



CHALLENGING PROFESSION

Prachi Desai says an actor's life is one of being constantly on the move

LEISURE P2



ASSAM BOAT CAPSIZE

Six employees of Assam's Inland Water Transport Department have been arrested for not following safety norms

TWO STATES P8



UNIQUE FEAT

Emma Raducanu becomes first qualifier to win a women's Grand Slam singles title at the US Open

SPORTS P12

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BHUPENDRA PATEL IS NEW GUJARAT CM

GANDHINAGAR: BJP MLA Bhupendra Patel will be the new Chief Minister of Gujarat. Patel (55) was unanimously elected BJP legislature party leader here Sunday. His name was proposed by CM Vijay Rupani, whose resignation from the post Saturday surprised many. Most of the 112 MLAs of the party in the 182-member Assembly were present at the meeting, BJP sources said. Patel won the 2017 Gujarat Legislative Assembly elections from Ghatlodia constituency, defeating Congress candidate Shashikant Patel by over one lakh votes, the highest winning margin in the 2017 Gujarat polls. He holds a diploma in civil engineering and is considered close to former CM Anandiben Patel, who won from the seat in 2012 polls.



TERRORISTS GUN DOWN COP IN J&K

SRINAGAR: A police officer was shot dead by a terrorist in Srinagar today, officials said. He was fired upon from point-blank range, they said, adding, the officer was rushed to Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) but died from his injuries. The incident took place at around 1.35 pm, the officials said. The officer has been identified as probationary sub-inspector Arshid Ahmad who was posted at the Khanyar Police Station, the officials said. The CCTV footage of the incident shows a terrorist shooting the officer at least twice from behind from point-blank range at a marketplace in Khanyar, they said.

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DELUGE: A road in front of the ISKCON temple in Bhubaneswar appeared like a canal following incessant rains, Sunday

OP PHOTO

COVID death certificate rules out

The Centre's affidavit was submitted nearly 10 days after the Supreme Court rapped the government over the delay in issuing guidelines for the issuance of COVID death certificates

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 12: The Centre has informed the Supreme Court that the Health Ministry and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have come out with guidelines for issuing an "official document" for COVID-related deaths. The affidavit in the top court was submitted nearly 10 days after the top court rapped the Central government over the delay in issuing guidelines for the issuance of COVID death certificates.



As per the guidelines, only those COVID-19 cases will be considered which have been diagnosed through RT-PCR test, molecular test, rapid-antigen test or clinically determined through investigations at a hospital or in-patient facility by a treating physician, while admitted at hospital or in-patient facility. Deaths occurring due to poisoning, suicide, homicide and ac-

cident, among others, will not be considered as COVID-19 deaths even if the infection is an accompanying condition, the document further elaborates. Patients who have "died either in hospital settings or at home, and where a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) in Form 4 and 4 A has been issued to the registering authority as required under Section 10 of the Registration of Birth and Death (RBD) Act, 1969, will be treated as a COVID-19 death," the guidelines read. According to an ICMR study, says the affidavit, 95 per cent of deaths take place within 25 days of a person testing COVID-19 positive. "To make the scope broader and more inclusive, deaths occurring within 30 days from the date of testing or from the date of being clinically determined as a COVID-19 case, will be treated as deaths due to COVID-19, even if the death takes place outside the hospital/in-patient facility," it says.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Meet the frontrunner to replace the outgoing CM

Budget plans only on paper: CAG

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has observed that many of the schemes announced by the state government in its Budget were never executed despite availability of funds

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: In a recent report, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has claimed that several promises made by the Odisha government in its annual Budgets either remained only on paper or were partially executed for varied reasons.

The observation was made by CAG in the audit report on the finances of the state for the 2019-20 fiscal. Several policy initiatives/schemes (₹1 crore and above) were initiated by the state government in the 2019-20 fiscal and it was seen that these were either partially executed or not executed at all," the report said.

The report claimed that six and schemes announced by the state government were never executed. For instance, the report claimed that the government had made provision for



₹1,000 lakh for KHUSHI scheme of the Health Department for the fiscal, but it was not executed.

Similar was the fate of Ama Ghare LED Light scheme of the Energy Department, which had a budgetary provision of ₹12,500 lakh. This scheme was also not executed. The Micro and Small Enterprise Cluster Development Programme under the MSME Ministry was allocated ₹150 lakh but it could not be utilised as the department did not receive the Central share for setting up a new common facility centre.

The Sankalpa scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Scheme also remained only on paper as it was not executed despite a budgetary allocation of ₹100 lakh. A sum of ₹1,550 lakh was envi-

sioned for the Jal Dhara Construction of Dugwell and Farm Pond works under the Agriculture Department but the entire amount was surrendered due to non-approval of the scheme. The construction and renovation of Forest Department buildings and the state Forest Academy also met the same fate and the entire amount allocated for the project was also surrendered, the CAG said in its report.

The CAG, while commenting on the issue, said, "Further, the audit noticed that under nine existing sub-schemes approved outlay/ revised outlay involving an amount of ₹163.51 crore remained completely unutilised during the 2019-20 fiscal as no expenditure was incurred."

Heavy rains lash capital, many areas under water

Several low-lying areas in the smart city were inundated following heavy downpour exposing the civic authorities' callous apathy towards the city and the denizens

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Severe water-logging in different low-lying areas of the state capital, Sunday, disrupted life and traffic as heavy downpour and intermittent rains remained the order of the day.

Triggered by a well-marked low pressure over the Bay of Bengal, the capital city received 119 mm of rain until evening. While 78 mm rain was observed till 3:45 pm, heavy rains lashed the capital for an hour during evening.

The city witnessed the second highest rainfall in the state after Puri, which received 145 mm rain, Sunday. The heavy downpour resulted in deluge in several parts of the city. Rainwater accumulated on the roads and even entered houses and business establishments near ISKCON, Nayapalli, Rasulgargh, Acharya Vihar,

Bomikhal, Rajmahal, Airport Road and other low-lying areas, affecting normal life and vehicular movement in the smart city. As it rained till late in the night, helpline numbers of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) were busy. Some areas in Old Town, Bhimatangi, Chintamaniswar and Behera Sahi reported water gushing into residential areas. People were seen wading through knee-deep water to go out of their homes. Responding to this, a BMC official stated that pump sets were deployed in various low-lying areas of the city to clear water-logging. "We had positioned pump sets in 27 vulnerable points of the city that are prone to water-logging. Other places that had reported water logging were immediately attended to after receiving calls from the residents." Meanwhile, the MeT department has issued rainfall alert for next three days under the influence of the low pressure area which is likely to move north-westwards and concentrate into a depression over Northwest Bay of Bengal off north. The department has issued a red warning for heavy rainfall for eight districts of the state for two days, including Twin Cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar.

FBI memo hints at Saudi link to 9/11 attack hijackers

The FBI memo showed links between Omar Bayoumi, a suspected Saudi intelligence operative, and two of the Al-Qaeda operatives who took part in the 9/11 attacks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, Sept 12: The Biden administration declassified an FBI memo Saturday that fortified suspicions of official Saudi involvement with the hijackers in the September 11, 2001 attacks, but it fell well short of proof that victims' families suing Saudi Arabia had hoped for.

The memo from April 4, 2016, which had been classified until now, showed links between Omar Bayoumi, at the time a student but suspected to have been a Saudi intelligence operative, and two of the Al-Qaeda operatives who took part in the plot to hijack and crash four airliners into targets in New York and Washington. The documents, based on 2009 and 2015 interviews with a source, details contacts and meetings between Bayoumi and the two hijackers - Nawaf al Hazmi and Khalid al Midhar - after they arrived in Southern California in 2000 ahead of the attacks. It also strengthens the already-reported links between the two and Fahad al Thumairy, a conservative imam at the King Faad mosque in Los Angeles and an of-

ficial at the Saudi consulate there. The document says that telephone numbers associated with the source indicated contact with a number of people who assisted Hamzi and Midhar while they were in California, including Bayoumi and Thumairy, as well as the source himself. It says the source told the FBI that Bayoumi, beyond his official identity as a student, had "very high status" in the Saudi consulate. "Bayoumi's assistance to Hamzi and Midha included translation, travel, lodging and financing," the memo said. The memo also said that the FBI source's wife told them Bayoumi often talked about "jihad." And it further connects by meetings, phone calls and other communications, Bayoumi and Thumairy with Anwar al Alaki, the US-born



cleric who became an important Al-Qaeda figure before he was killed in

a drone strike in Yemen in 2011. The document released was still

significantly redacted and did not offer a clear direct link between the Saudi government and the hijackers. It was released after President Joe Biden was pressured by family members of those killed on 9/11 who have sued Saudi Arabia for complicity. Three successive US administrations have refused to declassify and release documents related to the case, apparently because they do not want to damage the US-Saudi relationship. Jim Kreindler, one of the leaders of the lawsuit, said the document validates the lawsuit's key contention that the Saudi government helped the hijackers. "With this first release of documents, 20 years of Saudi Arabia counting on the US government to cover up its role in 9/11 comes to an end," Kreindler said in a statement.

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	26.8°C	27.6°C
MIN	24.8°C	24°C
Humidity	98%	93%
Rainfall	119.1 mm	172 mm

Forecast

Light rains likely

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Whip up some excitement in your life – put on your walking shoes and go explore some unknown destination, suggests Ganesha. Keep yourself busy, but take care not to overdo anything. Today, you will be the centre of attention in group activities.

TAURUS

You are likely to get extra passionate and fervent today, predicts Ganesha. If your logic prevails over your heart, things will probably change for better during the course of the day. It is high time that you set into motion the poignant side of your character, suggests Ganesha.

GEMINI

You will be in an extremely emotional and romantic mood today. You may be worried about your personal relations, health, diet, career etc. You need to guard against giving into excessive stress and worry and look after your health, says Ganesha.

CANCER

The day is very favourable, says Ganesha. You will feel a sense of joy and happiness with your valuable possessions. You may fall into love or have a strong romantic ties with someone. A great time for lovers. Ganesha foresees chance of having new contacts and ties.

LEO

Call it the momentary re-ignition of the spark of brilliance and energy, this day finds you at the peak of your dynamism. Ganesha predicts a fantastic day for all, especially those in the freelancing business, as your imagination and inspiration reach new heights and motivate others to excel.

VIRGO

Today is the day when you'll be like the Iron Man: heart of gold, nerves of steel – minus the shiny body armour, though. Tolerance, optimism and exceedingly artistic talents will rule the roost. Pursue academics in the arts, advises Ganesha. Your understanding of life will help you serve society better. Yes, like Iron Man.

LIBRA

Ganesha says today will be a wonderful day and bring forth a breakthrough for you. You shall get to know and learn a lot from top most officials and elderly people. The higher ups in your office will give you good support today. Ganesha warns you to stay away from judicial proceedings or pleadings, as today is not a good day for fighting court battles.

SCORPIO

"It's a dream come true," you may utter these words in surprise today, feels Ganesha. Your palatial home is ready or you may just get the keys of your much desired vehicle. You may have an extended celebration by receiving or giving gifts to your closed ones. However, make sure you do not make a hole in your pocket.

SAGITTARIUS

A balanced day is in store today. Find yourself as much at home as at your desk. You may engage in a time of fun and games with your buddies. But when it comes to family, something more practical, like re-arranging your house, is on the cards.

CAPRICORN

If you are a sports person, you will enjoy both good health and fame, while engineers will mull investing money in new business ventures, foresees Ganesha. But make sure you know what you are doing, a minor slip can cost you a fortune, and you would have realised by now that repenting won't undo anything.

AQUARIUS

Money matters are very important, and your family will demand your presence in all financial dealings. At work, things will be more comfortable. You may also get new projects. Ganesha predicts a trip in the offing.

PISCES

Your inherent dynamism and energy will sparkle forth today. Freelancers will be struck with inspiration, and will conjure masterpieces. Pleasant surprises await you in the evening, says Ganesha.



'NEXT BOND COULD BE A MAN OR WOMAN OF ANY RACE OR AGE'

Actor Lashana Lynch, who will next be seen in the upcoming James Bond film *No Time To Die*, has denied speculation that she could be the next Bond. The 33-year-old actor said the next Bond can be anyone a man or woman, a young or old person, from any race.

KATIE PRICE DUMPS FIANCE CARL WOODS

Model and television personality Katie Price reportedly ended her relationship with fiance Carl Woods before attending the *National Television Awards* (NTA) in London Thursday. Katie and Carl started dating in June 2020 and got engaged earlier this year in April.



Prachi Desai living out of a suitcase

Mumbai: *Rock On* actress Prachi Desai turned 33 Sunday. Functioning on a chock-a-block schedule, Prachi will be ringing it in with her close friends and family.

Practically living out of a suitcase for the last few months, the actress has no complaints whatsoever. Admitting that an actor's life is one of being constantly on the move, she says that her projects are keeping her motivated.

The actress was shooting in Mussoorie for her upcoming film *Forensic* with Vikrant Massey and Radhika Apte. She has a bit of a break when she decided to come down to Mumbai and finish her prior commitments. She was scheduled to finish some brand shoots after which she returns to *Forensic* set in a few days.

"It has been busy but as an actor, I am only grateful for the opportunities coming my way. I am having such a wonderful time at work that I am living one of the most gratifying phases of my career."

Prachi has played lead roles in films like *Once Upon a Time in Mumbai*, *Bol Bachchan*, *I, Me Aur Main*, *Policegiri*, *Azhar* to name a few.



No immediate plan to join politics: Kangana

Mumbai: National Award-winning actress Kangana Ranaut, who portrays politician J Jayalalithaa in the trilingual biopic titled *Thalaivii*, says that even though she is a patriot, she has no immediate plan to join politics.

Kangana was in conversation with radio jockey Raunac for his new YouTube show, #13raJawabNahi.

During the conversation, while asked if she has any ambition to join politics, Kangana said, "I currently have no such plans. I strongly believe that without working on the ground level one cannot win even a Gram Panchayat election. People can see

through you and understand ingenuity. For entering politics, one needs to make genuine investments in people. If people wish, I can think about it."

Continuing the conversation, Kangana also mentioned that she has paid a heavy price for speaking like a patriot. While answering one of Raunac's questions she added "I have lost many contracts because I speak towards nation-building, the loss of these contracts meant losing out on revenue. However, I chose my country over money. I have a very simple approach to life and don't have two faces."

The show was released on YouTube Sunday morning.



Ajay to appear on Grylls' show

Mumbai: Actor Ajay Devgn will soon be seen on popular adventure show *Into The Wild With Bear Grylls* with adventurer and survivalist Bear Grylls.

The show, which airs on Discovery channel, has earlier had actors Akshay Kumar and Rajinikanth on the show.

In 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appeared with Grylls on the show *Man vs Wild*.

According to the channel, the episode will be shot in Maldives and Ajay has left for the shoot Sunday.

The show focuses on survival skills required when out in the wild without the comforts of technology or human habitat.



While the date of the episode's release hasn't been announced yet, it will premiere first on discovery+ app.



Happening bags best film award at Venice fest



Spanish star Penelope Cruz has won Venice's Best Actress honour for her performance in Pedro Almodovar's new melodrama 'Parallel Mothers John' while John Arcilla was the Best Actor for his performance in 'On The Job: The Missing 8'.

Venice: In a move that could be seen as a strong message for women's rights, and for the right of female filmmakers to be celebrated, the 2021 Venice Film Festival gave its top honour, the Golden Lion for best film, to Audrey Diwan's French abortion drama *Happening*.

"I feel heard tonight!" a near-ecstatic Diwan said accepting her historic award.

Happening, an adaptation of the novel of the same name by Annie Ernaux, tells the story of a bright college student in early-1960s France who sees her emancipation threatened when she gets pregnant. With no legal options available, she tries to find a way to illegally abort.

The best director honour, the Silver Lion, went to Jane Campion for her Netflix neo-Western *The*

Power of the Dog. Starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Kirsten Dunst, the film is Campion's first feature in 12 years.

Italian director Pablo Sorrentino won the grand jury prize for his well-received autobiographical drama *The Hand of God*, with the film's star, Filippo Scotti, taking the Best Young Actor honour.

Spanish star Penelope Cruz has won Venice's best actress honour for her performance in Pedro Almodovar's new melodrama *Parallel Mothers John* while Arcilla



won best actor honour for his performance in *On The Job: The Missing 8*.

Maggie Gyllenhaal won best screenplay honor for her directorial debut *The Lost Daughter*. Noting that she married and had her first child in Italy, Gyllenhaal said, "My life as a director and writer was born here, in this theater," referencing Venice's Sala Grande.

Il Buco, Michelangelo Frammartino's cinematic exploration of one of the world's deepest caves, won a special jury prize.

In the Horizons section, Lithuanian crime drama *Pilgrims* from director Laurynas Bareisa took the best film honour.

Eric Gravel's French drama *Full Time* won two Horizons prizes: best director for Gravel and best actress for Laure Calamy. Piseth Chhun won best actor in the Horizons section for his starring performance in Kavich Neang's Cambodian drama *White Building*, according to *Hollywood Reporter*.



Best Actress Penelope Cruz

FUN post

PEANUTS



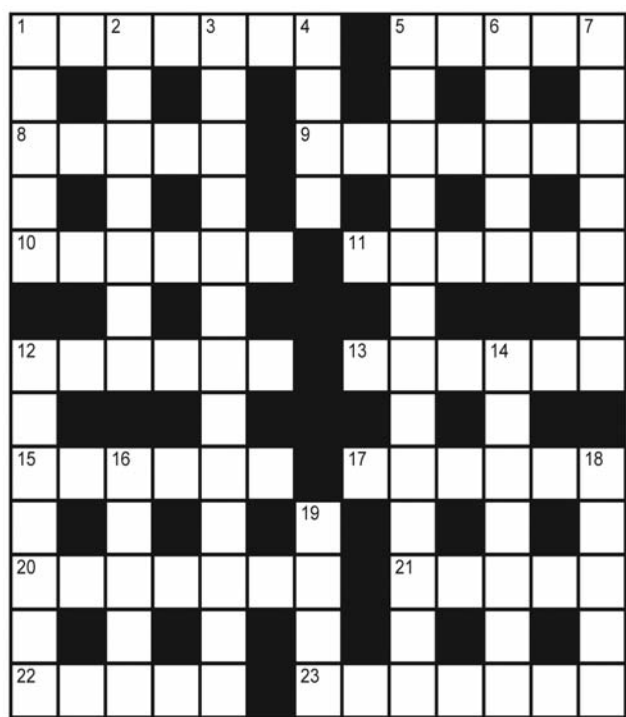
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



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Across

- Rhone town
- Feather boa
- Rhino relative
- Fierce
- Easement
- On fire
- Literary genre
- Non-stop splurges
- Song part

Down

- Fragrant oil
- Desire
- Worthy principles
- Restaurant boast
- Musical composition
- Jargon
- Firmness of purpose

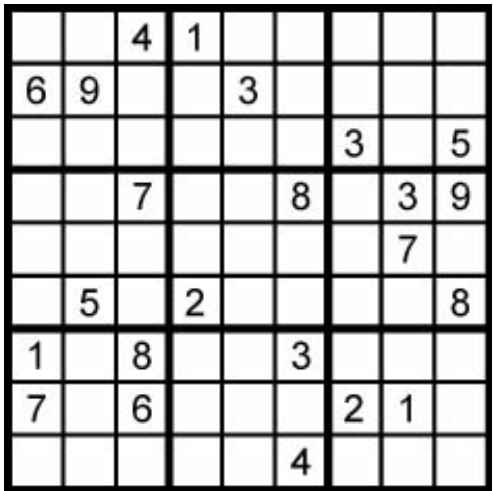
Across

- Stressful (5-8)
- Shade of blue
- Skier's problem
- Boxing venue
- Athlete's aim
- Places fit for a king
- Step-by-step
- Side dish
- Jacket material
- Kind of jet

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

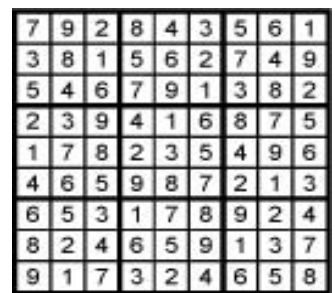


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

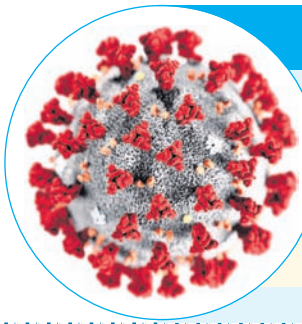


downtown



FULL OF VIGOUR

Mahanadi river in spate near Jobra anicut in Cuttack, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	22,52,99,860	20,18,52,314	46,41,626
India	3,32,36,921	3,24,09,345	4,42,655
Odisha	10,16,362	10,02,128	8,098

IMD forecasts very heavy rain in 7 dists



People travelling on a waterlogged road near Puri beach, Sunday

PNN/ AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: As a low pressure over the Bay of Bengal is all set to concentrate into a depression, Odisha which is already soaked in the rain for two days is likely to be lashed by more down-pour threatening to throw life out of gear in seven districts of the state, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Sunday.

The IMD issued Red warning (heavy to very heavy rainfall with isolated extremely heavy rainfall) for seven districts; normal life is already affected by downpours in some of them.

In the wake of the warning, the state government has asked the district administrations to be prepared for the eventuality. The low-pressure area formed Saturday over the central and adjoining North Bay of Bengal now lies as a well-marked low-pressure area over the north-west and adjoining west-central part of the sea, with associated cyclonic circulation, the IMD said.

“The system is most likely to move north-westwards and concentrate into a depression over the north-west Bay of Bengal off north Odisha and West Bengal coasts during the next 24 hours and then



Waterlogging at Badambadi in Cuttack

move west-north-west across north Odisha and north Chhattisgarh during subsequent two-three days,” it said.

Under its influence, there will be heavy rainfall with isolated extremely heavy rainfall across the state for three days till September 14.

The IMD issued Red warning for Puri, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Dhenkanal and Nayagarh districts. Orange warning (isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall) for six

districts and Yellow Warning (isolated heavy rainfall) for eight districts.

The IMD cautioned that the districts for which Red warning was issued may encounter flash flood/ waterlogging, inundation in low lying areas, damage to informal/kutcha roads, wall collapses and occasional reduction of visibility causing traffic congestion in urban areas.

The IMD suggested the state government to keep arrangements for

THE IMD ISSUED RED WARNING FOR PURI, KHURDA, CUTTACK, JAGATSINGHPUR, KENDRAPARA, DHENKANAL AND NAYAGARH DISTRICTS, ORANGE WARNING FOR SIX DISTRICTS AND YELLOW WARNING FOR EIGHT DISTRICTS

Special Relief Commissioner PK Jena asked the district collectors to remain prepared for the eventuality in wake of the IMD warning

BDOs, tehsildars and other field staff were asked to keep vigil in low-lying areas, arrange for dewatering wherever required and ensure that control rooms function round-the-clock

drainage of excess water and avoid movement in affected areas in the seven districts.

Orange Warning is issued for the districts of Ganjam, Kandhamal, Boudh, Angul, Jajpur, and Bhadrak while the districts of Kalahandi, Bolangir, Sonepur, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Balasore get Yellow Warning.

The IMD advised fishermen not to venture into sea along and off the Odisha coast, north and west-central Bay of Bengal from September 12 to 14 and those in the deep sea areas are advised to return to the coast by Sunday night as the squally weather with wind speed reaching 45-55 kilometres per hour gusting 65 kmph will make the sea condition very rough.

In another bulletin, the IMD said light to moderate rain/thundershower has occurred at most places over Odisha particularly districts such as Jagatsinghpur, Nawarangpur, Angul, Rayagada, Sundergarh and Kalahandi.

Meanwhile, Special Relief Commissioner PK Jena in a letter to district collectors asked them to remain prepared for the eventuality in wake of the IMD warning.

He said block development officers, tehsildars and other field staff should keep vigil in low-lying areas, arrange for dewatering wherever required and ensure that control rooms function round the clock.

RAIN-SOAKED CAPITAL



(1) A submerged residential area at Bomikhal in Bhubaneswar, Sunday (2) An uprooted tree alongside the NH-16 near Rasulgarh (3) The damaged boundary wall of an apartment block at Rasulgarh (4) A shop in Unit-III area inundated with rainwater

OP PHOTOS

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: The Wildlife department's plan to radio collar elephants for tracking their movements will soon get an impetus in the state.

The plan to radio collar wild jumbos in Odisha could not be implemented due to the Covid-19 pandemic, sources said.

“The radio collar plan got delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But, we will soon talk to all agencies concerned for implementation of the plan. We have already discussed the issue with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. We hope that the project will soon become a reality,” Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Wildlife, Shashi Paul told Orissa POST.

In the initial phase, at least seven elephants from different forest di-



Representative image

visions in state would be radio collared to ensure better tracking of the movements of jumbo herds. Many people in Odisha have lost their lives due to the human-animal conflicts over the years.

As per the plan, the GPS-enabled radio collars can help real time monitoring of movement of elephants under various forest divisions in state. Tracking of the

movements of elephants can help the officials to alert people residing close to the forests.

The Wildlife department, meanwhile, claimed that it was using modern technology to check the elephant-human conflicts. The department is now using drones to monitor the movements of wild elephants, sources said.

“We are now using drones,

At least seven elephants from different forest divisions in state would be radio collared to ensure better tracking of the movements of jumbo herds

Tracking of the movements of elephants can help the officials to alert people residing close to the forests

The Wildlife department is now using drones, equipped with specialised night cameras, to monitor the movement of elephants in highly vulnerable areas like Angul, Dhenkanal and Sundergarh

equipped with specialised night cameras, to monitor the movement of elephants in highly vulnerable areas like Angul, Dhenkanal and Sundergarh. As the pachyderms move mostly at night, these cameras are helping us track their movements,” Paul added.

According to the 2017 Elephant Census, Odisha is home to 1,976 jumbos.

RS MP urges Centre for ESI infra boost

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Rajya Sabha MP Amar Patnaik Sunday urged Union Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav to develop infrastructure for Employees State Insurance (ESI) card holders in Odisha.

Taking to Twitter, Patnaik said that the present insured person (IP) strength in Odisha is around 7.4 lakh. “The actual beneficiaries that are entitled to get medical care under the ESI scheme is about 28 lakh. Out of 30 districts, ESI facilities are available fully only in 20 districts and partially in four districts. Six districts are completely not covered under the facility,” he said.

There is an urgent need of establishment of new sub-regional offices, more ESI Hospitals, establishment of super specialty hospital at Bhubaneswar and establishment of new hospitals along with the upgradation of existing ones in various regions of Odisha which have now grown into high tier-II cities and towns.

10,477 APPEAR FOR NEET-UG AT 16 CENTRES IN CITY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: As many as 83 centres in 16 cities of Odisha conducted the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for under graduate (UG) courses Sunday.

Wishing the aspirants good luck for the nationwide exam, state Higher education Minister Arun Sahoo, through his social media account, wrote, “Wishing good luck and success to all appearing for #NEET2021 from 83 centers located in 16 cities of Odisha Sunday during this challenging time. May you all perform your best in this nationwide competition aspiring to be the future doctors.”

The exam was conducted in 16 cities of the state which are Angul, Balasore, Berhampur, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri, Rourkela, Sambalpur, Balangir, Bhawanipatna, Keonjhar, Koraput, Malkangiri, Parlakhemundi, Rayagada and Phulbani.

In Bhubaneswar, 16 centers welcomed a total of 10,477 candidates.



The candidates were thoroughly checked at the entrance of the examination centres while there was strict adherence to the Covid norms

The exam was conducted from 2 pm to 5 pm in pen and paper mode with adherence to Covid guidelines.

Earlier, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had written to Chief Ministers of all the states including Odisha, seeking their support in conducting the largest single shift competitive exam in India which was

scheduled for September 12, Sunday. With a record 16.14 lakh candidates having registered for the NEET-UG exam and in keeping in mind the prevailing Covid-19 situation, the number of centres were doubled to 3,858 and candidates were allotted different entry times to ensure staggered entry.

NEET-UG is the qualifying entrance exam for admission into

courses like Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS), Bachelor of Ayurveda, Medicine and Surgery (BAMS), Bachelor of Siddha Medicine and Surgery (BSMS), Bachelor of Unani Medicine and Surgery (BUMS), Bachelor of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS), and BSc (H) Nursing courses at various medical colleges.

Last year, NEET-UG was held in September, and then repeated in October to cater to those who missed the exam due to Covid. Some students had urged that multiple attempts be permitted this year as well, similar to engineering entrance examination JEE.

However, the National Testing Agency (NTA) had earlier announced that NEET-UG would re-

NEET-UG is the entrance exam for admission into courses like MBBS, BDS, BAMS, BSMS, BUMS, BHMS and BSc (H) Nursing courses at various medical colleges

Last year, NEET-UG was held in September, and then repeated in October to cater to those who missed the exam due to Covid. Some students had urged that multiple attempts be permitted this year as well, similar to engineering entrance examination JEE

However, the National Testing Agency had earlier announced that NEET-UG would revert to a single date in 2021. It would also be conducted in pen-and-paper mode, unlike JEE which was a computer-based test staggered across multiple sessions

vert to a single date in 2021. It would also be conducted in pen-and-paper mode, unlike JEE which was a computer-based test staggered across multiple sessions.

Show cause notice on govt over '19 farmer's electrocution death



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked the state government to show cause within six weeks as to why the rights body should not recommend an additional compensation of ₹3 lakh for a farmer who died after being electrocuted in Jagatsinghpur in 2019.

The NHRC move follows a plea filed by rights activist Pratap Chandra Mohanty October 4, 2019 who informed the commission that Nilamani Swain, a farmer of Pokharipada village under Ersama block in Jagatsinghpur, died after coming in contact with a dangling 11KV live wire at his farmland September 13, 2019.

Mohanty had blamed the negligent discom for the mishap while seeking adequate compensation to the next of the kin of the deceased.

Taking cognisance, the commission had October 10, 2019 sought action taken reports (ATRs) from the Energy department and Jagatsinghpur superintendent of police (SP) in connection with the incident within four weeks.

Sources said that despite re-

mindings, neither the Energy department Principal secretary nor the Jagatsinghpur SP did turn up, prompting the commission November 2, 2020 to issue conditional summons to the duo seeking their personal appearance March 1, 2021.

While the Jagatsinghpur SP January 7, 2021 informed the commission that the post-mortem report attributes the death to 'instantaneous cardiac failure due to high voltage electric shock', the Energy department February 10, 2021 told the rights body that an enquiry by the chief engineer-cum-chief electrical inspector (central zone) found violation under Section 58(3) of the CEA Measures relating to Safety and Electric Supply Regulations, 2010. The Energy department held the power distribution company responsible for the tragic mishap.

The Energy department also informed the commission that the power distribution company had paid ₹1.5 lakh as compensation to the next of the kin of Swain.

The commission had March 19, 2021 directed the Principal Secretary to Energy department and Jagatsinghpur SP to revert within four weeks on action taken against

The commission observed that the 'Energy department cannot escape by paying ₹1.5 lakh as compensation' as it has failed to ensure proper maintenance of electrical wires/poles which claimed a life

the erring discom officials who violated the CEA regulations, leading to death of a person.

In response, the HRC ADGP July 26 this year informed the commission that the matter was enquired by Ersama police. A case (160 dated 08.07.2021) under Sections 304A and 34 of the IPC was registered against Chinmaya Mohanty, Niranjana Swain (lineman) and Siba Sundar Nayak (helper). The case was being investigated. The Energy department July 19 this year told the NHRC that Chinmaya Mohanty, assistant manager (E), Electrical Section has been suspended.

While hearing the case September 10 last, the commission observed that the 'Energy department cannot escape by paying ₹1.5 lakh as compensation' as it has failed to ensure proper maintenance of electrical wires/poles which claimed a life. "This act of negligence of electricity department has violated human rights of the deceased victim for which the State Govt is vicariously liable. This amount of compensation (₹3 lakh) will be in addition to the compensation of ₹1.5 lakh which has been paid to the NoK of deceased victim," The commission observed, while serving the show cause notice on the state government.

STATE'S COVID TOLL AT 8,098

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Odisha's Covid-19 caseload rose to 10,16,362 Sunday as 649 more people tested positive for the virus, which is 19 more than the previous day's count, a Health official said.

The Covid-19 death toll rose to 8,098 as six more persons succumbed to the disease.

The 649 new Covid-19 cases included 103 children and adolescents in the age-group of 0-18 years. The rate of infection among children now is 15.87, he said.

Khurda district, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the highest of 235 new cases followed by Cuttack at 84. These two districts reported about 49 per cent of the state's total daily caseload.

The state currently has 6,957 active Covid-19 cases, while 10,01,254 patients have recovered from the disease, including 706 Saturday.

The state has so far conducted over 1.88 crore sample tests including 60,298 Saturday for Covid-



Odisha has so far conducted over 1.88 crore sample tests, including 60,298 Saturday, while the state's cumulative positivity rate now stands at 5.39 per cent

19. Odisha's positivity rate now stands at 5.39 per cent. The coastal state has so far inoculated over 61.32 lakh people with both the doses of the Covid-19 vaccine.

BJP'S CUTTACK BANDH TODAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 12: The Cuttack unit of BJP has called for a 12-hour bandh in the Silver City here Monday (September 13) to protest against the restrictions imposed by the state government on the celebration of Durga puja.

The party has urged shopkeepers, common people and members of various puja committees to support the bandh.

The party, meanwhile, said its workers would not block the roads during the strike

"The state government has made it clear that the height of idols must not cross 4ft. It has also imposed several other restrictions. We will observe the bandh from 6 am to 6 pm in the city to protest against the curbs on Durga puja," said BJP leader Lalatendu Badu.

The party, meanwhile, said its workers would not block the roads during the strike.



Rainwater flows into the sea following heavy rain in Puri, Sunday

OP PHOTO

HE intervention sought for issuance of certificates from Andhra varsities

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: The Odisha Parents' Federation (OPF) Sunday wrote letter to the state Higher Education Minister (HE) Arun Sahoo, demanding the department's intervention into the non-issuance and non-publication of the cumulative grade point average (CGPA) to percentage conversion certificates to the B.Ed and M.Ed students by some universities in Andhra Pradesh.

CGPA to percentage conversion certificate is issued by a university wherein the university marks are provided in CGPA and are converted to percentage. These certificates are essential to get jobs in Odisha.

After several requests students, some universities understood the

seriousness of the situation and issued both the certificates keeping in mind the students' career. However, some universities are yet to issue the certificates.

The eligible students of Rayalaseema University in Kurnool district and Yogi Vemana University in Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh are currently under pressure due to the lack of the CGPA to percentage conversion certificate.

"Under these circumstances, we urge the Higher Education department to request the Vice-Chancellors of both the universities under Andhra Pradesh Higher Education department to issue the required certificates" read the letter written by OPF Chairman Basudev Bhatt to the Higher Education Minister Arun Sahoo.

Tribal museum virtual tour showcases Kutia Khond tribe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: The ST&SC Development department Sunday showcased the life and culture of Kutia Khond during the virtual tour to Odisha State Tribal Museum here.

The ST&SC Development department in association with the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI) is organising the virtual tour of the tribal museum every Sunday.

During the virtual tour this Sunday, visitors got the opportunity to know details regarding the Kutia Khond tribe through the Facebook and Twitter pages of ST&SC Development department and SCSTRTI.

SCSTRTI director AB Ota said



members of Kutia Khond tribe usually live in the south-west Odisha, especially Kandhamal and Kalahandi districts. The Kutia

Khond families are mostly nuclear. The major social, economic and religious activities revolve around the family.

IDOL IMMERSION



People immerse clay idols of Lord Ganesh at artificial ponds near Kuakhai bridge in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

OP PHOTO

13,500 SHGs in Odisha's engaged in executing MUKTA scheme

The successful partnership between H&UD dept and Mission Shakti urban SHGs has not only provided wide ranging livelihood opportunities for women and other vulnerable sections but also enhanced their leadership and managerial skills. Each SHG member engaged now earns around ₹4,000 to ₹10,000 per month through this collaboration

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: With a joint partnership between Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under Mission Shakti and the Housing and Urban Development department (H&UD), about 16,000 women have reportedly been empowered under the state government's initiative.

Shifting from a contractor-driven model to a community-engagement one, the SHGs under Mission Shakti are now involved both in service delivery and as implementing partners in a range of urban development programmes like solid and liquid waste management, water supply, subsidised meal programme and livelihood generation.

"Community engagement in urban service delivery through Mission Shakti women-SHG is now a non-negotiable agenda. It has resulted in women-led community initiatives across programmes, socio-economic empowerment of women, and entrepreneurship development for an emerging economy," said H&UD Minister Pratap Jena.

Sources said that more than 13,500 SHGs are now engaged as implementing partners and agencies in executing the urban employment generation scheme 'Mukhyamantri Karma Tatpar Abhiyaan (MUKTA).

It is a community-driven scheme tailor-made for women SHGs to take the centre stage where projects costing up to ₹10 lakh are being executed directly through Mission Shakti groups and their federations as implementing agencies.



According to Housing and Urban Development Minister Pratap Jena, the SHGs have been instrumental in creating at least 10,000 rainwater harvesting structures across the state

waste management across Odisha, emerging as key service providers in sanitation. About 2,378 SHGs are now engaged in solid waste segregation, collection, transportation, treatment, reuse and disposal as per standardised norms.

Similarly, the state government has involved women and transgender participation in management of Septage Treatment Plants (SeTPs) in nine cities, ensuring their socio-economic empowerment. Moreover, the H&UD has also partnered with Mission Shakti SHGs for the Drink from Tap mission for support in 100% house connections and customer management.

The successful partnership between H&UD and Mission Shakti urban SHGs has not only provided wide ranging livelihood opportunities for women and other vulnerable sections, but also enhanced their leadership and managerial skills. Each SHG member engaged now earns around ₹4,000 to ₹10,000 per month through this collaboration.

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Parties gearing up for panchayat polls

MEETINGS, DISCUSSIONS ORDER OF THE DAY IN GANJAM, BHADRAK DISTRICTS

BOOST TO BJD



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar/Bhadrak, Sept 12: Panchayat elections are just a few months away. There is also the possibility of elections to civic bodies in Odisha that have been long overdue. The three major political parties in Odisha – the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress – have started working out their respective strategies to achieve success in Ganjam district.

Leaders and workers of all the three parties have started holding meetings in villages and consulting with party workers at the

grassroots level. The political atmosphere in villages of the district is slowly getting charged up.

A meeting of the BJD workers was held at the bungalow of the Forest department in Bhanjanagar constituency Sunday. Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha presided over the meeting.

The minister underscored the need for further strengthening of the party organization well ahead of the panchayat elections.

Arukha also held discussion with party workers about the executive body meeting of the party's Ganjam district unit at

BJP, CPM supporters join BJD in Sundargarh

JODA: Ahead of the panchayat polls, the BJD received a boost Sunday, as a large number of workers of the CPM and the BJP from Keonjhar and Sundargarh joined the ruling party at a programme at Koida in Sundargarh district.

BJD's organising secretary Pranab Prakash Das was the chief guest at the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Das slammed both Congress and the BJP. "Congress has exploited the state for years while the BJP is only making rhetoric. They have never paid attention to the development of Sundargarh," he said. He also

said that the BJD government has set an example in the country by undertaking a host of welfare schemes. Das urged people to not fall in the trap of the CPM and the BJP but to strengthen the BJD. Highlighting various welfare schemes undertaken by the BJD government in the state, he exhorted all to come out to ensure win of the BJD in the upcoming panchayat and general elections.

Chairperson of Koida block Rinarani Kumudra along with a hundred of her supporters joined the BJD. At total of 351 supporters of the CPM and the BJP joined the ruling party.

Bhanjanagar September 15. On the other hand, leaders of BJP and Congress have been trying to broaden their base and fixing fissures at the grassroots level. Leaders of the two opposition parties were seen visiting frontline

workers and taking their suggestion on how to strengthen their bases ahead of the panchayat and civic body polls. In a boost to the BJD, over 500 supporters of other parties joined the ruling party at a meeting in Bhadrak Sunday.

Jumbo kills man in Keonjhar dist



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 12: An elderly man was trampled to death by an elephant at Juangasahi area under Bansapal block in Telkoi forest range of Keonjhar district Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Mukuru Nayak.

According to a source, Mukuru had gone to a field near his house Sunday morning where he came face to face with the jumbo. Before he could escape, the elephant caught him by its trunk and tossed him into the air before trampling him to death.

As the news of the Mukuru's death spread, angry villagers gathered and staged a protest. They held the forest department responsible for his death.

"Man-elephant conflicts are common in this part of the district. We requested the forest department officials on several occasions to take steps to check the menace but to no avail," they alleged.

On being informed, police and forest department officials reached the village and held a discussion with the protesters. They assured

Elephants trigger mayhem in Basta

BASTA: Elephants went on a damaging spree on the fringe villages under Basta block on Balasore-Mayurbhanj borders. A wild elephant entered Baramdha and Bidyadharpur Saturday night and damaged rice stocked in houses. The animal has also damaged a house in the area.

The lone elephant was holed up in Betanasi forest in Mayurbhanj district. After this incident, people of Bidyadharpur, Patrajhada and Baramadha were panicked.

Locals apprised the forest department about the elephant mayhem and sought immediate help. A team of forest officials reached the village and managed to drive out the animal. It was said that a team of officials is keeping watch on movement of the animals in the area.

Villagers alleged that the animals frequent to the villages and damage properties at night. This has been happening over years, they alleged.

them that the bereaved family will get compensation as per the government rule. Registering a case, the police recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem. A detailed probe is underway, it was learnt.

Beating all odds to continue vax drive

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boipariguda, Sept 12: The work of healthcare personnel in the battle against Covid-19 has been praised by all quarters in Odisha. However, even among them, some have stood out for their dedication and sacrifice. Two women, a health worker and an Anganwadi staff in Baligaon panchayat under this block in Koraput district are shining examples of such dedication. They have gone beyond the call of duty to vaccinate people.

The two women risked their lives Sunday and crossed an over-flowing nullah to vaccinate people in Mundaguda village. They have been identified as Sudhamani Marndi, a health worker and



Sulochana Nayak, who is an Anganwadi worker.

The two women have shown that hindrances don't really matter if the spirit is right. They risked their own lives while crossing the nullah to vaccinate others.

According to reports, the local administration had earlier announced the date for Covid-19 vaccination in Mundaguda and other villages. However, residents of Mundaguda village did not turn up at Boipariguda Health Centre for

Wild bears enjoy game of soccer, escape with ball

Wild bears enjoy game of soccer, escape with ball

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur/Umerkote, Sept 12: It was a spectacular sight Sunday for the residents of Sukhigaon village under Umerkote block of Nabarangpur district. They had the chance to witness a game of football between two wild bears. Nature has its own way of coming up with stunning incidents and images. The game of football between the two animals can easily be termed as one. Bears are usually known to be playful animals and they once more proved it.

It seemed that the bears were given a wild card for the football event as they grabbed the attention of the residents in the village.

Many may have witnessed animals performing playful acts in circuses under the watchful eyes and commands of the ring masters. However, rarely does one come across wild bears playing football. And it seemed that the two bears enjoyed the game to their hearts' content when the video of the incident went viral on various social media platforms.

According to reports, some kids of Sukhigaon were playing football at the village playground when suddenly two wild bears appeared. It was quite evident that the larger one was the mother of the cub.

Panicked, the boys fled leaving the football on the ground. The mother bear was seen kicking the



football to her cub while waiting for the latter to return the ball to her. The mother was also seen throwing the ball up and trying to catch it. It seemed that they were in a mood to entertain as more and more people arrived to watch the two animals play.

Minor girl raped in Gajapati district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Sept 12: A minor girl has allegedly been raped by a youngster under Kashinagar police limits in Gajapati district Saturday evening, police informed Sunday. According to the police, the accused is also a minor.

After conducting medical tests on the minor girl, police got her admitted to a government hospital. The doctors attending her said that though the victim is suffering from trauma, her condition is stable. She has been kept under observation.

According to the aunt of the minor girl, the victim had gone to witness Ganesh Puja to a neighbouring village Saturday evening. The accused approached her and cajoled her to go with him while she



was playing near the puja pandal. He took her to a secluded building and allegedly raped the victim.

Upon reaching home, the girl narrated the entire episode before her parents. Subsequently, they lodged an FIR with local police.

Registering a case, the police launched an investigation into the incident and have detained the accused. They said the accused will be produced before a juvenile justice board.

LIVELIHOOD MATTERS



People check out toys being sold by a roadside vendor on National Highway-16 near Rambha in Ganjam district

OP PHOTO

Woman cremated 15 hours after death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Sept 12: The body of a woman, who breathed her last Friday here in this town, was cremated 15 hours later Saturday by members of a social organisation. It happened as her family members did not want to cremate her. The deceased identified as Mali Mirdha (60) was a resident of Jhumpudipada locality in this town.

Sources said that Mali lived with her husband Mukunda and daughter Sanju while her son did not stay with them. She had been suffering from ailments related with old age. After Mali's death, a message was sent to her son to come here and cremate her. However, he refused to come due to the occasion of Nuakhai. As if that was not humiliating enough, relatives and neighbours too did not turn up to carry the body to the village cremation ground. All this went on for 15 hours as Mali's body remained in the backyard of her house.

Local people then contacted 'Sankalp Parivar', a social organisation and sought their intervention in this regard.

Putting aside the celebrations associated with Nuakhai, the members of the organisation including Vikash Agrawal, G Ramesh, Nidhan Danta, Santosh Danta and Santish Sahu reached the village. They carried the bier to 'Swargadwar', located on the banks of Jeera river. There they performed the last rites, following all the traditions.

Sero survey ends in Kandhamal dist

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Sept 12: The sero survey which kicked off in Kandhamal district April 9 concluded Sunday. However, the percentage of antibodies created in blood serums of people will only be known in a few days, the team members of Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) said.

A 12-member team of the RMRC conducted sero survey in the district April 9. The team collected blood samples by splitting people in different age groups – six to 12 years; 13 to 18 years and 18 years and onwards.

The RMRC team collected four blood samples from the first group; eight samples from the second group and 28 samples in the last group. As many as 40 samples each were collected in 14 places – Raikia, Tumudibandh, Daringbadi, Phiringia, G Udyagiri, Kotagarh, Tikabali and Chakapada blocks.

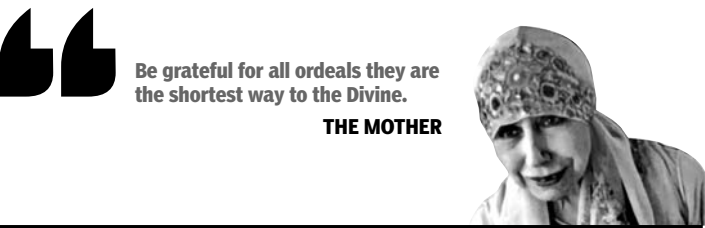
The blood samples have been

After reports of the sero surveillance come, a clear picture about the percentage of antibodies created in people will emerge, said the RMRC team

kept at the district headquarters hospital and they will be sent to RMRC soon. "After reports of the sero surveillance come, a clear picture about the percentage of antibodies was created in people will emerge. Accordingly, the next course of action will be taken for the possible third wave of the pandemic," members of the survey team said.

The objective of the survey is to estimate and compare the age-specific prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in the general population and healthcare workers across Odisha.





Time for Caution

As the USA observed the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the symbols of America's might by Al-Qaeda through a series of airstrikes that the world had never thought possible, US President Joe Biden did not utter a single word at the official programme September 11, but stood side by side with three of his predecessors bowing his head. His silence and a video release said it all. Things are back to square one and history is repeating itself with perhaps renewed vigor and also glory for the perpetrators of violence. The flag of the terrorists, who aided and abetted the 9/11 attacks is once again fluttering in Afghanistan, mocking at the longest multi nation US led war on terror waged to root them out. The Taliban, who gave shelter to Al-Qaeda terrorists and helped them launch their deadly attack on the USA, have now gained direct support from countries like China, Russia, Iran and Pakistan as also some top international players with whom they are negotiating mutually beneficial deals. American memory might wane about the nearly 3,000 lives that had been lost on that fateful day 20 years ago or even about the Americans and their local collaborators who lost their lives in the Afghan war but it is the rest of the world, and especially India, that has to worry about the cessation of the US' avowed battle against terror.

A recent statement by Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1997 to 2007, sounds ominously relevant for India and the world today. Blair says "Radical Islam believes in not only Islamism-the turning of the religion Islam into a political doctrine-but in the justification of struggle by armed means, if necessary, to achieve it. Islamism is a first-order threat to the security of open, modern, culturally tolerant societies. Its defeat, like that of revolutionary communism, ultimately will come through confronting its violence and ideology with a combination of hard and soft power."

The lesson from the US withdrawal from Afghanistan for India is that it has to, henceforth, make independent decisions and fight its own battles not only against cross-border terrorism but also increased internal security threats emanating from religious fanaticism that is bound to grow within.

No other event of the 21st century had changed international politics the way 9/11 did. The irony is that even after trillions of dollars were spent and thousands lost their lives during the past two decades to bring to book the perpetrators, the world is yet again confronted with the same political, economic, and social consequences of that history defining moment. The stated missions remain unaccomplished. The USA declared its war on terror with the aim to unite itself, break the back of the attackers and teach them a lesson of a lifetime. Most democratic and free countries from across the globe pitched in with the US. Many did so with armed forces while others, like India, contributed in rebuilding a shattered Afghanistan. But, the US today seems even more divided and hatred and racial intolerance have virtually vertically split the nation. Even on the day marking the 20th anniversary the tell-tale fissures in American society and political class became glaringly visible. Former President Donald Trump, who had authorised inking the deal with the Taliban in 2020 to withdraw US troops by May, 2021, used a programme on the same day to lambast President Biden for the manner in which he had handled the pullout and claimed he would have done a better job had the US voters re-elected him. He termed the pullout "gross incompetence."

His remarks triggered a sharp reaction from fellow Republican and former President George W Bush, who regretted America's current political turmoil and attacked those who threatened or carried out violence at home. This was a clear reference to the January 6 violence at Capitol Hill by Trump followers instigated by his hate-filled speech during the declaration of the Presidential poll results. Bush's words left no one in doubt about the target of his attack when he said the USA has seen "growing evidence that the dangers to our country can come not only from across borders, but from violence that gathers within."

Whatever Trump may have said, it's also true that Biden's withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan does not signal the end of the war on terror anytime soon. With the US out of the struggle, it is time for the rest of the world to take stock and act. In fact, the spectre of a new cycle of violence and terror is looming larger now with the return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan. Add to this its festering Kashmir problem, India has to be extra cautious because it can ill afford to depend on any one else to fight its battles in the coming times.

WISDOM CORNER

- “All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence, and then success is sure.

MARK TWAIN
- “Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
- “Prejudice is a burden that confuses the past, threatens the future and renders the present inaccessible.

MAYA ANGELOU

WORDSWORTH

■ Patibulary

This appears in The Penguin Book of Curious and Interesting Words (first published in the USA as the Oxtet English Dictionary). Its compiler, George Saussy, quoted from Winter's Tale, a futuristic work of magical realism of 1983 by Mark Helprin. Mr Helprin defined it as meaning "delicate in motion, graceful and muffled as in the quiet sound made by ballet slippers. Only to be used in winter and at night." It's a delightful description. Mr Saussy tells me he included it because it was far superior to the obscurity and fell implications of the definition that appears in the Oxford English Dictionary, in which sober work it is explained as relating to a gallows or hanging. The word is from Latin patibulum, originally a fork-shaped yoke that was put on the necks of criminals or a fork-shaped gibbet in the shape of a vertical letter Y. It could also mean the horizontal bar of the crucifixion cross, or a forked prop to support vines. Despite the solemn and religious associations its etymology brings to mind, the Oxford English Dictionary says that patibulary has mainly been used humorously in English. That's based on citations such as this one, from the Sporting Magazine in 1801: "A certain Corn-Buyer, which had undergone the discipline of a patibulary suspension on a gallows." But others were deathly serious: In The French Revolution (1837) Thomas Carlyle wrote of the gibbet as "the grim Patibulary Fork 'forty feet high'". The word is now extremely rare.

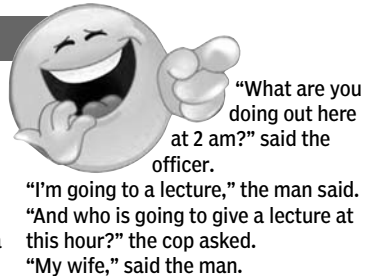
■ Patient

The noun meaning a person who is being treated for some illness or injury is closely related to the adjective relating to a capacity for calm waiting. The original is the Latin verb pati, to suffer (from which we also get passion and passive, by the way), through the participle form patientem, for one who is suffering. In Latin this word took on the extra sense of somebody who suffers their afflictions with calmness and composure, hence longuffering or forbearing, all ideas intimately tied up with our word patience. The medical sense of the word was present in English right from its first recorded use by Chaucer near the end of the fourteenth century.

LOL

I'm going to a lecture

The man was in no shape to drive, so he wisely left his car parked and walked home. As he was walking unsteadily along, he was stopped by a policeman.



FOCUS ODISHA

STATE OF OUR VARSITIES

As in earlier years, public universities in Odisha are questioned for their poor performance. Such criticism is legitimate since tax payers' money is used to sustain these institutions

Prakash Sarangi

UNIVERSITIES CANNOT BE IMPLANTED; THEY EVOLVE THROUGH TIME, IF APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENT IS PROVIDED

The ranking of higher education institutions in India by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), Ministry of Education, Government of India, for 2021 has been declared. As before, we are disappointed by the performance of the universities and colleges funded by the government of Odisha. No institution – university or college – appears in the overall ranking among the top one hundred in the country. The only saving grace is the placement of Utkal University (UU) at 87th rank among universities. Surprisingly, two private universities, SOA and KIIT, are at 20th and 21st ranks respectively.

As in earlier years, public universities in Odisha are questioned for their poor performance. Such criticism is legitimate since tax payers' money is used to sustain these institutions. The performance of a university is no longer judged simply by the quantum of graduating students. In fact, only 20% weight is given to this activity by NIRF. Several quantitative, qualitative and inclusive parameters are used in this ranking. The quantitative aspects include the number of students, faculty-student ratio (only permanent faculty), financial resources, etc. The quality parameters include qualification and experience of the faculty, publications by the faculty, research projects, consultancy and patents, etc. The inclusivity parameters are student diversity and facilities for students from disadvantaged groups. Besides the above, a weight of 10% is for peer perception, based on a survey of opinions of employers and professionals.

Let us analyse the broad areas of weakness of Odisha's public universities. We will take UU, the best ranked from Odisha in 2021, as a case study. Other universities may have similar fault lines. We will compare the scores of UU, ranked 87 with a score of 39.80, with JNU, ranked 2 with a score of 82.67. UU and JNU have almost comparable scores in student enrolments and graduation, in gender diversity and in facilities for the physically challenged. But in all other aspects, UU is way behind. UU gets 14.23% in research output, including publications, patents and

projects, while JNU gets 44.96%. In 2019-20, UU had 17 research projects and no consultancy projects, whereas JNU had 307 and 31 respectively. UU's score in faculty student ratio is 15.35 out of 30, compared to 24.73 for JNU. This score may be considerably less for other universities in Odisha, given the paucity of permanent faculty. UU gets 11.81 out of 20 on the quality of faculty, compared to 16.98 for JNU. Regional diversity gets 0.52 out of 30 for UU, whereas JNU gets 24.50. UU's score on financial resources is 3.34 out of 30 compared to 8.99 of JNU. Just to give one example, UU's expenditure on maintenance of academic infrastructure and consumables in 2019-20 was ₹3.39 crore, whereas the same in JNU was ₹143.60 crore.

It is evident that the UU – and certainly every other public university in Odisha – is weak in various academic and financial parameters. A university is known by the quality of its students and faculty. Good students enhance the reputation in job market and elsewhere. Bright students come to a university if quality of faculty and infrastructure is good. There is a symbiotic relationship between the three pillars of a university: student-faculty-infrastructure. Where are we going wrong?

It is a common observation that good students are not coming to general universities. There are two aspects of this issue. Better students have been choosing technical courses. What prevented our universities to introduce job-oriented

technical courses? Wherever such courses have been introduced, they are in a self-financing mode, often seen as sources to augment revenue rather than providing quality education. The students are taught by temporary faculty, getting meagre salary. The infrastructure is invariably poor, given the transient nature of these courses. No wonder the university gets the students who could not get into better institutions. The second aspect is traditional arts and science courses. Many good students, interested in these subjects, do join these courses. In my estimate, at least a quarter of them are very bright. But we do not have any provision to give special attention to them in the midst of conveyor belt type of academic degree producing factories. Hence, many prefer universities outside the state. If the same type of student is able to do well in JNU or Hyderabad, why can we not provide similar value addition in Odisha?

The real bottleneck for Odisha's universities is the lack of faculty, outstanding or otherwise. It is well known that many courses are taught by 'guest' faculties. They are literally guests, only to be in the class on an hourly wage, with no commitment to the institution. They hardly publish and, even if they do, these data are not counted. It does not matter whether one has requisite expertise to teach a subject, especially at PG and higher levels, as long as s/he has a master's degree in the subject. The permanent faculty, too, faces several constraints. The official work-

load is 25 classes per week, besides numerous administrative responsibilities assigned from time to time. The time spent in guiding research students is not counted in this workload. Sometimes, given the faculty shortage, one may be forced to teach outside one's specialisation requiring more preparation time. Does a faculty get any time for one's own research? Research is seen as a requirement for one's own professional growth, not an institutional requirement. I have seen many a bright faculty, after joining a university, become restless due to the absence of research opportunities.

It is in this context that the quality of infrastructure is important for a university; if we do not want to lose our bright students and faculty to private and/or outside institutions. While it is understood that the objective of a public university is to provide quality education at low cost, NIRF or any other ranking agency does not distinguish between a public and a private university. Infrastructure does not mean only brick and mortar buildings or smart classrooms, which are of course essential. There is a need for specialised laboratories with proper equipment and consumables, instrumentation centers, e-resources, digital infrastructure, etc. If I may recall my experience, there was no budget for buying books for Kanika Library at Ravenshaw University! There cannot be a one-size-fits-all type of solution. The strength of a university's human resources and the expected outcomes from students should be taken into account.

There is often a discussion about creating universities of global standards. Rather than comparing with a mythical Oxford or Harvard university, we need to look inwards and search for our strengths and weaknesses. It has taken 1000 years for Oxford and 400 years for Harvard to reach the present stage. Universities cannot be implanted; they evolve through time, if appropriate environment is provided. We cannot belittle a tiny plant, if it does not look like a banyan tree. The policy makers of Odisha's higher education need to introspect.

The author is former Vice-Chancellor, Ravenshaw University.

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Changing the climate of financial regulation

As this year's brutal summer showed, it has become increasingly easy to track the consequences of climate change. Just as extreme weather is claiming more and more human lives, more and more species are being lost to extinction. Entire communities have been displaced by savage storms and intolerable temperatures, and rising sea levels and unstable agricultural production threaten to destroy millions of jobs.

These costs are no longer theoretical or far off. They are here now, and though they are being shouldered across the board, the people who feel them most intensely have less access to information, work outdoors, or live in insufficiently protective conditions. Those who cannot easily relocate or afford sufficient property and casualty insurance are increasingly vulnerable.

Despite these growing costs, US financial regulators have yet to show that they are thinking creatively about potential solutions. Their reluctance stands in stark contrast to financial regulators in other rich countries, where policies and processes are being reimaged to accelerate a rapid, orderly,

Sarah Bloom Raskin

ACTING BEFORE ANY MAJOR CRISIS HAS OCCURRED IS NOT EXACTLY THE AMERICAN WAY

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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Political campaigns

Sir, The forthcoming Assembly elections scheduled to be held in 2022 in Uttar Pradesh has become a playground for politicians to play politics on caste and religion. In early days, elections were fought on the issues of development, good governance, provision of social security and weeding out corruption. Now, elections are fought on caste and religion which doesn't augur well for our vibrant democracy. Again, there is a tussle between true secularism and communalism. Secularism doesn't promote hate speech and personal attacks. It is not a license to denigrate other's devotion and religious faith. Secularism encompasses all religious faith. It is sacrilege to fight elections on issues of narrow political interests instead of broader issues of development and welfare. There should be proper decorum in election campaigning. After seven decades since Independence, we are still living in a stone age. Our politicians should maintain their own image and charisma. It is not achieved by playing petty politics and narrow mindedness. Our politicians should learn from politicians of foreign countries about the quality and decorum of election campaigning. Playing politics on majority and minority is an affront to our democracy. Let, our politicians rise above from caste, creed, religion, colour and community while campaigning for elections.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

Farmers on warpath

Sir, Since November, thousands of farmers have been on strike, demanding the repeal of laws that will severely affect their income. The government proclaims that these legislations will help the farmers in the long run, but the farmers believe that these will instead weaken their position and make them dependent on private bodies. Thus the farmers will be made vulnerable to exploitation and misuse. This has given rise to one of the largest protests India has ever experienced. The Samyukt Kissan Morcha (SKM) is a platform for farmers' unions. Recently the SKM and the Karnal district administration held extensive talks regarding the August 28 tragedy. On that day, several protesters were lathi-charged while heading towards Karnal to protest against a BJP meeting, which led to 10 farmers getting injured. After the discussion, the farmers concluded on a positive note and, there might be a possibility that the ongoing protest may end by Saturday. India is an agrarian country and, the farmers are the backbone of our nation. The recent positive development leaves us optimistic towards a better future between the state and the farming community.

SV Vaishnavi, MANGALORE

MOBILE TOWER INSTALLATION FRAUD CASE

Teacher fleeced of ₹2.5 lakh



POST NEWS NETWORK

Daringbadi, Sept 12: Even though industry body TAIPA has been warning the public about increasing number of fraud cases of tower installation, a teacher has allegedly become a victim of the scam. He has been fleeced of ₹2.5 lakh by people who posed as agents of telecom firms in Brahmanigaon area of Kandhamal district.

The scamsters have fleeced the teacher of the amount on the

promise of leasing out his land for tower installation on monthly rent. Not satisfied with the amount already taken, they are now demanding another ₹40,000 more from the victim.

It has been alleged that a woman posing as manager of a private telephone company called the teacher August 28 and sought to know if he was interested to lease out his land for a tower.

The teacher fell for the deal. The woman wanted the land

patta, Aadhaar and other documents from the teacher. The teacher was assured that his land will be located though satellite. Latter, the woman demanded a security deposit of ₹2.5 lakh for granting permission of to install the tower on his land.

The teacher paid the amount in three different accounts. After that, the teacher was issued forged cheques of ₹17 lakh to win his trust. He was also asked to pay ₹40,000 more for the project. The teacher later came to know that the cheques were fake. He said that he would take up the issue with the SP. However, till date no complaint has been lodged with the police.

Such frauds have been taking place most parts of India. A number of groups posing as agents of telecom companies are fleecing innocent people by promising to set up towers on rented land. They are taking advantage of fast growing mobile market and trapping the victims by offering to lease out their land at exorbitant rents.

RAIN WOES



An ambulance negotiating a flooded road near Korukonda bridge connecting Malkangiri with Balimela following low-pressure triggered rainfall, Sunday OP PHOTO

Police arrest 12 for murdering youth



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur Sept 12: Police have arrested 12 persons in connection with the alleged murder of a youth belonging to Bahidar Bandha area in Sambalpur district Saturday night.

The deceased, Soumyaranjan Bar (Sani) was attacked with sharp weapons by members of a group belonging to Dasmati Colony over personal enmity Sani was assaulted brutally by the group near the Dhanipalli paddy field. He succumbed to the injuries at Sambalpur Government hospital, police said.

This murder is connected with three separate cases registered by Ainthapali police and

Khetrajpur police. In the first case, Sanjaya Jal of Behera Munda, and Nabaghana Nag and Soughan Nag of Dasmati Colony have been arrested by Ainthapali police. In the second case, Khetrajpur police have arrested Deepak Pradhan of Bhati Chowk and Deepak Bhoi of Sarla.

According to police, 10 persons have been booked in another case registered by Aithanpali police Sunday. They are Sakti Nag (18), Mitruhana Nag (24), Sumit Nag (23), Soughan Nag (25), Sanjaya Jal (28), Nabaghana Nag (24), Satrugana Nag (34), Jaga Nag (19), Raja Swain (22), and a child in conflict with law (CCL). They all belong to Dasmati Colony.

Sexual assault on minors rising in Ganjam district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 12: There is no let up in sexual crimes against minor girls in Ganjam district as over 153 cases have been registered with police during last three years, a report said. The data is reflective of the lack of security for minor girls in the jurisdiction of Berhampur police district.

The alleged perpetrators of the crime are even not sparing minor girls to fulfil their sexual desires. The repeated occurrence of the crime has shaken the conscience but it is yet to see any abatement.

The Centre and the Odisha government have taken a series of steps to check crimes against girls and women. However, despite that there is no let up in crimes particularly sexual assault and molestation against women and minor girls in Ganjam district.

The Centre enacted the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO)-2012 for protection of children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography. The Act has also provisions for stringent



punishment for the perpetrators of the crime. The accused persons are arrested under this Act.

Reports said that 153 cases were registered during last three years in the jurisdiction of Berhampur district police. Over 51 cases have been registered alone in the first week of September, this year. The sexual crimes against the minor girls are on the rise if we take a look at the record of last three years.

The Centre formulated 'Nirbhaya

Act -2013' after the heinous gang-rape case in 2012 in the national capital. The Centre under this Act established Special POCSO Courts all over India for speedy trials of sexual crimes against minors.

Two special POCSO courts have also been set up in Berhampur to deal with sex-related crimes against minor children in Ganjam district. Fast Track Courts have also been established in various districts as well in Berhampur for speedy trial

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Professor Chandrasekhar Tripathy of Mental Health department in MKCG Medical College and Hospital said that the proclivity of committing rape is a mental disease. Men lose control over themselves due to various reasons. The negative thought process of a person pushes him mentally to commit such heinous crime.

of such cases.

A total of 48 POCSO cases were registered in 2018, 52 in 2019 and 53 in 2020 in Berhampur police district. Special women and child help desks have also been established in various police stations.

A special team known as

'Swayamsiddha' comprising only women police officers has been undertaking awareness drives for safety and security of girl child and women. On being informed, the team is also undertaking investigations of crime against women and minor girls.

This correspondent tried to ascertain the reason behind the rise in sexual crimes against minor girls and met Professor Chandrasekhar Tripathy of Mental Health department in MKCG Medical College and Hospital.

Prof Tripathy said that the proclivity of committing rape is a mental disease. Men lose control over themselves due to various reasons. The negative thought process of a person pushes him mentally to commit such heinous crime.

The provision of stringent punishment creates fear among the minds of such persons for some time but they overcome the fear to commit the crime. He said that sexual crimes against women and girls can never be stopped unless there is a change in mindset among the people of India.

Black marketing of fertilizers annoys farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 12: At a time when Covid-induced restrictions have affected all activities, shortage and black marketing of fertilizers have added to the woes of farmers in Keonjhar district. Due to black marketing of fertilizers, people of tribal communities are also facing problems. Various farmers' outfits have expressed concern over the shortage of fertilizers in the district.

Taking advantage of the shortage in supply of fertilizers, some unscrupulous traders are exploiting the farmers. "Some traders are selling packets of fertilizers charging ₹200 to 300 more than the marked price," locals said.

Various farmers' organizations have warned of staging protests unless the matter is resolved quickly.

The district received 50,346 quintal of fertilizers by April 16. However,



The district received 50,346 quintal of fertilizers by April 16. However, since August 15, there has been an acute shortage in supply of fertilizers. Farmers' organizations had taken up the issue with officials of the district administration August 18. However, they alleged that the problem continues.

This problem has cropped up when the farming season is at its peak in the district. It has also been alleged that some unscrupulous dealers are creating artificial shortage of fertilizers with tacit support of some district officials.

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when the farming season is at its peak in the district. It has also been alleged that some unscrupulous dealers are creating artificial shortage of fertilizers with tacit support of some district officials.

Local famers said that the administration and the Agriculture department should conduct raids against dealers and traders resorting to black marketing of fertilizers.

Like previous years, farmers in many parts of the district have been facing difficulties in availing fertilizers amid allegations of black marketing.

Paddy farmers require urea and other types of fertilizers for growth of the crop. "Urea is not available with the dealers and the primary agricultural co-operative societies sufficiently. Some dealers are deliberately creating artificial shortage of fertilizers," farmers alleged.

MAN DROWNS IN DEO RIVER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Udala, Sept 12: The body of a man who was swept by the strong currents in Deo river near here in Mayurbhanj district was recovered, Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Mushu Hembram, 60, of Adapal village under Udala police limits. The body has been sent for post-mortem and police have started an investigation after registration of a case.

The incident occurred when Mushu was crossing the Deo river with his herd of cows Saturday. However, he failed to negotiate the strong current and was swept away.

Locals watched him being swept away and informed the Fire department personnel. They launched a search but failed to trace him by the evening. They again resumed searching operation Sunday morning and recovered his body from a bush near a river bridge after four hours.

ANGUL RESIDENTS SUFFER DUE TO LACK OF BRIDGES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boinda, Sept 12: Both the state and central governments spend crores of rupees under various schemes to boost rural connectivity. However, there are still a number of villages in Angul district that have been suffering a lot in the absence of roads and bridges, a report said.

Take the case of Kishorenagar block. Thousands of people in five panchayats have been leading a miserable life for lack of proper connectivity.

A PWD road connects Nunukapasi panchayat to Bileinali panchayat via Arjunhdhara. But the problem on the route is lack of bridges at three different places. People of 11 villages under five panchayats have been pleading with the local administration and leaders to construct bridges to facilitate movement. However, it seems that all their appeals are falling on deaf ears, it was alleged.

According reports, the PWD spent ₹6.95 crore to build a tar-topped road for a 10.4km stretch. The construction work started in December 2018 and was completed in January 2020.

Locals said that there are three creeks that intersect the route. However, there is no effort at the government level to build bridges at these places. About 15,000 people from 11 villagers commute on this route on a daily basis wading through creek waters.

During the rainy season, the creeks swell up with water and disrupt communication. People of 11 villages like Nunukapasi, Luhamunda, Gan Boinda, Bileinali, Urukula, Saradhamunda, Solanda, Arjunhdhara, Bhojigotha, Badagobindapur, Garuda, Jambabania, Sataperadia, Badabahal and Baninali have to face acute problems.

"Years have gone by without a solution to our problem. We have been suffering a lot due to commuting woes. Nobody listens to



DURING THE RAINY SEASON, THE CREEKS SWELL UP WITH WATER AND DISRUPT COMMUNICATION. PEOPLE OF 11 VILLAGES LIKE NUNUKAPASI, LUHAMUNDA, GAN BOINDA, BILEINALI, URUKULA, SARADHAMUNDA, SOLANDA, ARJUNDHARA, BHOJIGOTHA, BADAGOBINDAPUR, GARUDA, JAMBABANIA, SATAPERADIA, BADABAHAL AND BANINALI HAVE TO FACE ACUTE PROBLEMS

Locals lamented that years have gone by without a solution to their problem. They have been suffering a lot due to commuting woes. Nobody listens to their plight. In the monsoon, the problem gets compounded when the creeks are full. In that case, people have to take a roundabout way to reach their destinations

our plight. In the monsoon, the problem gets compounded when the creeks are full. In that case, people have to take a roundabout way to reach their destinations," locals pointed out.

The creeks named as Bankadhara, Solanda and Arjunhdhara throw spanner in the communication while the government has not even paid attention to the need for building bridges to facilitate communication in the region.

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Locals say, they have submitted memorandums to the district administration, the secretary of the Public Works department, local people's representatives and the MP about the urgent need for bridges. However, nothing has been done so far, they said.

SDO of the PWD, Fakir Mohan Sahu said that the department has apprised the government of the need for bridges. "If funds are sanctioned, building of the bridges will start," he informed.

FARM WORKS



Women farmhands transplanting paddy saplings on a farmland in a village under Bhanjanagar sub-division of Ganjam district OP PHOTO

‘Transforming UP’ ad with Kolkata flyover sparks row

The image also has Kolkata’s iconic yellow taxi and a high rise that resembles a five-star hotel in the city next to the Maa Flyover

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Sept 12: In a major embarrassment, a full-page advertisement carried in a national English daily showcasing the industrialisation and development of Uttar Pradesh under UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath featured a photograph of Kolkata’s Maa flyover. The advertisement drew sharp criticism from several top ministers and leaders of the Trinamool Congress accusing Adityanath of stealing images from infrastructure scenes in Bengal. The English daily, later, owned the responsibility of the fault.

Transforming UP for @myogiadityanath means stealing images from infrastructure seen in Bengal under @MamataOfficial’s leadership and using them as his own! Looks like the ‘DOUBLE ENGINE MODEL’ has MISERABLY FAILED in BJP’s strongest state and now stands EXPOSED for all!, TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee tweeted.

The tweet was immediately followed by Mukul Roy who has recently joined TMC from BJP. Mr @narendramodi is so helpless to save his party that other than changing CMs, he has also had to resort to using pictures of growth & infrastructure seen under @MamataOfficial’s leadership, as



his own, Roy retweeted.

There were several others including State Transport Minister Firhad Hakim, Commerce and industry minister Partha Chatterjee and MP Mahua Moitra who joined the chorus. Previously, BJP used photos from failures of law & order of their states to spread misinformation about West Bengal. Now they use photos of the flyover built under the leadership of #MamataBanerjee and under the chairmanship of KMDA to advertise for the ‘development’ in UP, Hakim said.

Thuggy Yogi in his UP ads with

Kolkata’s MAA flyover, our JW Marriott & our iconic yellow taxis! Change your soul or at least your ad agency Guddujil!.... PS Looking forward to FIRs against me in Noida now, Moitra wrote.

When even Ajay Bisht can’t help himself but use pictures of #BengalModel for his own publicity... Slow claps! Chatterjee tweeted.

The advertisement Transforming Uttar Pradesh Under Yogi Adityanath carried Sunday in an English language publication has a cut-out of Mr Adityanath with a flyover that resembles Kolkata’s Maa flyover that connects the central part of the city with Salt Lake and Rajarhat located in the north-eastern fringes of the city. The image also has Kolkata’s iconic yellow taxi and a high rise that resembles a five-star hotel in the city next to the Maa Flyover.

The English daily, however, later in the day ran a statement admitting that the fault lies with the marketing and advertorial team of the newspapers. The statement said, “A wrong image was inadvertently included in the cover collage of the advertorial on Uttar Pradesh produced by the marketing department of the newspaper. The error is deeply regretted and the image has been removed in all digital editions of the paper.”

War of words between Hakim, Tibrewal over young girl remark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 12: A war of words Sunday broke out between Trinamool Congress leader Firhad Hakim and Priyanka Tibrewal, the BJP candidate from the Bhabanipur seat after Hakim said she is a young girl who has been pushed to fight against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in the September 30 by-election.

Tibrewal had joined BJP few years back and unsuccessfully contested from the Entally seat in last assembly polls. She is a lawyer who flagged alleged attacks on her party activists after the polls in court cases.

Asked to comment on Hakim’s comments, Tibrewal told reporters while out campaigning, a young girl doesn’t forever remain a young girl, a ‘bachha’ (child). She grows up to face challenges.

Obviously my rival Mamata Banerjee and her party campaigner Firhad Hakim are much older than me in age. But I am here to fight the battle, to save democracy, to save people from terror of Trinamool, she said. Hakim told reporters a day before Priyanka Tibrewal is a young girl. She had been defeated earlier in Entally. With no senior BJP functionary ready to contest against Mamata Banerjee in Bhabanipur, they have pushed this young girl into the battlefield.

game-changer for promoting tribal livelihoods and enterprises in Assam while Ekalavya Vidyalayas will impart uniform and high-quality education to tribal children,” the statement quoted him as saying.

The chief minister had met a TRIFED team in New Delhi in August to chalk out plans for expanding tribal development in the state and defining the steps for the way forward. These plans were also discussed during this meeting. “There should be a development programme through which the entire Northeast region can progress. It has to be in a way that the entire region can be presented as a development model. The gateway to Northeast is Assam and this is a very important state,” Munda said. He further said his ministry is trying to add value to the existing traditional system and lifestyle of the tribal people and taking the artisans and their work to the national and global levels.

The Tribal Affairs Ministry has awarded the Van Dhan National Award 2021-22 to TRISSAM of Assam in the category of Collaborative Initiative for co-branding in Van Dhan Yojana, which was formally presented by the Union minister to the chief minister at the meeting.

Assam has a substantial tribal population, with 3,308,570 forest dwellers who constitute 12.4 per cent of the total population, the statement added.

6 IWT staffers held; 3 others detained

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 12: At least six employees of Assam’s Inland Water Transport (IWT) Department have been arrested for allegedly not following safety norms which led to the capsizing of a boat carrying over 90 passengers in the Brahmaputra a few days ago, leaving two persons dead and one missing.

Police said they have been charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

At least two persons died and one went missing after a private boat with 92 passengers on board capsized following a head-on collision with a government-owned ferry near Nimati Ghat in Jorhat district September 8.

Three people working in the private boat were picked up for questioning, while several officials were summoned for recording their statements, Jorhat Superintendent of Police Ankur Jain said Sunday.

We have arrested six IWT staffers from Nimati Ghat after finding out that they had not followed the procedures. The accident could



have been avoided, Jain said.

The police have registered a case under Section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) read with Section 34 (criminal act done by several persons for the common intention of all) of the Indian Penal Code, and all the

accused have been charged with these provisions, he added.

Three persons working in the private boat at Kamalabari in Majuli district were also picked up for questioning. We are coordinating with Majuli Police and a team from Jorhat will reach there, Jain said.

Asked whether any IWT officer has been taken into custody, Jain replied in negative but said that many officials posted at Nimati Ghat were called for questioning for recording their statements.

“Presently, we are trying to reconstruct the scenario and find out how the accident took place,” the SP said without sharing further details.

The collision took place when private boat ‘Ma Kamala’ was heading towards Majuli from Nimati Ghat with passengers and vehicles, while government ferry ‘MB Tipkai’ was coming from the world’s largest river island.

Visiting the accident spot the next day, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that in the initial probe, “mismanagement” was found to be the prime reason for the accident. Meanwhile, various agencies such as National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), police and district administrations are conducting an extensive search in the accident spot and even 100 km downstream for the missing person.

Bengal reports higher single-day recoveries than fresh Covid cases

AGENCIES

Kolkata, Sept 12: West Bengal’s Nadia district reported four out of 10 single-day coronavirus fatalities Sunday, as the state’s death toll mounted to 18,577, a health department bulletin said.

Recoveries outnumbered daily COVID-19 cases with 751 new infections recorded as against 757 more patients getting discharged, it said.

The state’s tally stands at 15,56,908. The fresh cases include 125 infections from Kolkata and 124 in North 24 Parganas.

According to the bulletin, West Bengal now has 8,187 active cases, after a total of 15,30,144 people were discharged.

Altogether, 1,74,78,452 samples have been tested for Covid-19 so far, it added.

400 ‘Van Dhan Vikas Kendras’ coming up

‘Van Dhan Vikas Kendra’ clusters provide economies of scale, livelihood, and market linkages, as well as entrepreneurship opportunities to the kendras



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 12: Four hundred ‘Van Dhan Vikas Kendras’ will be set up in Assam to focus on livelihood creation for the tribal population in Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Sunday.

A typical ‘Van Dhan Vikas Kendra’ includes 20 tribal members and 15 such ‘Van Dhan Vikas Kendras’ form one ‘Van Dhan Vikas Kendra’ cluster.

‘Van Dhan Vikas Kendra’ clusters provide economies of scale, livelihood, and market linkages, as well as entrepreneurship opportunities to the kendras.

After a meeting with Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda here, Sarma tweeted “Glad that @VanDhanSeVikas will set up 400 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras to promote tribal art & craft, providing livelihood impetus to our tribal population.”

The chief minister further said the Central government has also decided to set up seven more Ekalavya Vidyalayas as well as five Tribal Food Parks, TRIFOOD, in the state. Talking to reporters after the meeting, Munda said his two-day visit which began Sunday is intended to review the progress of the tribal areas and the schemes implemented for the development of the tribal population of the state and the North East region, an official statement said.

“Van Dhan Kendras can be a

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Sept 12: The BJP-led government in Assam has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in the state for six more months beyond August 28, an official statement said Saturday.

The statement did not clarify any ground for the extension of AFSPA in the northeastern state.

The Government of Assam in exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 has declared the entire state of Assam as ‘Disturbed Area’ up to six months with effect from 28-08-2021 unless withdrawn earlier; the statement said.

According to an official in the state Home Department, the anti-

terror act, which gives special powers to the Army and the paramilitary forces, was imposed in Assam in November 1990 and has been extended every six months since then after a review by the state’s law enforcing agencies.

The unified command structure comprising the Army, various central paramilitary and intelligence agencies and Assam Police always closely monitor the situation in Assam, the official said.

Various political parties, organisations and civil society groups and activists have been demanding the removal of the draconian law from the northeastern states.

The AFSPA, which allows the Army and other paramilitary forces to conduct raids, and arrest anyone

anywhere without prior notice or arrest warrant, has also been in force in entire Nagaland, certain districts of Arunachal Pradesh and most parts of Manipur barring the Imphal municipal areas.

Security agencies and senior officials review the situation every six months to decide on its extension. Terming the AFSPA as a draconian law, human rights activist Irom Chanu Sharmila of Manipur had fought for 16 long years till mid 2016, demanding its repeal.

Tripura is the only state in the northeastern region where AFSPA was withdrawn in May 2015 by the then Left Front government led by Chief Minister Manik Sarkar after terror activities were came down.

‘Lemon village’ coming up in eastern Assam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dibrugarh (Assam), Sept 12: The sour lemon is promising to be the sweet reason for economic success of a remote village on the eastern fringe of Assam’s Dibrugarh district.

Nearly 70 kms away from Dibrugarh town, Cheleng Chuk is being developed as a model ‘lemon village’ to boost self-employment and per capita incomes, an official said on Sunday.

The village is already known for its lemon cultivation, with two varieties of Assam lemon, locally known as ‘gol nemu’ and ‘kaji nemu’ found in abundance in the village.

The GI-certified ‘kaji nemu’ has already found much appreciation in foreign markets with this lemon variety being exported to Dubai



and London, among other places, by farmers from other parts of the state.

As part of an ambitious programme undertaken by the Dibrugarh district administration and the Agriculture department,

Cheleng Chuk village of about 570 people will be developed as a model village for growing lemons, the official said.

Dibrugarh deputy commissioner Pallav Gopal Jha inaugurated a project last week under which 125

families of the agrarian village will be made self-sufficient through cultivation and sale of lemons, he further said.

In the first phase, around 2,200 lemon saplings will be planted in the village with the aim to eventually plant 10,000 lemon plants, he added.

Jha said climatic conditions in the area are suitable for lemon cultivation.

“We want to develop the village as a model lemon village. Our aim is to produce lemons on a mass scale. It will boost self-employment and generate revenue apart from rejuvenating the local economy,” the DC said.

Besides catering to the local market, the district administration is also eyeing the foreign markets if the demand and supply is in expected line.

Politicians, industrialists, commoners throng Kalighat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 12: It’s nearly noon, the hour when the four huge gates of the famed Kalika temple of Kalighat, one of the 51 ‘peethas’ (sacred spots) of the Shakta school of Hinduism, are shut to lay devotees.

The last crush of worshippers, few of whom bother about the social distancing norms codified in large letters on a board outside, are anxious to have a glimpse of the reigning deity of Calcutta. ‘Pandas’ (religious guides) hustle in villagers and townspeople from Bengal, North Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh each clutching flowers, garlands, boxes of sweets and banknotes as offerings, as policemen shut down the huge gates with much fanfare.

The Mother Goddess is believed in folklore to be the dispenser of good fortune. From the Governor of West Bengal Jagdeep Dhankhar to the state’s Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who lives a stone’s throw away from the temple complex, to her electoral rival in the forthcoming Bhabanipur by-election, Priyanka Tibrewal, everyone comes here on some day or the other.

“Instead of the queues of devotees reducing over the years, we find them increasing. The new tech generation for all its scientific knowledge base has taken enthusiastically to worshipping the Mother

DEEPAK KARTIKEYAN | SECY, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SEBAYIT COUNCIL

“Everybody comes here. Ministers, industrialists, police commissioners, scientists, farmers, saints, sinners. Some hire priests, some say their prayers silently.... I personally believe the Mother listens to everyone, you don’t need mantra or tantra (Sanskrit prayers) to talk to her,” said Deepankar Chatterjee, 58, Secretary of the Executive Committee of the ‘Sebayit’ (hereditary servants) Council.

“Elections are busy times, leaders and their aides are regular visitors in the run up to voting,” he said. The Communists were among the few politicians in Bengal who chose to stay away from the attractions of the temple to prove



their atheist credentials.

“The then chief minister Jyoti Basu never visited Kalighat, but his wife did,” said Rajat Roy, political analyst and member of the think tank Calcutta Research Group.

However, there are unconfirmed rumours of Communist leaders who paid mid-night visits away from the prying eyes of newsmen.

With time, Chatterjee said, “Instead of the queues of devotees reducing over the years, we find them increasing. The new tech

generation for all its scientific knowledge base has taken enthusiastically to worshipping the Mother.”

The religious outpouring towards Kali, who historians say was a local tribal deity co-opted into the Hindu pantheon, linked to Durga and made one of the presiding deities of the Shakta school, may of course have to do with an overall increase in religiosity since the 1990s when India’s economy started to boom.

However, Chatterjee avers that the financial hardship and depressed economy that the country has been witnessing over the last few years too has spawned fresh devotees, whom even the pandemic has not been able to keep at home. “Those with problems come here in large numbers and it seems problems have increased,” he said.

The original temple built on the banks of the Ganges has been rebuilt many times – the last possibly 200 years ago – while the river has long moved eastwards to merge with the Hooghly, leaving behind a slender, muddy stream, called ‘Adi Ganga’ (Original Ganges) flowing by it.

The final whistle signaling to devotees that the time has come for the Mother to have lunch and retire for the day is blown.

The last gaggle of devotees still left sight-seeing in the complex, are shoed out by the temple managers past sanitizing tunnels which lie broken, to a crowded sun-lit lane selling trinkets and souvenirs including tiny miniatures of the four handed Kali, with her tongue out, ashamed that she has stepped on the body of Lord Shiva.

of the day quote

The Congress has always been a building block for the country and all our hard work of 70 years has been sold by the BJP in mere seven years

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

Some of our leaders misused the G-23. No sooner did Sonia ji think of reforming the party from within and from the grassroots level, we did not subscribe to the idea of G-23

M VEERAPPA MOILY | SENIOR CONG LEADER

Today makes it 25 years since the WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL was introduced in #Parliament. 25 years. No Bill passed. MO-SHA's BJP even promised it in their 2014 Manifesto. FAIL

DEREK O'BRIEN | TMC LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Ahead of Prez visit, staff test Covid+ve

Shimla: With President Ram Nath Kovind's 5-day tentative visit to the Himachal Pradesh capital just days away, four employees of 'The Retreat', the summer holiday resort of the President near here, tested positive for Covid-19, officials said Sunday. The President, who is likely to reach Shimla September 16, stays in the British-era heritage building. Four employees, including the manager of The Retreat, tested positive Saturday. The RT-PCR tests of all employees of The Retreat were being conducted ahead of the President's visit September 17, Deputy Commissioner Aditya Negi told the media here.

NEET aspirant dies by suicide

Salem (TN): Hours before he was to appear for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test for a third time, a 19-year old youth belonging to a village near here, died of suicide Sunday. "The boy was found hanging in his house by her mother at about 3.45 am and the family informed us," a Mettur range police officer told PTI. Asked if any suicide note was found, he declined to specify but added that he was to appear for the national test for the third time after having failed to clear the test in two previous attempts.

Militant killed in encounter

Jammu: An unidentified militant was killed in an encounter with security forces Sunday following a search operation in the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said. The encounter started when terrorists opened fire on a joint search party of the Army and police in the forest area of Dori Maal near Barote Gali in Manjakote area, they said. The encounter was still going on when last reports were received, the officials said. The identity and group affiliation of the slain terrorist were yet to be ascertained, the officials said.

U'khand Cong MLA joins BJP

New Delhi: Congress MLA Rajkumar, a Dalit leader who represents Puroila constituency in the Uttarakhand assembly, joined the BJP Sunday with the saffron party asserting this is a big indication of its victory in the coming polls in the state. Joining the BJP in the presence of Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, state party president Madan Kaushik and Rajya Sabha MP from the state Anil Baluni, Rajkumar lauded the BJP governments at the Centre and in Uttarakhand for ushering in infrastructure development like all-weather roads.



To fulfil the dream of making resurgent India through the principles of common good and tolerance, we should instil the ideals of Swamiji in today's youth

NV RAMANA | CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

IMPHAL TO COME ON RAILWAY MAP

Amidst the Covid-19 related restrictions and dealing with the serious topographical hurdles and challenges, Manipur's Imphal will be the fourth capital city in the mountainous northeastern region expected to come on the Indian railway map within the next 27 months



Security forces to have training module on Taliban

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: Border forces and armed police units deployed in the counter-terrorism grid have been directed by the central security establishment to prepare and administer a new training module on the Taliban and its modus operandi to the troops in view of the emerging scenario following the Islamic militia taking over Afghanistan.

Stating that the fall of Kabul to the Taliban last month may have a serious bearing on the security situation in India, the ground forces and their intelligence setup have been asked to update both their strategy, tactics and combat syllabus on the new geo-political situation in central and south Asia and its grave security implication on India's borders and the hinterland.

The directive issued by the security establishment a few days



back also envisages a scenario where infiltration from across the border from Pakistan on India's west and illegal entry of terrorist operatives from open fronts in the east may increase including that by foreign terrorist fighters.

Officials in the central security forces and intelligence wings acknowledged the new developments that have taken place in the neighbourhood after the Taliban swiftly

took over almost all provinces of Afghanistan last month following the US military retreating from their 20-year war in that country launched after the 9/11 terror attacks in 2001 in their country.

A senior officer told PTI that the existing training module of border guarding forces like the BSF and SSB, state police units and those involved in counter-terrorist duties like the CRPF and

Jammu and Kashmir Police have an existing title containing dynamics of border management.

This included information on the Taliban as well but it was not updated. That is being added through open-source authentic information and others available in a classified manner to us and the focus is the developments of the last twenty years that took place in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, the officer said.

A full-fledged training, intelligence and combat module on Taliban, its leadership and their modus operandi is being prepared apart from specific case studies that have taken place in that country and the region, he said.

The directives have been forwarded to the central and state police forces which have multiple levels of training centres and academies to train their personnel and officers during induction

and while in service.

It is very important for the last man standing at the border, a checkpoint or under a police jurisdiction to know about the Taliban's history and linked activities and strategies.

The security forces are also enhancing their training quota of personnel for understanding IEDs (improvised explosive devices) and vehicle-borne IEDs (VBIEDs).

IEDs remain a constant threat to the security personnel and their operations everywhere be it anti-Naxal operations or counter-terrorist duties.

However, for those deployed in the Kashmir valley knowing IEDs and VBIEDs, their detection and crippling is very important post the Afghanistan development, one of the officers cited above said and referred to the fatal and non-fatal casualties suffered by the NATO forces from IEDs in Afghanistan.

India to get third set of Swiss bank details

IT WILL BE THE FIRST TIME THAT THE INFORMATION BEING SHARED WITH INDIA WOULD INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE REAL ESTATE ASSETS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Berne, Sept 12: India will get this month the third set of Swiss bank account details of its nationals under an automatic exchange of information pact with Switzerland and this will include for the first time the data about real estate properties owned by Indians there, officials said Sunday.

Marking a key milestone in the Indian government's fight against black money allegedly stashed abroad, India will get this month the complete information on flats, apartments and condominiums owned by Indians in Switzerland as also on earnings made from

such properties to help it look into tax liabilities associated with those assets.

The move assumes significance on the part of Switzerland as well as the European Alpine nation is trying hard to reposition itself as a key global financial centre while warding off the long-persisting perception about the Swiss banking system being an alleged safe haven for black money.

While it would be the third time that India will get details about bank accounts and other financial assets held by Indians in Switzerland, it will be the first time that the information being shared with India would include infor-

mation about the real estate assets.

While the Swiss government has agreed to share details of real estate assets, the information about contributions to non-profit organisations and other such foundations, as also details on investments in digital currencies still remain out of bounds from the automatic exchange of information framework, officials said.

Experts and those engaged in the business of attracting investments to Switzerland said the move would help clear misconceptions about all fund inflows into Swiss assets being illicit and would go a long way in establishing Switzerland as a preferred investment destination, including for real estate properties.

Himanshu, Founder and CEO of Switzerland For You SA, the parent firm of IDDI Investments, which is engaged in the business of attracting investments from India and other countries to Switzerland including in startups and real estate, said transparency has its own virtues and the proposal of the Switzerland government to share information about property ownership of foreign clients with other countries including India is welcome.

31 members allotted at NCLT, ITAT: Govt



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: The government has appointed 31 people as judicial, technical and accountant members at the NCLT and the ITAT, amid the Supreme Court flagging concerns about vacancies at various tribunals.

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) deals with matters mainly related to companies law and insolvency law while Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) deals with income tax matters. The appointments also come at a time when the Supreme Court has flagged concerns, saying the Centre was emasculating tribunals by not appointing officials to the quasi-judicial bodies that are facing staff crunch.

There are around 250 posts lying vacant at various key tribunals and appellate tribunals such as NCLT, DRT, TDSAT and SAT.

As many as 8 judicial and 10 technical members have been ap-

pointed to the NCLT while 13 judicial and accountant members have been appointed to the ITAT, according to separate communications issued by the Department of Personnel and Training on September 11 based on decisions taken by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet.

The appointments in ITAT were made for a period of four years.

On September 6, the Supreme Court said the Centre was testing its patience and emasculating tribunals by not appointing officials to the quasi-judicial bodies which are facing severe crunch of presiding officers as well as judicial and technical members and sought action on the matter by September 13.

While asserting that it did not want any confrontation with the government, a special bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana asked the Centre to make some appointments to the tribunals before September 13.

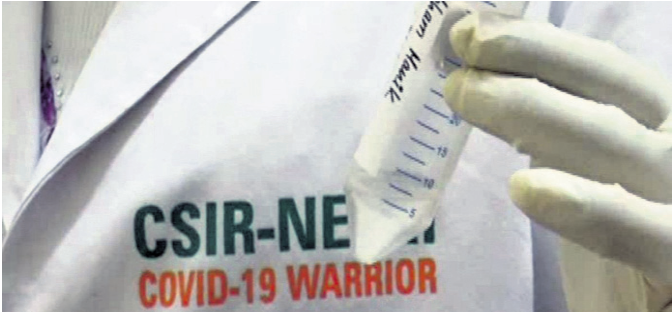
NEERI transfers Saline Gargle tech to MSME Ministry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: The Nagpur-based National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) has transferred the know-how of indigenously developed Saline Gargle RT-PCR technique to the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) for commercialising it, a statement said Sunday.

The Saline Gargle RT-PCR technology is simple, fast, cost-effective, patient-friendly and comfortable.

It also provides instant test re-



sults and is well-suited for rural and tribal areas, given minimal infrastructure requirements, it said.

NEERI is an institute under the

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

The know-how has been transferred to the Union Ministry of

Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), on a non-exclusive basis. This would enable the innovation to be commercialised and licensed to all capable parties, including private, government and various rural development schemes and departments, the statement added.

The licensees are expected to set up manufacturing facilities for commercial production in the form of easily usable compact kits.

In the light of the prevailing pandemic situation and probable third wave of COVID-19, CSIR-NEERI fast-tracked the know-how transfer process to potential li-

censees for its wider dissemination across the nation.

The ceremonial transfer of the Standard Operating Procedure and know-how of the Saline Gargle RT-PCR technique was done in the presence of Union minister Nitin Gadkari on September 11.

The Saline Gargle RT-PCR method needs implementation across the nation, especially in resource-poor regions like rural and tribal areas. This would result in faster and more citizen-friendly testing and will strengthen our fight against the pandemic, Gadkari said.

Mooted after 26/11, NATGRID to finally see light of day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is soon expected to launch the National Intelligence Grid or NATGRID that aims to provide a cutting-edge technology to enhance India's counter-terror capabilities, official sources said.

They said the final synchronisation and testing of the ambitious electronic database, which was mooted after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks in 2008, is being carried out so that it can go live.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had recently indicated that NATGRID, conceptualised as a seamless and secure database for information on terrorists, economic crimes and similar incidents, may finally see the light of day.

Had corona (COVID-19) not been

there, the Prime Minister would have dedicated NATGRID to the country I am hopeful that the Prime Minister will dedicate NATGRID to the country in some time, Shah said during the 51st Foundation Day event of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) here September 4.

The NATGRID has been envisaged as a robust mechanism to track suspects and prevent terrorist attacks with real-time data and access to classified information like immigration, banking, individual taxpayers, air and train travels.

The 26/11 terrorist siege in Mumbai back in 2008 exposed the deficiency that security agencies had no mechanism to look for vital information on a real-time basis.

According to the first phase plan,



10 user agencies and 21 service providers will be connected with the NATGRID while in later phases

about 950 additional organisations will be brought on board. In the following years, more than 1,000 or-

ganisations will be further integrated into the NATGRID.

These data sources include records related to immigration entry and exit, banking and financial transactions and telecommunications.

Prominent federal agencies of the country have been authorised to access the NATGRID database.

They are the Central Bureau of Investigation, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Enforcement Directorate, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Central Board of Direct Taxes (for Income Tax Department), Cabinet Secretariat, Intelligence Bureau, Directorate General of GST Intelligence, Narcotics Control Bureau, Financial Intelligence Unit and the National Investigation Agency.

Sakinaka rape-murder

NCW team meets victim's kin in Mumbai

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 12: In wake of the horrendous Sakinaka rape-cum-murder incident of Friday, a team of the National Commission for Women (NCW) rushed here to meet officials and the victim's family members.

The apex women's rights panel has also frowned at a statement of Mumbai Police Commissioner Hemant Nagrale who told the media how the local police team reached the site of the incident within 10 minutes.

It (police) can't be present at every crime location. They would reach only after getting information. Police worked to the best of their capability, he had said Saturday.

NCW member Chandramukhi Devi termed the statement as extremely unfortunate and said police cannot run away from their responsibility.

The NCW members visited the family members of the 33-year old victim, who is survived by two minor daughters.

They also went to the crime scene and the BMC-run Rajawadi Hospital where the victim was rushed, underwent surgery, but succumbed to her grievous injuries after battling for nearly 33 hours.

Hours after the numbing incident, the Sakinaka Police had used tech-intel and caught the accused, Mohan Chauhan, 45, a jobless driver hailing from Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur, as the incident sparked a massive political uproar.

Plane with Union minister onboard faces tech glitch



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: An Air India flight with Union minister Shobha Karandlaje on-board returned to parking bay before take off due to a technical glitch at the Bangalore airport Sunday.

The flight, 9I 517, from Bengaluru to Hyderabad, which was scheduled to leave at 645 pm, faced a technical glitch, according to a statement issued by the minister's office.

Another flight was operated by Air India to fly the passengers, including the minister, to Hyderabad.

Shobha Karandlaje is the Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

The statement said that the minister politely refused the airline and airport officials' request to de-board the plane and wait in the VIP lounge till alternate arrangements were made.

The minister also ensured that everyone in the flight got an equal treatment.

Lack of quick information to intelligence and enforcement agencies was considered to be one of the major hurdles in detecting US terror suspect David Headley's movement across the country during his multiple visits between 2006 and 2009.

Headley had provided key information and videos of terror targets to Pakistan-based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba that carried out the Mumbai attacks that killed 166 people, including foreigners.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) had given approval to the Rs 3,400 crore NATGRID project back in 2010 but its work slowed down after 2012.

However, Modi, who came to power for the first time in 2014, later gave directions for its revival.

international

of the day quote

Freedom, democracy, peace, and security are indivisible values that cannot ever be taken for granted, but rather must be preserved and nurtured by the international community

SERGIO MATTARELLA | ITALY'S PRESIDENT

Today starts a new, exciting journey that we will all make together putting into practice the motto of this year's exhibition: For a homeland that has knowledge and courage, for a brave Greece that moves forward and looks only up

KYRIAKOS MITSOTAKIS | GREEK PM

We are now receiving better support from the international community for the safe return and repatriation of refugees

MEVLUT CAVUSOGLU | TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Covid outbreak in Chinese city

Beijing: A city in southern China that is trying to contain a coronavirus outbreak told the public Sunday not to leave, suspended bus and train service and closed cinemas, bars and other facilities. Anyone who needs to leave Putian, a city of 2.9 million people in Fujian province south of Shanghai, for an essential trip must have proof of a negative coronavirus test within the past 48 hours, the city government announced. China declared the virus under control in early 2020 but has suffered outbreaks of its more contagious delta variant. Authorities say most are traced to travelers arriving from Russia, Myanmar and other countries. In Putian, 19 new infections that were believed to have been acquired locally were reported in the 24 hours through midnight Saturday, according to the National Health Commission. One was reported in Quanzhou, also in Fujian.

Israeli jets strike Hamas facilities

Tel Aviv: Israeli fighter jets Sunday struck military posts and facilities belonging to the armed wing of the Islamic Hamas Movement in the Gaza Strip in response to rockets attacks, according to security sources. The sources said that the Israeli fighter jets struck by air-to-ground missiles military posts and facilities in the central and southern Gaza Strip for the second day in a row, reports Xinhua news agency. Friday and Saturday, unknown militants fired two rockets from the Gaza Strip towards Israel, according to Israeli media. No injuries or damage were reported after the rocket landed on empty areas. The Hamas-run al-Aqsa television said that witnesses heard the buzz of Israeli army drones and fighter jets, and then several explosions were heard in the southern and central Gaza Strip after striking military posts that belong to the movement.

More than 50% of Japan vaccinated

Tokyo: Japan's government says more than 50% of the population has been fully vaccinated. Japan's vaccine rollouts began in mid-February, months behind many wealthy countries due to its lengthy clinical testing requirement and approval process. Inoculations for elderly patients, which started in April, were also slowed by supply shortages of imported vaccines, but the pace picked up in late May and has since achieved 1 million doses per day.



There is little cultural overlap between violent extremists abroad and violent extremists at home

GEORGE W BUSH | FORMER US PRESIDENT

BEAVERS TEST COVID +VE

At least seven beavers in Mongolia have tested positive for Covid-19, the country's National Centre for Zoonotic Diseases said. It is the first time that Covid-19 has been detected in animals in Mongolia. The infected beavers showed symptoms of cough, runny nose



IAEA, Iran reach pact to avert nuke deal crisis

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Tehran, Sept 12: Iran and the UN atomic agency Sunday announced the IAEA will keep up surveillance of Tehran's nuclear activities, soothing a sore point in talks to resuscitate a 2015 deal to curb its programme.

With negotiations in Vienna between Iran and world powers deadlocked, the steps hashed out with International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi on a visit to Tehran leave a chink of hope for US President Joe Biden's ambition to restore the agreement, known as the JCPOA.

Since Donald Trump's administration walked away in 2018, Iran has since also retreated from many of its commitments.

In a joint statement Sunday, Grossi and Iranian Atomic Energy Organization (AEOI) chief Mohammad Eslami - also one of the country's vice presidents - hailed a "spirit of cooperation and mutual trust", while noting that surveillance was an issue to be treated "exclusively in a technical manner".

Eslami welcomed "good and constructive negotiations with Mr Grossi," while again insisting on the "technical" nature of the bargain,



Iran's official IRNA news agency reported.

Their deal relates to limits Iran has imposed on the IAEA's ability to monitor various of its nuclear facilities. Iran has refused to provide real-time footage from cameras and other surveillance tools that the UN agency has installed in these locations.

Nuclear monitoring

Under a compromise deal, the monitoring equipment remains in the agency's custody but the data is in Iran's possession, and must not be erased as long as the arrangement remains in force.

Initially agreed for three months,

the compromise was extended by another month and then expired on June 24. With no word on next steps, the IAEA said in a statement last Tuesday that its "verification and monitoring activities have been seriously undermined" by Tehran's actions.

But under Sunday's agreement, "IAEA's inspectors are permitted to service the identified equipment and replace their storage media which will be kept under the joint IAEA and (Iran's) AEOI seals in the Islamic Republic of Iran," the joint statement said.

"The way and the timing are agreed by the two sides."

Stalled talks

The surveillance issue had heightened tensions at the time the new government of Iran's ultra-conservative President Ebrahim Raisi was taking charge in Tehran.

Iran has also boosted its stocks of uranium enriched above the levels allowed in the 2015 deal, the IAEA has said. A meeting of the UN agency's board of governors is scheduled for Monday. "We have decided to be present at the next meeting and to continue our talks on the sidelines," Iran's Eslami told IRNA. Raisi argued in a statement on Wednesday that his country was "transparent" about its nuclear activities, which Iran has always insisted are peaceful.

"Naturally, in the event of a non-constructive approach by the IAEA, it is unreasonable to expect Iran to respond constructively," he said.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken cautioned last Wednesday that, faced with the impasse, the United States was "close" to abandoning its diplomatic efforts. Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Friday charged that the IAEA report "proves that Iran is continuing to lie to the world and advance a programme to develop nuclear weapons, while denying its international commitments".

Taliban say women can study in gender-segregated varsities

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kabul, Sept 12: Women in Afghanistan can continue to study in universities, including at post-graduate levels, but classrooms will be gender-segregated and Islamic dress is compulsory, the Taliban government's new higher education minister said Sunday.

The minister, Abdul Baqi Haqqani, laid out the new policies at a news conference, several days after Afghanistan's new rulers formed an all-male government. Saturday, the Taliban had raised their flag over the presidential palace, signaling the start of the work of the new government.

The world has been watching closely to see to what extent the Taliban might act differently from their first time in power, in the late 1990s. During that era, girls and women were denied an edu-

Al-Qaeda chief appears in video marking 9/11 anniv

RUMOURS HAVE SPREAD SINCE LATE 2020 THAT AL-ZAWAHRI HAD DIED FROM ILLNESS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beirut, Sept 12: Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri appeared in a new video marking the 20th anniversary of the September 11, attacks, months after rumours spread that he was dead.

The SITE Intelligence Group that monitors jihadist websites said the video was released Saturday. In it, al-Zawahri said that "Jerusalem Will Never be Judaized," and praised al-Qaeda attacks including one that targeted Russian troops in Syria in January.

SITE said al-Zawahri also noted the US Military's withdrawal from Afghanistan after 20 years of war. It added that his comments do not necessarily indicate a recent recording, as the withdrawal agreement with the Taliban was signed in February 2020.

Al-Zawahri made no mention of the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan and the capital Kabul last month, SITE added. But he did mention a Jan. 1, attack that tar-



geted Russian troops on the edge of the northern Syrian city of Raqqa.

Rumours have spread since late 2020 that al-Zawahri had died from illness. Since then, no video or proof of life surfaced, until Saturday.

"He could still be dead, though if so, it would have been at some point in or after Jan 2021," tweeted Rita Katz, SITE's director.

Al-Zawahri's speech was recorded in a 61-minute, 37-second video produced by the group's as-Sahab Media Foundation. In recent years, al-Qaeda has faced competition in jihadi circles from its rival, the Islamic State group.

2 women campaign to become France's 1st female president

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Sept 12: Two French politicians kicked off their presidential campaigns Sunday, seeking to become France's first female leader in next year's spring election.

The far-right National Rally party's Marine Le Pen and Paris' Socialist mayor, Anne Hidalgo, both launched their presidential platforms in widely expected moves.

They join a burgeoning list of challengers to centrist President Emmanuel Macron. This includes battles among multiple potential candidates on the right - including another female politician Valerie Pécresse - and among the Greens.

Hidalgo, 62, mayor of the French capital since 2014, is the favorite to win the Socialist Party nomination. She launched her candidacy in the northwestern city of Rouen.

"I want all children in France to have the same opportunities I had," she said, invoking her roots. Hidalgo is the daughter of Spanish immigrants who fled their country in search of freedom amid dictator Francisco Franco's rule.

Le Pen, the 53-year-old leader of France's far-right party, started her campaign in the southern city of Frejus with a pledge to defend French "liberty." In keeping with a hard-right message that critics say has vilified Muslim communities, Le Pen promised to be tough on "parts of France that have been Talibanized." Although she launched her candidacy earlier this year, on Sunday she made 26-year-old Jordan Bardella the acting head of the party as her campaign goes into full gear.

Le Pen is also remaking her image for this election. Gone is the dark blue wardrobe that has been her trademark. She now will be donning light blue for the campaign, "to show our vision, less partisan, (reaching) higher," Le Pen's special councillor Philippe Olivier was quoted as saying by Le Figaro, the conservative daily.

SPECTACLE ON SKY



Planes fly over ahead of the Italian Formula One Grand Prix, at Monza racetrack, in Monza, Italy, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

Norway goes to polls with climate on agenda

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stavanger (Norway), Sept 12: North Sea oil and gas has helped make Norway one of the wealthiest countries in the world. But as Norwegians head to the polls Monday, fears about climate change have put the future of the industry at the top of the campaign agenda.

The ruling Conservatives, led by Prime Minister Erna Solberg, and the opposition Labor Party, which is leading in opinion polls, both advocate for a gradual move away from the fossil fuels that continue to underpin the economy.

But the larger parties rarely rule alone in Norway; smaller players are usually required to build a majority coalition, and they can have an outsized influence on the government agenda. Some are demanding a more radical severing with the country's dominant industry and income stream.

"Our demand is to stop looking for oil and gas, and stop handing out new permits to companies," says Lars Haltbrekken, climate and energy spokesman for the Socialist Left party - a likely coalition partner for Labor. He claims that after eight years in charge the government is protecting a status quo at a time when the country is thirsty for a post-oil future.

A report in August from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicting global floods and fires created a wave in Norway that has crested throughout this election campaign.

It is also forcing Norwegians to wrestle with a paradox at the heart of their society.

With their hydro-powered energy grid and electric cars, they are among the world's most enthusiastic consumers of green power, but decades of exporting oil and gas means this nation of 5.3 million en-



joys a generous welfare buffer; and sits on the world's largest sovereign wealth fund.

Tina Bru, the Oil and Energy Minister, says it's unthinkable that the country should force an end to the country's biggest industry, which is responsible for over 40% of exports and directly employs more than 5% of the workforce.

"My question is always: What happens after you stop? What else are you going to do to make sure the world reaches its climate goals? It might affect our own climate budget, but it's not going to make a difference globally," she says.

She agrees with a report highlighted by the Norwegian Oil and Gas Association, an industry group, that says an end to Norwegian production would have a net negative

Afghan women brave fears to return to work at Kabul airport

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Kabul, Sept 12: Less than a month after the Taliban rolled into the Afghan capital, Rabia Jamal made a tough decision - she would brave the hardliners and return to work at the airport.

With the Islamists saying women should stay at home for their own security the risks were all too clear, but the 35-year-old mother of three felt she had little choice.

"I need money to support my family," said Rabia, wearing a navy-blue suit and make-up.

"I felt tension at home... I felt very bad," she told AFP. "Now I feel better."

Of the more than 80 women working at the airport before Kabul fell to the Taliban August 15, just

12 have returned to their jobs.

But they are among very few women in the capital allowed to return to work. The Taliban have told most not to go back until further notice.

Six of the women airport workers were standing at the main entrance on Saturday, chatting and laughing while waiting to scan and search female passengers taking a domestic flight.

Rabia's sister, 49-year-old Qudsiya Jamal, told AFP the Taliban takeover had "shocked" her.

"I was very afraid," said the mother of five, who is also her family's sole provider.

"My family was scared for me - they told me not to go back - but I am happy now, relaxed... no problems so far."

'Take me to Paris'

Women's rights in Afghanistan were sharply curtailed under the Taliban's 1996-2001 rule, but since returning to power the group claims they will be less extreme.

Women will be allowed to attend university as long as classes are segregated by sex or at least divided by a curtain, the Taliban's education authority has said, but females must also wear an abaya, an all-covering robe, and face-covering niqab veil. Still, Alison Davidian, a representative for UN Women in Afghanistan, warned on Wednesday that the Taliban were already neglecting their promise to respect Afghan women's rights.

At the airport, which is returning to action after the hurried US



withdrawal left it unusable, Rabia says she will keep working unless she is forced to stop.

Under new rules, women may

work "in accordance with the principles of Islam", the Taliban have decreed, but few details have yet been given as to what exactly that

might mean.

"My dream is to be the richest girl in Afghanistan, and I feel I am always the luckiest," said Rabia, who has worked since 2010 at the terminal for GAAC, a UAE-based company providing ground and security handling.

"I will do what I love until I am not lucky anymore."

Rabia's colleague, who gave her name as Zala, dreams of something completely different.

The 30-year-old was learning French in Kabul before she was forced to stop and stay at home for three weeks after the takeover.

"Good morning, take me to Paris," she said in broken French, as her five colleagues burst into laughter. "But not now. Today I am one of the last women of the airport."

of the day quote

We are expecting that in the next 15 days, we will get (Cabinet) approval on the MITRA scheme. We will float expression of interest (Eoi) kind of thing. We will seek documents as per a format and then we will do evaluation

U P SINGH | TEXTILES SECRETARY, INDIA

Addverb is looking to expand its manufacturing capability and is looking to create the world's largest robot manufacturing facility in India which will expand Addverb's capabilities by almost 10 times by next financial year

SANGEET KUMAR | CEO, ADDVERB TECHNOLOGY

We are now 200 people, and we will reach at least 500 people in the next one year as we hire primarily in areas such as engineering, product and community management

APRAMEYA RADHAKRISHNA | CO-FOUNDER, KOO

SHORT TAKES

PSBs are back to normal: FM

Chennai: India's public sector banks are stable now after the prompt corrective actions (PCA) when it was caught in turbulence, said Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Speaking at the Tamilnad Mercantile Bank's (TMB) centenary celebrations in Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu Sunday, Sitharaman said prior to 2014, the public sector banks were facing various problems.

CBDT issues tax refunds worth \$70K

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department Sunday said it has issued refunds of over ₹70,120 crore till September 6 this year. Of this personal income tax refunds of ₹16,753 crore have been issued in over 24.70 lakh cases and corporate tax refund of ₹53,367 crore have been issued in 1.38 lakh cases. "CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes) issues refunds of over ₹70,120 crore to more than 26.09 lakh taxpayers between 1st April, 2021 to 6th September, 2021," the Income Tax Department tweeted.

Wipro leaders to return to office

New Delhi: Wipro Chairman Rishad Premji Sunday said its leaders will start returning to office from Monday after 18 months of work from home amid the Covid-19 pandemic. "After 18 long months, our leaders @Wipro are coming back to the office starting tomorrow (twice a week). All fully vaccinated, all ready to go — safely and socially distanced," Premji said in a tweet. He also shared a video about the Covid-19-related safety protocols, including temperature checks and QR code scans, that have been put in place at the Wipro office.

UP's ODOP products in Dubai Expo 2020

Lucknow: The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has now planned to launch its products under the ODOP (One District One Product) scheme in the international market. Additional Chief Secretary, MSME, Navneet Sehgal, said, we are now planning to take part in the Dubai Expo 2020, which is scheduled to be held in October. It will be a big pavilion for ODOP to showcase our traditional crafts and ODOP products in the foreign market. These efforts are being made not only to improve their visibility but also marketability in the foreign markets.



Even so, if two pandemic years are taken together, there would be a very small net growth. In other words, the economy at the end of 2021-22 would be only slightly larger than at the end of 2019-20

POORNAM GUPTA | DIRECTOR GENERAL, NCAER

ZOMATO SCRAPS GROCERY DELIVERY

Online food delivery platform Zomato has decided to stop its grocery delivery service from September 17 mainly on account of gaps in order fulfillment, leading to poor customer experience. The company also said that it believes that its investment in Grofers will generate better outcomes for its shareholders than in-house grocery efforts



New container scanner to boost EXIM trade in PPT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Under Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) initiative, Paradip Port installed a Mobile X-Ray Container Scanning System (MXCS) near the PICT terminal for the purpose of reducing physical examination and dwell time of containers at the port. The estimated cost of the MXCS is ₹30 crore.

After successful trial run of the MXCS, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has issued license August 27, 2021 to Paradip Customs for its regular operation.

The officials said that the scanner can scan up to 25 containers per hour enabling the trade to directly move out their containers with upgraded security and zero hassle. This will also facilitate movement of unshredded metallic scrap materials in containers through the port to meet the long standing requirement of hinterland industries.

"The operation of the scanner is expected to boost the container volume at Paradip Port as PPT is making continuous efforts to reduce the logistic cost to help the export and import (EXIM) trade and is in line with Government's ease of doing business initiative. While the shipping lines like Regional Container Lines, ZIM International Shipping Line and Shreyas Shipping are calling the port regularly, other major liners are likely to follow considering the upgraded facilities and hefty discount offered by the Port," said an official.

Manufacturing in Q2 improves; cost of biz rises: FICCI survey



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: The outlook for increased manufacturing activities in the second quarter of this fiscal has been significantly improved, though the cost of doing business and production is rising, according to a survey by industry chamber FICCI.

As per FICCI's latest quarterly survey (Q2) on manufacturing, industry respondents have attributed the hike in production costs primarily to high fixed costs, higher overhead costs for ensuring safety protocols, and a drastic reduction in volumes due to lockdown.

The hike was also attributed to lower capacity utilisation, high freight charges and other logistic costs, increased cost of raw materials, power cost, and high-interest rates.

It said that after experiencing sub-

dued Q1 (April-June 2021-22), the outlook seems to have improved significantly in the second quarter (July-September), it said.

However, the survey noticed a high percentage of respondents experiencing the rising cost of doing business and production, it said.

On exports, it said the outlook seems improving as around 58 per cent of the participants are expecting a rise in their outbound shipments during the second quarter.

Hiring outlook for the sector remains subdued as 68 per cent mentioned that they are not likely to hire additional workforce in the next three months, the survey added.

Responses have been drawn from over 300 manufacturing units from both large and SME segments with a combined annual turnover of over 2.7 lakh crore.

BILL IN WINTER SESSION

Cabinet likely to take up amendments to PFRDA Act

PFRDA was established for promoting and ensuring the orderly growth of the pension sector with sufficient powers over pension funds, the central record keeping agency and other intermediaries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: The Union Cabinet is likely to consider amendments to Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Act, 2013 soon and a Bill in this respect may be introduced in the upcoming session of Parliament, sources said.

The amendment Bill may contain provisions on separation of NPS Trust from PFRDA, hike in foreign direct investment (FDI) limit for the pension sector to 74 per cent from the existing 49 per cent, among others, sources said.

In March, Parliament approved a Bill to increase FDI limit in the insurance sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent. The Insurance Act, 1938 was last amended in 2015 which raised FDI limit to 49 per cent, resulting in foreign capital inflow of ₹26,000 crore in the last 5 years.



The intent behind this is to keep NPS Trust separate from the pension regulator and managed competent board of 15 members

Out of this, the majority of members are likely to be from the government as they, including states, are the biggest contributor to the corpus

The Trust was established by PFRDA for taking care of the assets and funds under NPS

With the amendment, sources said, powers, functions and duties of NPS Trust, which are currently laid down under PFRDA (National Pension System Trust) Regulations 2015, may come under a charitable Trust or the Companies Act.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced to separate NPS Trust from PFRDA with appropriate organisational structure, keeping in view the wider

interest of the subscribers and to maintain arm's length relationship of NPS Trust with the regulator.

The government had made a conscious move to shift from the defined benefit, pay-as-you-go pension scheme to defined contribution pension scheme, NPS, due to rising and unsustainable pension bill. The transition is aimed at freeing the limited resources of the government for more productive and socio-economic sectoral development.

PFRDA, which runs two flagship schemes NPS and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) under its fold, is targeting to reach an AUM (asset under management) of ₹7.5 lakh crore by the end of the current fiscal year.

The authority also aims to add another 10 million (1 crore) subscribers by the end of March 2022.

Nalco to operationalise Utkal D coal mine in FY23

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: State-owned Nalco is making efforts to operationalise Utkal D coal mine in Odisha in the next financial year.

Utkal E coal block in the state will be operationalised after obtaining all the statutory clearances thereafter, National Aluminium Company Ltd (Nalco) said in its latest report.

All out efforts are being made for operationalisation of Utkal D Coal Block in FY 2022-23 and Utkal E will be operationalised after obtaining all the statutory clearances thereafter, it said.

The two coal blocks have been allocated by the Centre as a part of raw material security to the existing operational units at captive power plant and future expansion of the company.

The company executed the mining lease of Utkal D coal block March 25 after obtaining requisite regulatory clearances and completing land acquisition in the mining lease area.

The Coal Controller, the statistical authority with respect to coal and lignite, granted the mine opening permission in May.

The appointment of mine developer and operator (MDO) and finalisation of rehabilitation and resettlement of project displaced persons are underway, it said.

The activities for development of railway siding construction are under progress. The pre-project activities for execution of mining lease of Utkal E are in full swing.

Action for acquisition of balance private land and government land are being taken up through State Nodal agency IDCO.

FPIs pump in ₹7,605cr in Sept so far

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: Continuing the buying in Indian markets, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pumped in a net sum of ₹7,605 crore in September so far.

According to data from depositaries, overseas investors invested ₹4,385 crore into equities and ₹3,220 crore in the debt segment during September 1-9. During this period, the total net investment stood at ₹7,605 crore.

For the continuing gush of foreign money in the debt segment, Himanshu Srivastava, associate director (research) of Morningstar India, said, the stability in Indian currency and increasing bond spreads between the US and India made Indian debt better placed on the risk-reward basis, which would have caught investor fancy resulting in rather sudden and high in-



FPI funding in September comes after buying to the tune of ₹16,459cr in August, with a record ₹14,376.2cr investment in the bonds market

flows. However, he added that how investment in Indian equities has been volatile in recent times.

FPIs would have chosen to be part

5 firms add ₹62,508cr to market valuation

New Delhi: Five of the 10 most valued firms added ₹62,508.32cr to their total market valuation last week, with Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest gainer. Hindustan Unilever Limited, HDFC, State Bank of India and Bharti Airtel were the other gainers while Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank, Infosys, ICICI Bank and Bajaj Finance took a hit in their market valuation. The market capitalisation (mcap) of Reliance Industries jumped ₹23,582.73cr to reach ₹15,37,600.23cr at close Thursday, becoming the biggest gainer among the top-10 firms. During the last week, the 30-share BSE benchmark rose 175.12 points or 0.30 per cent.

BIZ BUZZ

Samsung launches Galaxy A03s

Bhubaneswar: Samsung, India's most trusted smartphone brand, announced the launch of Galaxy A03s at starting price of ₹11,499. The latest in Samsung's A-series, Galaxy A03s sports stunning 6.5-inch Infinity-V display, 13 MP triple rear camera, massive 5000mAh battery, powerful Octa-core MediaTek P35 processor with side fingerprint sensor, haze and matt textured design and host of other innovative features. With Galaxy A03s, Samsung will disrupt the segment with great features. The mobile is priced at ₹11,499 for 3GB+32GB variant and ₹12,499 for 4GB+64GB variant.



Realme unveils new 8 series

Bhubaneswar: Realme introduced newest additions to its 8 Series with Realme 8s 5G and Realme 8i. The brand also launched its first-ever tablet, the Pad, as well as first-ever speakers with cobbles bluetooth speaker and pocket bluetooth speaker. Realme 8s 5G expands the 5G portfolio with MediaTek Dimensity 810 5G processor. The smartphone also features the Dynamic RAM Expansion technology, which can add up to 5GB to the existing 8GB RAM, enabling users to enjoy upto 13GB of dynamic memory. It houses a massive 5000mAh battery. The mobile has two variants, 6GB+128GB priced at ₹17,999 and 8GB+128GB priced at ₹19,999 respectively.



Petronet eyes fresh foray into petchem biz

CHAIRMAN OF PETRONET SAID THE COMPANY IS LOOKING AT SETTING UP A FLOATING TERMINAL AT GOPALPUR PORT IN ODISHA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: Petronet LNG Ltd, India's largest gas importer, is looking to reclaim the lost opportunities of the past decade as it seeks fresh foray into the petrochemical business and plans to set up an LNG import facility on the east coast.

Oil Secretary Tarun Kapoor, who is also the Chairman of Petronet, in the firm's latest annual report said the company is looking at setting up a floating terminal at Gopalpur Port in Odisha and is embarking upon a major diversification drive to broad base its business activity and is exploring to have an ethane propane import facility at Dahej

terminal.

Petronet had some years back planned to set up a terminal at Gangavaram in Andhra Pradesh for import of supercooled gas in ships. The company management stopped pursuing that terminal in 2015-16 on grounds that there isn't enough demand to justify a 5 million tonne a year import facility.

Gangavaram would have been the first terminal on the east coast as Petronet owns and operates facilities at Dahej in Gujarat and Kochi in Kerala.

Soon after that Adani Group began work to set up a 5 million tonne a year import terminal at Dhamra port in Odisha. Petronet now sees that there is demand for



gas in the eastern region and despite the Dhamra LNG terminal, it is

now looking for a facility at Gopalpur, a source said. Similarly,

the company is trying to recapture the lost opportunity in the petrochemical sector.

Petronet's long-term contract for import of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar provided for supply of 5 million tonne a year of rich gas or gas containing ethane and propane - compounds used to make petrochemicals.

That rich-gas was supplied to Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) which after stripping it of ethane and propane re-supplies to Petronet for onward sale to power plants, fertilizer units and other customers.

The source said ONGC uses the rich gas at its petrochemical plant to make value-added chemicals.

Petronet has also planned for

setting up of a petrochemical complex based on imported propane at Dahej LNG Terminal, Kapoor said in the annual report. The foray into petrochemicals would be a forward integration of our strategy as the same planned to get synchronised with our upcoming third jetty project and available land bank at Dahej.

The LNG terminal will help meet the increasing gas demand of the eastern and central part of the country, he said.

Petronet, he said, has signed MoU (memorandum of understanding) with Gopalpur Ports Ltd and is in discussion with them to finalise the key technical and commercial terms of the agreements.

Fairytale ending

BRITAIN'S EMMA RADUCANU BECOMES 1ST QUALIFIER TO WIN US OPEN WOMEN'S TITLE

AGENCIES

New York, Sept 12: Britain's Emma Raducanu completed a Grand Slam fairytale Saturday by beating Canadian Leylah Fernandez 6-4, 6-3 in the battle of the teens to be crowned US Open champion. The 18-year-old became the first ever qualifier to win a Grand Slam title and the first British woman to hoist a major trophy since Virginia Wade triumphed at Wimbledon in 1977.

The first Grand Slam final – men or women – to be contested by two unseeded players was an improbable matchup that no one could have predicted. It featured the 150th-ranked qualifier Raducanu and little-known Fernandez who is 73rd in the standings. One unseeded player making a major final would be considered remarkable; when it is two it enters the realm of the unbelievable.

All the more remarkable was that Raducanu's march to the

title required 10 matches, including three wins in qualifying, and she did it without dropping a single set along the way. She swatted aside more experienced opponents with the same ease as she hammered winners.

Fernandez left a graveyard of seeds and champions in her trail to the final, her victims including second-seeded Aryna Sabalenka, four-time Grand Slam winner and defending champion Naomi Osaka, fifth seed Elina Svitolina and three-time Grand Slam winner Angelique Kerber.

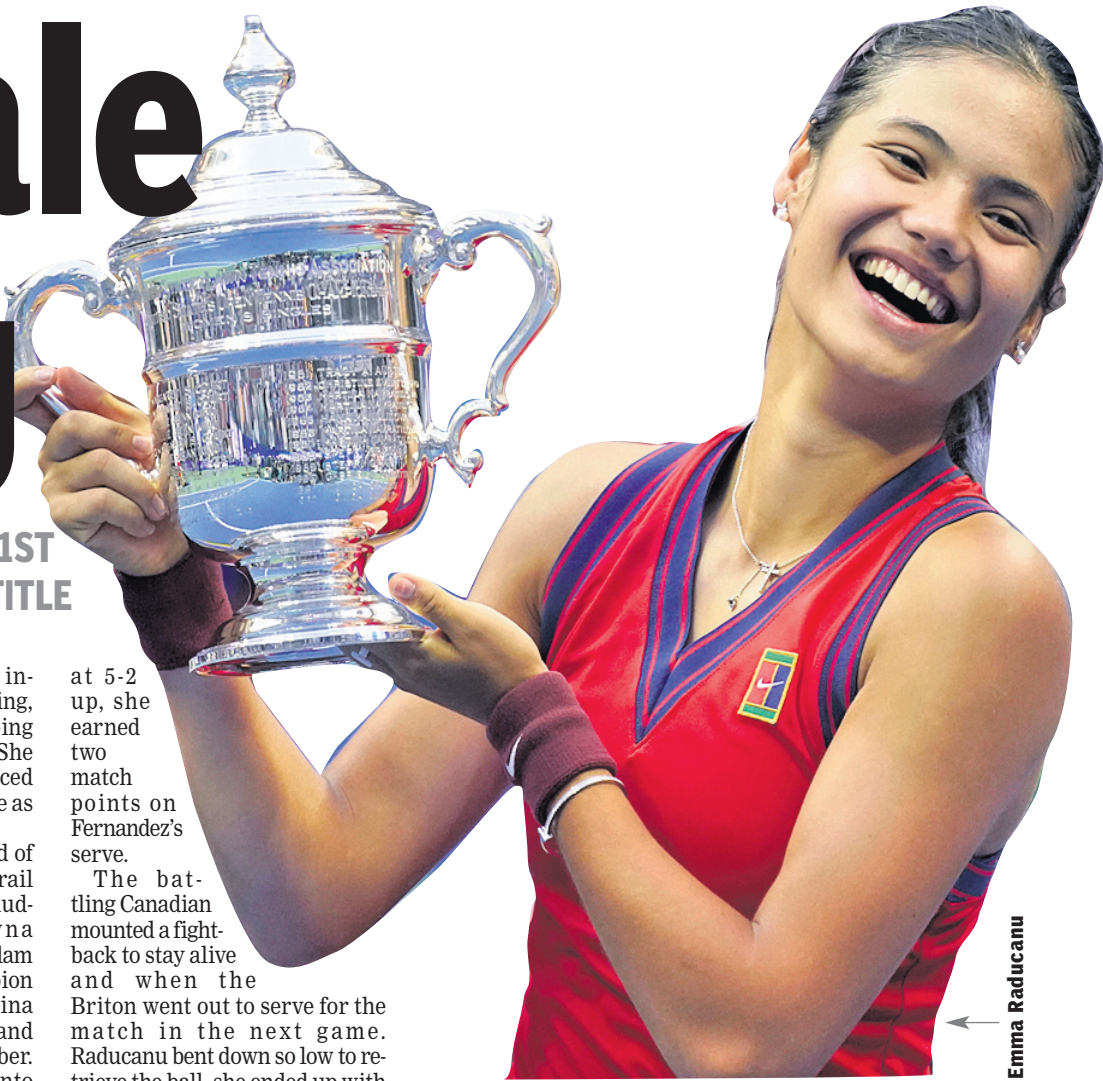
Both players walked out onto a frothing Arthur Ashe Stadium court with looks that suggested 'I can't believe I am here' and with ear-to-ear grins but they quickly had their game faces on.

While the scoreline might hint at a one-sided affair, the near two-hour contest featured plenty of jaw-dropping tennis and more than a dash of drama, particularly in a second set that Raducanu threatened to runaway with when

at 5-2 up, she earned two match points on Fernandez's serve.

The battling Canadian mounted a fight-back to stay alive and when the Briton went out to serve for the match in the next game, Raducanu bent down so low to retrieve the ball, she ended up with blood pouring down her left leg after dragging her knee across the court surface and needed a medical time out – much to the frustration of Fernandez who had just earned a breakpoint.

In the end, however, nothing was going to prevent Raducanu from realising her destiny and she returned with a bandaged knee to finish off her opponent with an ace.



Emma Raducanu

Tribute to 9/11 fallen heroes

New York: Leylah Fernandez had been listening to New Yorkers, and now she wanted them to hear her. They had wildly supported her across two memorable weeks of tennis, a time she had called 'magical'. And after her final loss to Emma Raducanu, the Canadian had something to say. She told the fans that she wanted to be resilient like the city. "I don't know much about 9/11. I was not even born then. But with the few information that I do have, I know that New York has suffered a lot in the past years. I just wanted to let them know that they're so strong, they're so resilient. They're just incredible and I want to be like them," Fernandez said.

WORLD CHAMP'S TRYST WITH DESTINY

Hamilton cheats death by inches

AGENCIES

Monza (Italy), Sept 12: British Formula One (F1) star Lewis Hamilton was inches from tragedy at the Italian Grand Prix here Sunday. Title rival Max Verstappen's car flew over his head after they took each other out of the race. A few inches lower, the back wheel of Verstappen's car could have taken away the head of Hamilton.

Verstappen's car launched off a ramped curb and onto the top of Hamilton's Mercedes, with only the protective Halo device preventing the reigning World Champion from serious injury.

The Red Bull car went nose-first into the gravel with both drivers emerging from the carnage unscathed in the latest dramatic twist in an increasingly heated World Championship duel. Later Sunday, Dutchman Verstappen was handed a three-grid penalty for the Russian

Grand Prix in a fortnight's time.

The two drivers both accused the other of being in the wrong after the race, with Hamilton saying Verstappen 'knew what was going to happen, but he still did it'. Verstappen responded by saying he had 'nowhere to go' and blamed Hamilton for not giving him the room he needed to negotiate the corner.

As the two crashed out of the Italian Grand Prix, it was the turn of McLaren's Daniel Ricciardo to win the race. It was McLaren's first win in nearly nine years, since Jenson Button took the chequered flag in Brazil in 2012. It was also Ricciardo's first win since Monaco in 2018. He finished 1.747 seconds ahead of teammate Lando Norris and 4.921 ahead of Valtteri Bottas, who turned in a strong performance after starting from the back of the grid after a penalty for taking a new engine.



The rear wheel of Max Verstappen's car is inches away from Lewis Hamilton's head

SHORT TAKES

PSG win easily without Messi

Paris: Midfielder Ander Herrera scored twice and Kylian Mbappe added another as French league leader Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) routed promoted Clermont 4-0 to make it five straight wins.

Midfielder Idrissa Gueye came off the bench to add the fourth goal midway through the second half. Italy's European Championship star goalkeeper, Gianluigi Donnarumma, made his debut for PSG in the Ligue 1 game. However, Lionel Messi was rested as he had played for Argentina in the World Cup qualifiers.

Juve lose again without Ronaldo

Rome: No Cristiano Ronaldo. No win for Juventus. The Bianconeri remained winless in Serie A and slumped to their second consecutive defeat since Ronaldo went back to Manchester United.

Jane lost 1-2 at Napoli. Centre-back Kalidou Koulibaly got the winning goal for Napoli five minutes from time. Juventus had taken the lead in the 10th minute when Alvaro Morata scored. Matteo Politano equalised for Napoli before Koulibaly got the winner.

Tvesa finishes with superb final round

Holzhausen (Switzerland): Golfer Tvesa Malik turned in a superb round on the final day of the VP Bank Swiss Ladies to come within inches of securing another top-10 finish on the Ladies European Tour. She finished 11th with a score of 64 in the third and final round. Among other Indians, Aditi Ashok shot 71 and finished at 6-under 210 and in tied 20th place.

Sri Lanka name team for T20 WC

Colombo: Sri Lanka have named a squad made up of youth and experience for the Twenty20 World Cup to be played next month. The squad led by Dasun Shanaka, have six batsmen, five all-rounders and four bowlers. **The squad:** Dasun Shanaka (captain), Dhananjaya De Silva, Kusal Perera, Dinesh Chandimal, Avishka Fernando, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Charith Asalanka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Kamindu Mendis, Chamika Karunaratne, Nuwan Pradeep, Dushmantha Chameera, Praveen Jayawickrema, Lahiru Madushanka and Maheesh Theekshana.

AGENCIES

CANCELLED 5TH INDIA-ENGLAND TEST

ECB writes to ICC claiming forfeiture

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 12: The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has officially written to the ICC to decide the fate of the cancelled fifth Test against India at Old Trafford in Manchester. However, the BCCI has indicated that the two boards are far from reaching a settlement.

The series-deciding fifth and final Test in Manchester was called off after a Covid-19 outbreak in the Indian camp forced its senior players to express their apprehensions to both the BCCI and ECB on going ahead with the match. "Yes we have written to the ICC," an ECB spokesperson said when asked if they want the global body to decide on the fifth Test.

The ECB wants the ICC's Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) to address the issue and expect that forfeiture would be granted so that

RECENT DEVELOPMENT PROVES THAT ECB AND BCCI ARE NOT ON THE SAME PLATFORM

ECB CLAIMS INDIAN PLAYERS REFUSED TO PLAY THE GAME DESPITE ALL ASSURANCES

it can claim insurance as the England board will lose 40 million pounds if the match is declared abandoned due to Covid-19.

Covid-19 is an acceptable non-compliance and the Indian camp has stated that it was unable to field a team for the match.

If the ICC rules the Test as abandoned, then India will win the series 2-1. However, if England get a forfeiture as per the DRC ruling, it will be a 2-2 verdict and the host nation can also claim insurance.

The ECB going to the ICC proves that there hasn't been an amicable settlement yet on the issue as the host board stares at losses.

PACER FEELS FANS HAVE LOST OUT ON AN EXCITING FINISH

Anderson 'gutted' by cancellation



James Anderson was keen to play the fifth Test on his home ground

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Manchester, Sept 12: England pacer James Anderson is 'gutted' that the fifth Test against India at his home ground, Old Trafford was cancelled. It brought a premature end to the exciting series, which he said deserved a better finish. The final match of the series was cancelled when physio Yogesh Parmar in the Indian camp tested Covid-19 positive ahead of the game. It made the visiting players apprehensive, though all of them tested negative.

The 39-year-old Anderson also

wondered whether he would get to play another Test match for England at his home ground.

"I'm gutted for everyone at Lancashire cricket, for the fans who paid for tickets/trains/hotels, for both sets of supporters that wanted to see the finish this series deserved," Anderson wrote on his instagram page. "I hope it will be played again at some point and I hope I will get to play another international game at my home ground that I love so much," Anderson added.

Indian cricketers led by skipper Virat Kohli refused to play as they were apprehensive about

DREAM COMES TRUE FOR BHAGAT AFTER MEETING ICONIC TENDULKAR

Sachin's calmness inspired Pramod

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: Paralympics gold medallist Pramod Bhagat has attributed his calm on-court demeanour under pressure to the inspiration he took from the sportsmanship and graceful behaviour exhibited by the iconic cricketer Sachin Tendulkar in his career. Bhagat is also the reigning World Champion.

The 33-year-old Indian showed great mental fortitude as he recovered from an eight-point deficit in the second game in the final to come up trumps against his opponent Great Britain.

"I used to play cricket during childhood. During that time we used to watch cricket on Doordarshan and I was always fascinated by Sachin Tendulkar's calm demeanour, the way he conducted himself and it had a big influence on me," Bhagat told this agency Sunday.

"I started following him. His sportsmanship influenced me a lot. So when I started playing, I followed the same thought process



Pramod Bhagat shows his badminton gold medal to Sachin Tendulkar

and it helped me to make some memorable comebacks in many matches. When I was 4-12 down in second game of the Tokyo Paralympics final, I was confident that I can recover and so I could hold my nerves, stay calm and come

back and win," added Odisha's para shuttler.

Bhagat met Tendulkar after returning to India from Tokyo. He gifted his racquet, which he used in the final to Tendulkar. The latter gave him an autographed tee-

I have always been inspired by Sachin Sir, right from childhood, so it was a big moment for me when I met him

PRAMOD BHAGAT

shirt and his autobiography.

"I have always been inspired by Sachin Sir, right from childhood, so it was a big moment for me when I met him. He told me about the balance of life and sports. It was a dream come true moment," informed Bhagat.

Bhagat said he didn't see any future in the sport when he started but now he feels overwhelmed with the response that his gold medal has generated.

"There was not much recognition for para badminton earlier. However, I knew that a gold at Paralympics may get me recognition and I should say I am overwhelmed with all the attention," added India's first gold medallist in badminton at the Paralympics.

Liverpool sink Leeds

MO SALAH GETS 100TH PREMIER LEAGUE GOAL

AGENCIES

Liverpool, Sept 12: Mo Salah netted his 100th Premier League goal as Liverpool caught up with Manchester United and Chelsea at the top of the points table with a 3-0 win Sunday over Leeds United. The two other goals were scored by Fabinho in the 50th minute and Sadio Mane in added on time. Liverpool now have 10 points from four matches, the same as both Chelsea and Manchester United.

Salah has now scored 98 goals for Liverpool while the other two came during his short tenure with Chelsea. He certainly is a clinical finisher for Liverpool. The ball was set up for Salah by Trent Alexander-Arnold from the right with a precision pass that Salah just had to tap in after evading his marker.

The Reds were not at their clinical and flowing best in the game. However, they did not need to do so as the Leeds defence was always under pressure. Had Mane not missed two golden chances in the first half, the game would have been over for good before the interval itself. One of them came midway into the first session. Salah set the ball up for Mane, but the latter smashed the ball wide from hand-shaking distance.

Liverpool made the issue safe five minutes after the interval. Again it was Alexander-Arnold who created problems for the Leeds defence. His floater landed in the



Mo Salah

box and Fabinho managed to poke the ball in on the second attempt. It was surprising that he got so much time as the opposition defenders stood rooted.

Mane finally made amends for the misses during added on time, as Jordan Henderson played a one-two with Thiago before finding Mane unmarked. Mane side-stepped a defender with a half turn, before shooting home from close. He smiled sheepishly after the goal, probably remembering the misses earlier.

Earlier in a match played late Saturday evening, Chelsea continued their good run with a 3-0 victory over Aston Villa. Romelu Lukaku continued his good form with a brace while Mateo Kovacic had one at the back of the net in the 49th minutes.

4 players from Odisha among 25 for national camp

PNN & AGENCIES

Bangalore, Sept 12: Four players from Odisha have found a place among the 25 named Sunday by Hockey India (HI) for the women's national coaching camp starting here Monday. The four Odisha players are Deep Grace Ekka, Namita Toppo, Lilima Minz and Rashmita Minz. All those who were in the Indian team for the Tokyo Olympics have also been named in the camp for core problems. India finished a historic fourth in the Tokyo Games.

"The core group which also includes the 16 players who were part of the Indian contingent at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 will report Sunday, September 12, for the national camp which will conclude October 20, 2021," HI said in a release.

"The camp is more to keep the players in shape and the reserve bench ready," the HI release further stated.

The core probables: Savita, Rajani Etimarpu, Deep Grace Ekka, Reena Khokhar, Manpreet Kaur, Gurjit Kaur, Nisha, Nikki Pradhan, Monika, Neha, Lilima Minz, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Namita Toppo, Rani, Vandana Katariya, Navjot Kaur, Vandana Katariya, Navjot Kaur, Navneet Kaur, Rajwinder Kaur, Uditia, Rashmita Minz, Jyoti, Gagandeep Kaur, Mariana Kujur, Suman Devi Thoudam and Mahima Choudhary.