pastinator, someone who prepares the ground for planting, and pastinum, a two-pronged digging fork or dibble, which probably lent its name to the vegetables because they so often formed forked roots in the ground. The Latin survives in the systematic name for the genus of the parsnip, Pastinaca, and in the archaic English pastinate, to dig or cultivate land. Parsnip itself came to us through French and at first was spelt passeneep, as though it were a kind of nep, Middle English for the turnip.

LOL

You're back again?

The Judge said to the defendant. "I thought I told you I never wanted

to see you in here again."
"Your Honour," the criminal said, "that's what I tried to tell the police, but they wouldn't listen."



Brahma Chellaney

THE US HAS
COME FULL
CIRCLE BY
CEDING
CONTROL OF
AFGHANISTAN
TO THE SAME
ORGANISATION
THAT GAVE
OSAMA BIN
LADEN THE BASE
FROM WHICH TO
PLOT THE 9/11
ATTACKS



Dilip Cherian

SPECTRUM VALUES

Are freedom and democracy delivering?



Bharat Jhunjhunwala

THE DOUBLESPEAK
OF THE UNITED
STATES BECOMES
CLEAR WHEN
WE EXAMINE THE
INDIVIDUAL
FREEDOMS
RELATING TO
THE PATENTS ACT
UNDER WTO

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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FOCUS 9/11 ANNIVERSARY

REBIRTH OF GLOBAL TERROR



Forgetting the lessons of 9/11 has effectively derailed the global war on terror. Putting it back on track, though a daunting challenge, is essential if the scourge of violent jihadism is not to become the defining crisis of this century

in Iraq this year.

The US has expended huge resources in its war on terror, waging counterterrorism operations in scores of countries. According to a recent report from Brown University's Costs of War project, America's post-9/11 wars, including efforts to secure its homeland, have cost about \$8 trillion and caused an estimated 900,000 deaths, including of civilians and humanitarian aid workers. But they have yielded no enduring results.

The main reason is that America has long forgotten the lessons of 9/11, including the need to shun the path of expediency. As a result, the politicisation of the war on terror has prevented a concerted ideological onslaught on violent jihadism.

Biden, for his part, is drawing specious distinctions between 'good' and 'bad' terrorists, in a bid to obscure both the significance of the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan and his administration's outreach to it. For example, he claims that 'ISIS-K terrorists' are 'sworn enemies of the Taliban' without acknowledging that the Taliban – like al-Qaeda and ISIS-K – are sworn enemies of

the free world. Likewise, Biden was quick to absolve the Taliban of responsibility for the recent terrorist bombing at Kabul airport by pinning the blame on ISIS-K, while Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the US is ready to work on 'counterterrorism' with the new regime in Kabul.

But the Taliban, al-Qaeda, and ISIS-K share a common ideology and commitment to violent jihad, with their members commingling and even moving from one group to another. As the Pentagon has acknowledged, the victorious Taliban have released thousands of ISIS-K prisoners. And according to a recent United Nations Security Council report, "the Taliban and Al-Qaida remain closely aligned."

Meanwhile, the State Department has sought to spin a myth by claiming that the Taliban and their special forces, the Haqqani Network, 'are separate entities.' In fact, the Taliban and the Haqqani Network are a wing of Pakistan's 'deep state.' The network's chief, Sirajuddin Haqqani, is a deputy leader of the Taliban. And the arrival in Kabul of the head of Pakistan's rogue Inter-Services Intelligence agency even

before the Taliban formed their government highlighted that the real victor in Afghanistan is Pakistan, which has virtually gained proxy control of its neighbour.

Yet, underscoring the geopolitics behind the war on terror, the Biden administration is unlikely to punish Pakistan, a 'major non-NATO ally,' for engineering America's humiliating rout in Afghanistan. Instead, it is relying on Pakistan and another long-time sponsor of jihadists, Qatar, to establish a relationship with the theocratic dictatorship in Kabul.

The US has come full circle by ceding control of Afghanistan to the same organisation that gave Osama bin Laden the base from which to plot the 9/11 attacks. Those attacks resulted from America's troubling ties with Islamist groups since the 1980s, when President Ronald Reagan used Islam as an ideological tool to encourage armed resistance to the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Bin Laden and other al-Qaeda leaders, including the Haqqani Network's founder, cut their teeth in that CIA-run covert war. Another veteran of that war now heads the Taliban regime – Muhammad Hassan Akhund, a UN-listed terrorist and architect of the 2001 demolition of the monumental Buddhas of Bamiyan.

But within a decade of 9/11, the US returned to training jihadists and funneling lethal arms to them in regime-change wars, such as in Syria and Libya, with the CIA's \$1 billion secret war to topple Syrian President Bashar al-Assad resulting in the rise of ISIS. And it bankrolled a renegade Pakistan as it sheltered the Taliban's command-and-control network.

Forgetting the lessons of 9/11 has effectively derailed the global war on terror. Putting it back on track, though a daunting challenge, is essential if the scourge of violent jihadism is not to become the defining crisis of this century.

The writer is Professor of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research and Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin.
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The Taliban are being criticised by Western and Indian media because they do not honour the international values of individual freedom and democracy. Undoubtedly, the Taliban have behaved cruelly with their opponents and women in the past and continue to do so today. But the record of other non-democratic countries is different. A 2020 report of Edelman Trust of the United States says that 90 per cent of Chinese people had trust in their non-democratic government. In comparison, 81 per cent of people in India and only 39 per cent in the US had trust in their democratic governments. Another study done by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance at the Harvard University said that 61 per cent of the Chinese people considered their local governance to be kind towards the ordinary people in 2011. This increased to 74 per cent in 2016. It is clear that people are more satisfied with their Chinese non-democratic government than American and Indian democratic governments. Furthermore, allies of the US like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and its opponents like North Korea and

China do not honour individual freedom and democracy. Therefore, we need to examine whether honouring these values is the only path to people's welfare?

There is no gainsaying that the purpose of individual freedom and democracy is people's welfare. The doublespeak of the US becomes clear when we examine the individual freedoms relating to the Patents Act under the World Trade Organisation (WTO). It is clear that people can secure their economic welfare by using new technologies. The welfare of a homeowner is enhanced by using a pressure cooker instead of a pan. Due to such technological innovations, improvements in people's welfare have been taking place for centuries – without patents being given. The printing press was innovated about 500 years ago for which no patent was granted. That technology was copied freely and people secured their welfare by printing papers and books in larger numbers. The pace of new innovations did not stop due to the absence of patent protection. The power loom, the steam engine and the telephone were invented in due course of time (although limited

patents were granted on them in certain countries). It cannot be said, therefore, that innovations do not take place in absence of patents.

Fast forward to 1995. Patent protection was expanded and made globally applicable under the leadership of the US in the WTO. The freedom of the people to copy innovations and make additional improvements in their lives was curtailed. On the other hand, the freedom of the innovator to charge high price for the invention was protected internationally. In this way the value of 'individual freedom' was arrayed against the people and in favour of innovators. Indeed, it is argued that patent protection enables the innovators to invest in research and development of new technologies that ultimately leads to welfare of the people. The jury is out on this matter, however. Economist John Maynard Keynes once said, "In the long run we are all dead." Therefore, the value of individual freedom stands on its head. Instead of allowing freedom to copy and attain welfare in a straightforward manner, the West has restricted freedom on the uncertain ground that this would lead people's welfare in an unknown future.

Another aspect of individual freedom is that of movement. The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 13.1 says: "Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state." In other words, the international value regarding freedom of movement is limited to national boundaries. The so-called 'international' value has cleverly been made 'national.' It is clear that the 'international value' of freedom is but a smokescreen for promoting the economic interests of industrialised countries.

My argument is not against individual freedom. I think this is a grand experiment of humanity that has not attained finality as of now. Therefore, we should not mindlessly assume that 'freedom' is the only path to people's welfare. We must apply our minds dispassionately as to whether human welfare will be enhanced by giving more freedom to the people and less to innovators and businesses.

The writer is a former Professor of Economics, IIM Bangalore. Views are personal.

The learning loses

Sir, A survey called School Children's Online and Offline Learning (SCHOOL) conducted recently states that only eight per cent children in rural households in India attended regular online classes. The survey on learning gaps was conducted after schools in the country remained closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey conducted on school children in underprivileged households in 15 states and UTs shows that 37 per cent of children are not studying at all and about a half are unable to read more than a few words. The report paints a dismal picture of the state of school education caused by the pandemic in rural areas. The survey found that as the children did not attend schools for a prolonged period of time, there were great discrepancies in their learning levels. Nearly 42 per cent of children in classes III-V from rural households were unable to read a single word. The report proves that the COVID-19 pandemic and the extended lockdown have caused enormous harm to school education, especially in rural areas. A great deal of sustained effort is required to repair this damage. Given that most of the schools in the country are still remaining closed, setting the school education right is indeed a tough task. Once the schools are reopened, the schooling system needs to go through a long transition period to enable children to catch up with the curriculum and to restore the different aspects of their development. Unless physical classes, especially in primary and middle-schools are not resumed soon, it may be difficult to reverse the learning losses.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

More bravehearts needed

Sir, There are not many people who would take a bullet for their motherland. The Indian Army with its height and fitness requirements makes it even lesser. The Indian Army has a height requirement of 5 feet 6 inch which is the normal Indian height. The problem is that because of such requirements the army loses some bravehearts. Height is never the indicator of the strength and courage a person possesses. We have already seen the much shorter personnel of the People's Liberation Army proving their mettle in hand-to-hand battles. I think the Indian Army should ponder on these aspects and restructure the requirements so that more bravehearts can join in to serve the motherland.

Noopur Baruah, TEZPUR

Farm ponds come handy for Nabarangpur farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Sept 10: Farmers in most parts of the state are worried over drought while farmers in Nabarangpur district have managed to save their crops with dug wells in un-irrigated areas, a report said. According to reports, even as lift irrigation points in certain areas are lying defunct, these dug wells are coming handy for farmers at this critical time. Such projects have become models for farming in other areas. Significantly, the district administration has linked the rural job scheme MGNREGS with its programmes which entail agriculture infrastructure development. Under the MGNREGS, scores of farm ponds have been excavated in the district. During the



pandemic, excavation of farm ponds and wells has reportedly created good scope for work and earnings for rural populace. Take the instance of Bada Masigaon village under Sadar

block. This is where Kusa Bhatra, a marginal farmer of the village has successfully made perfect use of the dug well at this juncture. He has two acres of land. The village is out of irrigation coverage.

Take the instance of Bada Masigaon village under Sadar block. This is where Kusa Bhatra, a marginal farmer of the village has successfully made perfect use of the farm pond at this juncture. He has dug a farm pond under MGNREGS at a cost of ₹1.60 lakh by engaging co-villagers. "It took six months to complete the project. By using the pond water, I have raised paddy in an acre and vegetables in another acre," Kusa said.

Farming usually depends on rains. Kusa was always in the lookout for ensuring income from his farmland by making maximum use of his patch. He talked to Gram Rozgar Sevak Lingaraj Mishra in this regard. He has dug a farm pond under MGNREGS at a cost of ₹1.60 lakh

by engaging co-villagers. "It took six months to complete the project. By using the pond water, I have raised paddy in an acre and vegetables in another acre," Kusa said. The farmlands have cracked open for want of rain while ponds have managed to feed water to farmlands, he observed, adding that his pond is also useful for vegetable farming in rabi season. Kusa said small and marginal farmers should dig farm ponds in their farmlands which can save crops in dry season and drought time. They can grow vegetables and flowers to earn enough for their families. The government should encourage more farmers to dig farm ponds under MGNREGS which will certainly help them augment their incomes, he added.

Cashew farming takes a back seat in Jagatsinghpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, Sept 10: Despite the fact that farmers in Jagatsinghpur district are enthusiastic about taking up cashew farming, nothing has been done to encourage them even after the Odisha State Cashew Development Corporation wrote a letter to the District Collector to take steps in this regard. At a recent symposium on hybrid cashew farming at Sarada Mandap in the town, Chairman of Odisha State Cashew Development Corporation Amarendra Das informed this. Expressing his concern about neglect of cashew farming in the district, Das said the corporation has cashew nurseries and fields in 20 districts. The corporation had requested the state government for setting up nurseries and fields in the left out 10 districts. Meanwhile, steps are being taken in this respect in all the districts barring Jagatsinghpur.



"Around 20 months have passed since the corporation wrote a letter to the District Collector, asking him to take steps to prepare a cashew nursery and fields in the district. Due to one or the other reason, the district administration is yet to identify lands. Because of the delay, the corporation is not able to do anything to encourage the farmers, resulting in loss of opportunities," he observed. Referring to the huge gathering, he said it suggests people are interested to take up cashew farming. "We get Vitamin C from cashew

nut. In fact, a single cashew nut is equal to 181 apples in respect of producing Vitamin C. High quality hybrid cashew plants yield more in less time. If compared, in a given year, a hybrid plant yields five times more fruits than a common plant does," he informed. On this occasion, people were made aware of the demand of cashew juice and the profit one could earn from the business. The corporation felicitated two farmers of the locality-Prasanna Swain and Barada Prasad Ray. At the same time, the corporation distributed 600 cashew saplings and 2,500 juice packets among the farmers. While, personal assistance of the chairman Bhaskar Chandra Mohanty gave a vote of thanks, corporation's MD Sadananda Nayak, Girija Shankar Pani, Bhagat Mohanty, Niranjan Behera and Pradeep Kumar Bal attended the symposium among others.

Patients wait overnight to see neurologist at Angul DHH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Sept 10: Every Thursday, scores of helmets can be seen kept in a line on the corridor of Angul DHH. Reason: This is done to ensure their slots are secure for the neurologist who visits the DHH only Thursday. Patients or their relatives put their helmets in a queue in front of the doctor's chamber from Wednesday noon so that they get their appointments with the doctor. The Angul DHH doesn't have a permanent neurologist. The DHH authorities get a doctor from outside every Thursday and provide the service. The problem arises because the doctor comes once in a week and there are hundreds of patients who thronged the DHH to see the doctor on that day. Going to avoid any kind of confusion and conflicts, the DHH authorities would issue 50 tickets. By 8 am Thursdays, no ticket are left, forcing patients, to return home without treatment. However, to ensure their turn, people have devised a plan. They come to the DHH Wednesdays and put a piece of paper with the name of the patient written on it on the



floor in front of the doctor's chamber and keep their helmets or bags on it and keep waiting for their turns. It so occurs that local residents try to jump the queue to see the doctor, leading to quarrels with those waiting for long hours. Local residents and patients demanded that the DHH bring the doctor for at least three days a week. "I have neurological problem.

Earlier I had to return home on two occasions without seeing the doctor. So this time I ensured my turn by coming from Wednesday noon and putting my helmet in the queue. If the doctor comes three days a week, many patients would be benefitted," observed Prasanna Bhutia, a patient from Hindol area. Another patient Kedar Behera said, "The doctor sees only 50 patients. So, many patients have to return home without treatment, spending money on fares and experiencing lot of problems. I was lucky for I could get a slot for my helmet in the queue Wednesday." Bholeswar Biswal, a patient's relative, demanded appointment of a permanent neurologist at the DHH. When contacted, ADMO, Angul DHH, Dr Manas Ranjan Biswal said, "It would be analysed to see whether one doctor is sufficient to attend to patents and thereafter steps would be taken accordingly. The district programme officer (DPM) of the National Health Mission (NHM) would be intimated. The DHH authorities are trying their level best to provide best health care facilities to patients."

Brown sugar worth ₹ 28L seized in Jaleswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Sept 10: Police, excise officials and flying squads carried out multiple raids and seizures in order to check drug smuggling in north Odisha, but they have not been successful. The illegal trade still goes on in Jaleswar, a major hub of drug peddling. Police seized 240 grams of brown sugar in Rajpur area under Jaleswar block in Balasore district Thursday. Police also nabbed two peddlers identified as Samir Khan and Budhia. Acting on a tipoff, a team of Jaleswar police had conducted a raid near river embankments of Jhadeswarpur and Rajpur. The seized brown sugar is worth ₹28 lakh. Excise officials had seized brown sugar worth ₹15 lakh and arrested two persons including a woman.

TRAINING CAMP

A training programme on sickle cell and thalassemia is in progress at Phasimal CHC in Sambalpur, Friday OP PHOTO

8 Dhenkanal cops felicitated

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Sept 10: In recognition of their hard work and dedicated service in 2020, eight personnel of Dhenkanal police have received commendation of the DGP Odisha. The announcement was made Friday. The eight personnel have shown exemplary dedication during investigation and deposition of cases. The Superintendent of Police (SP) Dhenkanal presented the awards to the police personnel. The awardees included sub-inspectors Satyabrata Bhutia, Abhaya Kumar Pradhan and Baikunthanath Ghadei, assistant sub-inspectors Anjulata Nayak, Madhaba Chandra Nayak, and Nityananda Pati, Constables Subrat Kumar Padhi and Ranjan Kumar Biswal. It is pertinent to mention here that outstanding work in the fields of investigation and prosecution, countering Maoist/terrorist operations, successful drives against drug trafficking, organised crimes, economic offences, cybercrimes, recovery of arms/ammunition and execution of non-bailable warrants, among others, are considered while selecting personnel for the DGP's commendation.

Buildings of Koraput, Malkangiri dist courts unveiled

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jeypore/Malkangiri, Sept 10: Chief Justice of Orissa High Court Dr S Muralidhar inaugurated the new buildings of Koraput District and Sessions Court in Jeypore and another one in Malkangiri through virtual mode Friday. Inaugurating the new building, Justice Muralidhar said while 90 percent of criminal cases are reported from Koraput, most of the people are poor and do not know their rights and laws. Therefore, he

emphasised the need for providing justice to everyone. The Court of the District & Sessions Judge, Koraput at Jeypore was established with effect from 1st January, 1953. The erstwhile Koraput district comprised four districts like Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Malkangiri and Koraput. Now it has been split into four and the new judgship of Nabarangpur, Rayagada and Malkangiri have been made functional with effect from October 22, 2011; July 07, 2012

and April 20, 2013. Following it, there are only 25 courts under the jurisdiction of Koraput District Court. With the increase in the number of lawyers and litigants coming to the court, there was a need for a new building. The foundation stone for the new building had been laid down in 2014 by Justice Satrugana Pujahari and its construction began in 2015. The new building has been built at a cost of ₹23 crore. The building comprises of three floors and has 15 courtrooms.

Balasore's Bichitrapur, a visitors' paradise

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhograi, Sept 10: If you have made up your mind for staycation and want to unwind, then Bichitrapur under Bhograi block in Balasore district along the Bay of Bengal could be your destination. Already having the status of an eco-tourism spot, Bichitrapur has four islands within its 5-km-long circumference. Once you landed here, its natural beauty and tranquility make you feel that you are in a fairy land. There is a forest of exotic plants, spreading over 50 acres. Created by the forest department, this forest has been attracting visitors. At one end, there is vast blue sea and at the other, the nature at its best with green trees standing as liveried sentries and birds singing songs, making the visitors feel as if they were there to welcome them. At any given point of time, one can hear chirping of different species of birds like open billed stork, Sarus, White Heron and Black Heron. In winter season, one can feast his eyes on the varieties of colourful migratory birds, perched on trees or searching food in water. Wild animals can also be sighted. At the same time, red crabs playing hide and seek in blue water; dolphins playing water sports and olive ridley turtles laying eggs will make your time at the islands memorable. Another attraction is the casuarinas forest. It helps check soil erosion and at the same time adds beauty to the spot. At the time of sun rise and sun set, the beauty of



casuarinas forest is seen to be believed. If you want to spend more time in the lap of nature here, you can. There are six air-conditioned tents and four cottages here. To spend a night, you have to spend ₹3,600. Similarly, there are two motorized boats provided by the tourism department to take you around the islands. Each boat can take minimum four and maximum eight visitors. The visitors have to buy tickets to enjoy the ride. According to local people, an office building was constructed and a road was laid out, spending ₹40 lakhs in 2013. "A lot is left to be done to make the spot more attractive. While there has been drinking water problem, the roads are not illuminated. The government should take steps to develop the spot so that more tourists will

come to the spot," they observed. They also added that many trees were uprooted under the impact of cyclone 'Yaas'. The government should take steps to replenish the loss. When contacted, Bhograi MLA and chairman of district planning committee Ananta Das said the government is aware of the shortcomings at the tourist spot and is taking steps for the development of the spot in phase manner. Similarly, forester Ajay Jena said the central and state governments should declare a package for the development of infrastructure. Echoing the same, local Congress leader Satyasiba Das alleged that if the tourism had not progressed as it should have been, it is only because of the lack of will power on the parts of the central and state governments.



Day 4 of farmers' agitation: Internet restored in Karnal



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Karnal, Sept 10: With the ongoing farmers' agitation at the mini-secretariat in Haryana's Karnal entering its fourth day Friday, the local administration has restored the internet facilities.

The internet restoration has brought a sigh of relief for the agitating farmers at the protesting site.

Talking to IANS, a city business owner Guljar Singh said, "The local administration has restored the internet services and now we hope that they will also consider the farmers' demands also."

Jairnal Singh, a farmer at the protesting site, said, "The restora-

tion of the internet is not enough, we are fighting here for our genuine demand to sack officer Ayush Sinha and give compensation to the farmer who died in the incident."

Internet facilities were suspended in the five adjoining districts of Karnal ahead of the Kisan Mahapanchayat September 7 to curb the spread of inflammatory speeches of the farmers. However, the facilities have now been restored in all districts. The agitating farmers' demands include immediate sacking of Sinha and a case against him. They are also seeking ₹25 lakh compensation and government job for the kin of the farmer who died in the incident.

ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS TOMORROW

Chandigarh: Farm union leaders and the Karnal district administration will hold another round of talks Saturday, with both sides hoping for an early resolution of issues after a four-hour-long marathon meeting Friday. Farmers had started a dharna outside the district headquarters in Karnal Tuesday against the police lathicharge August 28. "We held a discussion for four hours. Some positives have come out and another meeting will be held Saturday," Karnal Deputy Commissioner (DC) Nishant Kumar Yadav told PTI over the phone. Asked if the administration has agreed to any of the demands of the farmers, he said, "It will not be right to comment anything more at this stage. Let another scheduled meeting take place first." However, the DC said the talks remained positive.

BHU first varsity to offer engineering course in Hindi

Under the new Education Policy, the Central government had announced last year its plan to introduce engineering courses in Hindi at the IITs



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Sept 10: The Yogi Adityanath government has decided to teach engineering courses at the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in Hindi as well from the next academic session.

BHU will now be the first institute in the country to offer engineering courses in Hindi.

This landmark decision is designed to remove the barrier of

language in pursuing technical studies as well as boosting national pride among the youth of Uttar Pradesh.

According to the government spokesman, initially, the option of Hindi will be restricted to the first year B-Tech students, but in the coming years it will be introduced at higher stages as well.

All the necessary preparations have been made in this regard, the spokesman said.

A list of experts who can teach engineering in Hindi has been prepared. There is a provision to call experts from outside also to teach engineering courses in Hindi as per requirement.

Meanwhile, the BHU is engaged in arranging Hindi books for first year B-Tech courses.

Prof Pramod Kumar Jain, Director of IIT BHU and Chairman of Official Language Committee, has confirmed the

Mythical Saraswati river's 'history' to be part of school curriculum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kurukshetra, Sept 10: The Haryana government will include the history of the mythical Saraswati river in school as well as Kurukshetra University curriculums, officials said Friday.

Initially, the Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board (HSHDB) constituted an 11-member 'Saraswati river syllabus committee' led by Dr Pritam Singh, Assistant Director of Centre for D. BR Ambedkar Studies at Kurukshetra University (KU), to prepare the curriculum for students of classes 6 to 10.

Later, KU Vice-Chancellor Dr Som Nath Sachdeva constituted

another committee headed by Professor AR Chaudhary, Director, Saraswati River Research and Excellence Centre at the university with Dr Pritam Singh as its co-chairman, to prepare the syllabus of the varsity's activity-based courses.

According to official, the idea is to make youngsters aware about the history of the ancient river.

Chaudhary said both the committees are holding meetings on a daily basis to prepare and submit the syllabus for schools as well as university courses by September 15 to the HSHDB, so that it could be included in the curriculum as soon as possible.

Sachdeva said the course will

be prepared according to New Education Policy-2020 and highlight the mythological history and literature of Saraswati river under the activity-based education course and an open elective course. This course will give information to the students about the ancient civilization and heritage of the holy river, he said.

More than two years ago, the Haryana government had approved 11 projects for the rejuvenation of the river.

These included the construction of Somb Saraswati barrage, Saraswati reservoir and Adi Badri dam on Somb river, a tributary of the Yamuna that originates in the Shivalik Hills.

BSP won't field mafia candidates: Mayawati

Jailed gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari will not be re-nominated by the party from Mau

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 10: The BSP will make efforts to not field 'bahubali' (strongmen) or mafia candidates in next year's Uttar Pradesh polls, party chief Mayawati said Friday, announcing that jailed gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari will not be re-nominated by the party from Mau.

Soon after her statement, Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM, which has announced to contest 100 seats, offered Ansari a ticket, with its spokesperson Syed Asim Waqar telling PTI that "our doors are open for him."

Mayawati said BSP state president Bhim Rajbhar will contest from Mau, currently represented by Mukhtar Ansari, the five-term MLA who was brought back from Punjab's Ropar jail in April and lodged in a Banda jail.

Her announcement comes days after Mukhtar Ansari's brother Sigbatullah joined the Akhilesh



Yadav-led Samajwadi Party.

"In upcoming Assembly polls, the BSP's effort will be to not field 'bahubali' and mafia elements. So, the name of Bhim Rajbhar, the BSP UP president, has been finalised from the Mau Assembly seat in place of Mukhtar Ansari," she said in a tweet in Hindi.

The statement also follows her remarks Tuesday during her party's "Prabuddha Varga Sammelan" that she would no longer focus on building statues and memorials - something her party was criticised for during her previous terms - and rather concentrate on changing the face of Uttar Pradesh by establishing

rule of law.

Mayawati's two announcements signal her efforts to build a new perception of her Bahujan Samaj Party among people.

Mukhtar's another brother, Afzal Ansari, is a BSP MP who represents the Ghazipur seat. He had defeated the BJP's Manoj Sinha, who is now the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. Afzal Ansari could not be contacted despite repeated attempts.

Mayawati Friday also said the decision to not field criminal and mafia elements has been taken to meet people's expectation, and appealed to party leaders to keep this in mind while choosing can-

didates. "So that there is no problem in taking strict action against such elements once the government is formed."

She added, "Alongside ensuring a rule of law, by law, the BSP's resolve is to also change Uttar Pradesh's image now."

She said the BSP should be known as the government that follows the philosophy of 'Sarvajana Hitay and Sarvajana Sukhay' (universal good).

Meanwhile, AIMIM spokesperson Syed Asim Waqar said his party was ready to welcome Mukhtar Ansari if he wants to contest election. "AIMIM's doors are open for him. We will give him a ticket and ensure his victory also," he told PTI.

He said that not only Mukhtar, he asks other Muslims also to not 'purchase tickets' from any political party as they will take money and make sure they do not win. "I ask Muslims who want to contest elections to come and join the AIMIM and the party will give tickets to them," he said.

Muslims are in a position to influence results in 84 of the total 403 seats in Uttar Pradesh. The AIMIM aims to harness this advantage.

Cong to take out yatra across UP ahead of 2022 Assembly polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 10: The Congress under the leadership of its national general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Friday decided to take out a 12,000 km-long yatra through villages and towns of Uttar Pradesh ahead of the Assembly polls next year.

The decision to take out the 'Congress Pratigya Yatra: Hum Vachan Nibhayenge' was taken at a meeting Gandhi held with the party advisory and strategy committee members here, the party said in a statement.

"The yatra will cover 12,000 km and will pass through villages and towns of the state. The details of the yatra are being finalised," it said. During the yatra, Congress lead-



ers will assure people that they would fulfil promises made by the party in the run up to the polls.

Gandhi is taking feedback and suggestion of committee members on routes and issues that will be

taken up during the yatra.

She will later in the day hold a meeting with members of the party's election committee.

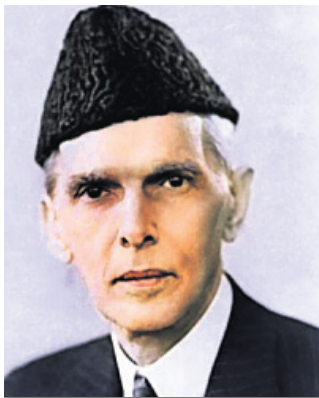
Congress Legislature party leader in the assembly Aradhna Mishra Mona, state unit president Ajay Kumar Lallu and senior party leader Promod Tiwari attended the meeting among others.

Gandhi, who is leading the Congress campaign in the politically crucial state of Uttar Pradesh, arrived here on Thursday to review the party's poll preparedness.

Congress was reduced to seven seats in the 2017 assembly election in Uttar Pradesh.

The BJP had clinched 312 seats in the 403-member legislative assembly to form the government for the second consecutive term.

Controversy again over Jinnah portrait in AMU



In 2018, a similar demand had been made by BJP MP Satish Gautam that led to a clash with students when activists of right wing outfits had tried to force their way into the campus to remove the portrait of Jinnah

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Aligarh, Sept 10: The portrait of Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, has returned to haunt the Aligarh Muslim University in Uttar Pradesh once again.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) unit in Aligarh has now written a letter with their blood to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to ensure the removal of the portrait of Jinnah from the campus.

Holding Jinnah responsible for the partition of India, BJP spokesperson in Aligarh, Shivang Tiwari,

warned that they will force the authorities to take down the portrait, "if the AMU authorities did not remove it themselves."

In 2018, a similar demand had been made by party MP Satish Gautam that led to a clash with university students when activists of various right-wing organisations had tried to force their way into the campus to remove the portrait of Jinnah.

BJP's Aligarh unit's letter has been submitted to the district administration with a request to forward it to PM Modi.



The first FIR against Owaisi and public meeting organisers was registered under IPC sections 153A (promoting enmity on ground of religion, race, etc.), 188 (disregarding order of a public servant), 269 (negligent act likely to spread disease dangerous to life), 270 (malignant act likely to spread infection of disease) and the Epidemic Act was slapped against them, Barabanki Superintendent of Police Yamuna Prasad said.

Later in the night, another FIR was lodged against them for insulting the national flag during the public meeting, Kotwali in-charge Amar Singh said.

They have been accused of wrapping the tricolour on a pole at the dias during the meeting instead of unfurling it, Singh said.

Regarding the other sections imposed on Owaisi, the Barabanki SP said the Hyderabad MP violated Covid guidelines - on masks and social distancing - by arranging huge crowds at the public meeting.

"In his speech, the AIMIM chief made statements for vitiating communal harmony and said the 100-year-old Ram Sanahi Ghat mosque was razed by the administration and its debris was also removed. This is contrary to the fact," the SP said.

The mosque Owaisi referred to was located adjacent to the tehsil premises and opposite the SDM's residence. It was demolished May 17 on the orders of a Barabanki SDM court.

"By his statement, Owaisi tried to vitiate communal harmony and incite feelings of a particular community. He also made indecent and baseless remarks against the PM and the Uttar Pradesh chief minister," the Barabanki SP said on Friday.

Owaisi was on a three-day trip to Uttar Pradesh, where his party plans to contest 100 seats in the upcoming assembly polls.

During his stay, he held public meetings at Ayodhya, Sultanpur and Barabanki on three consecutive days starting Tuesday and left the state winding up his tour with a rally in Barabanki.



Picture used for representation

The Narendra Modi government's resolve is that everyone in the society feels safe

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | MINORITY AFFAIRS MINISTER

The Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE) has entered into an agreement with the International Baccalaureate (IB) that would change the face of education in the national capital

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

We all want a bridge on the Brahmaputra and both the state and central government have taken necessary steps in this direction so that it is well constructed with the latest technology

SARBANAND SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Nearly 73cr vax doses administered

New Delhi: Nearly 73 crore vaccine doses have been administered in the country so far, the Union Health Ministry said Friday. According to a provisional report, more than 56 lakh vaccine doses have been administered till 7 pm Friday. The daily vaccination tally is expected to increase with the compilation of the final reports for the day by late in the night, the ministry said. The vaccination exercise as a tool to protect the most vulnerable population groups in the country from Covid-19 continues to be regularly reviewed and monitored at the highest level, the health ministry said.

Man beaten to death

Muzaffarnagar: A 24-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death by 10 people when he was waiting at a bus stand in Banat town in Shamli district Friday, police said. Sameer was at the bus stand when he got into a fight with the group, but the reason being it could not be ascertained, a senior police officer said. A case has been registered against 10 people, eight of whom are named in the report. One of them has been arrested.

Grenade attack in Srinagar

Srinagar: A CRPF jawan was among two persons injured in a grenade attack by militants on security forces at Chanapora in the city Friday, officials said here. The ultras lobbed the grenade on security forces near government residential quarters here. Besides the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan, a woman was injured in the blast, they said.

President to visit Prayagraj today

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind would visit Prayagraj Saturday, a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique said. During visit, Kovind will lay the foundation stones for the Uttar Pradesh National Law University and new building complex of the Allahabad High Court, it said.

AP: Hunt on for gangrape culprits

Amaravati: The Guntur police in Andhra Pradesh are hunting for at least four suspects in a case of alleged gang rape that happened around midnight Wednesday. At least four miscreants were said to be involved in the incident in which a 26-year-old homemaker's modesty was outraged. They beat her husband and tied him up to a tree before raping her.



The feeling of love, brotherhood and composite culture exists among all the Kashmiris. I feel sad that the RSS and BJP are trying to break this culture

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

RAINFALL RECORDED IN AUG LOWEST IN 19 YEARS: IMD

Rainfall in August, which recorded 24 percent deficiency, was lowest in 19 years, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Friday. Two major spells of weak monsoon prevailed over the country -- from August 9-16 and August 23-27 -- when northwest, central and adjoining peninsular and west coast of India had subdued rainfall activities



Rajnath holds 'fruitful' talks with Australian counterpart

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 10: Partnership between India and Australia is based on our shared vision of free, open, inclusive and rule-based Indo-Pacific region, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Friday after holding wide-ranging talks with his Australian counterpart Peter Dutton.

Describing the discussions as "fruitful", Singh said bilateral defence cooperation as well as regional issues figured in the deliberations. "I have had a very fruitful and wide-ranging discussion with Minister Dutton on our bilateral defence cooperation as well as regional issues," Singh said in a media statement.

"Both of us are keen to work jointly to realise the full potential of the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," he said. The talks took place a day ahead of the inaugural 'two-plus-two' dialogue between foreign and defence ministers of India and Australia. Dutton and Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne arrived here Friday.

Singh said the partnership be-



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with his Australian counterpart Peter Dutton during a joint press statment, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

tween the two countries is based on "our shared vision of free, open, inclusive and rule-based Indo-Pacific region".

"Both, Australia and India have tremendous stakes in peace, development and free flow of trade, rules-based order and economic growth in the region," he said.

"Our discussions today fo-

cused on our bilateral defence cooperation and expanding military engagements across services, enhancing defence information sharing, cooperation in emerging defence technologies and mutual logistics support," he added. Singh said both sides also noted with happiness that Australia joined the Malabar

Exercise in 2020.

"In this context we also expressed satisfaction in the continued participation of Australia in Malabar Exercise this year," he added.

The Australian Navy was part of the recent Malabar naval exercise that also featured navies of India, the US and Japan.

Singh said both sides discussed opportunities to work together in defence science and technology areas. "I invited Australian industry to take advantage of India's liberalised foreign direct investment policies in the defence sector. We both agreed that there are opportunities of bilateral collaboration for co-development and co production," he said.

According to diplomatic sources, at the two-plus-two dialogue, both sides are expected to deliberate on further solidifying bilateral defence and strategic ties besides exchanging views on the situation in Afghanistan.

The two sides are also expected to discuss ways to boost cooperation in the Indo-Pacific in the face of China's growing military assertiveness in the region, they

said. Both Australia and India are part of Quad or Quadrilateral coalition that resolved to work towards ensuring a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. The other two members of the Quad are the US and Japan.

The sources said expanding bilateral cooperation in areas of maritime security is expected to be another area of focus at the two-plus-two dialogue.

The dialogue between the foreign and defence ministers was instituted as part of an overall goal to expand strategic cooperation between the two countries. India has such a framework for talks with a very few countries including the US and Japan. Defence and military cooperation between India and Australia is on an upswing in the last few years.

In June last year, India and Australia elevated their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership and signed a landmark deal for reciprocal access to military bases for logistics support during an online summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison.

6-YEAR-OLD'S RAPE-MURDER ROCKS HYD

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Sept 10 : Rape and murder of a six-year-old girl triggered tension and angry protests by people in the Singareni Colony of Saeedabad area in Hyderabad Friday.

The body of the girl, who was missing since 5 p.m. Thursday, was found in a house in the neighbourhood after midnight. She was suspected to have been sexually assaulted before being murdered.

When the police reached the spot, residents staged protest, demanding that the accused be handed over to them.

They tried to stop police from shifting the body for autopsy till the accused was handed over to them. Some of the protestors pelted stones and threw chilli powder on policemen.

The incident triggered tension and additional force was rushed in to maintain law and order. Police said Raju, in whose house the girl's body was found, was absconding and all efforts were being made to arrest him.

Bengal By-poll: BJP's Tibrewal to take on Mamata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 10: BJP leader Priyanka Tibrewal, whom the party has nominated to contest against West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in the September 30 bypoll to Bhabanipur seat, said Friday that the "torture and violence" unleashed by TMC after the assembly polls will be a key issue in the election.

Tibrewal, a lawyer, is one of the petitioners in the post-poll violence cases against the TMC government in the Calcutta High Court.

The party also announced the names of Milan Ghosh and Sujit Das for Samserganj and Jangipur seats respectively.

The votes will be counted October 3 and results declared the same day.

"She (Mamata Banerjee) has already lost from Nandigram. Now she is fighting this election to save the chief minister's chair. My task will be to reach out to the people of the constituency and inform them about the atrocities, the torture and violence that her party unleashed on opposition workers after the assembly polls. I am confident that people of Bhabanipur will vote for me and defeat her," she asserted.

Tibrewal, currently the state vice president of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the BJP's youth wing, had joined the party in 2014.

She had her first brush with electoral politics in 2015, when she contested the Kolkata Municipal Corporation election and lost.

She contested the 2021 assembly polls from Entally seat and lost again to a TMC candidate by a staggering margin of more than 58,000 votes.

Yet, BJP sources said, she was chosen to lock horns with a redoubtable Mamata Banerjee because of her "fighting spirit" and also as not many leaders were ready to contest.

IT dept 'surveys' two news websites offices

THE INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT CONFIRMED THAT OFFICERS HAD GONE TO THE OFFICES OF THESE NEWS PORTALS IN SOUTH DELHI "TO CONDUCT SURVEYS"

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 10: The Income Tax department Friday conducted separate "survey operations" at the premises of online news portals NewsClick and NewsLaundry here, officials said.

The operations are being conducted to verify certain tax payment details and remittances made by the organisations, they said.

Some documents have been found and these are being studied, the officials said. In a survey operation, which is carried out under provisions of section 133A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, tax officials cover only the business premises of an assessee and those linked to it and not their residential addresses. However, tax authorities can seize documents.

There was no immediate reaction from the two portals or their promoters, but their social media handles continuously updated news stories and articles.

NewsClick and its founders were raided by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in February under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and that investigation is linked to alleged dubious foreign funding received by

its registered company, which runs the news portal. The money laundering case arises out of a Delhi Police FIR alleging that PPK NewsClick Studio Pvt Ltd received foreign direct investment (FDI) of Rs 9.59 crore from Worldwide Media Holdings LLC USA during the 2018-19 financial year. The Delhi High Court has granted interim protection from arrest to NewsClick's editor-in-chief and founder Prabir Purkayastha in connection with the Delhi Police FIR that relates to its probe against the foreign funding of the company. The high court has also granted Purkayastha protection from coercive action in the ED case. NewsClick has argued in its defence in the court that there is no question of siphoning off of funds, as alleged by probe agencies, as the same had been utilised for paying salaries to employees and that there was no loss to the exchequer in the process. The ED had claimed that it is also probing NewsClick and its promoters for alleged transfer of certain funds to activist Gautam Navlakha, accused in the Elgar Parishad case of Maharashtra. It has also questioned Navlakha, lodged in a Maharashtra jail, in connection with the case.



Software-based transfer policy for paramilitary forces soon

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 10: With an aim to maintain transparency in transfers between hard and soft postings within the Central Armed Police Forces, a software-based transfer policy for all the CAPFs' personnel will be implemented soon.

This software has been designed after the instructions of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in January last year. The development of the application was delayed because of Covid-19 induced restrictions in 2020.

According to a senior official in the security forces, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Himalayan border guarding force

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) are ready with the software, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF) and Assam Rifles are in the advanced stage of development of the applications.

He also said that the transfer policy of each force varies from the others as per their mandates and requirements, therefore all CAPFs were asked to develop their own applications.

The BSF is in the final round of testing its software, while the CRPF and Assam Rifles will be on the testing round very soon, he added.

Once all the software applications are ready, they will give a presentation to the Union Home Ministry for the final approval.

The Ministry had earlier de-



cided to review progress of the development of these applications and a meeting was also scheduled in mid July this year, but after the

delay by some security forces, a fresh date will be decided to review the presentation.

"In the proposed review by the

Home Ministry, the officials of the CISF, ITBP and SSB will be presenting the live demonstration of their software being used in rotational transfer in compliance of Shah's directives to the effect," the officials in the Home Ministry said.

The CRPF, BSF and Assam Rifles will be updating the Ministry about the status of the progress made so far in implementation of the rotational transfer policy within their ranks.

"A transparent transfer mechanism based on a software application will not only reduce the unnecessary delays in approvals of transfer but will also do away with favouritism", the officials said.

In general, all personnel of the paramilitary forces will be given multiple options to opt for next

posting as per his or her last posting, nature of job and other factors, therefore, they will have an idea of where they can be posted for the next tenure", a source in the Force said.

The move is also expected to lead to a reduction in stress of the personnel deployed in hard postings with inherent travails amid vagaries of nature and dynamic security challenges besides being away from their families, he added.

Timely grant of leave, transfer from hard to soft posting have been a major grievance of the forces' personnel, especially the middle and lower rung staffers and now these grievances can be addressed through the software based applications," a senior official in a paramilitary said.



School students walk along a flooded street after heavy rain in Amritsar

PTI PHOTO

States celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi

AGENCIES

Panaji, Sept 10: The auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated under the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic across states on Friday, marking the beginning of the 10-day festival also called Vinayaka Chaturthi in many parts of the country.

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said that in his prayers to Lord Ganesh, he urged the deity to rid Goa and the rest of the world of Coronavirus.

Speaking to reporters after performing puja at his residence in North Goa, Sawant urged the people of the state to ensure that they take the second Covid vaccine jab.

Ganesh Chaturthi is the most popular Hindu festival in Goa.

Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao also greeted people on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi and appealed to them to celebrate the festival by following Covid appropriate behaviour. The Chief Minister also greeted the people of the state on the occasion of Vinayaka Chaturthi, say-



ing that Ganapathi is worshipped to ensure success in all the endeavors without any impediments, and in Hindu tradition, Vinayaka is given utmost importance as a deity who removes obstacles.

The Chief Minister also advised the people to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi in an environmentally-friendly manner with utmost devotion and enthusiasm. Rao said the state government has taken all measures to avoid inconvenience to the people during immersion at the end of the festivities.

He also prayed to the God to shower prosperity on the people of the state. Tamil Nadu also celebrated Vinayaka Chaturthi Friday

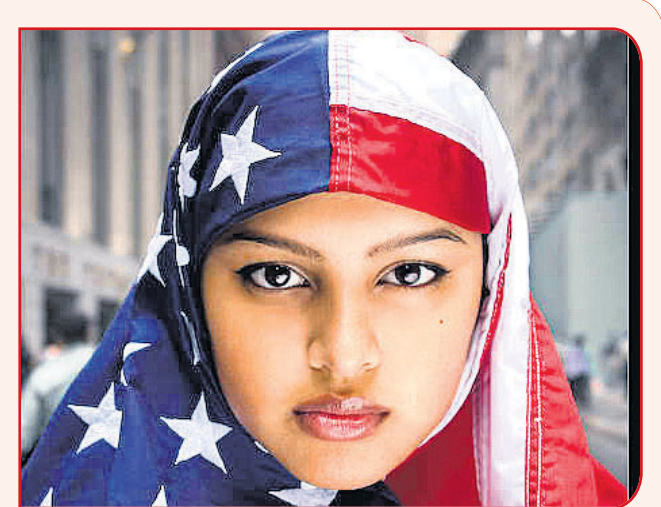
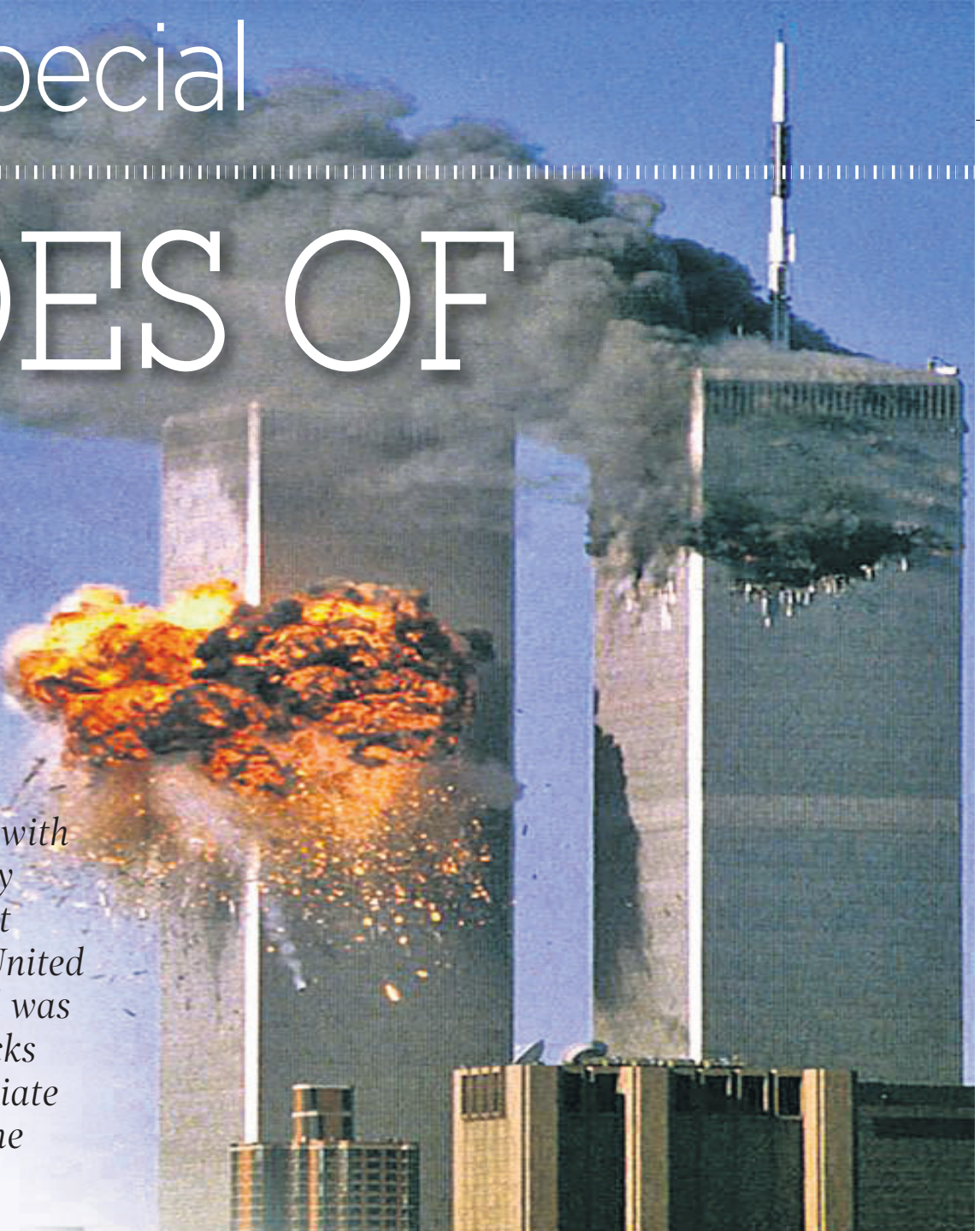
with people across the state performing poojas of the idol of Lord Ganesh. Special prayers were conducted at the grandly-decorated Ganesh temples by the temple priests. Many houses also wore a festive look as several people held special prayers at home too.

The aroma of 'kozhakkattai', a rice flour and jaggery dumpling, wafted through many of the kitchen windows. After offering prayers on the occasion, neighbours and friends got together to share 'kozhakkattais'.

This time, public celebrations have been banned by the state government owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

TWO DECADES OF 9/11

The attacks of September 11, 2001 were a series of airline hijackings and suicide attacks, committed by 19 militants associated with the al-Qaeda, against targets in the United States. The fateful day witnessed the deadliest terrorist attack on American soil. On that morning, four commercial airliners travelling from the northeastern United States to California were hijacked mid-flight by terrorists. Their goal was to crash each plane into a prominent American building. The attacks resulted in at least 2,996 fatalities and 25,000 injuries. In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, a vengeful US responded by launching the 'War on Terror' and invading Afghanistan to depose the Taliban



America's Muslim prejudice remains

Muslim Americans, who grew up under the shadow of 9/11, have faced hostility and surveillance, mistrust and suspicion

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A mirah Ahmed, 17, was shopping with her family at a Walmart in Fredericksburg, a car passed, the driver's window rolled down, and the man spat an epithet at two little girls wearing their hijabs "Terrorist!" Born after the 9/11 attacks, Ahmed feels she was thrust into a struggle not of her making. After 9/11, many young American Muslims have found ways to fight back against bias, to organize and craft nuanced personal narratives about their identities. It was 2001, mere weeks after the World Trade Center fell, and 10-year-old Shahana Hanif and her younger sister were walking to the local mosque from their Brooklyn home. As the 20th anniversary of the Sept 11 terror attacks approaches, Hanif still recalls her confusion over how anyone could look at her, a child, and see a threat. "It's not a nice, kind word. It means

violence, it means dangerous. It is meant to shock whoever... is on the receiving end of it," she says. But the incident also spurred a determination to speak out for herself and others. She's become a community organizer and is strongly favoured to win a seat on the New York City Council in an upcoming election. American Muslims also found ways to fight back against bias, to organize, to craft nuanced personal narratives about their identities. In the process, they've built bridges and challenged stereotypes. Mistrust of Muslims didn't start on 9/11, but it dramatically intensified with the attacks. America's diverse Muslim communities were foisted into the spotlight, says Youssef Chouhoud, a political scientist at Virginia's Christopher Newport University. "Your sense of who you were was becoming more formed, not just Muslim but American Muslim," he says. "What distinguished you as an American Muslim. Could you be fully both, or did you have to choose? There was a lot of grappling with what that meant." Ahmed spoke about honouring both the lives of those who died in America on 9/11 and of Iraqis who died in the war launched in 2003. She says it was a "really powerful moment." But she hopes her future children don't feel the need to prove they belong. "Our kids are going to be (here) well after the 9/11 era," she says. "They should not have to continue fighting for their identity"



20 yrs later, Af back to square one

THE SAME OLD GUARD IS BACK IN THE DRIVING SEAT WITH NO WOMEN IN THE CABINET AND WITH A FEW TOKEN NON-PASHTUNS

AGENCIES

Washington: Twenty years on, a second significant September 11 is upon us, and Afghanistan is bleeding once again. Several massacres and human rights abuses were committed at the hands of the Taliban ahead of Kabul's fall. Now, the Taliban has re-formed a hardline government and restored the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan exactly on the eve of the twentieth anniversary of America's invasion of the country. The exclusion of women from the Cabinet brought a lot of criticism especially in a country that had over 27% women in Parliament just a month ago. The Chief Executive and the

Interior Minister both have millions of dollars of bounty on their heads. The Ministry of Vice and Virtue is back, and the Ministry of Women stands abolished. It is back to square one, with the country literally handed back to the same savages it was freed from.

THE AFGHANS WON'T TAKE IT LYING DOWN

Play it down as the west might, the Afghan's have had it and are loudly protesting Pakistan's role, which they are now calling an invasion. It was limited to social media the past few weeks, but the public appearance of General Faiz Hameed, Director-General of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI),

at Serena Hotel in Kabul Saturday triggered large on-ground protests against Pakistan in Kabul and a few other cities.

The Afghans appear very clear that this is a Pakistan proxy government. It is not just this new Afghan generation that will present a challenge to the Taliban's authority.

NO LESSONS LEARNT

However, what's alarming is that there are strong indications that US have not learnt from any of the mistakes made in the past twenty years. Senator (R) Lindsey Graham recently told BBC, "We'll be going



Taliban re-formed a hardline govt and restored the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan on the eve of the 20th anniversary of US invasion

The non-inclusive nature of the govt has ensured a civil war to ensue sooner rather than later

In the face of the current freeze on Afghan reserves by the US, and suspension of all aid, there will be a rush to protect and poach territorial rights over narcotics smuggling, tolls on highways, extortion, etc

back into Afghanistan... We'll have to." To avoid another such cycle of the unspeakable horror of war, America and its allies need to change their strategy now. Acknowledge the root problem today and find ways to Taliban's capacity to spawn, support, and spread terrorism.

Victims' families still looking for answers



Trial of alleged planner restarts

CUBA: The prosecution of alleged September 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four others restarts Tuesday, just days before the 20th anniversary of the attacks, stirring new hopes for justice and retribution. Mohammed and his co-defendants, who have been locked up at the War on Terror prison at the US naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for nearly 15 years, will appear in the military tribunal here for the first time since early 2019. But after a 17-month halt due to the coronavirus pandemic, the proceedings appear likely to continue where they left off, mired in the defense's efforts to disqualify most of the government's evidence as tainted by the torture the defendants underwent in CIA custody. With scores of motions lined up to demand evidence that military prosecutors refuse to hand over, defense attorneys said the pretrial phase could easily last another year, placing far over the horizon any hope for a jury trial and verdict. In the audience will be family members of some of the 2,976 people they are accused of murdering two decades ago. The five face the death penalty on charges of murder and terrorism in the war crimes tribunal.

AGENCIES

The US government and its NATO allies invaded Afghanistan almost immediately after the September 11, 2001, terror attacks, seeking accountability from al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden for murdering nearly 3,000 people.

But the family members of 9/11 victims are still pursuing accountability from another country -- Saudi Arabia -- as well as seeking more information hidden by the US government

When I ran for President, I made a commitment to ensuring transparency regarding the declassification of documents on the September 11 terrorist attacks. As we approach the 20th anniversary, I am honoring that commitment

JOE BIDEN | PREZ, US



in US courts. US President Joe Biden September 3 directed the declassification of certain documents related to the terrorist attacks, a supportive gesture to victims' families who have long sought the records in hopes of implicating the Saudi government.

SECRECY HAS FUELLED THEORIES

The kingdom has denied any involvement, and the US long ago decided that Saudi Arabia, its strategic partner in the Middle East, had no role in the attacks -- though 15 of the 19 9/11 hijackers were Saudi citizens. So had bin Laden been, although he had been expelled from the kingdom and his citizenship revoked. Suspicion of Saudi Arabia has persisted,

however, and the dogged efforts of 9/11 families over the past two decades have forced the US, bit by bit, to share early leads that tied the hijackers to Saudi officials but were shrouded in secrecy and hidden from public view as classified information.

Persistence has yielded results. More details on those investigations could be forthcoming as a lawsuit against Saudi Arabia proceeds in court. That lawsuit exists only because, after a years-long campaign by the 9/11 families, Congress passed a special law in 2016 allowing individuals to sue governments for terror attacks.

US presidents have sought to shield Saudi Arabia from US lawsuits, citing the need for national security and to protect Americans from retaliatory lawsuits.



of the day quote

In two years, our platform will be used in India and some are from the US. Enterprises are looking to adopt our platform from an omnichannel standpoint. They want to give their customers a showroom experience while sitting at home

SHORYA MAHAJAN | CO-FOUNDER & CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, ADLOID

Paytm has some real potential because I think this is a business which is huge, payment processing and financial services is huge. If I can get Paytm at the right price, I would want it in my portfolio

ASWATH DAMODARAN | PROFESSOR OF FINANCE

Our extensive consumer research revealed that Indian consumers prefer lemon flavour with a 'chatpata' punch. Not only is lemon flavoured cold drinks popular in India, lemon also goes well with the Chatpata space.

AJAY SINGH PARIHAR | MARKETING HEAD-OTC HEALTHCARE, DABUR INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Samsung launches Galaxy A52s 5G

Bhubaneswar: Samsung announced the launch of Galaxy A52s 5G in India. Galaxy A52s 5G is the second 5G smartphone in Samsung's Galaxy A Series portfolio to offer Samsung 5G guarantee. It comes with popular innovations like 120Hz refresh rate, Infinity-O display, 64MP quad camera with OIS, water and dust resistant IP67 rating and more. Galaxy A52s 5G is priced at ₹35999 for 6GB+128GB and ₹37499 for 8GB+128GB variant and is available across retail stores. Galaxy A52s 5G is available in three colours - black, white and violet.

Flipkart partners with Urbanic

New Delhi: Flipkart announced a partnership with Urbanic - a London-based Gen Z fashion brand, to bring a wide range of global fashion to young consumers across India. A stylish collection of almost 1,000 unique styles will be available to a growing registered customer base of over 350 million - from metros to tier 2 and 3+ regions. The partnership with Urbanic is the first of several exciting launches lined up for this season for Flipkart.

Trends announces 'Selfie Contest'

Bhubaneswar: India's largest and fastest growing apparel and accessories specialty chain of Reliance Retail, Trends, is strengthening connect with consumers of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana. Trends have planned a contest for its consumers around Ganesh Utsav. The selfie/photo which will be adjudged as the Best Decorated Ganesha Idol will be awarded the first Prize - a gift worth ₹1500. Every participant will get a Trends discount coupon which can be collected from the nearest Trends small town store.

Niti Aayog to tie up with ISRO

New Delhi: Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission in collaboration with ISRO and CBSE has launched 'Space Challenge' for school students across India, an official statement said Friday. This challenge has been designed for all the school students, mentors and teachers, who not only are associated with schools having Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) labs but for all the non-ATL schools as well.



Looking at the cumulative sales from April to August 2021, the passenger vehicle segment is still below the level of 2016-17

RAJESH MENON | DIRECTOR GENERAL, SIAM

Industry output grows 11.5% in July on low-base effect



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: Industrial production surged 11.5% in July mainly due to a low-base effect and good performance by manufacturing, mining and power sectors but the manufacturing sector, which constitutes 77.63% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), grew 10.5% in July, according to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) Friday.

The mining sector output rose 19.5% in July while power generation increased 11.1%.

In July 2021, the IIP stood at 131.4 points compared to 117.9 points in the same month last year. The index was at 131.8 points in July 2019, as per the NSO data.

The data showed that industrial

production recovered but was still slightly below the pre-pandemic level of July 2019. The IIP had contracted by 10.5% in July 2020.

Industrial production plunged 18.7% in March last year following the Covid outbreak and remained in the negative zone till August 2020.

With the resumption of economic activities, factory output rose 1% in September 2020 and grew 4.5% in October. In November 2020, the factory output fell 1.6% and then entered the positive territory with a 2.2% growth in December 2020.

The IIP had recorded a contraction of 0.6% in January and 3.2% in February this year. In March, it grew 24.2%.

For the month of April, the NSO held back the release of complete

Industrial production plunged 18.7% in March last year following the Covid outbreak and remained in the negative zone till August 2020

IIP data. In May 2021, IIP rose 28.6% and in June, it grew 13.6%.

The second wave of the pandemic started in the middle of April this year and many states imposed restrictions to curb the spread of coronavirus infections.

"The growth rates over corresponding period of previous year are to be interpreted considering the unusual circumstances on account of Covid-19 pandemic since March 2020," NSO said in a statement.

The government had imposed a nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of coronavirus infections March 25, 2020.

The manufacturing sector had recorded a contraction of 11.4% in July 2020. Mining sector output fell 12.7% in the same month last year. The electricity generation had declined 2.5% in July 2020.

The output of capital goods, which is a barometer of investment, grew 29.5% in July 2021. It had witnessed a contraction of 22.8% in the year-ago period. Consumer durables manufacturing increased 20.2% in the month under review whereas it was a decline of 23.7% in July 2020.

HDFC Bank disburses ₹7.22cr loans to SHGs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Reiterating commitment on socio-economic development of women through its sustainable livelihood initiative, HDFC Bank disbursed 7.22 crores loans to 395 Self Help Groups (SHG) consisting of 3,134 members spread across 28 districts in Odisha. The loans were disbursed at mega digital loan disbursement event.

Sujatha R Karthikeyan, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of Mission Shakti Odisha chaired the meeting and encouraged all SHGs to focus and scale up own livelihood. She also highlighted the importance and ways in expanding economic activities by taking the loan from bank, timely repayment and improves earning and also briefed that in digital era.

Banks have come out with innovative ways of reaching customers' doorstep to facilitate lending and banking.

Deepak Kumar Singh, Senior Vice President and Circle Head of HDFC Bank mentioned the importance of financial independence of Women in society and mentioned that SHGs are path to success and progress in Odisha.

Singh highlighted on the strategic collaboration with Mission Shakti will help the SHGs of Odisha for their financial devel-



In 10 years, HDFC lent ₹2,100cr in Odisha benefitting 6.15 lakh households. The bank has disbursed ₹12.41cr to Mission Shakti SHGs in this fiscal till August and will also be lending ₹100cr in current fiscal

SANJEEV MISHRA | STATE HEAD OF SLI

opment as well as strengthen the women entrepreneurship.

State Head of Sustainable Livelihood Initiative (SLI) Sanjeev Mishra said, "In the journey of 10 years, HDFC lent around ₹2,100 crore in Odisha covering 28 districts, 51 locations and benefitting 6.15 lakh households.

Mishra also mentioned that the bank will be lending another ₹100 crore in this financial year to Mission Shakti SHGs. HDFC Bank has disbursed 12.41 crores to Mission Shakti SHGs in this fiscal till August 31.

Healthy demand to sustain despite challenges: MSI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 10: Passenger vehicle (PV) demand is expected to maintain growth momentum in the coming months despite rising ownership cost as well as production challenges. Accordingly, PV market leader Maruti Suzuki India believes the upcoming festive season will boost buying sentiments. Lately, the sequential sales' momentum has been subdued due to rising ownership and operating cost.

According to Shashank Srivastava, Executive Director (Marketing & Sales), Maruti Suzuki India, "Healthy sales momentum is expected to be maintained during the main festive period starting from mid-October. Till now, the festival of Onam saw a decent sales uptrend. However, there are uncer-

tainties on the supply side." In India, the main tranche of the festive season commences from Navratri till Diwali.

"Factors such as shift to personal mobility from shared transport, lower interest rates, migration towards established brands as well as pent up demand are giving a push to sales momentum," he said. "Rural sector is also doing well because the income levels have improved."

Presently, the auto giant's 40 per cent sales come from the rural areas while 60 per cent is from urban India. Last month, the auto major's total sales rose to 130,699 units from 124,624 units sold during the corresponding period of 2020.

The total sales in the month included domestic sales of 105,775 units, off-take to other OEM of 4,305 units and exports of 20,619 units.



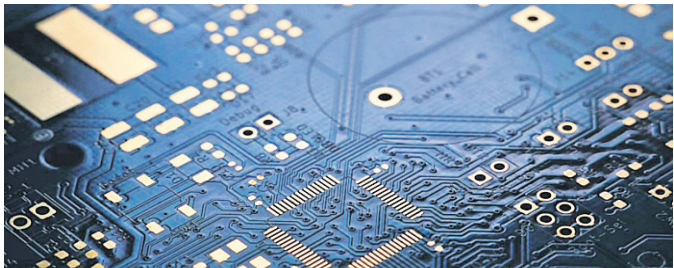
However, on a sequential basis, it had sold 162,462 units in July 2021. "Production has been impacted due to electronic components shortage in August. This is

DHONI, 1,800 OTHERS ASKED TO CLEAR DUES

Former Indian cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni is among over 1,800 homebuyers of Amrapali housing projects in Noida who have been asked by a Supreme Court-appointed receiver to start making payments of their outstanding dues within 15 days



Chip shortage pushes RIL, Google to delay smartphone launch



REUTERS

Bangalore, Sept 10: Indian conglomerate Reliance Industries delayed the launch of a low-cost smartphone it is developing with Google to November, citing an industry-wide semiconductor shortage. The "ultra-affordable" smartphone, developed jointly by Reliance's telecom arm and Google, was set to be rolled out from September 10.

Companies globally are tackling a massive semiconductor shortage as the pandemic-led shift to remote working drove demand for the critical component used in making laptops and phones. As a fallout, several automakers have also suspended production.

"Both the companies have begun testing JioPhone Next with a limited set of users for further refinement and are actively working to make it available more widely in time for the Diwali festive season," Jio said in an exchange filing late Thursday.

The annual festive season in India typically lasts for 30 days, beginning in October and ending with Diwali - set for November 4 this year. Indians usually make big-ticket purchases from jewellery to gadgets and cars around this

SEMICONDUCTOR SHORTAGE

Companies globally are tackling a massive semiconductor shortage as the pandemic-led shift to remote working drove demand for the critical component used in making laptops and phones

Jio disrupted India's telecom market in 2016 when it launched with cut-price data plans and free voice services, forcing several competitors out of the market

period. The additional time will also help mitigate the current industry-wide global semiconductor shortages, Jio added.

In June, when the phone was announced, Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani did not specify its price but said it will be the most affordable smartphone "not just in India, but globally".

Jio disrupted India's telecom market in 2016 when it launched with cut-price data plans and free voice services, forcing several competitors out of the market. It is now India's biggest mobile carrier with more than 425 million customers.

Khimji opens largest store in western Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Khimji Jewellers - the largest jewellery chain of Odisha, opened Friday a new store on the auspicious occasion of 'Ganesh Chaturthi' in Jharsuguda. Odisha Minister for Department of Health and Family Welfare, Naba Kishore Das inaugurated the store. Khimji Jewellers Chairman Dinesh Khimji, Director Mitesh Khimji Sumeet Khimji and Managing Director Kishore Khimji were present.

Located at Sarbahal Road, Marwari Para of Jharsuguda, the jewellery retail chain of Odisha has increased its store count to six, bringing in the largest jewellery store in western Odisha. Spread across 8,000 sq.ft area, the showroom offers its customers with a large variety of designs.

The Minister said, "The arrival of this new outlet of Khimji will create a new chapter in business sector of Jharsuguda and I strongly



believe Jharsuguda will definitely become a commercial and Industrial hub of Odisha in next 5-10 years."

The newly opened store will offer direct employment to 75 and indirect employment to 150 people. As of now the company has generated over 400 employment opportunities for the locals from western Odisha accumulating direct and indirect employment from both of its Rourkela and Jharsuguda stores.



jewellery & lifestyle store of Western Odisha which is equipped with a capacity to cater all western Odisha markets." Chairman Dinesh Khimji said, "We at Khimji Jewellers believe in the philosophy of 'Customer First', to which the people of Jharsuguda and nearby are going to experience with this store of Khimji Jewellers.

The 85 years legacy of the company has stood on high business standards and it compels our team to ensure high quality and value-for-money for our customers."

AM/NS starts ops at Sundargarh iron ore mine

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) announced the commencement of operations at the Ghoraburhani - Sagasahi iron ore mine in Sundargarh district. Spread across 139.165 hectares, the iron ore block has estimated resources of around 98.61 million tonne and is the first to be auctioned in India

under the Mineral Auction Rule, 2015.

The captive mine is set to produce two million tonnes of high-quality iron ore in the current calendar year and production will gradually be ramped up to its rated capacity of 7.16 MTPA. It will initially operate with the direct employment of about 600 people and indirect employment of nearly 2500 people. The iron ore will be

supplied to the beneficiation plant in Dabuna from where the feed will reach the pellet plant at Paradeep.

AM/NS India CEO Dilip Oommen said, "We are delighted to start operations at the Ghoraburhani - Sagasahi mine that strengthens our raw material self-sufficiency efforts. This is yet another step by us towards enabling Odisha to achieve the one trillion-dollar economy target it has set. We seek to ensure

the best governance practices and adhere to regulations of national and state governments. AM/ NS India will continue investing in Odisha, a promising hub for Indian steel production."

Sundargarh Collector Nikhil Pavan Kalyan said, "This is the culmination of a series of efforts by the Odisha government to consolidate the state's position as a hub of manufacturing."

FESTIVE PROSPECTS

Healthy sales momentum is expected to be maintained during the main festive period starting from mid-October. Till now, the festival of Onam saw a decent sales uptrend. However, there are uncertainties on the supply side

SHASHANK SRIVASTAVA | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (MARKETING & SALES), MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA

critical as cost and waiting period increases due to lesser production."

The automobile major has re-

ported an 8 per cent fall in its vehicle production in August. It produced a total of 113,937 units last month, compared to 123,769 units in August 2020.

Besides, vehicle acquisition cost has gone up due to rising commodity prices and high regulatory levies. India's auto market is considered to be highly price sensitive unlike those of Japan and the European Union. At present, the industry is grappling with rising costs of steel, plastics and rare metals in addition to high forms of levies, insurance

and road tax.

Recently, the company had to go in for a price hike due to rising commodity prices, especially those of steel, copper, rhodium and palladium amongst others.

"Earlier, we tried not to raise prices to revive demand by cost cutting and other measures. But continuously rising material cost has left us with no options."

Notably, 70 per cent of the overall vehicle cost is of manufacturing materials.

"Till now, we had to increase prices four times, in January, April, July for CNG cars and Swift and in September. Currently, commodity prices have started to soften-up a bit, the industry believes that the material cost will plateau out on these levels and soften more in Q3FY22 and Q4FY22."

CHAOTIC END TO TOUR

Fifth Test cancelled after India ‘unable to field team’ against England as Virat & co lead series 2-1 as of now



PACK-UP TIME: A member of the broadcast crew puts his equipment away after the announcement of the match's cancellation, Friday pic: espnricinfo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Manchester, Sept 10: The fifth Test between India and England was cancelled Friday amid a chaotic turn of events during which the host board's statement on the visitors changed from "unable to field a team and will instead forfeit the match" to "regrettably unable to field a team".

The development came after the touring side was left on tenterhooks following physio Yogesh Parmar's positive COVID-19 test that led to concerns that the infection could spread during the match, which was eventually cancelled a couple of hours before toss.

The initial statement issued by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) categorically mentioned the word "forfeit" but that was later omitted from a revised media release. Both statements are in possession of this agency.

"Due to fears of a further increase in the number of COVID cases inside the camp, India are regrettably unable to field a team," read the revised ECB statement.

It is learnt that, led by skipper Virat Kohli, who voiced his apprehension strongly, the players, late on Thursday, got into a huddle and couldn't be convinced by the BCCI brass to play the game.

The BCCI issued a statement of its own, hoping that the match could be rescheduled sometime later. "In lieu of the strong relationship between BCCI and ECB, the BCCI has offered to ECB a rescheduling of the cancelled Test match. Both the Boards will work towards finding a window to reschedule this Test match," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said.

A COVID-related quarantine would have meant missing out on IPL matches, starting September 19. The players are also awaiting reports of a fresh round of tests that have conducted.

"Following ongoing conversations with the BCCI, the ECB can confirm that the fifth LV= Insurance Test between England and India Men due to start today at Emirates Old Trafford, will be cancelled," the ECB stated.

"We send our sincere apologies to fans and partners for this news, which we know will cause immense disappointment and inconvenience to many," it added.

As of now, India are 2-1 ahead and have not been officially declared winners of the series simply because there is a chance of the fifth Test being played during the window in July next year when the team visits for a six-match white-ball series.

Ever since the Indian players refused to play despite testing negative Thursday, there have been continuous back-channel talks between the two boards.

"The BCCI and ECB held several rounds of discussion to find a way to play the Test Match, however, the outbreak of Covid-19 in the Indian team contingent forced the decision of calling off the Old Trafford Test Match," Shah said.

Ultimately the apprehension expressed by Kohli and Co. Took precedence. "The BCCI has always maintained that the safety and well-being of the players is of paramount importance and there will be no compromise on that aspect," Shah said.

Shah thanked the English board for its understanding of the trying circumstances. "The BCCI would like to thank the ECB for their co-operation and understanding in these trying times. We would like to apologise to the fans for not being able to complete an enthralling series." It is understood that the COVID-19 rules for the World Test Championship matches do not include forfeiture and that's where Kohli and his men were able to get their way.

Under the competition terms of the WTC, COVID-19 is identified as "acceptable non-compliance should

there be a significant impact of it on the team being able to play."

This is because the match can remain cancelled from the competition and with ICC using percentage points system based on points won in matches played, a cancelled match is of no value to any team.

The Indian players feared that the 96-hour incubation period factored in, they were at risk to return positive during the match and end up in 10-day quarantine, according to BCCI sources.

There were many questions that cropped up during the last 12 hours for BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and Shah with a number of factors being taken into account.

The chances of the IPL's schedule, starting September 19, going haywire were also taken into account as broadcasters and franchises wouldn't have taken the delay lightly.

Also, deferring the game by a day or two would have caused logistical issues as the Indian and English players were supposed to fly together to the UAE in a charter flight. "There is no guarantee that post Ravi Shastri's book release function which the team attended, there won't be more cases. So players were wary and more so about being in isolation for 10 days," a source said.

Harrison opens up on cancellation

MANCHESTER: A "gutted" England Cricket Board (ECB) CEO Tom Harrison Friday said it was the Indian players' anxiety over "what might happen" and not the COVID-19 outbreak itself that caused the cancellation of the fifth and final Test here even though all efforts were made to comfort the visitors.

Harrison said the developments of the past couple of days have been devastating and everything necessary was done to convince the Indian players, who were spooked by assistant physio Yogesh Parmar's positive COVID-19 test Thursday and refused to take the field.

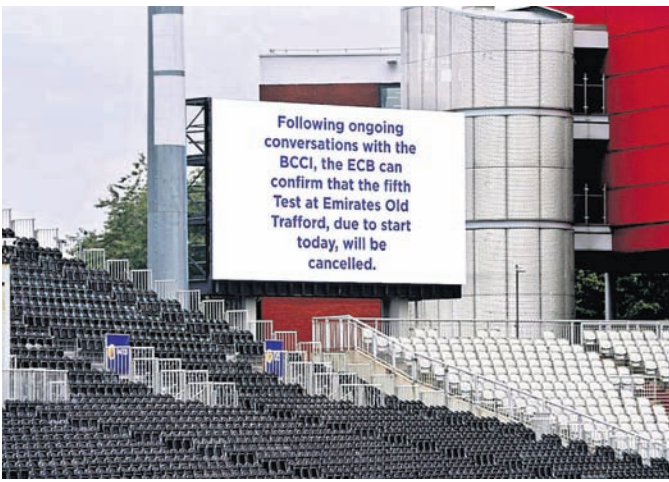
"It's a really sad day, my heart goes out to fans. We are absolutely gutted. Internationally this game gets astronomical audience. It became clear yesterday around lunch time that there was a problem in terms of the anxiety level in the Indian team.

"It wasn't an outbreak of COVID, it was a perception of what might happen post the physio testing positive. Over the course of the day, we tried to give as many different assurances that we could to give comfort to the players," he revealed.

After the match was cancelled due to the Indian players' reluctance to take the field following COVID-19 cases in the contingent, the BCCI issued a statement to say that both the boards will work towards finding space to reschedule the game at some other time.

Harrison said the proposed rescheduling would be a one-off game instead of being a decider for the series that India currently leads 2-1.

"No, I think it's a stand-alone situation. We have been offered a few other options, probably need to take a look (at those)," Harrison told



The message on scoreboard at the Old Trafford in Manchester shows the announcement of the match's cancellation

'Sky Sports' when asked whether it would be a stand-alone game or the series-decider:

"The glass half full version of it is that the prospects of playing a one off Test match against India as a focal point on this ground, let's try to deliver on that. It can be the only good news that comes out of a day like today," he added. If the rescheduled match is a one-off engagement than India would be deemed winners of the series as it stands right now, something that has not been officially confirmed yet.

The most likely window for the rescheduled game is July next year when India would be here for a limited-overs assignment.

Harrison said "medical people who understand this virus" were brought in to talk to the players Thursday but they were clear about not playing the match. Their concern was positive tests during the match, which would have led to longer quarantine in England and possible loss of game time at the IPL starting September 19.

India's head coach Ravi Shastri and three other support staff members were the first to test positive and are isolating in London. "Once you have got that sense of anxiety in the dressing room, it would be very difficult to reverse that. Physical and mental health of players is important," he said.

"People understand that when you have pulled a hamstring you cannot play but when you have a mental health issue akin to a hamstring pull, that's less well understood," he explained.

"We are in a situation now that we are not in bio-bubble but in managed living standards, which is better for players. It is not a COVID-free environment but COVID-managed environment."

Harrison said the ECB, however, would be able to handle the financial hit caused by the cancellation thanks to insurance cover. "Our insurance covers cancellation for COVID. Fans will get their money back. Our finance department will handle that," he said.

‘SHAME AND ANTICLIMAX’

The cancellation of the fifth and final Test between India and England in Manchester due to fears of more COVID-19 cases in the visitors' camp was Friday described as "absolute shame" and anticlimax to a "wonderful series". Many of them, however, refused to point fingers on India, who were leading the series 2-1, reminding that England had done the same in South Africa.

SHANE WARNE: This is such a shame – as it's been a wonderful series!

KEVIN PIETERSEN: England left the tour of SA for Covid scares & cost CSA plenty, so don't go pointing fingers! Just remember what I said about where Test Cricket will be in 2026...

MICHAEL VAUGHAN: India have let English Cricket down!!! But England did let South African Cricket down!!!

Nasser Hussain: The bubble time they have done and everything that has been done to get this series on, it's a real shame that it has to end on such a low note.

MARK BUTCHER: There could be multiple reasons but it is absolute shame that the series has not been played out the way it was meant to. We had an inkling last night that there could be an issue, there was talk of postponement of the Test match which of course would have caused as many problems as it can solve.

RCB: Health and safety of everyone involved is paramount and the right call has been made. We hope and pray that everybody is safe.

ISA GUHA: Mad times... Some questions – what happens to the points/how does the series end? If not forfeited? Will there be a chance to complete it another time?

TEEN DREAM

RADUCANU, LEYLAH ENTERS US OPEN FINAL



ASSOCIATED PRESS



major final between two teens since the 1999 US Open, when Serena Williams, 17, defeated Martina Hingis, 18.

Raducanu, now is the youngest Slam finalist since Maria Sharapova won Wimbledon at age 17 in 2004, became the first qualifier to reach a Grand Slam final in the professional era by overwhelming 17th-seeded Maria Sakkari 6-1, 6-4. Appearing in just her second major tournament, Raducanu won all 18 sets she has played during three matches in qualifying rounds and six in the main draw.

Who can? Not Raducanu, who originally bought a plane ticket to leave New York after qualifying ended, figuring that might be the end of her stay.

Fernandez isn't much older — her birthday was Monday — and she made it through a semifinal filled with momentum swings to edge No.2 Aryna Sabalenka 7-6(7-3), 4-6, 6-4.

ACB urges CA to not isolate them from int'l cricket

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kabul, Sept 10: Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) CEO Hamid Shinwari Friday asked Cricket Australia (CA) to reconsider its decision not to host its men's team for a Test in November after the Taliban banned women from playing sport, saying such a move will only isolate the strife-torn country.

Soon after forming an interim government, the Taliban banned women from playing cricket or any others sports, casting doubts over Afghanistan men's team Test status.

As per ICC rules, all Test playing nations must have a women's team as well. CA Thursday said that its men's team's season-opening Test against Afghanistan, slated to start November 27 in Hobart, will be scrapped due if Taliban doesn't allow women in sports.

"We ask CA and the whole cricketing world to keep the door open for us, walk with us, do not isolate us and avoid penalising us for our cultural and religious environment," ACB CEO Hamid Shinwari said.

"We accept that CA sees cricket as 'a sport for all and we support the game unequivocally for women at every level'. We understand, too, why 'if recent media reports that women's cricket will not be supported in Afghanistan are substantiated', CA might believe they have 'no alternative' but to refuse to host the scheduled test match," he said.

Shinwari said it fears that if other countries follow CA, then Afghanistan will be alienated from the cricket world and the game may cease to exist in the country.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buenos Aires, Sept 10: Argentine star Lionel Messi became the top international goal scorer in South American history, overtaking Brazil's Pele. The 34-year-old netted all the goals at Argentina's 3-0 win against Bolivia in World Cup qualifying Thursday, and now has 79 for the national team.

Messi scored his goals in 153 caps for Argentina, while Pele netted his 77 in 92 official matches for Brazil. Both goals at the Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires, in front of about 20,000 fans, were pieces of art by the six-time Ballon d'Or winner.

The first came in the 14th minute, with Messi moving the ball between a Bolivian defender's legs and shooting from outside the box to the right of goalkeeper Carlos Lampe. The second came in the 64th



minute after he and striker Lautaro Martinez dazzled the Bolivian defense with a quick exchange of four passes. Messi still had time to dribble past one defender before scoring. Messi completed his hat-trick

in the 88th minute from close range after getting a rebound from Lampe.

Messi didn't speak about the record after the match, but celebrated by lifting the Copa America trophy in front of home fans, who

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mohammedan Sporting enter Durand Cup quarterfinals
KOLKATA: Two-time former champions Mohammedan Sporting overwhelmed Central Reserve Police Force 5-1 in a Group A match to qualify for the quarterfinals of the 130th Durand Cup at the Kalyani Stadium Friday. Azharuddin Mallick gave the Black and White's an early lead in the first-half and then scored a second goal just minutes from close, while Trinidadian striker Marcus Joseph, last edition's top scorer, got two in two minutes in the second, to ensure a smooth passage for their team into the last eight. Dashpreet got one back for the Central Reserve Policemen in added time, while substitute Brandon added a fifth for MDSP a minute later. FC Bengaluru United (FCBU) were the first team from the group to qualify for the knockouts when they logged six points from two games after beating Indian Air Force 4-2 at the same venue Thursday. MDSP did the same, after having won 4-1 against the Airmen in the tournament opener.

Shubhankar 22nd at Wentworth golf meet
WENTWORTH (UK): It was a tale of two nines for Shubhankar Sharma as he shot 2-under 70 to lie at T-22 in the opening round of the BMW PGA Championship here. Sharma was 2-over for the front nine with bogeys on third and seventh and then changed his fortunes with birdies on 14th and 15th and an eagle on Par-5 17th to be placed T-22. Kiradech Aphibarnrat carded seven birdies in a stunning back nine at Wentworth Club to take as share of the first round lead. He was joined at the top by South Africa's Christiaan Bezuidenhout, the three-time European Tour winner carding an eagle at the par five fourth hole and picking up birdies on the final three holes to sign for his 64.

Aditi T-28th in Swiss Ladies Open golf
HOLZHAUSEN: Aditi Ashok was the best Indian with a card of 2-under 70 for T-28th spot after the opening round of the VP Bank Swiss Ladies Open on the Ladies European Tour here. Amandeep Drall, who had a Tied-4th place last week on LET Access Series, turned in a birdie-birdie finish to score even par 72 and was T-56, while the other Indians will need good second rounds to make the cut. Tvesa Malik, Gaurika Bishnoi and Vani Kapoor shot 1-over 73 each and were T-68th, while Ridhima Dilwari (75) was T-92. Astha Madan (81) was T-122 and certain to miss the cut. There was a two-way tie at the top of the leaderboard as Chloe Williams and Marianne Skarpnord both finished day one on eight-under-par.