



## OPEN TO CRITICISM

Actor Jacqueline Fernandez says that some of the social media criticism makes sense and she takes those positively

LEISURE

P2



## LIFELINE FOR LEBANON

Tankers carrying diesel organised by militant group Hezbollah reaches crisis-hit Lebanon

INTERNATIONAL

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## ADVANI TRIUMPHS

Ace cueist Pankaj Advani defends his Asian Snooker Championship title defeating Iran's Amir Sarkhosh in Doha

SPORTS

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## KOHLI GIVES UP T20 CAPTAINCY

**DUBAI:** Virat Kohli announced Thursday he will step down as India's T20I captain after the World Cup in UAE, but will continue to lead the side in ODIs and Tests. "I've decided to step down as the T20 captain after this T20 World Cup in Dubai in October," Kohli said in a statement posted on his Twitter page. "I feel I need to give myself space to be fully ready to lead Indian team in Test and ODIs considering the workload I have taken in the last 8-9 years. I have given everything to the team as T20 captain," he added.

It should be stated here that a few days back, BCCI secretary Jay Shah had asserted that Kohli will continue as captain in all formats of the game. Now Kohli's announcement will certainly leave Shah red-faced. Shah had made the comments after a section of the media had reported that Kohli was quitting captaincy in white ball cricket.

P12

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Prices have indeed come down! Just look at the iPhones!

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	59141.16	417.00
NIFTY	17629.50	110.00
DOLLAR	73.79	₹0.01
EURO	86.69	₹0.31
GOLD	₹45,934	₹962
SILVER	₹60,700	₹2593

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
MAX	31.7°C	33.0°C
MIN	25.4°C	24.4°C
Humidity	89%	85%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Rain very likely	



**DEFYING NATURE'S ODDS :** Residents of Chikhili village under Ambabhona block in Bargarh district use a boat Thursday to go to safer places after floodwater from Mahanadi river inundated the village

OP PHOTO

# Situation grim in Mahanadi system

**In August 2020, the Mahanadi had flooded downstream districts like Cuttack, Kendrapara, Puri and Jagatsinghpur. A similar situation is developing again in six downstream districts**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** With the opening of 28 sluice gates of Hirakud reservoir, flood threat looms large on the Mahanadi river system. Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena said Thursday that a low to medium flood is expected Saturday in the Mahanadi river system and in certain areas of south Odisha. He however, assured that the administration has made elaborate arrangements to tackle the situation.

Floods are expected in the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Puri and Cuttack. Collectors and other administration officials have been asked to keep a close watch on the situation, Jena informed.

As a precautionary measure, 30 Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) teams, 12 groups of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and 10 fire service teams have been deployed in the areas that are to be likely affected by floods, the SRC stated. Jena said the water-level in Hirakud reservoir is rising following heavy rains in Chhattisgarh. While nearly five lakh cusecs of water is flowing

## More rain on cards

**BHUBANESWAR:** The regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Thursday that another low pressure areas is in the making. It could trigger heavy rainfall in different parts of the state in the next few days. In the latest bulletin issued the cyclonic circulation over Bay of Bengal could move towards north Odisha and West Bengal coast around September 18. "The cyclonic circulation over East-Central Bay of Bengal and adjoining Myanmar coast extending up to 5.8km above mean sea level tilting southwestwards with good height. It is very likely to move west-northwestwards and reach northwest Bay of Bengal off north Odisha-West Bengal coasts around 18th September, 2021," the department said in its weather report.

into the reservoir, 4.86 lakh cusecs is flowing out of the reservoir through the 28 gates. So chances of floods in the Mahanadi system has increased, Jena pointed out.

The death toll in the heavy rain-related incidents went up to nine Thursday, government officials stated. Jena updated the toll stating that three have died in Kendrapara district, two in Jajpur and one each in Khurda, Ganjam, Keonjhar and Subarnapur districts.

Jena informed that approximately eight lakh cusecs of water will pass Saturday morning and afternoon through Mundali triggering a low to medium flood in downstream districts.

# 1 more arrested from DRDO office

**NIA is now trying to find out whether the DRDO staff was connected in any way to those who have been nabbed in Delhi**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasore, Sept 16:** Crime Branch and Odisha police personnel arrested Thursday one more staff of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in connection with the ongoing es-

pionage case. The accused person, identified as Sachin Kumar was arrested from the DRDO office in Chandipur in this district. With Kumar's arrest, the total number of

people nabbed in the case so far has gone up to five. Sources said that some more arrests are on the cards after interrogation of the accused.

Sources informed that a two-member team from the National Investigative Agency (NIA) has already arrived in Chandipur to help

Balasore police and Crime Branch in the investigation. The sources said that the NIA team has already questioned the four who had been arrested Tuesday.

The four people nabbed from the Integrated Test Range facility in Chandipur for allegedly leaking secrets to a Pakistani agent. The four accused, Basanta Behera (52), Hemanta Kumar Mishri (52), Tapas Ranjan Nayak (41) and Sk Musafir (32), have all been sent

## ESPIONAGE CASE

# Hyderabad rape accused found dead on rly tracks

**The incident is similar to the encounter of 4 rape accused in December 2019. The 4 had allegedly raped and murdered a woman veterinary doctor on the outskirts of Hyderabad**

AGENCIES

**Hyderabad, Sept 16:** P Raju, the main accused in the rape and murder of a six-year-old girl here, was found dead Thursday morning on a railway track in Jangaon district of Telangana. Police called it an alleged case of suicide. However, mystery surrounds the death of Raju as his body was found two days after a Telangana minister had issued an 'encounter' threat against the accused.

Labour Minister Ch Malla Reddy



had said Tuesday that the accused in the case would be caught and that there should be an 'encounter' against him. "It (the incident) is terrible. There should be an investigation against him (accused). He will definitely be caught. (We) will do encounter. There is no question of leaving him," Malla Reddy had told reporters Tuesday.

It reminds one of the 'encounter' that took place December 6, 2019. Four persons accused of raping and murdering a woman veterinary doctor, were shot dead by the

police after being taken to the crime scene. An inquiry into the 'encounter' is still on.

The recent victim was allegedly raped and murdered in Raju's house at Saidabad here September 9 evening.

Based on preliminary investigations, Raju, aged around 30, was found walking on the track by gangmen. They asked him to move aside from the track, but he did not and was hit by a passenger train at around 8.45am, a senior police official said. "This looks to be a clear case of suicide as of now," Warangal Police Commissioner Tarun Joshi said.

Police reached the spot and after verification established the identity of the deceased. It was based on the tattoos on his hands and some other marks, the Commissioner said. "His family members have identified him," he added.

following old traditions .

Earlier, the Mahanagar puja committee and the Cuttack City peace committee had written letters to CM Naveen Patnaik to have a relook at the Durga idol height restrictions. Both committees decided to wait for Friday to chalk out their next course of action.

The Odisha government in view of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has restricted the height of the idols to four feet or below at different puja pandals. It has also ordered to have the rituals performed under the curtains at the mandaps.

## HC RULING ON DURGA IDOL HEIGHT TODAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Sept 16:** The Orissa High Court completed Thursday the hearing on the writ petition challenging the Durga idol height restrictions imposed by the Odisha government and reserved its verdict. A division bench headed by Chief Justice S Muralidhar after hearing the arguments of the petitioner and the Odisha government reserved its verdict. The court is likely to pronounce its verdict Friday.

The plea was filed by the Balubazaar puja committee that wants to conduct puja

to 14-day judicial custody. The four have been booked under sections 120-B/121-A/34 of the IPC.

Sources said that the accused employees were allegedly honey-trapped and spying for an ISI agent. The NIA officials are trying to ascertain whether those arrested here have any connection with the six who were nabbed by the Delhi police for planning to carry out terror attacks in the country. Among those six, two had been trained by the ISI in various parts of Pakistan.

## Students richer by ₹900 Cr after transfer anomaly

AGENCIES

**Patna, Sept 16:** Two students residing in a village in Bihar's Katihar district were in for a pleasant surprise and a huge shock Thursday. It happened as the two suddenly turned crorepatris. As news spread, other residents of the village rushed to ATMs and checked their bank accounts also hoping for the same type of windfall.

The two boys have accounts in Uttar Bihar Gramin Bank. They were expecting some money to be deposited in their accounts through a government scheme to buy school uniform and pay for related ex-



penses. So they visited a local internet shop with their parents to check the accounts. And they couldn't believe what they saw.

Class VI student Ashish found himself rich by over ₹6.2 crore. Another schoolboy, Guru Charan Vishwas, couldn't believe his luck. The total amount in his account was over ₹900 crore.

"I received information that a huge sum has been found in the bank accounts of two students. We are investigating it. I've opened the bank branch early this morning to check how it happened. The branch manager told us there was some glitch in the computerised system of sending money. I have sought a report from the bank," Katihar District Magistrate Udayan Mishra was quoted as saying by 'NDTV.com'.

**Australia, the UK and the US have formed a new trilateral pact. The US will help the Aussies acquire nuclear-powered submarines to tackle the threat posed by China in the Indo-Pacific region**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington/London, Sept 16:** The United States, Britain and Australia have announced a new trilateral security alliance for the Indo-Pacific to take on the threats of the 21st century and allow for greater sharing of defence capa-

bilities, including help Australia acquire nuclear-powered submarines, in a bid to counter China's growing power in the strategically vital region. Unveiling the ambitious security initiative, US President Joe Biden, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison in a joint statement said their move will promote stability in the Indo-Pacific and support of their shared values and interests.

"We are taking another step to deepen and formalise cooperation among all three of our nations because we all recognise the imperative of ensuring peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific over the



US President Joe Biden speaks during the AUKUS virtual meeting Wednesday

long term," President Biden said Wednesday at the virtual launch of the new alliance known as AUKUS. "The United States, Australia,

United Kingdom have long been faithful and capable partners and we're even closer today. Today, we're taking another historic step to deepen and for-

malise cooperation among all three of our nations because we all recognise the imperative of ensuring peace stability in the Indo-Pacific over the long term," Biden added.

Interestingly, the announcement of AUKUS has come a week before a meeting of Quad leaders to be hosted September 24 by Biden in Washington. The meeting will also be attended by PM Narendra Modi, Morrison and Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga.

Under the AUKUS alliance, the three nations have agreed to enhance the development of joint capabilities and technology sharing, foster deeper integration of security and defence-related science,

technology, industrial bases and supply chains.

The formation of Aukus triggered a sharp reaction from the Chinese foreign ministry. When asked, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said: "The US, the UK and Australia are engaging in a cooperation in nuclear powered submarines that gravely undermines regional peace and stability, aggravate arms race and hurts the international non-proliferation efforts. China will closely monitor the situation."

New Zealand reacted to the development with sarcasm. "It proves New Zealand and the US are friends, not allies," the government said.



**FORTUNE FORECAST**

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**ARIES**  
You have been too busy with work and social obligations. It is high time you took a break and did something for yourself. Your health may need attention. Ganesha says, everything else should take a back-seat if you're stressed out.

**TAURUS**  
You will manage to achieve all short-term goals that you had set today and your focus will now shift to setting long-term ones. Work pressure will continue but you will make it a point to find some time to renew your leisure activities. Family and friends will also figure in your scheme of things, predicts Ganesha.

**GEMINI**  
Today will prove to be an emotional and engaging day for you, predicts Ganesha. Fortune will favour you, though your emotions may cloud your reasoning and slow down your progress. Your spare time will be spent on devising methods to make the best use of your knowledge.

**CANCER**  
Today, you will use money to fulfill your needs. If there is anything that according to you needs changing, you will throw some money to get it changed. Your loved ones will celebrate your financial gains and spend some more of it in the process. If there has been any limit to the amount of money flowing in, there is certainly no limit to the money leaving your coffers.

**LEO**  
Maybe it is the weather, or just one of those days, but today, you are extremely prone to wild mood swings, says Ganesha. You must remember that nothing is permanent, except change. So go with the flow and do not get caught in the undercurrent of the changes that are taking place all around you.

**VIRGO**  
Today, your ingenuity will breed ideas like rabbits. You have the healer's hands, and so shall you make right many a wrong, predicts Ganesha. You shall be most understanding, and reading people's mind will do wonders for you and your beloved.

**LIBRA**  
Love is in the air, and passion lurks right around the corner. So keep your eyes and ears open, because you may soon find yourself entrapped in a passionate love episode. But the price of new love is always steep, and your beloved may burn a hole in your pocket.

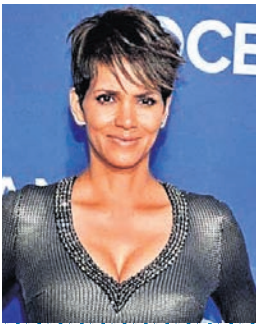
**SCORPIO**  
You shall groom yourself all prim and proper today. The thought of how you look dominates your mind today. You are likely to capture the imagination of people – both at work and at social gathering. Cash will exit left, right and centre from your pockets on account of fun and entertainment.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Dark and gloomy shall be your temperament for most part of the day today. But the afternoon may just see the skies clearing. The apparent mood change, says Ganesha; will mainly be because of good news from abroad and business profits from your partner.

**CAPRICORN**  
Certain revelations about a relationship will draw your attention; you will find it intriguing and will spend a good amount of time trying to solve the mystery, says Ganesha. Besides, your impressive communication power will help dissolve conflicts that may have risen because of misinterpretation.

**AQUARIUS**  
Your communication skills will work wonders today. Your eloquence will win you precious brownie points, and may prove highly beneficial in meetings. In fact, all your arguments will sound very persuasive. The trick is not to get ruffled, says Ganesha, when people don't agree with you.

**PISCES**  
You are unlikely to be your calm and lucid self today. You will likely catch yourself worrying unnecessarily and putting in more efforts than required at work. However, some leisure time will come your way in the evening wherein you will regain your usual perspective, says Ganesha.



**HALLE BERRY SAYS SHE HASN'T HAD AN EASY LIFE**

Oscar-winning actress Halle Berry has debunked the notion that she has had an easy life, suggesting people are quick to judge her on the basis of her good looks. "I've had loss and pain and a lot of hurt in my life. I've had abuse in my life," she told the *New York Times* newspaper.

**SPIELBERG'S WEST SIDE STORY TO RELEASE DECEMBER 10**

Acclaimed Hollywood filmmaker Steven Spielberg's film adaptation of the musical *West Side Story* is set to release in Indian theatres December 10. The film tells the classic tale of fierce rivalries and young love in 1957 New York City.



**Jacqueline**  
takes media criticism in her stride

**Mumbai:** Actress Jacqueline Fernandez, during a chat session with her *Bhoot Police* co-actor Arjun Kapoor, said that some of the social media criticism makes sense to her as she takes it positively.

Arjun has started a social media chat session titled *Bak Bak with Baba* that will see the actor talk to his industry friends and family to unearth things that people might not know about. He dropped a candid chat session with Jacqueline, where they spoke about everything from her first crush, her fitness journey and how she tackles trolls.

The *Gunday* actor asked Jacqueline: "The meanest thing that you have read about yourself on social media?"

She replied: "There are a lot of mean things. Its ok we all get it. I read things about myself how terrible I sound, how terrible my accent is and how I speak Hindi, bad criticism on how I look. I kind of take it like positively. I am like ok what they mean."

She added: "Then, I feel may be there is some room for improvement. There is some criticism where you feel this person is being nasty. Some places criticism actually makes sense to me." "So, now it's about knowing that I don't need to turn to it, tomorrow is another day and we will get through it." **IANS**



**Saif reveals what scares him most**

**New Delhi:** Saif Ali Khan, whose latest release is horror comedy *Bhoot Police*, has talked about what scares him. The actor says he has no supernatural fear.

When asked, if there was anything that scares him, Saif said: "Yes, of course!"

The 51-year-old star, who plays a 'desi ghostbuster' in the movie named *Vibhooti*, added: "What scares me the most is family and loved ones you fear for them. That's the main thing."

However, he does not have any supernatural fear.

"Supernatural fear; not really. Even though it is easy to say that in crowded Bombay. If you go out in the middle of nowhere you might feel differently," he said.

However, the actor, who is married to Bollywood diva Kareena Kapoor Khan, loves reading about 'ghost stories'.

"I like the supernatural, I like reading about it or even ghost stories. Not horror so much but something that is slightly spooky," he wrote.

Saif now awaits the release of *Bunty Aur Babli 2* and *Adipurush*. **IANS**

**Vicky joins Ajay for Grylls' show**

**Mumbai:** Actor Vicky Kaushal left for the Maldives Thursday to shoot for an episode of adventure show *Into The Wild With Bear Grylls*.

According to the Disney Channel, Vicky will be joining actor Ajay Devgn on the show, hosted by renowned survivalist Bear Grylls.

The audience gave a phenomenal response to the show when earlier actor Akshay Kumar and later superstar Rajinikanth appeared on the show.

In 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also appeared on the show, with skyrocketing interest from the audience. While the date for the show going on-air hasn't been announced yet, it is confirmed that it will premiere on the discovery+ app first. **IANS**



**Day of Divine Designer**

*Lord Vishwakarma is worshipped for the safety of the factories, manufacturing units, machineries and betterment of the people working over there*

In Hindu mythology, Lord Vishwakarma is the principal and universal architect and craftsman who designed the architecture of the Universe and the official builder of the Gods' palaces. The very name Vishwakarma in Sanskrit implies 'all accomplishing'. He is depicted as the God with multi-dimensional vision and supreme strength. A look at his multiple roles

**Maker of the Universe:** According to the Rig Veda, Vishwakarma is visualised as the Ultimate Reality. From his navel all visible things Hiranyagarbha i.e. the 'golden womb' or 'golden egg' emanates. It is the source of the creation of the universe or the manifested cosmos in Vedic philosophy.

**Creator in all Yugas:** Vishwakarma, the celestial architect, stamped his marks through his works as a creator in all the four Yugas – Satya, Treta, Dwapar and Kali. His major creation during 'Satya Yuga' is the 'Swarg Lok', ruled by Lord Indra. In Treta, Lankapuri made of gold was originally built by him. In Dwapar, he created Dwarka for Lord Krishna and Hastinapur and Indraprastha in the Kali Yuga.

**Military Scientist:** Besides, Vishwakarma was the manufacturer of the divine arms and ammunitions and chariots of

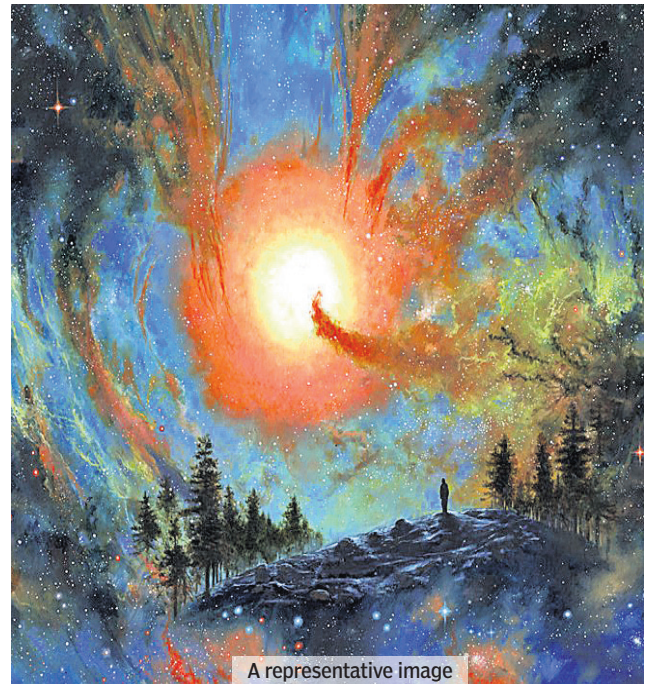
the gods and goddesses. The great "Vajra", that symbolizes the power of Devraj Indra, the king of Swarga, was manufactured by Vishwakarma. Vijaya Bow was manufactured by Vishwakarma for Lord Shiva to destroy the city of Tripura built by the sons of demon Tarakasura.

**Creator of Panchabhuta:** Vishwakarma, according to Moolastambha purana, was created out of himself when there was no existence of Panchabhuta (five primary elements) earth, water, fire, air and ether. He is also identified as one of the seven rays of Surya.

**Image and Symbolism:** The image of Vishwakarma has four hands adorned with four attributes including a water pot, a book, a noose and craftsman's tools. He is the symbol of both theoretical and practical knowledge. An ideal worker should be of the fusion of intellect and physical labor. Vishwakarma is found seated on an elephant or lotus.

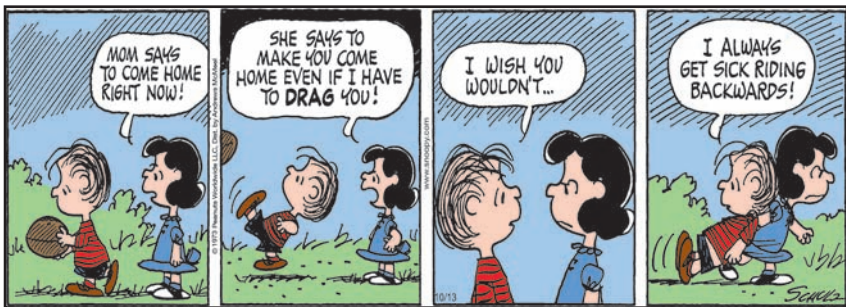
**Devotees of Vishwakarma:** The engineers, craftsmen, carpenters, mechanics, smiths, welders, factory and industrial workers worship Lord Vishwakarma. He is worshipped for the safety of the factory, manufacturing units, machineries and betterment of the people working over there.

**BUDDHADEV NANDI**

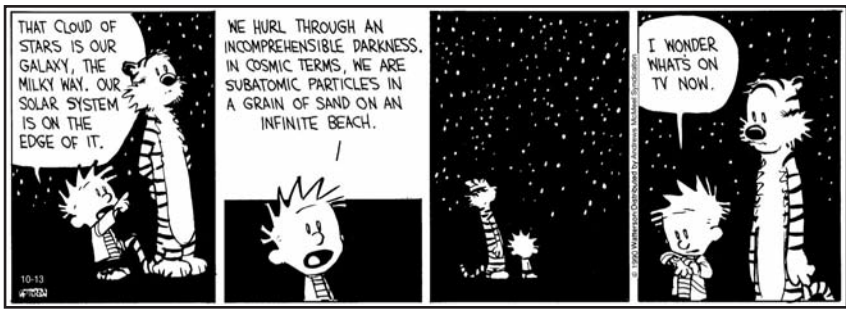


A representative image

**PEANUTS**



**CALVIN AND HOBBS**

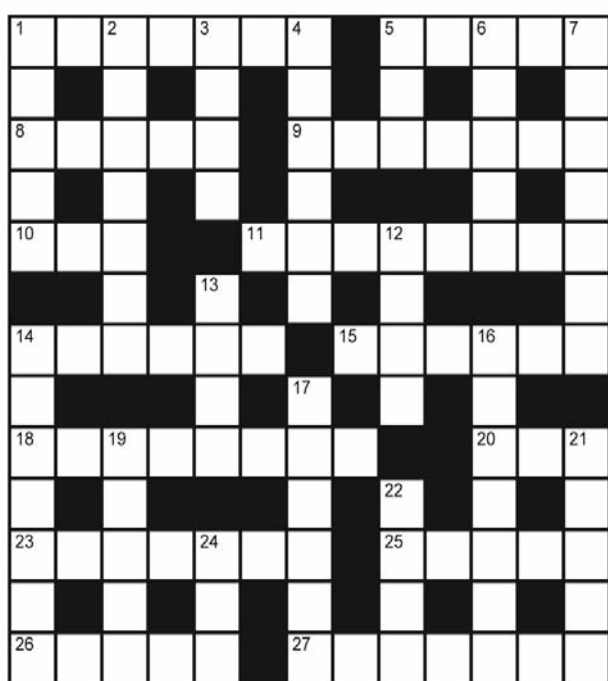


**BREVITY**



**FUN post**

**CROSSWORD**



**Across**

- 1 Passion
- 5 Bush baby
- 8 Gallic goodbye
- 9 Uneasy
- 10 Before, in poetry
- 11 Brahms, e.g.
- 14 Pancake starter
- 15 TV show type
- 18 Unstable (3-5)
- 20 Yoga class need

**Down**

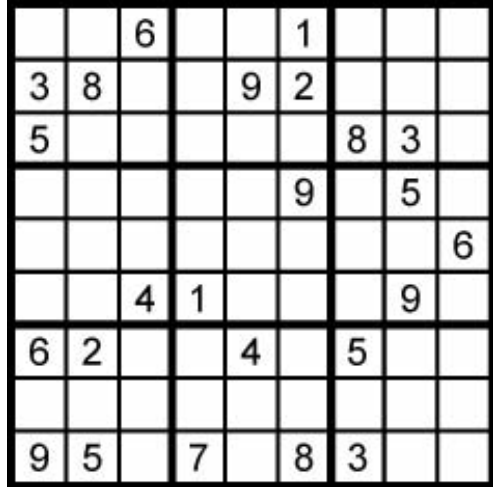
- 23 Snubbed
- 25 Fragrance
- 26 Clutch
- 27 Boils slowly
- 1 Picture holder
- 2 Clothing (Archaic)
- 3 Musical composition
- 4 Sanity
- 5 Careless

**Across**

- 6 Jupiter has many
- 7 Podium
- 12 Bluenose
- 13 Surrender
- 14 Casino action
- 16 Fruit dessert
- 17 Gets around
- 19 It eats shoots and leaves
- 21 Snares
- 22 Mangle
- 24 Dead letters?

**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.

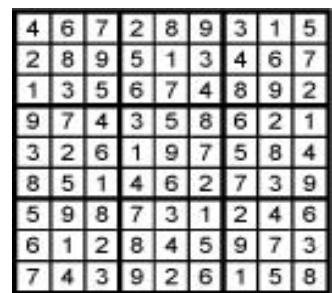


**SOLUTIONS**



**CROSSWORD**

**SUDOKU**



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# downtown

## ABDUCTION PLOT

Delivery boy held for misleading police, family

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** The Commissionerate Police Thursday arrested Patitapaban Prusty, who had identified himself as a food delivery boy and hatched a fake abduction plot of eloping with her girlfriend September 11 night.

Prusty was arrested on various charges including cheating, spreading rumours, misleading police and concealing evidence.

**Prusty was arrested on various charges including cheating, spreading rumours, misleading police and concealing evidence**

Speaking to media persons, Bhubaneswar deputy commissioner of police (DCP) Umashankar Dash Thursday said, “In order to conceal the elopement from his family members, Prusty hatched the kidnapping plot and created an atmosphere of fear by misleading police, his family and people which amounts to criminal misconduct. So, a case has been registered against Prusty.”

Police also revealed that Prusty was not a regular employee of the online restaurant aggregator.

The sensational abduction case of a delivery boy from City outskirts Tuesday took an interesting twist when the Railway Protection Force (RPF) officials detained the victim and paramour at Katni Railway station in Mahdya Pradesh.

Police during the course of investigation found that Prusty has been in a relationship with a girl of Gop area for the last seven years. He had planned elopement with the girl and hatched the fake kidnapping plot to mislead police as well as his family members.

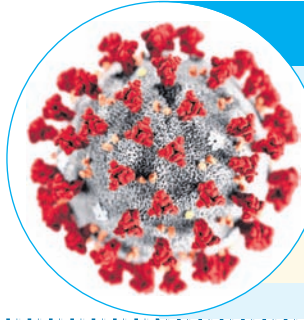
The call records of Prusty’s mobile phone provided strong hints to the cops about his relationship with the girl and the false abduction plot.

Meanwhile, sources informed police that a missing case was also filed by the girl’s father at Gop police station September 12.



## DIVINE ARCHITECT

People carry a clay idol of Lord Vishwakarma on the eve of the divine architect’s puja in Bhubaneswar, Thursday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	22,74,66,562	20,41,63,039	46,77,013
India	3,33,47,325	3,25,60,474	4,43,928
Odisha	10,18,298	10,04,164	8,118

# Cops favour Vedanta, give FIR copy in Hindi, English

The FIR copy, officially handed over to the complainant, was deliberately couched in English and Hindi to serve a two-pronged objective – keep it beyond the ken of the Odia tribal and the public, and prevent a further slide of the already sagging image of the mining major

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jharsuguda, Sept 16:** The State Assembly passed the Odisha Official Language (Amendment) Bill, 2018 making penal provisions for non-compliance and reward for extensive use of Odia by state government officials in official communication.

Former Law Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha had said the Odisha Official Language Act, 1954 was enacted for adoption of Odia as the language to be used for all or any of the official purposes in the state.

However, Jharsuguda police have refused to honour this Act. The Badmal police have given a copy of an FIR to the complainant written bilingually – Hindi and English. Worse, not a single word in the four-page FIR, a copy of which is available with **Orissa POST**, given to the complainant is in Odia. Ironically, the complainant in question is a poor tribal with Odia being his mother tongue.

The police have intentionally done this to favour the defendant, which, in this case, is Vedanta company by keeping the contents of the FIR unintelligible to the complainant.

The case related to the forcible detention, torture of a tribal man by the security personnel of Vedanta at Bhurkamunda in Jharsuguda district.

Security guards of the company had abducted Bihari Oram, 55, of Banjari village under Badamal police limits in Jharsuguda district. They detained him inside the plant premises and allegedly tortured him physically and mentally for 15 days.

Dilip, his son, filed a written complaint against security officers Rajesh Yadav, Mukesh Divakar and Pandey of Vedanta plant at Badamal police station.

Police registered a case (171/21) under Sections 341, 342, 323, 294, 506, 34 of Indian Penal Code and SC & ST Act September 10 and started an investigation. Security

officials of the company were detained and questioned. Badamal IIC Amitabh Panda said investigation is underway and action will be taken accordingly.

However, what has surprised many is the fact that police have given a copy of the FIR to the complainant in English and Hindi instead of Odia – the official language of our state and the mother tongue of the complainant.

Local intelligentsia said, Badamal police are hand in glove with Vedanta officials and are trying to bail them out of the case.

Bihari had been missing since August 25. Two days later, his son Dilip filed a complaint. Police registered a missing person’s complaint and started searching for Bihari, but failed to trace him.

However, a group of local women claimed they saw Bihari being taken away by Vedanta company security guards. Once this was known, villagers protested against the company. Scared plant guards dropped Bihari on the outskirts of his village September 9. Back home, he shared what had happened to him with his family.

Dilip, in his complaint, alleged that security guards of Vedanta had forcibly detained his father on the company premises and tortured him. His father was abused by security men. As a result, Oram has been physically and mentally exhausted.

In the complaint, Dilip stated if his father had done anything wrong, the company could have handed him over to police. “How come they would detain a man of tribal community for 15 days and torture him. As we are tribal people, the company has tortured us. I demand a thorough probe into the matter and action against the guilty,” Dilip said.

Pratyush Jena, information and public relations officer of Vedanta, said police had detained the chief security officer of the company for interrogation and later have set him free. The company is in no way involved in the incident, he added.

LLF-1 (एचकीकृत जीव कार्ड-1)

**FIRST INFORMATION REPORT**  
(Under Section 154 Cr.P.C.)  
प्रथम सूचना रिपोर्ट  
(धारा 154 दंड प्रक्रिया संहिता के तहत)

1. District (जिला): JHARSUGUDA P.S. (थाना): BADMAL Year (वर्ष): 2021  
FIR No. (प्र.सू.रि. सं.): 0171 Date and Time of FIR (प्र.सू.रि. की दिनांक और समय): 10/09/2021 20:45 hrs

2. S.No. (क्र.सं.) Acts (अप्रतिपाद्य) Sections (धाराएँ)

1	IPC 1860	341
2	IPC 1860	342
3	IPC 1860	323
4	IPC 1860	294
5	IPC 1860	506
6	IPC 1860	34
7	THE SCHEDULED CASTES AND THE SCHEDULED TRIBES (PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES) Act, 1989 (AMENDMENT ACT, 2018)	3(1)(v)
8	THE SCHEDULED CASTES AND THE SCHEDULED TRIBES (PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES) Act, 1989 (AMENDMENT ACT, 2018)	3(1)(x)
9	THE SCHEDULED CASTES AND THE SCHEDULED TRIBES (PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES) Act, 1989 (AMENDMENT ACT, 2018)	3(2)(va)

3. (a) Occurrence of offence (अप्रतिपाद्य की घटना):

1	Day (दिन): Intervening Days	Date from (दिनांक से): 25/08/2021	Date To (तक): 10/09/2021
1	Time Period (समय अवधि):	Time From (समय से): 15:00 hrs	Time To (तक): 15:00 hrs

(b) Information received at P.S. (थाना जहाँ सूचना प्राप्त हुई): Date (दिनांक): 10/09/2021 Time (समय): 20:45 hrs

(c) General Diary Reference (रोजनामचा संदर्भ): Entry No. (प्रविष्टि सं.): 016

LLF-1 (एचकीकृत जीव कार्ड-1)

2. Permanent Address: Banjari Oram pada, BADMAL, JHARSUGUDA, ODISHA, INDIA

(i) Phone number (दूरभाष सं.): Mobile (मोबाइल सं.): 91-8455820883

7. Details of known / suspected / unknown accused with full particulars (ज्ञात / संदिग्ध / अज्ञात अभियुक्त का पूरा विवरण सहित वर्णन):

Accused More Than (अज्ञात आरोपी एक से अधिक हों तो संख्या): 0

S. No. (क्र.सं.)	Name (नाम)	Alias (उपनाम)	Relative's Name (रिश्तेदार का नाम)	Present Address (वर्तमान पता)
1	Mukesh Divakar			1. Security Guard, Baaz team, BADMAL, JHARSUGUDA, ODISHA, INDIA
2	Pandey			1. Security Guard, Baaz team, BADMAL, JHARSUGUDA, ODISHA, INDIA
3	Rajesh Yadav			1. Chief security officer, Vedant, BADMAL, JHARSUGUDA, ODISHA, INDIA

8. Reasons for delay in reporting by the complainant / informant (शिकायतकर्ता / सूचनाकर्ता द्वारा रिपोर्ट देरी से दर्ज कराने के कारण):

9. Particulars of properties of interest (संबन्धित सम्पत्ति का विवरण):

S. No. (क्र.सं.)	Property Category (सम्पत्ति श्रेणी)	Property Type (सम्पत्ति के प्रकार)	Description (विवरण)	Value (In Rs./) (मूल्य ₹ में)

10. Total value of property (In Rs./) (सम्पत्ति का कुल मूल्य ₹ में):

11. Inquest Report / U.D. case No., if any (मृत्यु समीक्षा रिपोर्ट / सू.प्र.प्रकरण सं., यदि कोई हो):

S. No. (क्र.सं.)	UIDB Number (सू.प्र.प्रकरण सं.)

Photocopies of the FIR written in Hindi and English given to the complainant by Badmal police in Jharsuguda district

LLF-1 (एचकीकृत जीव कार्ड-1)

Date and Time (दिनांक और समय): 10/09/2021 21:04 hrs

4. Type of Information (सूचना का प्रकार): Written

5. Place of Occurrence (घटनास्थल):

1. (a) Direction and distance from P.S. (पता से दूरी और दिशा): EAST, 7 Km(s)  
(b) Address (पता): Banjari Oram pada.  
(c) In case, outside the limit of this Police Station, then Name of P.S. (यदि थाना सीमा के बाहर है तो थाना का नाम):

District (जिला) (प्रमाण):

6. Complainant / Informant (शिकायतकर्ता / सूचनाकर्ता):

(a) Name (नाम): Dilip Oram  
(b) Father's Name (पिताका नाम): Bihari Oram  
(c) Date/Year of Birth (जन्म तिथि / वर्ष): 2000 (d) Nationality (राष्ट्रियता): INDIA

(e) UID No. (यूआईडी सं.):  
(f) Passport No. (पासपोर्ट सं.):

Date of Issue (जारी करने की तिनांक): Place of Issue (जारी करने का स्थान):

(g) ID Details (Ration Card, Voter ID Card, Passport, UID No., Driving License, PAN) (पूरा विवरण (रेशन कार्ड, मतदाता कार्ड, पासपोर्ट, यूआईडी सं., ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस, पैन कार्ड))

S. No. (क्र.सं.)	ID Type (पहचान पत्र का प्रकार)	ID Number (पहचान संख्या)
1	Present Address	Banjari Oram pada, BADMAL, JHARSUGUDA, ODISHA, INDIA

(h) Occupation (व्यवसाय):

(i) Address (पता):

S. No. (क्र.सं.)	Address Type (पता का प्रकार)	Address (पता)
1	Present Address	Banjari Oram pada, BADMAL, JHARSUGUDA, ODISHA, INDIA

LLF-1 (एचकीकृत जीव कार्ड-1)

First Information contents (प्रथम सूचना तथ्य):

On 10.09.2021 at 8.45 PM Compt Dilip Oram (21), S/o. Bihari Oram of Banjari Orampada, P.S. Badmal, Dist. Jharsuguda appeared at PS and submit a written report aligning their in that on 25.08.2021 at about 03.00 PM security Guards (Baaz Team) of Vedanta company namely Mukesh Divakar and Pandey picked up his father Bihari Oram and sold CHALLI SALLA AMAR BABU CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER RAJESH YADAV TATE DAKUCHIANTO O TATE AME AHI RAJESH YADAV SANGE MISHI UTTAM MADHYAM DEBU. You do not know our security officer Rajesh Yadav who is came from Bihar. He will fire bullet on your head in double barrel gun and kill you. You are low caste people. He will make you correct by assaulting him by means of shoes. Since then his father was missing and they also enquired about him in the security office, but know clue found. He told them to release his father otherwise he will take action as per law. After that his father Bihari Oram returned to his house on yesterday evening having injuries and in frightened condition. On being asked his father told them the said Rajesh Yadav assaulted him severely by keeping gun on his head and other security guards Mukesh Divakar and pandey also assaulted him by means of shoes. They also threatened his father that not to reveal regarding his detention and assault, other wise they will kill him in life. Rajesh Yadav was telling his father he will make to correct by assaulting him. Hence he requested for taking necessary legal action against Rajesh Yadav, Mukesh Divakar and Pandey. On receiving this report as it reveals a cog case u/s 341/342/323/294/506/34 IPC r/w 3 (1)(v) s) (2) (va) SC ST (PA) Act. Registered PS case No. 171 dt/ 10.09.21 and as per the direction of SP, Jharsuguda requested Shri Nirmal Kumar Mahapatra, OPS, SDPO, Jharsuguda to take up investigation of the case. Supplied a copy of FIR to the Compt. at free of cost.

13. Action taken: Since the above information reveals commission of offence(s) u/s as mentioned at Item No. 2.

(की गयी कार्यवाही : चूंकि उपरोक्त जानकारी से पता चलता है कि अपराध करने का तरीका मद सं. 2 में उल्लेख धारा के तहत है):

(1) Registered the case and took up the investigation (प्रकरण दर्ज किया गया और जांच के लिए लिया गया): / or (या)

(2) Directed (Name of I.O.) (जांच अधिकारी का नाम): Nirmal Kumar Mahapatra Rank (पद): Dy. SP (Deputy Superintendent of Police) No. (सं.): 72654 Mobile No. (मोबाइल नंबर): 919437980931 to take up the Investigation (को जांच अपने पास में लेने के लिए निर्देश दिया गया) or (या)

(3) Refused investigation due to (जांच के लिए): or (के कारण इंकार किया या)

(4) Transferred to P.S. (थाना): District (जिला):

on point of Jurisdiction (को क्षेत्राधिकार के कारण हस्तान्तरित).

F.I.R. read over to the complainant / informant, admitted to be correctly recorded and a copy given to the complainant / informant, free of cost. (शिकायतकर्ता / सूचनाकर्ता को प्राथमिकी पढ़ कर सुनाई गयी, सही दर्ज हुई माना और एक कॉपी निशुल्क शिकायतकर्ता को दी गयी)

# Study: 33% schoolchildren attending online classes

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** With the Covid-19 pandemic taking a heavy toll on school education, a research study on status of education in Odisha has revealed that only 20 per cent of the villages in the districts studied do not have internet connectivity and only 33 per cent students are attending online classes.

The study, which was jointly conducted by Save the Children, Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSCPCR) and Odisha Right to Education Forum, was released here Thursday. The districts that came under the purview of the study are: Bhadrak, Bargarh, Ganjam, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Khurda, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Puri, Rayagada, Sambalpur and Sundargarh.

“We tried to highlight how normal life was disrupted during the pandemic and how it impacted the education of children, especially the children belonging to socially and financially disadvantaged sections,” said educationist and principal researcher of the study Smruti Ranjan Jena. The study revealed how school closure and lack of physical classes have resulted in learning loss and how nutritious food under mid-day meal (MDM) scheme eluded the children, who felt isolated, bored, and experienced fear and grief amid uncertainty.

Also, a large section of students do not have digital access leading to disruption in learning.

Although the government, in the early phase of the pandemic, had taken steps to provide soft copies of syllabus wise chapters with reference to months through WhatsApp, it reached a dismal 20 to 30 per cent of parents and 50 to



60 per cent of Anganwadi centres (AWCs), said the study report.

The initiative by the government to provide distance learning through mobile applications and other platforms like Zoom, WhatsApp, GoogleMeet and others also did not yield the desired result.

The study revealed that in many cases the financial condition of the children is so poor that they cannot afford to purchase electronic devices. Hardly 30 per cent of the students are having access to such distance digital learning, it said.

The study also shows that 20 per cent of villages do not have mobile connectivity, only 33 per cent of students are attending online classes, 28 per cent of government elementary schools have initiated online education and 80 per cent of parents have no mobile phones in Malkangiri, Kandhamal, Nabarangpur, Rayagada and Deogarh districts. During the lockdown, the state government launched Odisha Shiksha Sanjog (OSS) app wherein schools were asked to create WhatsApp groups to stay in touch with students. The programme failed to cover even 50 per cent of the children. The pandemic also threw spanner on mother tongue based learning for tribal children. No tribal student of primary grades is

currently receiving learning material in mother tongue, it said.

As per the study, 48 per cent of the students studying in Class VIII are below par in English and 45 per cent students studying in Class VIII are below par in Mathematics.

In response to status of education, especially online education, 92 per cent teachers said that children do not have smart phones to attend online classes and only 15 per cent teachers took an initiative to contact students through WhatsApp. As many as 85 per cent teachers opined that YouTube classes were not very helpful to students.

Jena said that at this juncture, the state government should allocate funds for school education. OSCPGR chairperson Sandhyabati Pradhan said, “Through this study, we learnt that regular sanitisation of schools is very much required. The decision to reopen schools need to be made in consultation with parents and the community, and classes need should be resumed as soon as possible.”

According to the study, the first day of reopening of schools in August saw a turnout of 45 to 50 per cent for Class X and XII students.

# Sustainability is my co’s mantra: Seafood exporter Aditya Dash

With seafood exports sector growing by the day, Aditya Dash, the Managing Director of Ram’s, the seafood exports division of the Suryo group of companies, has said that Odisha’s export volume would soon reach a whopping ₹5,000 crore. The Suryo group has been in the seafood industry for more than 40 years. Ram’s has a vertically integrated, hatchery to finished product value chain for Vannamei shrimp. Aditya is currently Vice Chairman of MPEDA. During a tete-a-tete with **Orissa POST**, the MD shared seafood market scenario and strategies for further devolvement of the industry. Excerpts...

■ What are the major challenges the seafood industry is facing during the pandemic?

■ Initially, there were uncertainties and farmers incurred some losses owing to panic harvests. Typically, shrimp is largely consumed by the HORECA (Hotel, Restaurant and Cafe) sector, and this greatly affected the demand. However, there was a huge increase in demand from the retail segment and that certainly is good for the industry in the long run. However, until the HORECA sector recovers fully, small and medium exporters, who do not sell to the retail markets, would face a tough time.

■ Which is more in demand? Fish or shrimp?

■ In terms of volume, fish has the highest demand but in terms of value shrimp will overtake fish. However, demand for shrimp is highest in volume as far as Odisha is concerned. We witnessed a phenomenal growth of the industry. In 2006, the overall seafood export from Odisha was around ₹500 crore but today we are looking at an export volume of a whopping ₹5,000 crore. Odisha has also followed the same trajectory that world is seeing. Farm-raised products are increasing but the sale of wild caught products is declining. This situation needs to be addressed by the government.

■ What about your strategies for the growth of the group of companies?



■ My strategy is sustainability because it is what we believe in and it is also what our customers want.

■ Any suggestions to the state government?

■ As far as shrimp farming is concerned, we have been suffering from the pandemic like white spot virus since 1995. This apart, there are 14 pathogens which affect shrimp farmers. The burden on small holder farmers, who account for 90 per cent of the total farming population, is severe. The gov-

ernment should invest in disease diagnostic labs and ensure that the farmers of Odisha have access to good veterinary services. Diseases are currently responsible for the biggest amount of value destruction in this industry and we hope the government interacts with stakeholders and formulates correct policies. Also, there should be improvement of power infrastructure as most of the farming is in coastal and remote areas. Lack of electricity connectivity is the main reason why Odisha farmers are lagging behind their Andhra Pradesh counterparts. Odisha government should also regulate the aquaculture industry to promote best practices and to crack down on bad practices.



# CM flags off expanded Utkal Alumina Refinery

THE EXPANSION WITH AN INVESTMENT OF ₹1,500 CRORE HAS PROVIDED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO OVER 500 PEOPLE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated an expansion project of Utkal Alumina Refinery at Kashipur in Rayagada through virtual mode here Thursday.

With this, the production capacity of the refinery was upgraded to 2 million tonne per annum (MTPA) from the existing 1.5 MTPA. The expansion, with an investment of ₹1,500 crore, has provided employment opportunities to over 500 people.

With this, the production capacity of the refinery was enhanced to 2 million tonne per annum (MTPA) from the existing 1.5 MTPA.

“Odisha’s economy is bouncing back from the adverse impacts of the pandemic and we’re back on track. Investors are expanding their existing projects in Odisha despite the impact of the pandemic. We’ve attracted investments to the tune of



over ₹4.5 lakh crore since the pandemic,” Naveen said. The BJD supremo mentioned that the state’s GST collection in July this year has registered a 54 per cent growth as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

On Aditya Birla Group’s key role in the development of Odisha, the Chief Minister said, “Aditya Birla Group has been instrumental in Odisha’s journey of industrial development with its momentous presence in sectors like metals, cement, financial services, apparel and retail,” Patnaik said, pointing out that the expansion is a testimony to the long-standing relationship between the Indian multinational conglomerate and Odisha.

Patnaik expressed confidence that the expansion would help in further growth of the industrial econ-

**Odisha's economy is bouncing back from the adverse impacts of the pandemic and we're back on track. Investors are expanding their existing projects in Odisha despite the impact of the pandemic. We've attracted investments to the tune of over ₹4.5 lakh crore since the pandemic**

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

omy of Odisha, especially in the tribal regions. He wanted the Aditya Birla Group to guide its ancillary units and associates to visit the state and explore more opportunities to invest in the coastal state.

# Prioritise accommodating students of regular courses, hostels directed

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** The Higher Education (HE) department Thursday directed colleges and universities of the state to provide hostel accommodation to the students of regular courses on priority basis.

HE department Secretary Saswat Mishra said, “It has come to the notice of the department that some universities and colleges are providing hostel facilities to the students of self-finance courses at the cost of students pursuing regular courses.”

**It has come to the notice of the department that some universities and colleges are providing hostel facilities to the students of self-finance courses at the cost of students pursuing regular courses**

SASWAT MISHRA | SECRETARY, HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Mishra said that this practice should be stopped immediately. Hostel facilities to students of regular courses should be

prioritised.

Only after accommodating all such students desirous of staying in hostel, the vacant seats, if any, may be allotted to the students of self-finance courses, he added.

The Odisha government had allowed physical classes in universities and colleges in the state August 16.

The department had also opened hostels for accommodation of PG First Year and UG Pre-Final Year students. Instructions were given to the institutions to clean and sanitise the hostels.

# Over 66 lakh fully vaccinated in state

Odisha currently has 5,963 active cases, while as many as 10,04,164 patients, including 561 Wednesday, have recovered from the highly infectious disease



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** As many as 580 people tested positive for Covid-19 in Odisha Thursday, pushing the tally to 10,18,298, and 77 of them were children, a Health department official said. The rate of infection among children and adolescents stood at 13.2 per cent, he added.

Khurda district, of which state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the highest number of new cases at 261, followed by Cuttack at 87. The two districts together accounted for 60 per cent of the new cases.

Eight districts - Boudh, Bolangir, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nabarangpur and Nuapada - did not report any new case in the past 24 hours.

Of the 580 cases, 336 were reported from quarantine centres and the rest were found during contact tracing.

Four fresh fatalities in the state raised the toll to 8,118, the official said. Two were recorded in Cuttack and one each in Jagatsinghpur and Jajpur, added the official.

Odisha currently has 5,963 active cases, while as many as 10,04,164 patients, including 561 Wednesday, have recovered from the highly infectious disease. The state’s positivity rate stands at 5.34 per cent.

Over 1.90 crore samples have been tested thus far, including 60,722 Wednesday. A total of 66,77,109 people in the coastal state have received both the doses of Covid-19 vaccine.

“This will certainly help build an industrial ecosystem that will benefit all the stakeholders through improved efficiency and cost-effectiveness,” Patnaik said.

Utkal Alumina Refinery in Rayagada was set up in 1993 with an investment of ₹8,600 crore. Aditya Birla Group has provided employment opportunities to more than 12,000 people in Odisha, more than 10 per cent of its global workforce.

Joining the programme through virtual mode, Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said that Odisha has emerged as the top investment destination for the Indian multinational conglomerate. Aditya Birla Group is committed to partner with the state government and the people in its quest for collective prosperity, he added.

“We’ve invested over ₹30,000 crore in Odisha. Eight of our group businesses that have a significant presence in the coastal state have given employment opportunities to at least 35,000 people. We’ll invest around ₹7,200 crore across our businesses. For Hindalco, we’ve earmarked an investment of ₹3,000 crore in order to set up flat-rolled projects at Hirakud,” Birla added.

He praised the vision of the Chief Minister in the all-round development of Odisha and appreciated the role of the state government in the success of Indian Hockey at the Tokyo Olympics.

The programme was moderated by 5T Secretary VK Pandian.

## PLUS III ADMISSION TIMELINE REVISED

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** The Higher Education (HE) department revised Thursday the timeline for the e-admission into degree colleges in Odisha for the 2021-22 session. Deputy Director of the HE department Rajesh Kumar Sahoo, in a letter to all government and non-government colleges, informed that as per the revised timeline, the online deposit of admission fees through SAMS portal has been extended to September 17, till 7.00pm.

Also, applicants taking admission at allotted institutions in the first selection merit list has been extended till September 18. This apart, the updating data of admitted students including error reported for first round admission in e-space has also been allowed till September 18.

The date of publication of second merit list has been postponed to September 23. Online deposit of admission fees for second phase will be done between September 23 and 27.

# Steel firm GM duped of ₹41L

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** Cyber criminals have duped a senior general manager of a steel company of ₹41 lakh on the pretext of providing him dealership for electric vehicles.

Sources revealed that Sukanta Prasanna Das, the senior general manager of a reputed steel manufacturing company operating in Odisha, had intended to obtain the dealership for electric scooter produced by Ather Energy at Cuttack. He searched for the company’s website to apply for the

dealership online.

Unaware of the fake website opened by the fraudsters, Das applied for the dealership through an email. Subsequently, the cyber fraudsters sent him a reply June 28. The cyber criminals identified themselves as the general managers of the company in the mail. The criminals asked Das to contact one Ankit Chauhan, the alleged marketing manager over phone.

Das received another email the next day with details regarding the terms and conditions and fees required to be paid by the victim for the dealership. They asked him

to deposit a sum of ₹41 lakh on the pretext of payment for NOC, licence and security which Das paid accordingly in six installments between June and August this year.

Meanwhile, he received another mail from accused persons who informed about visiting Odisha for warehouse site inspection August 10. However, Das smelt a rat when the accused did not turn up for inspection and their phones were found switched off. He also later came to know that it was a fake website.

Crime Branch has started investigation into the matter by registering a case.

## Ex-CJI graces BGU law school orientation prog

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** Birla Global University (BGU), Bhubaneswar, recently held the orientation programme for the 2021-22 batch of BBA, LLB (Hons) students of the Birla Law School, September 10. Justice Dipak Mishra, the 45th Chief justice of India, attended the virtual session as the chief guest.

Dean of the law school, L K Deb introduced Justice Dipak Mishra in his welcome address while mentioning the latter’s landmark judgements. In his address, Mishra advised students to

be honest, disciplined, sincere in studies, and respectful to elders. He highlighted that reasoning, logical thinking and oration are essential to be a good lawyer.

He also explained the importance of good oratory skills while giving the example of Demosthenes, a revered orator of ancient Athens. Law students should read widely and have knowledge of a wide range of disciplines like philosophy, psychology and logic as well, he added. Vice Chancellor P P Mathur stated in his address that sincerity and hard work are essential to succeed in life.



**Mathan's income, expenditure and assets were calculated and she was found in possession of disproportionate assets worth ₹2.96 crore**

erties worth over ₹4 crore have been unearthed during the house

searches. She owns seven buildings and 14 plots, including 10 in Bhubaneswar, along with one four-wheeler and gold ornaments worth over ₹6.36 lakh, according to the release.

Mathan’s income, expenditure and assets were calculated and she was found in possession of disproportionate assets worth ₹2.96 crore, constituting 494 per cent of her known sources of income, the Vigilance said.

A case has been registered against Mathan and her husband under the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, and she has been arrested. She was produced before a vigilance court in Bhubaneswar, which remanded her to a 14-day judicial custody, it added.



Fishermen cast net at Naraj anicut in Cuttack as water levels rise at the masonry check dam following incessant rains triggered by a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal, Thursday

PIC: RAJISHORE MOHANTY

## TANGI VIDYAPITHA OLD STUDENTS' MEET

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** A get-together of former students of Cuttack Tangi Vidyapitha residing in Bhubaneswar was held on the occasion of Teachers’ Day here September 5.

More than 24 ex-students of the school attended the get together at Bhubaneswar. At the meeting, Santosh Mohanty was elected as Tangi Vidyapitha forum president, while Mahesh Routray was chosen as the forum secretary and Bijay Sahu as the treasurer, said in a release issued by the forum. “Even the rain god paused for a while to act as a facilitator for the smooth conduct of the event,” it said. The meeting was possible due to the relentless efforts of Routray and Sahu.

## BJP seeks white paper on Ashirbad

**Bhubaneswar:** The BJP Thursday demanded a white paper on the Ashirbad scheme for Covid orphans. Party leader Lekhashree Samantsinghar said, “The Modi government had earlier announced about compensation to the kids orphaned by Covid. The Odisha government also decided to implement a similar scheme in the state under the name of Ashirbad scheme. However, the government is yet to come up with the data on how many people were benefitted with the scheme and it’s strange that it has decided to close it.

**FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS**

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# Flood threat looms over Western Odisha

HEAVY RAIN IN UPPER REACHES OF MAHANADI HAS SWOLLEN RIVERS IN THE DOWNSTREAM



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bargarh/Sundargarh, Sept 16:** As heavy rains continued to lash most parts of Chhattisgarh, water level in the Mahanadi river kept on rising, leading to a spike in the water level in the Hirakud dam. Floodwaters have entered Chikili village under Ambabhona block in Bargarh district Thursday.

Over 600 hectares of farmland in Chikili, Antaradi, Beniapal, Ghugurapalli and Ganthiapli villages were inundated. Bargarh ADM Naveen Patel, BDO Alfrance Bilung, tehsildar Sitaram Patel and other officials took stock of the flood situation in the village.

The administration has started rescue operation in the area. About 90

people were taken to a nearby school. On the other hand, Chhattisgarh has released water from Gangrel dam, Saradihi dam and Kalma barrage, leading to swelling of water level in the Hirakud dam.

Entry of water has triggered panic among people in the region due to release of excess water from the Chhattisgarh dams.

Police, fire personnel, and health officials were keeping a close watch on the affected area.

Meanwhile, reports from Sundargarh said many rivers including Koel are flowing above the danger mark. Floodwater has entered riparian villages.

Water levels in Sankha, Koel and Brahmani rose above the danger marks. Floodwater from Koel had left some villages in



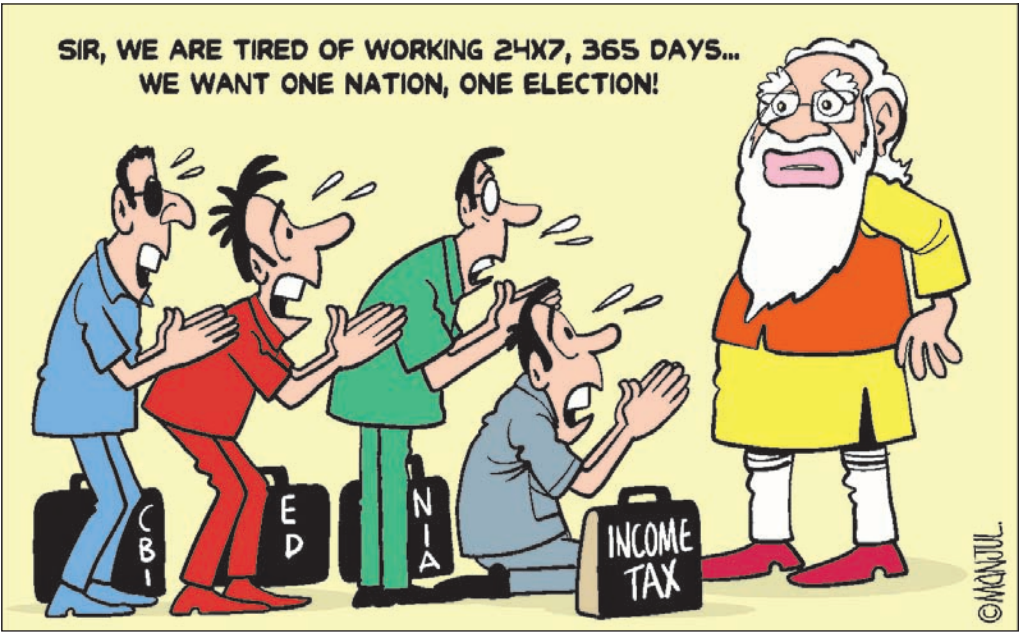
Kuanrunda block waterlogged. Over 300 people living in Chainpur have remained cut off from the rest of the world.

## 28 SLUICE GATES OF HIRAKUD OPENED

**SAMBALPUR:** Following a low pressure over Bay of Bengal and subsequent rains in upper catchment areas, the surging rainwater level in Hirakud Dam has posed a threat of flood.

Meanwhile, the dam authorities have opened 28 sluice gates at around 8 pm Wednesday to effectively manage floodwaters, a spokesperson informed. If the situation so warrants, more gates of the dam might be opened, the senior official said. Due to ingress of rainwater, it became essential to open the gates. Around 2,92,628 cusecs of rainwater has been entering the dam's

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# Over 1,000 more Ganjam villages child marriage-free

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, Sept 16:** Over 1,000 villages and 126 more wards of the urban areas in Ganjam district have been declared free from child marriage, an official said Thursday.

The district administration declared 1,010 villages as child marriage-free in the meeting on the 'Day for Child' held at Chhatrapur Tuesday.

The new additions took the total number of child marriage-free areas to 2,042 out of 3,250 villages and 266 out of 286 wards of 18 urban local bodies. Similarly, 221 out of 503 panchayats in the district are now declared as child marriage-free.

"For the first time, we have declared child marriage-free panchayats in the district," District Social Welfare Officer Surekha Mallick said.

The panchayats, villages and wards were declared child marriage-free based on the recommendation from the panchayat and ward-level task force committees on prohibition of child marriage, official sources said.

It was duly verified by the respective block development officers and the child marriage prohibition officers, the sources said. There was not a single child marriage reported in these villages after the



## 'Nirbhaya Kadhi' initiative is an innovative awareness programme to prevent child marriage and adolescent empowerment

district administration launched the 'Nirbhaya Kadhi' initiative in September 2019, Mallick said.

It is an innovative awareness programme to prevent child marriage and adolescent empowerment. Under the initiative, awareness programmes are held at village-level, where the Anganwadi and Asha workers educate the adolescent girls

against child marriage in the third Saturday of every month. It was possible due to the active involvement of the communities, said Debabratt Mahunt, district coordinator of ActionAid.

"Besides Nirbhaya Kadhi, we have also taken several other initiatives to end child marriages in the district," Ganjam Collector Vijay Kulange said.

These include compulsory verification of Aadhaar card of the bride in every marriage in the village, verification of long absence of girl student in schools and reward of ₹5,000 to informers about the child marriage, he said.

The district administration has set a target to make Ganjam child marriage-free district by Children's Day on November 14 this year.

# Brahmani floods 4 blocks in Bhadrak



**BHADRAK:** As Baitarani flowed above the danger mark following heavy rains, vast areas in Bhandaripokhari, Dhamnagar,

Tihidi and Chandbali blocks in Bhadrak district were flooded Thursday. As many as ten panchayats such

as Sohada, Dehudi, Anandapur, Khadipada, Hasinabad, Karada, Dobal, Dalang, Bayangdih and Arjanpur under Dhamnagar block have been affected by flood. Six panchayats including Solampur, Malda, Rahania, Balipokhari, Napang and Sarasada under Bhandaripokhari block were inundated. Over 8000 hectares of farmlands were flooded.

Some villages under Tihidi and Aradi have been affected by flood too. Collector Trilochan Majhi and other officials took stock of the situation in these blocks.

The Collector directed the officials for rescue and relief operations immediately in the flood affected areas.

## TRIBAL CULTURE



Tribal folk artistes taking out a procession on the concluding day of All India Tribal Theatre and Dance Festival in Rourkela, Thursday

# Maoist camp busted, top ultra flees

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, Sept 16:** A team of security personnel Wednesday night busted a Maoist camp following an encounter near Malkangiri-Koraput border. They have seized explosives from the spot, Malkangiri SP Prahlad

Meena informed at a presser here Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off about Maoists on Badili Hill, jawans of SOG, DVF and BSF launched a search operation in the area at night. Some members of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) party who were present at a camp including a top

cadre red rebel leader named Suresh Surana from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh managed to give a slip to the forces under cover of darkness, the SP said.

The security forces seized a gun, six live cartridges, four detonators, two walkie-talkies and Maoist 11 kits.

# Godman outrages modesty of teen

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhadrak, Sept 16:** In a shocking incident, a girl was allegedly raped by a self-styled godman on the pretext of healing her and on promise of marriage in Dhamnagar area of Bhadrak. Police arrested the godman and produced him in court Thursday.

The matter came to the fore after a complaint was filed by the victim at

Dhamnagar police station. The accused was identified as Asikur Rehman, 35, of Pathanmahalla. According to the complaint, the 19-year old girl was not keeping well. She approached the godman for healing.

However, taking the plea of healing her, he used to exploit the girl sexually. She also alleged that the godman managed to lure her with magical powers and established physical relationship.

The godman had allegedly video-recorded their act and tried to blackmail her. When the girl forced him to marry her, the latter threatened her with life. She later revealed the matter before her family members.

Following a complaint, police registered a case and arrested the accused. Rehman was produced in court Thursday, but his bail plea was rejected. He was sent on a 14-day judicial custody.

## Potato scarcity in Silk City

**BERHAMPUR:** People in the south Odisha town were a harassed lot as potatoes vanished from the vegetable market ahead of the formation of another low-pressure over Bay of Bengal by Friday. This has happened as wholesalers allegedly started hoarding the tuber and started charging an extra ₹100 per quintal of potatoes. Locals alleged that the wholesalers had stored the tuber at separate places and not released the stocks to retailers leading to an artificial scarcity in the city.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
Tender No. MCSW-ShopClean-21-22-15  
Name of the Work : CLEANING OF ALL SHOP FLOOR & ADJACENT AREA, PITS, PIT ADJACENT AREA, ROADS AND SHIFTING OF COLLECTED GARBAGE TO THE NOMINATED PLACES AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR.  
Advised Value : ₹ 1,88,13,056.64, Tender document cost: ₹ 5,000/-, Period of completion: 24 months.  
Bidding start date: 21.09.2021 Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 05.10.2021.  
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.  
Complete details & tender documents will be available at website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Carrriage Repair PR-384/M/21-22 Workshop, Mancheswar

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS DIVISION, ROURKELA**  
E-Mail - [rw\\_rourkela@yahoo.co.in](mailto:rw_rourkela@yahoo.co.in)  
**TENDER CALL NOTICE**  
**Bid Identification No. ONLINE-SERKL-09 of 2021-22**  
No. O-687:-  
1. Name of the Work :- Road & Building Works  
2. Total No. of works :- 16 (Sixteen) Nos.  
3. Estimated cost :- Rs. 2.06 Lakhs to Rs.38.91 Lakhs  
4. Class of contractor :- "B", "C" & "D" Class  
5. Period of completion :- 01 & 06 (One & Six) Calendar months.  
6. Type of Tender :- Single cover  
7. Other Details  

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Rourkela	Online-EERKL-09 of 2021-22	21.09.2021 from 10.00 A.M.	05.10.2021 upto 5.00 PM

Further details can be seen from website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer  
Rural Division, Rourkela  
OIPR-25067/11/0009/2122

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KORAPUT**  
Email: [eerwkoraput@yahoo.com](mailto:eerwkoraput@yahoo.com); Phone: 06852-251263  
**"e" Procurement for Road Works**  
Bid Identification No. EERWKPT-Online - 09/2021-22 Date: 15.09.2021  
Letter No. 4634  
01. Name of the Work :- Road works in the Dist. of Koraput for the year 2021-22  
02. Total Number of Works :- 02 (Two) Nos.  
03. Approximate Estimated Cost :- Rs.44.25 lakhs to 61.61 lakhs (approximately)  
04. Class of Contractor :- "A" & "B" Class  
05. Period of Completion :- Within 6 Months  
06. Other details :-  

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	
		From	To
Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Koraput	Online Tender/09/RWD-KPT/2021-22	16.09.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	27.09.2021 up to 5.00 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgpe/app](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgpe/app).  
All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.  
\*N.B.: Any addendum or Corrigendum will be available in the Website only.  
OIPR-25088/11/0008/2122 Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Koraput

**FORM B**  
**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**  
(Regulation 12 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016)  
**FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF AIR ODISHA AVIATION PRIVATE LIMITED**  

1. Name of corporate creditor	AIR ODISHA AVIATION PRIVATE LIMITED
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	25/01/2011
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated/registered	REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES, CUTTACK
4. Corporate identity number/limited liability identity number of corporate debtor	U62200OR2011PTC013043
5. Address of the registered office and principle office (if any) of corporate debtor	PLOT NO MIG -99 RAJIV NAGAR, PO. AIGINIA BHUBANESWAR OR 751019 IN
6. Date of closure of insolvency resolution process	25/03/2020
7. Liquidation commencement date of corporate debtor	13/09/2021 (RECEIVED ON 16/09/2021)
8. Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as liquidator	Name: Gagan Bihari Bhuyan Registration Number: IBBI/IPA-002/IP-NO0928/2020-2021/13029
9. Address and e-mail of the liquidator, as registered with the Board	Address: Flat No 2162, 15th Floor, 2nd Tower, Dn Oxy Park, Dumduma, Bhubaneswar (M.C), Khorda, Dumduma Housing Board Colony, Odisha, 751019, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, 751019 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:gaganbhuyan29@gmail.com">gaganbhuyan29@gmail.com</a> Contact Number: 7506370577
10. Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the liquidator	Corporate Office: Flat No 2162, 15th Floor, 2nd Tower, Dn Oxy Park, Dumduma, Bhubaneswar (M.C), Khorda, Dumduma Housing Board Colony, Odisha, 751019, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, 751019 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:gaganbhuyan29@gmail.com">gaganbhuyan29@gmail.com</a> Contact Number: 7506370577
11. Last date of submission of claim	13/10/2021

Notice is hereby given that the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Cuttack, has ordered the commencement of Liquidation of the AIR ODISHA AVIATION PRIVATE LIMITED 13/09/2021. The stakeholders of AIR ODISHA AVIATION PRIVATE LIMITED are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, on or before 13/10/2021, to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 10. The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means. Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties. Gagan Bihari Bhuyan | Date: 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 | Place: Bhubaneswar

**Government of Odisha**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Dhenkanal**  
E-mail: [eerwdkl@yahoo.co.in](mailto:eerwdkl@yahoo.co.in)  
**e-procurement Notice No. 08 / Road Work / 2021-22**  
No.-: O-699:-  
1. Name of the work : Road Work  
2. Total No. of Works : 3 (Three) Nos.  
3. Estimated Cost : 16.05 lakh to 26.25 lakh (approx.)  
4. Class Contractor : "D" & "C" Class  
5. Period of Completion online for bidding : 1 (One) Calendar month. 20.09.2021 at 11.00 A.M to 30.09.2021 up to 5.00 P.M  
6. Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification : 29.09.2021 upto 4.00 PM  
7. Date & Time of opening of tender : 01.10.2021 at 11.00AM  
Other details can be seen from the website <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>.  
Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Dhenkanal  
OIPR-25101/11/0003/2122



Be only a burning fire for progress, take whatever comes to you as an aid to your progress and immediately make whatever progress is required.

THE MOTHER

# Future of Ethiopia’s schoolchildren

The civil war in northern Ethiopia has entered its 11th month. The conflict, which started in the Tigray region, has expanded to the neighbouring regions of Amhara and Afar. More than two million people have been displaced and the destruction of civilian infrastructure has been significant. Humanitarian agencies warn that hundreds of thousands of people are on the verge of starvation. Allegations of mass atrocities abound.

As with most civil wars, women and children are bearing the brunt of the effects. The burden is particularly heavy on schoolchildren in the conflict zone and surrounding areas, who already have suffered significant learning losses due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Authorities claim that more than 7,000 schools have been destroyed or damaged by the fighting, which could keep more than 1.4 million students out of classrooms in the upcoming academic year. The United Nations reports that aid agencies have been able to reach only 4% of girls and boys in need of emergency assistance in education. And because the state often relies on teachers throughout the country to carry out other kinds of civic duties, the mobilisation for war might affect education in other regions.

The war effort also could divert budgetary resources from sectors like education as defense spending grows. In the budget for the 2021-22 fiscal, the share of defense spending has increased by 0.5 percentage points, which is equivalent to a one-third increase in the nominal value of military expenditure, while the share of education spending has declined by 0.2 percentage points. Even if the government attempts to protect education spending, teachers – who already struggle with their relatively low public-sector salaries – could be hit hard by soaring inflation, which has reached 30% as a result of deficit financing and supply-side problems. This inevitably will demoralise and demotivate the country’s teachers.

Empirical evidence from countries around the world shows the substantial negative effects of exposure to conflict on educational attainment and literacy. Conflict also is likely to aggravate existing inequities, such as gender gaps in educational disparities. Ultimately, all of this feeds a vicious circle in which the lack of education and economic opportunities, compounded by lingering animosity, sustains conflict over multiple generations.

The parts of Ethiopia that are embroiled in the current conflict have endured decades of civil and inter-state wars. A study of the impact of the Ethiopian-Eritrean war on childhood health and education shows that the combination of school disruptions and poor nutrition significantly affected the educational outcomes of children in the affected areas. Sadly, many adults whose own childhood and education were marred by the civil war in the 1980s are seeing their children go through the same ordeal three decades later.

Despite the setbacks, Ethiopia can be commended for increasing access to primary education, which has compensated for some of the losses caused by the last civil war. Unfortunately, the current war broke out at an inopportune moment for many schools, which, in addition to the structural challenge of improving the overall quality of instruction, already faced the hard work of recovering from the pandemic’s effects on children’s education.

One way to limit the long-term consequences of conflict is to invest in protecting the education systems in affected and vulnerable communities. Such work must extend into the post-conflict and reconstruction period to prevent scores of children from falling through the cracks. In Ethiopia, the international community should match its effort to deliver lifesaving food aid to areas affected by war with targeted interventions to preserve the educational opportunities of children in the conflict zone.

Development organisations may find it challenging to balance support for interventions in education with efforts to leverage foreign aid as an incentive to negotiate an end to the conflict. But in the aftermath of the violent crackdown following the disputed elections in 2005, donors managed to continue funding the delivery of essential services through decentralised channels without giving a blank check to the government in the form of direct budget support. While every effort to bring this war to an end will pay dividends in terms of restoring the lives and educational opportunities of children, economic sanctions may be counterproductive if they result in diversion of resources away from schools or reduction of teachers’ real income through inflation.

More fundamentally, all sides in this war should be reminded that the human toll of the conflict is not limited to actual body counts or the number of people driven to starvation. The overall impact of the current fighting could extend to future generations, because millions of children are being denied their right to education. Politicians should be held accountable for that, too.

The writer is a senior research associate at the Center for Global Development in London.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

## WISDOM CORNER

Happiness is a butterfly, which when pursued, is always just beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you.

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.

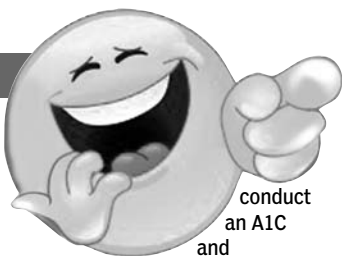
HENRY DAVID THOREAU

The most authentic thing about us is our capacity to create, to overcome, to endure, to transform, to love and to be greater than our suffering.

BEN OKRI

## LOL Geese-hunting

Three doctors are out geese-hunting. A gaggle flies over and the oncologist raises and then lowers his gun. "I better conduct an MRI first to determine if those were really geese." Some more geese fly by & the endocrinologist raises his gun and then lowers it. "I'll need some bloodwork to



determine what those birds were first." Some more geese fly over. The trauma doc raises his shotgun and blows them out of the sky. "What were those things, anyway?" he asks.

## FOCUS INDO-ISRAEL TIES

# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IN WATER



Dr Padmalochan Dash

CREATION OF A MODERN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR, AS IT CAN DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE ENHANCEMENT AND RESTORATION OF THE WATER ECOSYSTEM

To realise the Water Mission envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi it is important to give official sanction to an autonomous "Institute of Indo-Israel Strategic Partnership in Water". It is believed that the proposed institute can be a catalyst in achieving India's water security objectives.

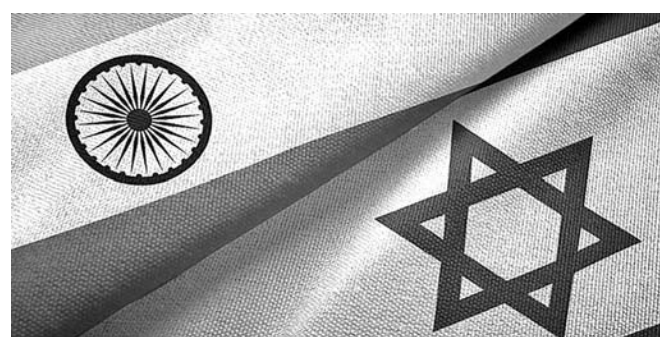
For precise reasons, advanced countries have notified Water Infrastructure as critical. India must follow suit, and take the requisite methods and implementing agencies into action to protect India's vast water infrastructure and water bodies both natural and man-made before their downfall.

In the face of rising water scarcity, the issue of water security is now one of the main focus areas. Factors like different types of pollution, climate change, population growth, and groundwater depletion are putting pressure on water resources making water management a big challenge. To overcome this, the country requires suitable technological interventions. It is argued here that by entering into a projected institutionalised water partnership with Israel, India can attain this objective.

**The prospective domains**

There are areas where the prospects of Indo-Israel water co-operation remains high. These include the areas of water conservation, water recycling, integrated water infrastructure in the field of irrigation, advanced transportation and networking models for drinking water, advanced water practices, and building a sustainable water ecosystem. These are some of the critical areas, which demand promising research and innovation.

Restoration of water ecosystem: At the global level, freshwater ecosystems are subject to multiple anthropogenic threats, and restoration initiative is important to break the impending ecological crisis and protect the biodiversity for the future generations to sustain. Likewise, the creation of a Modern Water Infrastructure System is the need of the hour, as it can directly contribute to the enhancement and restoration of the water ecosystem. Further, 'preservation of water



There are areas such as water conservation, water recycling, integrated water infrastructure in the field of irrigation, advanced transportation and networking models for drinking water, advanced water practices and building a sustainable water ecosystem where prospects of Indo-Israel water cooperation is high

bodies' and 'restoration of water ecosystem' are two important areas requiring specific focus and "critical desalination initiative (CDI)".

**Critical desalination initiative:** There is a pressing need for cur-tailing the pressure on freshwater reserve; and, as an alternative, it requires harnessing water through the desalination process. If sea water harvesting is catalysed and subsequently channelled for the regular household, industrial and agricultural usage, it can help minimise such pressure. India, having about 7,500 km of coast-line with access to abundant sea-water, provides a huge potential for CDI. It is envisioned that the CDI can enhance the green water in-ventiveness, thus fulfilling the im-pending water deficiencies.

**Technology acquisition**

The field of water management necessitates domain knowledge, precise technologies, and the al-ready implemented confrère of efficacious proficiencies. Beyond hesitancy, it is recognised that Israel has been excelling with tech-nological solutions and innova-tions and has emerged as the true world leader in the field of water management and water recycling. It generates state-of-the-art water infrastructure and alternative sources of water. By adopting strategic water partnership with

of identifying joint areas of un-der takings and is leading the water solution projects in India. Now, it is India's responsibility to pro-vide the right platform and allocate necessary resources so that the incubation as well as the im-ple-mentation of large-scale Indo-Israel water projects is under-taken at the earliest.

**Institutionalising objectives**

Policies and systems adopted by Israel can be taken as the best practices of implementation in various areas where water man-agement crises are extensive. Although India and Israel have established cooperation channels and joint programmes for im-ple-mentation, such collaboration needs to be intensive. The transfer and acquisition of incubated models and technologies must be institutionally streamlined.

The model National Water Scheme and Water Infrastructure Grid are those envisioned water programmes that require a huge number of doyens in the field. This will only become possible when state-of-the-art research facilities are founded under an autonomous institutional setup. In this regard and towards the actualisation of the Prime Minister's dream Water Mission, the creation of an "au-tonomous Institute for Indo-Israel Strategic Partnership in Water" is should be given official sanction.

India, having a huge set of di-verse topographic settings and water bodies, can provide ample possibility of incubation' for the model water projects. In the long run, such experiments and models can be the answer to the hastily approaching water crises in India as well as across the globe at large.

The Indo-Israel partnership has proven to be beneficial for both countries in various domains in-cluding water. It is hoped that if the proposed institution is set up, it can be the catalyst in the im-plemen-tation of "Indo-Israel Strategic Partnership in Water" (2018).

The writer is an ICSSR Post-Doctoral Fellow, School of National Security Studies, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar. He can be reached at dr.pad-malochandash@outlook.com.

## SPECTRUM SECURITY

# Cybersecurity and banking



Bhigmeswar Swain

BANKS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PROTECT THEIR CUSTOMERS' FINANCIAL DATA. IF YOUR CYBERSECURITY IS DERISORY, CLIENTS CAN LOSE VALUABLE TIME AND PERSONAL INFORMATION

Cybersecurity is the blend of people, policies, processes and technologies employed by an enterprise to protect its cyber assets. Cybersecurity is augmented to levels that business leaders define as balancing the resources required with usability/ manageability and the amount of risk counterbalance.

On secure possessing of customer's data, Gartner predicts that global cybersecurity spending will top \$150 billion in 2021. Disdain the required steps, loss of data can lead to many sleepless nights for a customer. Hence, cybersecurity is of utmost priority in the banking sector to put off threats that could make their customers susceptible.

Banks have an obligation to protect their customers' financial data. If your cybersecurity is derisory, clients can lose valuable time and personal information, in addition to their savings. Customers may grow insecure or apprehensive, and you can lose the trust the public has in you to keep their money and information secured.

In the current banking landscape, security is a major problem faced by the industry. One of the risks is cybersecurity. Security

breaches often lead to frauds and other malpractices. The number of cases of bank frauds is rising every year.

Regulatory compliance has become one of the most significant challenges for the banking industry as a direct result of the dramatic increase in regulatory fees relative to earnings and credit losses since the 2008 financial crisis. In addition to 2FA, some banks offer encrypted security tokens. These small, handheld devices generate one-time pass codes you can use to log into your account. Because they're physical devices owned by your bank and kept safe by you, there isn't a way for a hacker to gain access to it without physically handling one.

Athwart, the first half of the year 2020, financial firms and financial services institutions claimed a 238% increase in cyber-attacks. In September 2020, the US Department of Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network reported that over \$1 billion showed up as stolen from institutions each month. In 2020, at a total of 1,001 cases of data breaches were reported in the United States. Over 155.8 million individuals were affected by data exposures - that is,

accidental revelation of sensitive information due to less-than-adequate information security. In 2020, it's said that a major cyber attack lead to a series of data breaches, including in several wings of the United States government.

Unlike the European Union GDPR (Global Data Protection Regulation), the US has no single federal law that regulates information security, cybersecurity and privacy throughout the country. For example, the CCPA (California Consumer Protection Act), Internet of Things (IoT), Cybersecurity Improvement Act, State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act, the CFAA (Computer Fraud and Abuse Act) protect federal computers, bank computers, and computers connected to the Internet.

President Biden signed an Executive Order on refining the Nation's cybersecurity, beckoning enlarged regulatory lapse of cybersecurity. The USA is worried over the latest cybersecurity threat. Cybercriminals are stealing personal data and threaten the public that unless it pays huge money, they will break the banking cybersecurity and takeover the money.

The Biden administration gives

more importance to protecting America's national security and endorsing the wealth of the American people. The National Security Agency (NSA) is always on the lookout for new cybersecurity talent, as digital communication and motion are central to its role. The agency monitors a far-fetched volume of information, much of which is communicated in a digital manner. President Biden has made cybersecurity a critical element of the Department of Homeland Security. A cybersecurity strategy 2021 has been in place to defend any future threats and risks.

However, question arises whether these are sufficient to protect, detect and recover the lapses of the USA's cybersecurity? Will composed cyber resilience defend against risks and protect business functions to minimise cyber attacks? A country which has a high level of cybersecurity and has invested heavily in cybersecurity is still feeling insecure about future.

The writer is the Head, North America Data on Cloud-CDO Practice and Trustee, Shree Jagannath Chetna & Chintana Worldwide.

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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### Wake-up call

Sir, A new survey by the BBC has found that the number of days the temperature had reached 50°C has doubled over the last 40 years. The study found that between 2010 and 2019, the temperature reached 50°C for 26 days on average, while it was 14 days between 1980 and 1990. The analysis shows that the frequency of exceptionally hot days is increasing every year. High heat can be fatal for humans and also destroy environment. This apart, it causes problems to buildings, roads and power systems. May be this will be a wake-up call for us to change. Urgent action must be taken by world leaders at the UN Summit scheduled to be held in November in Glasgow. Governments must commit to new emissions cuts to control global temperature rises. It must be understood that even below 50°C, high temperature and humidity could create severe health risks. Hence, temperature above 50°C will have more serious consequences. As a consequence of extreme heat, disasters such as droughts and wildfires could become more likely. Unless the countries wake up to the reality of the situation and adopt measures to mitigate global warming, our existence on this planet will be in peril.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

### Shastri's blunder

Sir, During a pandemic a certain amount of restraint is expected of everyone. Indian cricket team coach Ravi Shastri, the batting coach, fielding coach and physio, contacted the coronavirus in England when the team was in the midst of a Test series and on the cusp of creating history. Obviously, the launch of the book was important for the former Indian cricket captain. But was it so important to release a book at a function where outsiders were allowed, and most of them did not adhere to personal protection, is the moot question. The entire Indian team, too, was present at the release. Crucial questions here are whether or not the bio bubble was disregarded by Shastri and whether the Indian team was wary of the IPL looming large and the higher stakes involved in it. If the answer for both is 'yes', then it is time to haul up both, especially the coach. Shastri knows he is not answerable to anybody, including the BCCI. Anyway, with the world T20 cricket round the corner, and with his decision to leave the team after the tournament, after the culmination of his contract, Shastri will remain untouched.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA



DEMAND FOR AGRI INFRA

Tribals moot water conservation project across Samakoi river



There are 22 panchayats under this block. Farming is contingent on rains. In case of erratic monsoon, the region has seen drought and crop damage in the past, locals said

As water is not available for farming, people are unable to take up farming in right way. Hence, there is a need for a water conservation project in the upper end of the Samakoi river, farmers said in the memorandum

Samakoi river flows through tribal panchayats like Shibnarayanpur Goda, Telkoi, Oria Birada, Saleikena, Dunulapal, Chhamunda, Khuntapada, Deuladiha, Kardangi, Bhimakand and Padang

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar/Telkoi, Sept 16:** Farming in vast parts of tribal-dominated Telkoi block in Keonjhar district solely depend on rain. Owing to lack of irrigation facilities, farming has failed to take a leap in the region, local said.

People demand a water conser-

vation project be set up at Hatimunda, the upstream area of Samakoi river.

Various outfits including BJP Krushak Morcha have submitted a memorandum to Union Minister of State for Water Resources and Tribal Affairs Bisweswhar Tudu, seeking an irrigation project in the larger interests of farmers and

those in the underdeveloped region.

According to reports, there are 22 panchayats under this block. Farming is contingent on rains. In case of erratic monsoon, the region has seen drought and crop damage in the past, local said.

“As water is not available for farming, people are unable to take up farming in right way. Hence, there is a need for a water conservation project in the upper end of the Samakoi river,” they said in the memorandum.

Samakoi river flows through tribal panchayats like Shibnarayanpur Goda, Telkoi, Oria Birada, Saleikena, Dunulapal, Chhamunda, Khuntapada, Deuladiha, Kardangi, Bhimakand and Padang.

“If the water conservation project is built across the river, poor tribal people can make farming a feasible and profitable livelihood option in 12 panchayats. The irrigation will help them raise paddy and crops for two to three times in a year and farmers can earn enough for their families. The project can bring about a change in the farm sector,” observed Radhakant Mohant, state vice president of the Krushak Moracha.

Man drives away with police van in Dhenkanal, arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dhenkanal, Sept 16:** Personnel of the Dhenkanal town police station had a shock of their lifetime Wednesday after a man, who was found loitering on road and brought to police station suspecting to be mentally ill, drove away with a police van.

However, an hour later, he was nabbed from Khuntuni in Cuttack district and the van was also seized. The incident of a man driving away with the police van, that too from the police station, has since been a matter talks here.

According to police, the police found a man moving along the road suspiciously Tuesday night during patrolling. They took the man to the town police station where he was identified as Dharmendra Swain (30), a resi-



dent of Hatabaisinga village under Joranda police limits in Gondia block. The police perceived him to be mentally unstable from his way of talking and behaviour.

Wednesday, Dharmendra asked the police station driver Shibu Prasad Barik to drop him at his house. The policemen made him sit in the van and left. Meanwhile, the driver went to the police station to fetch water bottles.

Taking advantage of being un-

guarded, Dharmendra drove away with the police van with the red beacon light atop.

After getting information that he was moving towards Khuntuni, PCR vans from town and sadar police stations followed him. Meanwhile, cops at town police station passed the information to their counterparts in Khuntuni police station. Putting of blockades at strategic locations, Khuntuni police nabbed him at a place near Champeswar.

The town police admitted him at Dhenkanal district headquarters hospital for his medical test.

In this regard, Sadar sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Bikash Ranjan Beura said, “An investigation is underway to find out whether he is mentally unstable or not. The next course of action depends on the findings of the investigation.”

HUNGER STRIKE



Panchayatiraj representatives protesting irregularities in developmental works and neglect of public representatives staging a hunger strike outside the Daringbadi block office in Kandhamal district, Thursday

Malkangiri students take long jumps to reach school

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, Sept 16:** Even as the Centre and state have launched various welfare schemes for the development of tribals, the latter continue to get deprived of benefits due to the apathetic attitude of the district administration, a report said.

The district administration's failure to repair a culvert connecting a primary school at Niliguda village on Malkangiri-Motu Road is a case in point. The culvert connecting a road to the school is lying in broken condition following incessant rain over last two years.

The approach road to the culvert has been washed away and a huge crater has been formed in its

place. There is always heavy water flow under the culvert when it rains.

Things have come to such a pass that the culvert might crumble anytime and result in a major mishap. Left with no options, students in this school had to take long jumps from the culvert to reach the road on the other side of the crater.

This has become a daily affair for students except on holidays. The officials are aware about it. However, none has taken care to order its repair.

Reports said teachers and many tribal students visit the school daily for online classes despite closure of the school due to Covid pandemic. The students have been



The district administration's failure to repair a culvert connecting a primary school at Niliguda village on Malkangiri-Motu Road is a case in point. The culvert connecting a road to the school is lying in broken condition following incessant rain over last two years

Budura Kartami, the local sarpanch, has lodged several complaints with Padia block development officer. However, the culvert is yet to be repaired despite several promises by the BDO

RALLY FOR FREE ELECTRICITY



Members of the Power Consumers Association demanding free power supply of up to 200 units and other benefits taking out a rally against Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Ltd in Berhampur, Thursday

Engineer caught in Vigilance net for taking ₹50K bribe in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, Sept 16:** A team of Vigilance sleuths caught an assistant engineer red-handed while he was accepting ₹50,000 Thursday morning from a contractor in Aska of Ganjam district.



According to a senior Vigilance official, the contractor had filed a written complaint against assistant engineer (electrical) Ishwar Das who presently works at Aska sub-division of the lift irrigation department.

Acting on the complaint, Vigilance sleuths laid a trap to nab the accused official. In his complaint, the contractor alleged that the assistant engineer was demanding a bribe of ₹50,000 to pass a bill raised for construction of riverside lift irrigation (LI) project under Buguda block in the district, the senior Vigilance official stated.

Inter-state fraud racket busted; seven arrested in Mayurbhanj

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Saraskana, Sept 16:** In a major breakthrough, police have busted an inter-state gang involved in frauds and arrested seven members of the gang Thursday in Jharpokharia area of Mayurbhanj district.

According to reports, the gang has been running various attractive lottery schemes in the names of Jaydurga Enterprisers and RM Enterprisers. For a long time, they have been into these shady dealings in various parts of the state and used to fleece people through lottery schemes.

Though some people won in the lottery, the youths did not give the prizes as promised. They said articles will be given away two days later

Their fraud came to the fore following a complaint from a local trader Wednesday.

Abhimanyu Das, a trader of Tulasibani area, in his complaint stated that a group of unknown youths came to Bombay Chhak bazaar in the afternoon of



Wednesday. They lured people with some coupons. They told people to scratch coupon and win prizes by buying a coupon for ₹100.

They promised that in case of win the lottery, people will get home appliances and household articles worth ₹2100.

Though some people won in the lottery, the youths did not give the prizes as promised. They said articles will be given away two days later. They even forced a lottery winner to pay ₹2100 in advance and issued a fake receipt against it.

Abhimanyu grew suspicious of the youths and informed police. Police swung into action and arrested seven people. Police seized

₹15,000, 779 scratch cards, receipt books, music systems, grinders and ceiling fans.

The arrested were identified as Bhagban Sahu, Sahajali Khan, Santosh Behera, Amulya Jena, Tapan Behera, Sashikant Biswal and Rabindra Barik. They belong to Kendrapara and Bhadrak districts. They were staying in a rented house in Madhuban area. Police raided the house and seized an Enfield Bullet bike.

Police said, the racket has been carrying out their activities in various states and districts. All the articles seized from them were fake. All the accused were produced in court, said, SDPO KK Hariprasad at après meet here.

No Olive Ridleys in new Bhitarkanika logo

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, Sept 16:** Gahirmatha beach in Bhitarkanika National Park is famous worldwide as the nesting site of Olive Ridley turtles, a report said.

The place is visited by lakhs of turtles from far off places for mating and laying eggs every year. The state government also tried to promote its conservation by naming the turtles as Olly and using it as a mascot in various sports tournaments.

However, Olly was found missing in a new logo released by the Rajnagar forest department on Bhitarkanika National Park. This has sparked sharp resentment among environmentalists as they apprehend that keeping out Olly from the new logo might derail the turtle conservation project in Gahirmatha and rob it of the title of the largest rookery of the rare turtles in the world.

Srikant Nayak, a member of Bhitarkanika eco-sensitive zone monitoring committee, said the Bhitarkanika forest region designed as a National Park, September 16, 1998 completed 23 years, Thursday.

Ahead of the anniversary, DFO Jagnyadatt Pati in a tweet informed about the release of a new logo on Bhitarkanika. The logo carries the name of Bhitarkanika and Odisha and has pictures of mangrove forests, dolphins, deer, king-



fishers, king cobra and estuarine crocodiles on it. However, the Olive Ridley turtles for whom Bhitarkanika has earned worldwide fame is missing from the new logo.

The logo also carries the pictures of tiger paws even though there are no big cats in the sanctuary. However, the forest department keeping out the pictures of

Olly has sparked surprise.

Local intelligentsia Ganesh Chandra Samal, Bhuban Mohan Jena, president of Jan Adhikar Manch, a social outfit, environmentalist Kshitish Kumar Singh, social activist Radhakant Mohanty have expressed displeasure on the new logo.

They said the life cycle of rare Olive Ridley turtles is mysterious while its population is less in comparison to other amphibians. The International Union for Conservation of Nature has stressed conservation of Olive Ridleys.

The turtles travel lakhs of miles in sea to reach Gahirmatha to lay eggs. The Gahirmatha sanctuary has become a paradise for researchers and nature lovers. They claimed that excluding Olive Ridley turtles from the logo of Bhitarkanika is a grave error.

Efforts to contact DFO Jagnyadatt Pati evolved no response. RCCF Manoj Mohapatra said he is unaware of the idea behind the logo released by the forest department.

Lecturer sends mail to principal from fake ID, held in Sambalpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Sept 16:** Sambalpur cyber police Thursday arrested a lecturer of Dr Jhasketan Sahu College at Parmanpur on charge of sending a mail to the college principal from a fake email ID of the higher education department.

The accused lecturer was identified as Paresh Bhoi who worked as an Economics lecturer. The college is affiliated to Sambalpur University. Later, he was produced in court, it was learnt.

According to sources, college principal Sandhyarani Mishra had received a mail from the higher education department a few days ago. In the mail, she

was asked as to why action will not be taken in connection with the corruption in clerk appointment.

Mishra contacted the higher education department and enquired about the mail. Later, she got to know that the mail was a fake one.

In this regard, she lodged a report at the cyber police station here. Taking the case seriously, the police launched a probe and found Bhoi as the sender of the mail from the fake email ID of the higher education department.

The police said the accused had learnt the process of creating fake IDs and deactivating them, from YouTube videos.



# All Hindus in Valley are not Kashmiri Pandits: High Court

The argument that other Hindus can be brought under the same group as Kashmiri Pandits was “preposterous and cannot be accepted”, the High Court said



AGENCIES

**Srinagar, Sept 16:** Every Hindu living in the Kashmir Valley is not a Kashmiri Pandit and cannot get the benefits of special job schemes meant for members of that specific community, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court has said in a recent judgment.

Dismissing a plea seeking to include some Hindu groups and Sikhs into the Prime Minister’s job package for Kashmiri Pandits, the court said the targeted group is a “separately identifiable community distinct from other Hindus residing in the Valley like Rajputs, Brahmins other than Kashmiri Pandits, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and many others,” said Justice Sanjeev Kumar in his judgment Tuesday.

The petitioners had argued that other Hindu groups, besides the Sikh community, too, had suffered much and ought to be considered for benefits similar to the ones extended to non-migrant Kashmiri Pandits.

The court, however, said the argument that they can be grouped together as Kashmiri

Pandits was “preposterous and cannot be accepted”.

“There is no denying the fact that in common parlance, Kashmiri Pandit is a community of Kashmiri-speaking Brahmins living in the Valley for generations and are distinctly identified by their dress, customs, and traditions,” the judge said.

“It is, thus, difficult to accept the contention of the learned counsel for the petitioners who are mostly Kshatriyas, Rajputs, Scheduled Caste, non-Kashmiri Brahmins (that they) should be treated as Kashmiri Pandits and admitted to the benefits of the Prime Minister’s revised package for return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri migrants.”

The only question that remains to be determined is whether the petitioners, who are, admittedly, not Kashmiri Pandits but belong to other Hindu castes, can be brought within the definition of ‘Kashmiri Pandits’, according to the judgment.

In 2009, the then Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, had rolled out a Prime Minister’s “package” aimed at facilitating the return and rehabilitation in Kashmir Valley of

Kashmiri migrants.

Under the scheme, 6,000 government jobs were announced for migrants Pandits. While 4,000 posts have already been filled, 2,000 were recently advertised by the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board.

Under a revised package announced last year, the government reserved the jobs for Pandits who have not migrated from Kashmir. Such candidates are required to produce certificates of “non-migration” issued by the concerned Deputy Commissioners.

The Deputy Commissioners, however, refused to issue such certificates to non-Kashmiri Pandit Hindus.

The aggrieved groups then filed a petition before the High Court seeking inclusion in the package saying it cannot be restricted to only one set of beneficiaries.

The petitioners said the term “Kashmiri Pandits”, used in SRO 425 of 2017, was wide enough to include all non-migrant communities and Hindu castes residing in the Kashmir Valley and have “equally suffered as non-migrant Kashmiri Pandits”.

## DHANKAR’S ‘INTERFERENCE’

# Bengal Assembly Speaker voices reservations

The Speaker also expressed his displeasure over Central agencies chargesheeting and summoning legislators without the nod of Speaker’s office

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Sept 16:** West Bengal Assembly Speaker Biman Bandyopadhyay has voiced reservation to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla about the “interference” of state Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar in matters related to the functioning of the House and expressed his displeasure over Central agencies chargesheeting and summoning legislators without the nod of Speaker’s office, according to a high-level source.

Bandyopadhyay aired his reservations on the issues to Birla while virtually participating in the All India Presiding Officers Conference, the source in the Assembly Secretariat said.

“Bandyopadhyay told the Lok Sabha Speaker about the excessive interference of Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar in parliamentary democracy and the function-

ing of the Assembly. He had also expressed his reservations on how rules are flouted by Central agencies when they summon legislators or frame charge-sheets against them without seeking the Speaker’s permission,” the source said.

The Assembly Speaker also said Birla’s permission is sought while taking action against Lok Sabha members. Bandyopadhyay also flagged the issue of “some MLAs going to Raj Bhavan and discussing matters related to the functioning of Assembly with the Hon’ble Governor. This lowers the dignity of the legislature,” the source said.

Contacted by PTI, Bandyopadhyay said, “I have told the Hon’ble Lok Sabha speaker whatever I had to say.”

To a question if he got any letter from Dhankhar after the Presiding Officer’s meet, he said, “No I haven’t.”

In a letter to Bandyopadhyay,



Dhankhar Wednesday urged him to adhere to constitutional norms, and said any “unseemly spectacle” should be avoided by people in high positions as it lowers the dignity of parliamentary democracy.

The Governor shared the letter on his Twitter handle.

Bandyopadhyay Monday said he has summoned senior CBI and Enforcement Directorate officers September 22 to explain why no permission had been taken from the assembly Speaker’s office before submitting charge sheets against legislators of the state in recent times. According to the assembly

secretariat source, Bandyopadhyay without naming Leader of the Opposition Suwendu Adhikari said, “Some people are moving court on issues on which justice is available in the Assembly. This is demeaning the dignity of the house.”

Adhikari, a BJP leader, said, “We had to go to the Governor and also move the high court after Mukul Roy was appointed as PAC Chairman despite having switched over to the Trinamool Congress after winning the poll on BJP ticket. If our views are not accommodated we have to go to other constitutional authorities.”

## POLL PREPAREDNESS



A pedestrian walks past a wall mural in support of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is the Trinamool Congress candidate for the by-election to the Bhawanipore Assembly constituency in Kolkata, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

# Vig clearance must for J&K employees seeking passports

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jammu, Sept 16:** From now, government employees of Jammu and Kashmir will be required to get a vigilance clearance to obtain a passport as the General Administration Department has impressed upon all the heads of the administrative departments to “mandatorily obtain the latest vigilance clearance” in respect of an employee applying for a passport.

Passports to the citizens, including government employees, are issued on the basis of verification carried out by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), said a circular issued by J&K government’s General Administration Department Thursday.

However, “The current system does not contain any mechanism as would help denying the passport to such employees who are either under suspension or facing departmental inquiry or prosecution on account of serious charges,” the circular pointed out, adding, currently, a government employee is only required to inform his employer for applying for passports on Annexure-H.

The guidelines for obtaining passports have been reviewed by the Government of India’s Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Personnel & Training, in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission and Ministry of External Affairs and elaborate instructions have been issued for obtaining fresh vigilance clearance while considering grant of passport to government employees.

It further pointed out that the Anti-Corruption Bureau has also brought into the notice of the government that the present mechanism for issuance of passport to government employees without obtaining requisite vigilance clearance results in the issuance of passport to employees against whom vigilance cases are pending. “Thus, there is an urgent necessity to instruct all the departments to issue the NOC for issuance of passport on the basis of vigilance clearance only,” it said.

# Mehbooba Mufti defends PDP’s alliance with BJP

THE PDP CHIEF ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE RULING PARTY SHOULD TRY TO WIN HEARTS RATHER THAN USING “THREATS AND STICKS” TO SILENCE THE PEOPLE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, Sept 16:** Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti defended her party’s alliance with the BJP after the last Assembly elections, saying till the time the parties were in coalition together, she did not allow the BJP to do away with Article 370 of the Constitution.

She also suggested that the ruling party should try to win hearts rather than using “threats and sticks” to silence the people.

The former Chief Minister alleged that the BJP is disempowering the public of even the little rights which have been left with them after abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into Union territories in August 2019.

“People are troubled everywhere, whether it is Jammu or Kashmir... all the matters are run by the power of stick,” Mehbooba told reporters at Haveli in the border district of Poonch in Jammu region.

She has held a series of meetings with party workers at Dak Banglow and Haveli on the second day of her Poonch tour. Several prominent people, including a group of lawyers, were present there.

“All the good work of the Mufti Mohammad Sayeed-led government is being undone. The cross-LoC Poonch-Rawalakot trade was stopped leaving many jobless, minor minerals and jobs have been opened to outsiders, and contractors from outside are taking away the big projects,” she claimed.

“You (BJP) have to win the hearts of people and cannot threaten them



into silence and to fall in line,” she said, adding that whatever they did in August, 2019 was wrong and they did it with the sole motive of winning elections in the country.

Asked about her stand on the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, she said, “Elections are not my objective but polls are a democratic weapon to fight for the rights of the people and address their problems. We will come out with our decision when they will announce the polls (in J&K).”

She said the PDP stood like a wall before the BJP and tied its hands after stitching an alliance with the party to save Article 370 from any harm.

“Till I had an alliance with the BJP, I did not allow them to do away with Article 370. We stood before them like a wall,” Mehbooba said, referring to the PDP-BJP government in 2015 and 2018 which ended with the saffron party walking out of the alliance.

AGENCIES

**Kolkata, Sept 16:** At least 130 children in north Bengal have taken ill in the past few days from a disease that some experts suspect is being caused by Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). With doctors in government hospitals saying that they fear a massive outbreak in pediatric respiratory cases, an expert committee set up by the state government met in Kolkata to discuss treatment and testing protocols. There have been reports of similar cases in Kolkata as well.

Multiple reports said that a six-year-old child admitted to Jalpaiguri Sadar Hospital with high fever died Wednesday. The child’s samples have been sent to the School of Tropical Medicine (STM) in Kolkata, sources said. The affected children, most of them between one and six years old, are being admitted to hospitals with high fever, and cough and cold. Some of them also have diarrhoea. Initially, they were tested for Covid-19, malaria and dengue,



but the reports came back negative.

While RSV is being suspected, according to the expert committee there is a chance that these children may have been exposed to metapneumovirus or parainfluenza virus.

“The season for such respiratory disease outbreak is the end of October or the beginning of November. But this time, it is almost two months early. Hence, the Health department is sensing something unusual and suspecting an outbreak,” a senior doctor said on the condition of anonymity.

To date, most cases have been reported from the districts of Jalpaiguri and Alipurdwar, and some portions of Dinajpur. “There are reports of an outbreak and it specifically applies to children younger than two years. Some children are not even responding to oxygen therapy and are requiring ventilation. Viral panel labs will be built at some key places such as the School of Tropical Medicine, Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College and Calcutta Medical College. Till the time the infrastructure is not de-

# In Bengal village, teacher turns walls into blackboards

Deep Narayan Nayak has painted blackboards on the walls of houses and taught children on the streets for the past year

REUTERS

**Paschim Bardhaman, Sept 16:** In a small tribal village on the eastern tip of India, an enterprising teacher has turned walls into blackboards and roads into classrooms, trying to close the gap in learning brought on by prolonged school shutdowns in the country.

Deep Narayan Nayak, 34, a teacher in the tribal village of Joba Attpara in Paschim Bardhaman district of the eastern state of West Bengal, has painted blackboards on the walls of houses and taught children on the streets for the past year. The local school shut down after strict COVID-19 restrictions were imposed across the country in March 2020.

The school shut down after strict COVID-19 restrictions were im-

posed in March 2020.

On a recent morning, children wrote on one such wall with chalk and peered into a microscope as Nayak watched over them.

“The education of our children stopped ever since the lockdown was imposed. The children used to just loiter around. The teacher came and started teaching them,” Kiran Turi, whose child learns with Nayak, told Reuters.

Deep Narayan Nayak teaches all the subjects to the children.

Nayak teaches everything from popular nursery rhymes to the importance of masks and hand-washing to about 60 students and is popularly known as the “Teacher of the Street” to the grateful villagers.

Schools across the country have gradually begun reopening starting last month. Some epidemiolo-



gists and social scientists are calling for them to open fully prevent further loss of learning in children.

Deep Narayan Nayak said that he fears if the children are not taught they will lag behind.

An August survey of nearly 1,400

schoolchildren done by a scholars’ group found that in rural areas, only 8% were studying online regularly, 37% were not studying at all, and about half were unable to read more than a few words. Most parents wanted schools to reopen as soon as possible, it said.

Nayak said he was worried that his students, most of whom are first-generation learners and whose parents are daily wage-earners, would away from the education system if they didn’t continue with school.

“Their learning should not stop,” Deep Narayan Nayak said.

“I would see children loitering about the village, taking cattle for grazing, and I wanted to make sure their learning doesn’t stop,” he told Reuters.



**of the day quote**

I appeal to everyone to spend at least five minutes every day on practicing yoga as it yields quick and effective results



**SARBANANDA SONOWAL** | UNION MINISTER

We have been doing very well in terms of law and order situation, and because of this, Gujarat has become prominent in industrial development



**AMIT SHAH** | UNION HOME MINISTER

If Ashok Gehlot had not fallen ill we would have done cabinet expansion and the roadmap is ready for appointment at board corporations and district presidents



**AJAY MAKEN** | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF RAJASTHAN

**SHORT TAKES**

**Gujarat's new Cabinet formed**

**Gandhinagar:** Making amply clear that it is in a mood for a complete overhaul in Gujarat ahead of the 2022 state polls, the BJP Thursday inducted 24 ministers, including 21 who have become ministers for the first time. With the fresh inductions, the strength of the ministry led by CM Bhupendra Patel, a first-term MLA and minister, has gone up to 25. Those sworn in at the 1.30 pm Raj Bhavan ceremony include former Assembly Speaker Rajendra Trivedi and former state BJP president Jitu Vaghani. No minister from the earlier Vijay Rupani-led ministry was inducted.

**Ex-AIADMK minister booked**

**Chennai:** The Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) Thursday held searches at over 20 premises and locations related to former AIADMK Minister K C Veeramani, including at his native Jolarpettai in Thirupattur district in connection with a disproportionate assets case, police said. The opposition party hit out at the ruling DMK for its "vendetta" against the AIADMK and claimed the searches were aimed at preventing its workers in the respective districts from working in full vigour for next month's civic polls.

**15 injured in blast at oil refinery**

**Patna:** Around 15 employees were injured, including eight seriously, in an explosion at a wing of the Barauni oil refinery in Bihar's Begusarai district Thursday, officials said. The injured persons are admitted in Barauni refinery hospital and a private hospital. Eight of them are battling for their lives. "A section of the refinery was shut for the last one month. The operation of the section was launched on Tuesday. Things were going smoothly for the last two days until a massive explosion at around 12 noon Thursday," senior refinery official ED Shukla said.

**AAP woos UP voters**

**Lucknow:** The AAP Thursday said if it is voted to power in Uttar Pradesh, it will provide 300 units of free electricity to domestic consumers, waive 'inflated' bills and ensure 24-hour power supply, a move aimed at replicating its Delhi model. Addressing a press conference here just months ahead of the assembly elections, AAP leader and Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia also announced providing free electricity to farmers.



Price rise, according to me, is a continuous process. Since independence, on several instances price rise has been inevitable to improve the financial condition of the government and to raise money for implementing programmes. Whichever party may be in power, it is natural

**H D KUMARASWAMY** | JD(S) LEADER

**AHEAD OF FESTIVE SEASON**

**Govt stresses on vaccination**



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 16:** As the festival season approaches, the government Thursday cautioned against a spike in coronavirus infections and stressed that the call of the hour is vaccine acceptance, maintenance of Covid-19-appropriate behaviour, responsible travel and responsible festivities.

Noting that there is an overall stabilisation in Covid-19 cases, it urged people to be careful in the coming two-three months to retain the gains achieved in the pandemic management so far. "Overall there is stabilisation in Covid-19 cases and Kerala has also reported drop in cases. Mizoram is a state of concern but we hope conditions will improve there by fast vaccination and pandemic response and containment.

"In the coming two-three months, we need to be cautious that there is no upsurge. It is also the period of festivities and also when flu cases rise. We request everyone to be careful and retain the gains that we have achieved (in the pandemic management)," Dr V K Paul, NITI Aayog Member (Health), said at a press briefing.

He also requested every state,

**Only 20% adults fully vaccinated**

The government Thursday said that 20 percent of India's adult population have received both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine, while 62 percent of the adults were administered the first shot. There have been reports on the booster shots while the priority of the government is to fully vaccinate the eligible population, said ICMR DG Balram Bhargava.

district, municipality to be prepared to tackle any surge by giving home care and make preparations in hospitals and human resources and oxygen requirements. "There is the role of administration and government in this and through our channels we must give hand holding, resource building, resource transfer and all that is happening but the society also has to contribute in it. Let us push the vaccination programme that is our real shield going into the future. Those who have not received any dose must get vaccinated," Paul said. ICMR Director Dr Balram

**Centre reinstates acting NCLAT chief**

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 16:** The Supreme Court Thursday threatened a suo moto stay on the Tribunals Reforms Act, as it asked the Centre to reinstate acting NCLAT chief, Justice Ashok Iqbal Singh Cheema, who was asked to retire 10 days before due date of September 20. However, the impasse did not last long, as the Centre conceded the top court's demand.

During the hearing on the matter, a bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana and comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli expressed serious displeasure over hasty replacement of Justice Cheema with Justice M. Venugopal, just 10 days before the former's retirement, and threatened to suo moto stay on the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021.

Attorney General KK. Venugopal, representing the Centre, submitted that he is prepared to argue the Centre's stand on the matter and in-

sisted the new appointment was made as per new Act. At this, the Chief Justice replied: "In that case, we will have to suo motu stay your new legislation." However, the impasse did not last long. After the matter was adjourned for 30 minutes, the government blinked but said that Justice Cheema's reinstatement should not be treated as a precedent. Venugopal told the top court: "I have taken instructions. It was said he (Cheema) took leave to write judgments. So, we have decided that he will be allowed to go to office and pronounce judgments." He added that Justice Venugopal will be sent on leave.

Appreciating the AG's efforts in breaking the deadlock, the bench said: "The Attorney General solved the problem. We thank you for this." Initially, the AG had submitted before the top court that Justice Cheema would be "treated" as acting Chairperson till September 20 and he will be paid his service benefits.



**PROTECT TAJ**



Archaeological Survey of India workers clean the main central tank at the Taj Mahal in Agra

PTI PHOTO

**PM lashes out at Central Vista critics**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Sept 16:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi lashed out at critics of Central Vista project Thursday during inauguration of the Defence Offices Complexes in Delhi.

The Prime Minister said that the people who are against the Central Vista Project conveniently ignore the fact that the defence complexes project is also a part of it. "These people ignore this fact so that they can continue spreading falsehood

regarding the project," he said.

About defence complexes he said that these new complexes will now make it feasible for the armed forces to operate in better working conditions with all modern amenities.

The Prime Minister said, "Today the world is witnessing the magnificent Central Vista that has been established on the pedestals of modern technology and facilities to enhance the quality of work for the Army officials working 24X7."

He also said that when the coun-

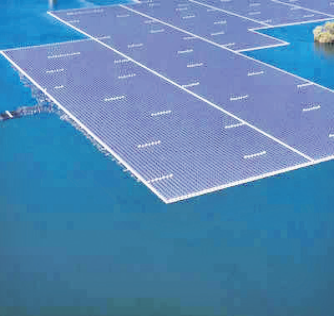
try is focusing on Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business, modern infrastructure plays an essential role. "This is the spirit at the core of the Central Vista projects being done."

Modi said that the projects have been completed in 12-13 months while the estimated timeframe was 48 months. It saved 50 per cent of time and has also employed thousands of people that too when there was Covid-19 pandemic.

On the occasion, he also launched the Central Vista project's website.

**LARGEST FLOATING SOLAR PLANT IN AP**

State-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) Thursday announced the commissioning of India's largest floating solar photovoltaic plant in Andhra Pradesh. Located at NTPC Simhadri in Andhra Pradesh, the 25-megawatt floating SPV project covers an area of 100 acres



**Delhi records highest rainfall since 1964**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 16:** The monsoon this year has dumped a bounteous 1159.4 mm of rainfall in Delhi till Thursday afternoon, the highest since 1964 and the third-highest since the data has been maintained by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Delhi's September rainfall has breached the 400 mm mark. At 403 mm till Thursday afternoon, it is the maximum rainfall recorded in the month since 417.3 mm in September 1944.

To put things into perspective, Delhi had received 404 mm rainfall in the entire 2019 monsoon period. The figures are still evolving as more rainfall is predicted in the city during the month.



Experts say that it is on course to become the second-wettest monsoon ever in Delhi by the time it withdraws. Normally Delhi records 653.6 mm of rainfall during the monsoon season. Last year, the capital gauged 648.9 mm of precipitation.

Between June 1, when the monsoon season starts in the country, and September 15, the city normally gets 614.3 mm of rainfall. The monsoon withdraws from Delhi by September 25.

**Ex-Mumbai top cop jolted**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, Sept 16:** In a massive setback to former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh, the Bombay High Court Thursday dismissed his plea challenging two probes launched against him by the Maharashtra government.

A division bench of Justice SS Shinde and Justice NJ Jamdar said that the plea was not maintainable, and he could approach the appropriate forums which can decided the matter.

Singh had questioned the two inquiries initiated against him by the state Home Department on April 1 and April 20, for allegedly violating service rules and another over allegations of corruption, terming them "mala fide" and intended to target and harass him.

Calling himself a "whistle-blower" who sought to highlight corruption in the highest public office, he said that the probes came a month after he had accused the then Home Minister Anil Deshmukh of graft, extorting ₹100 crore per month from Mumbai hoteliers through now dismissed Mumbai cop Sachin Vaze.

Objecting to Singh's plea, the state, through senior advocate Darius Khambata, said that the Central Administrative Tribunal was the appropriate forum for Singh's grievances as the enquiries were of administrative nature pertaining to his conduct as the Police Commissioner. Senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani representing Singh argued that these were criminal enquiries as there was a reference to the CrPC's Section 32 and hence his only remedy was before the high court.

**Climate change threatens aquatic food: Study**

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 16:** Billions of people throughout the developing world could face heightened food and economic insecurity because of the threat climate change poses to aquatic food systems, a first-of-its-kind research reveals.

A paper published by Nature Food, entitled "Compound climate risks threaten aquatic food system benefits," was one of five to be published as part of the Blue Food Assessment (BFA) in one of the most comprehensive reviews of the sector to date.

The authors warn that without mitigating the effects of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, societies that de-

pend on aquatic foods will risk losing key contributions to livelihoods, economies, culture, health and nutrition.

The research reveals, for the first time, the risk that climate change poses to the contribution made by aquatic foods towards human wellbeing and development around the world.

Without urgent action, capture fisheries – particularly in regions such as tropical Africa, Central America and the Indo-Pacific – face the most severe hazards.

Aquaculture systems in off-shore and coastal waters, on the other hand, face lower climate-specific hazards, although freshwater aquaculture is exposed to high levels of hazard.



"This is the first paper of its kind to assess the risks climate change poses to all aquatic foods, including freshwater and marine, aquaculture and wild-caught, which provide employment to more than 100 million people and sustenance

for more than three billion people worldwide," said Michelle Tigchelaar, co-lead author and researcher at the Center for Ocean Solutions, Stanford University.

According to the study, countries that have traditionally been

high emitters of greenhouse gas emissions do not necessarily face the highest risk from climate change, creating a need for a shared responsibility across countries and regions for climate-proofing aquatic food systems.

Countries in Southeast Asia, the Indo-Pacific and Africa, which are largely dependent on aquatic foods for sustaining livelihoods and economies, are facing the "double jeopardy" of climate change adversely impacting a critical economic sector.

In a high-emissions scenario by 2050, the paper found more than 50 countries face the triple threat of high climate hazards, exposure and vulnerability.

"Mitigation of carbon emissions

and adaptation to unavoidable impacts are both urgently needed. We need to focus on the broader social-ecological context of each country to ensure that climate solutions can build resilience and promote sustainable development," said William W.L. Cheung, co-lead author and researcher at the Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, The University of British Columbia.

In addition to recommending measures that enhance the climate resilience of aquatic food systems, the paper also highlights the need for transformative action to reduce climate vulnerability overall, including promoting gender equity, reducing poverty, and strengthening governance systems.



## of the day quote

No journalist should die or be harmed because of their job. We need to support and protect journalists; they are essential for democracy

**VERA JOUROVA** | VICE-PREZ FOR VALUES AND TRANSPARENCY, EU COMMISSION

Maintaining peace, security and stability in South Asia means the common interest of all. As for whether India can develop ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons, the UNSC Resolution 1172 already has clear stipulations

**ZHAO LIJIAN** | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, CHINA

While we expect that more theatrics will be employed by the detractors of the president as election season draws near, this blatant and brazen interference and assault on our sovereignty as an independent country by the ICC is condemnable

**SALVADOR PANELO** | CHIEF PRESIDENTIAL LEGAL COUNSEL, THE PHILIPPINES

## SHORT TAKES

### Indonesian court rules against Prez

**Jakarta:** An Indonesian court ruled Thursday that President Joko Widodo and six other top officials have neglected to fulfill citizens' rights to clean air and ordered them to improve the poor air quality in the capital. The Central Jakarta District Court panel voted 3-0 in favor of the group of 32 residents who filed a lawsuit in July 2019 against Widodo and his three Cabinet ministers of home affairs, health and environment, as well as governors of Jakarta, Banten and West Java, in seeking a healthy living environment in the city.

### Euthanasia legal in Queensland

**Brisbane:** Voluntary euthanasia became legal in a fifth Australian state Thursday, more than 20 years after the country repealed the world's first mercy killing law for the terminally ill. Queensland's Parliament passed the law with 61 of the state's 93 lawmakers voting in favor. New South Wales, the nation's most populous state, is now the only state that doesn't allow assisted suicide. The Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory do not have the same rights as states and the Federal Parliament has barred them from making such laws.

### Four detained after synagogue threat

**Berlin:** German security officials said Thursday they had detained four people — one of them a 16-year-old — who were allegedly planning to attack a synagogue in the western city of Hagen with explosives. The detentions took place on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in Judaism, and two years after a deadly attack in another German city on the Yom Kippur holiday. "One of the four people was a teenager living in Hagen," police spokeswoman Tanja Pfeffer in nearby Dortmund told The Associated Press.

### 3 killed, 60 hurt as quake hits China

**Beijing:** A 6.0-magnitude earthquake jolted China's southwestern Sichuan province Thursday, leaving at least three persons dead and 60 others injured. The earthquake struck at 4:33 am (local time) in Luxian county at a depth of 10 kilometres. Three persons were killed and 60 others injured in the quake, the report said.



As you know, cases of coronavirus have been identified in my immediate environment, and this is not one, not two, but several dozens of people. Now we have to observe the self-isolation regime for several days

**VLADIMIR PUTIN** | PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA

**CHINA VACCINATES 1 BILLION+ PEOPLE**  
China has fully vaccinated more than one billion people against the coronavirus; 71% of its population. The country is racing to get the vast majority of its population vaccinated as a new outbreak takes hold in the southeast



# SpaceX sends amateurs on first Earth-circling trip

## IT'S SPACEX FOUNDER ELON MUSK'S FIRST ENTRY IN THE COMPETITION FOR SPACE TOURISM DOLLARS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Cape Canaveral, Sept 16:** SpaceX's first private flight streaked into orbit Wednesday night with two contest winners, a health care worker and their rich sponsor; the most ambitious leap yet in space tourism.

It was the first time a spacecraft circled Earth with an all-amateur crew and no professional astronauts.

"Punch it, SpaceX!" the flight's billionaire leader, Jared Isaacman, urged moments before liftoff.

The Dragon capsule's two men

and two women are looking to spend three days going round and round the planet from an unusually high orbit — 100 miles (160 kilometers) higher than the International Space Station — before splashing down off the Florida coast this weekend.

Isaacman, 38, made his fortune with a payment-processing company he started in his teens. He's the third billionaire to launch this summer, following the brief space-skimming flights by Virgin Galactic's Richard Branson and Blue Origin's Jeff Bezos in July.

Joining Isaacman on the trip



dubbed Inspiration4 is Hayley Arceneaux, 29, a childhood bone cancer survivor who works as a physician assistant where she was treated — St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis,

Tennessee. Isaacman has pledged USD 100 million out of his own pocket to the hospital and is seeking another USD 100 million in donations.

Arceneaux became the youngest American in space and the first person in space with prosthesis, a titanium rod in her left leg.

Also along for the ride sweepstakes winners Chris Sembroski, 42, a data engineer in Everett, Washington, and Sian Proctor, 51, a community college educator in Tempe, Arizona.

The recycled Falcon rocket soared from the same Kennedy Space

Center pad used by the company's three previous astronaut flights for NASA. But this time, the Dragon capsule aimed for an altitude of 357 miles (575 kilometers), just beyond the Hubble Space Telescope.

Across the country, SpaceX employees at company headquarters in Hawthorne, California, cheered wildly at every flight milestone, including when the spent first-stage booster landed upright on an ocean platform.

Inside the capsule, Proctor looked giddy with joy, cupping her hands to form a heart before liftoff and then pumping her fists.

# China, France decry 'AUKUS'

*Under the arrangement, the US and Britain will provide Australia with the technology and capability to deploy N-powered submarines*

AGENCIES

**Washington/Canberra, Sept 16:** China Thursday denounced a new Indo-Pacific security alliance between the United States, Britain and Australia, saying such partnerships should not target third countries and warning of an intensified arms race in the region.

France, which loses its own submarine deal with Australia, called the plans brutal and unpredictable.

The United States and its allies are looking for ways to push back against China's growing power and influence, particularly its military buildup, pressure on Taiwan and deployments in the contested South China Sea.

US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison did not mention China by name in the joint announcement and senior Biden administration officials, who briefed reporters ahead of time, said the partnership was not aimed at countering Beijing.

But Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said the three countries were severely damaging regional peace and stability, intensifying an arms race, and



SECURITY ALLIANCE 'SEVERELY' DAMAGES REGIONAL PEACE, SAYS CHINA

FRANCE ACCUSES BIDEN OF ACTING LIKE TRUMP AND STABBING IT IN THE BACK

damaging international nuclear non-proliferation efforts.

China always believes that any regional mechanism should conform to the trend of peace and development of the times and help enhance mutual trust and cooperation... It should not target any third party or undermine its interests, he told a regular briefing in Beijing.

Johnson said the pact was not meant to be adversarial and said it would reduce the costs of Britain's next generation of nuclear submarines. The partnership ends Australia's 2016 deal with French shipbuilder Naval Group to build it a new subma-

rine fleet worth \$40 billion to replace its more than two-decades-old Collins submarines, a spokesperson for Morrison told Reuters.

France accused Biden of stabbing it in the back and acting like his predecessor Donald Trump.

"This brutal, unilateral and unpredictable decision reminds me a lot of what Mr Trump used to do," Le Drian told franceinfo radio. "I am angry and bitter. This isn't done between allies."

The three leaders stressed Australia would not be fielding nuclear weapons but using nuclear propulsion systems for the vessels to guard against threats.

## MISSILE MANIA



A missile is seen launching during a drill of the Railway Mobile Missile Regiment in North Korea, in this image supplied by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency, September 16



**The delivery violates US sanctions imposed on Tehran after former President Trump pulled America out of a nuclear deal between Iran and world powers in 2018**

by consecutive US administrations.

Lebanon's crisis is rooted in decades of corruption and mismanagement by the ruling class and a sectarian-based political system that thrives on patronage and nepotism. Severe shortages in fuel have paralyzed the country, resulting in crippling power cuts. People wait hours in line for gasoline. The convoy of 60 trucks, each carrying 50,000 liters (13,210 gallons), went through an informal border crossing in Qusayr in Syria. Another convoy of 60 tanker trucks is expected Friday.

## FTA WITH INDIA

# S'pore Oppn leader urges to dispel misinformation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Singapore, Sept 16:** Strongly criticising what he described as a reactive policy towards communication, Singapore's Opposition leader Pritam Singh has asked the government to release more details to dispel misinformation swirling about the free trade agreement with India, amid allegations that the pact helped Indians to take up well-paying jobs in this country.

The government's refusal to release data and answer questions of national relevance earlier had allowed people's misunderstandings to fester, and falsehoods to proliferate, The Straits Times quoted Singh as saying.

Singh, who is the chief of the Opposition Workers' Party (WP), was speaking during the debate on two motions surrounding Singapore professionals, managers, executives and technicians and

the competition they face from foreigners. One of the motions was filed by Progress Singapore Party (PSP) non-constituency MP Leong Mun Wai, and the other by Finance Minister Lawrence Wong.

Emotions had been simmering on the ground long before the Progress Singapore Party had latched onto the issue of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with India (CECA) and foreign employment, the Indian-origin Opposition leader said.

The PSP, which is also in the Opposition, has repeatedly highlighted the CECA with India as an example of how Singaporeans have lost out to foreigners.

Calling for a change of culture in communication, Singh, who has pushed for freedom of information laws in the past, urged the government to release more information to better inform public debate on the issue.

# Potus forgets Oz PM's name, says 'fellow Down Under'

*Biden seemed to recover as he then turned to his formal remarks and correctly identified the Australian leader, who had earlier responded to the apparent gaffe with a smile and a thumbs up. But it was too late for some*

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Sydney, Sept 16:** Australians squirmed Thursday as US President Joe Biden thanked their prime minister for joining a major new defence alliance — but appeared to forget his name.

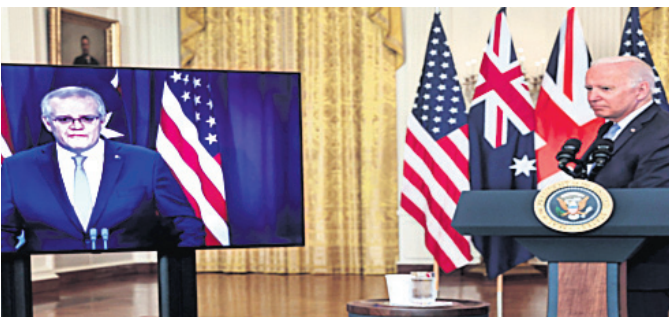
Instead of being feted by name for his role in the US-Britain-Australia agreement, Prime Minister Scott Morrison was initially relegated to being "that fellow Down Under".

At a televised White House an-

nouncement, Biden was flanked by large video displays of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Australia's Morrison, who each took part remotely.

"Thank you, Boris and... and I want to thank that fellow Down Under. Thank you very much, pal. Appreciate it, Mr Prime Minister," Biden said as he revealed an agreement that will equip Australia with nuclear-powered submarines.

Biden seemed to recover as he then turned to his formal re-



marks and correctly identified the Australian leader, who had ear-

lier responded to the apparent gaffe with a smile and a thumbs

up. But it was too late for some. "Thanks pal: Biden appears to forget Morrison's name," ran a headline in the Cairns Post.

The defence deal "may not have got off to the shining start for which Morrison hoped, of course, when US President Joe Biden appeared to forget his name at the crucial moment", said an analysis by the Sydney Morning Herald.

The apparent gaffe opened a window into the "little-brother nature of Australia's position among

the powers", the paper said.

But an analysis by James Morrow at Sydney's Daily Telegraph said the awkward moment could not overshadow the importance of the deal, struck at a time of rising Chinese military influence in the Asia-Pacific region.

"Not even Joe Biden forgetting the name of 'that fellow Down Under' could mar the importance of what has just played out over the last 12 hours," he wrote.



of the day quote

In the interest of functional, financial and administrative autonomy of the NFRA, there is a compelling need for a standalone legislation. This will be the key to build up the regulatory capacity of the NFRAs

R SRIDHARAN | CHAIRPERSON, NATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING AUTHORITY

India is also the second-largest technology hub for Amazon globally, with some of the most talented software developers, product managers, machine learning scientists, and research scientists as part of the team

AMIT AGARWAL | AMAZON HEAD OF INDIA

Tariffs need to go up, and more needs to be done on GST, licence fee, high levies but that's a separate chapter. Airtel could take a lead in tariff hikes in some packs

SUNIL BHARTI MITTAL | CHAIRMAN, BHARTI ENTERPRISES

SHORT TAKES

Sonalika honours Indian farmers

**Bhubaneswar:** Sonalika recently organised the 'Sonalika Krishi Samman Awards 2021' to celebrate the innovative spirit among the farmers. Sonalika felicitated 15 farmers that have adopted innovative approach in making a significant difference to the Indian agri-ecosystem. During the ceremony, Sonalika also launched its latest book *Mitti Ke Sapne, Mazboot Trade: Kahani Kisano Ki* – a book that encapsulates the inspirational stories of all such 15 farmers who have contributed extraordinarily in the agri-sector development.

SBI reduces home loan rate to 6.7%

**Mumbai:** The country's largest lender State Bank of India Thursday announced various festive offers for prospective home loan customers, including a credit score-linked home loans starting at 6.70 per cent, irrespective of the loan amount. Earlier a borrower availing a home loan above ₹75 lakh, had to pay an interest rate of 7.15 per cent. This will result in a saving of 45 basis points (bps) which translates to an interest saving of more than ₹8 lakh.

Snapdeal offers maternity benefits

**New Delhi:** Value e-commerce company Snapdeal Thursday said it will offer new mothers the option to work from home for six months, in addition to six months of maternity leave. In addition, Snapdeal also has a host of other benefits for new parents, including two weeks of paternity leave and 12 weeks of adoption leave as part of its 'Parenting Partners Program', a statement said. "We all are acutely aware that childcare is not easy and many times women leave the workforce because they cannot find flexible arrangements to balance home and work," a Snapdeal spokesperson said.

Byju's buys Tynker; eyes growth in US

**New Delhi:** Edtech firm Byju's will acquire coding platform Tynker for an undisclosed amount to further accelerate expansion in US market expansion, according to a joint statement issued by both companies. The acquisition will not only help expand Byju's footprint in the US by providing access to the more than 60 million students and over one lakh schools in Tynker's existing global user base, but is also key for both brands who share the same vision to make coding accessible for students.



Tesla will definitely be attracted to this scheme...I am hopeful. The scheme will give a huge boost to the auto sector and make it globally competitive

MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY | HEAVY INDUSTRIES MINISTER

OLA SELLS ELECTRIC SCOOTERS OVER ₹600 CRORE IN 24 HOURS

Ola co-founder Bhavish Aggarwal on Thursday said Ola Electric sold scooters worth over ₹600 crore on the first day of the sale of its model S1. The executive noted that the company will shut the purchasing process from Thursday midnight



FM lays plan to clean up bad debt mountain

The proposed bad bank will pay up to 15% of the agreed value for the loans and the remaining 85% would be govt-guaranteed security receipts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 16:** The Union Cabinet has cleared a proposal to provide ₹30,600 crore government guarantee for security receipts issued by the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) as part of resolution of bad loans, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Thursday.

The Cabinet clearance to the government guarantee was given Wednesday, she told media persons during a press conference.

NARCL has been incorporated under the Companies Act and has applied to Reserve Bank of India for license as an asset reconstruction company (ARC).

Known as bad bank in common parlance, NARCL has been formed by public sector banks to consolidate all NPAs which will be put up for resolution.

The Finance Minister said that the government guarantee will be invoked to cover the shortfall between the amount realised from the underlying assets and the face value of security receipts issued for that asset, subject to overall ceiling of ₹30,600 crore, valid for five years. Since there shall be a pool of as-



PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS WILL HAVE A MAJORITY STAKE OF 51 PER CENT IN NARCL

THE TASK OF MANAGING ASSETS AND ENGAGING WITH MARKET PROFESSIONALS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY INDIA DEBT RESOLUTION COMPANY LIMITED

She informed that in 2015, an asset quality review of banks had been conducted, where high incidence of non-performing assets (NPA) were revealed.

In the last six years, the government's strategy of four "Rs", i.e. Recognition, Resolution, Recapitalisation and Reforms helped in recovering ₹5,01,479 crores, said Ms Sitharaman. The NARCL will aggregate NPAs in banks' balance sheets and manage as well as dispose them of professionally, the finance minister said.

sets, it is reasonable to expect that realisation in many of them will be more than the acquisition cost, Ms Sitharaman added.

Sensex crosses 59K; Telecom stocks soar

INDIAN-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, Sept 16:** India's key stock indices rose to record high levels Thursday, a day after the government announced support measures for some beleaguered sectors along with provisions for PLI schemes for others.

Accordingly, both the key indices – S&P BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty50 – recorded new intra-day and closing highs. While the Sensex crossed the 59,200-mark, the Nifty breached the 17,600-level.

Initially, both the key indices had a gap-up opening. However, global cues capped gains as Asian markets were largely weak as the debt crisis at China Evergrande Group and Beijing's latest push to rein in private industries hurt sentiments.

On the other hand, European stocks traded higher following overnight gains in the US markets. Among sectors, banking, telecom, FMCG and energy shares gained the most, while metals and IT fell the most.

Consequently, S&P BSE Sensex traded at 59,141.16 points, higher by 417.96 points or 0.71 per cent from its previous close. Similarly, NSE Nifty50 rose to 17,629.50 points, higher by 110.05 points or 0.63 per cent from its previous close.

"Nifty closed at record high level for the third consecutive session aided by banks and FMCG shares. However, the advance decline ratio has fallen below 1:1 denoting profit taking across the broader markets," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

According to Siddhartha Khemka, Head, Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services: "Despite weak global cues, introduction of PLI reforms for telecom and auto sectors led the rally, giving confidence to the investors about the reform-led economic recovery."

State urges Nabard to raise loan assistance to ₹10K cr

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** The Odisha government Thursday urged National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) to enhance its loan assistance to ₹10,000 crore under various schemes in the state.

During an interaction, the State government authorities led by Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra asked Nabard Chairman GR Chintala to increase loan assistance.

The State government urged Nabard to enhance its loan assistance under different schemes like RIDF, rural infrastructure assistance to States (RIAS), long term irrigation fund (LITF), financial inclusion, diary entrepreneurship development, agricultural marketing infrastructure and others. Chief Secretary Mahapatra said, "The State is pre-



pared to implement the projects of worth ₹5000 crore under RIDF, ₹4500 crore under RIAS and ₹500 crore under LITF."

In his response, Chintala said, "As the State has strongly motivated administrative machinery and robust mechanism for project implementation, Nabard will do the best in enhancing its involvement with the State."

As the State government has implemented the projects in a faster way, Nabard enhanced its RIDF loan from around ₹2500 crore in 2016-17 to ₹3000 crore in current

financial year.

Interacting with the officials, Nabard Chairman said, "State grew to a place of big industrial and business activities during the last decade".

Chief Secretary Mahapatra said, "With pioneering initiatives and faster performances across the sectors, Odisha has emerged as a rapidly developing State within last two decades. State has achieved highest poverty reduction of 24% in last decade resulting in liberation of around 8 million people from poverty net."

"We have become a lead State in rural roads, housing, farmers' empowerment, women empowerment and skill development. In post Covid scenario, there is need for higher investment in rural roads, irrigation, agricultural development, social infrastructure, creation of new livelihood opportunities, agri-business,"

RBI likes glide paths, not crash landings: Dy Guv

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Sept 16:** Inflation in India is likely to ease only gradually, Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Michael Patra said Thursday, adding that the outlook on growth and inflation will help determine the future course of monetary policy.

The Indian economy is emerging from the second wave in a more resilient manner as compared with the first, Patra said, adding that recovery was more broad-based around manufacturing as a pivot, though output is still below pre-pandemic levels.



He said the need to revive and sustain growth on a durable basis while keeping inflation in check warrants monetary policy accommodation, and that is mirrored in the high systemic liquidity and

It is our hope that credit demand will recover and banks will get back to their core function of financial intermediation as soon as they can. This is the natural and the RBI-preferred manner in which (rupee) surpluses ... can be reduced

MICHAEL PATRA | DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

easy financial conditions.

"We don't like tantrums. We like tepid and transparent transitions



– glide paths rather than crash landings," Patra said at an event organised by the Confederation of

Nalco bags Pollution Control Award 2021

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** The State Pollution Control Board has awarded the prestigious Pollution Control Excellence Award 2021 to Nalco's Panchpatmali Bauxite Mine for their effective pollution control measures and sound environmental management practices.

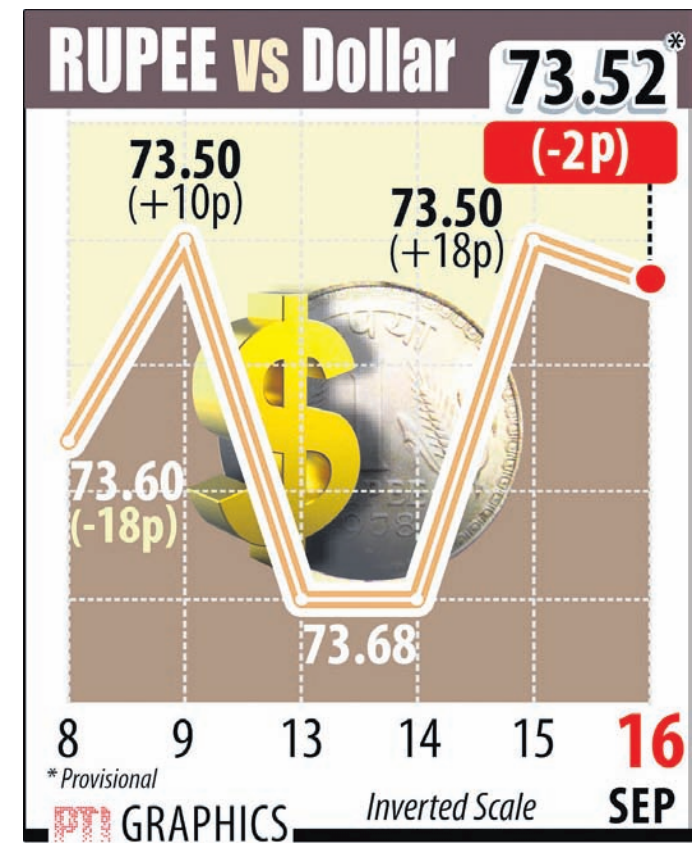
Bikram Keshari Arukha, Minister of Forest & Environment and Parliamentary Affairs of Odisha, presented the prestigious award to Nalco mines team.

Nalco CMD Sridhar Patra congratulated the mines team and reaffirmed the company's commitment towards environment management. Patra said, "Nalco has always striven for achieving the highest standards in effective environment management. This award is a testimony to the dedication of employees, who have been passionately working towards following the best sustainable mining practices."

Starting from implementing zero discharge system for effluent, Nalco's bauxite mine has adopted concurrent reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out areas.

The Panchpatmali Bauxite Mine has planted more than 37 lakh trees so far.

Nalco is closely monitoring the best practices being followed across the globe for sustainable mining and is continuously adopting innovative technological advances in the field of environmental management system.



EXPORTS SOAR TO RECORD

India may corner nearly half of global rice trade

AGENCIES

**Kakinada, Sept 16:** India could account for as much as 45% of global rice exports in 2021 as expanded port-handling capacity allows the world's second largest rice grower after China to ship record volumes to buyers across Africa and Asia.

The world's top exporter could ship as much as 22 million tonnes of rice this year, or more than the combined exports of the next three largest exporters Thailand, Vietnam and Pakistan, said Nitin Gupta, vice president of Olam India's rice business.



India's exports in 2020 jumped 49% from the year before to a record

14.7 million tonnes, as shipments of non-basmati rice spiked 77% to

Rice exports seen at 22mn tonne vs 14.7mn tonne yr ago

Deepwater port helps India to export more rice

Exports cap global prices amid thin supplies from rivals

a record 9.7 million tonnes.

The US Department of Agriculture projects global rice exports of 48.5 million tonnes in the 2021-22 season.

LOGISTICAL BOTTLENECK

Indian rice has been consistently

cheaper than supplies from Thailand and Vietnam since last March, while global demand for rice has scaled record highs.

India rice export prices sustain steep discount to Southeast Asian prices since early 2020

However, limited infrastructure at Kakinada Anchorage, India's main rice port, led to persistent congestion and lengthy loading delays last year, prompting some buyers to switch suppliers.

To ease the congestion, the southern state of Andhra Pradesh in February allowed the use of an adjoining deepwater port at

Kakinada for rice shipments.

Despite extra port capacity, Kakinada's loading rate still lags well behind Southeast Asian ports due to a lack of dedicated rice-handling infrastructure.

Strain on the Kakinda port has increased after the cost of shipping rice by container surged, forcing rice shippers to switch from containers to bulk vessels, said Gupta of Olam.

India's exports of non-basmati rice go mainly to African and Asian countries, while premium basmati rice goes to the Middle East, the United States and Britain.



Contrasting fortunes for powerhouses as Real Madrid, Man City, Liverpool, Dortmund script win while clueless PSG and Atletico share spoils; Inter, AC Milan, RB Leipzig go down fighting

HANDERSON SEALS LIVERPOOL VICTORY



Jordan Henderson reacts after scoring Liverpool's winner

**Liverpool:** Jordan Henderson capped Liverpool's second-half comeback with a brilliantly controlled finish to clinch a 3-2 win over AC Milan in the Champions League Wednesday.

The Liverpool captain met a clearance to the edge of the area with a half-volley that flew into the bottom corner in the 69th minute in another classic European game at Anfield.

Liverpool somehow went into halftime behind, having begun in devastating fashion and taken the lead in the ninth minute through an effort from Trent Alexander-Arnold that deflected in off defender Fikayo Tomori — one of 13 shots by the English squad in the opening 15 minutes.

Helped by Mohamed Salah having a penalty saved by Mike Maignan following a handball in the area, Milan were able to stay in sight of Liverpool and struck twice before halftime to stun the home crowd. They were both well-worked team goals, too, finished off by Ante Rebic and Brahim Diaz in the 42nd and 44th minutes.

Liverpool started the second half as they began the first and, in the 48th, Salah made amends for his penalty failure by running into Divock Origi's scooped pass and poking the ball past Maignan, who curiously chose not to come out of the six-yard box to collect the ball.

Henderson completed the fight-back with his first Champions League goal in seven years as Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp wasn't made to pay for making a number of key changes, like leaving out Virgil van Dijk and Sadio Mane.

RODRYGO LIFTS REAL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Milan, Sept 16:** Inter Milan were made to pay for their profligacy as a late goal from substitute Rodrygo saw Real Madrid snatch a 1-0 win in their Champions League opener Wednesday.

Rodrygo scored in the 89th minute with what was only Madrid's second shot on target. Inter had peppered its opponents' goal but been denied by a string of fantastic saves and some wayward finishing.

It was a first Champions League match back in front of their fans for Inter with more than 37,000 at San Siro, which is allowed to be at 50 per cent capacity for games.

Sheriff Tiraspol leads Group D after beating Shakhtar Donetsk 2-0 on its Champions League group-stage debut earlier.

Inter and Madrid met in last season's group stage, with the Spanish team winning both encounters — 3-2 at home and 2-0 at San Siro.

Inter had also won only three of its last 16 Champions League matches but it dominated from the start Wednesday and almost took an early lead. Eden Dzeko's angled shot was parried by Courtois and Milan Skriniar's follow-up was deflected wide. The Inter defender headed the resulting corner narrowly off target.

Courtois also did well to palm away a header from Lautaro Martinez in the 19th minute. Madrid managed a couple of incursions into the Inter penalty area but the danger was calmly cleared by the Nerazzurri.

The visitors didn't have a shot on target in the first half, and the closest they came was when Eder Militao headed a corner wide of the right post.

Moments later Inter had a double chance as first Martinez headed



**GenNext ON FIRE:** Rodrygo celebrates Real Madrid's winner after scoring from an assist by new signing Eduardo Camavinga at San Siro, Wednesday

wide of the left upright and then shortly afterward Marcelo Brozovic's shot went narrowly past the same post.

Inter should have done better nine minutes into the second half. Courtois again did well to palm away Dzeko's glancing header; Ivan Perisic missed the target from

point-blank range and — after several nervy seconds — Madrid eventually managed to clear the danger.

At the other end, Madrid finally had their first shot on target in the 57th but Dani Carvajal's attempt was at a comfortable height for Inter goalkeeper Samir Handanovic.

Madrid enjoyed more possession in the second half but did not appear a threat. However, they snatched all three points right at the death as Eduardo Camavinga flicked the ball on for Rodrygo to volley into the bottom right corner and spark scenes of wild celebration on the Madrid bench.

Grealish shines on CL debut for Man City



**MEMORABLE OUTING:** Jack Grealish rejoices his goal on Champions League debut at Etihad Stadium, Wednesday

**MAN CITY:** It was a pinch-yourself moment for Jack Grealish, the reason essentially why he joined Manchester City. And the England international looked right at home on the biggest stage in European club soccer.

Grealish marked his Champions League debut with the pick of the goals in City's wild 6-3 win over Leipzig, whose forward Christopher Nkunku scored a hat-trick in vain in the teams' opening group-stage match Wednesday.

Picking up a loose ball on the left, Grealish set off into the area, dropped his shoulder to create some space, and curled a shot high into the corner in the 56th minute. It was a strike very much befitting a player who moved for a British-record fee of USD 139 million from boyhood club Aston Villa.

That made it 4-2 in an open and entertaining game at Etihad Stadium and after Nkunku slotted home from a tight angle to com-

plete his hat trick and give Leipzig hope of a point, goals by Joao Cancelo — a long-range effort — and Gabriel Jesus secured victory for City.

Leipzig finished the game with 10 men — after the sending off of Angelino, the left back signed from City for two yellow cards — and with its American coach, Jesse Marsch, scratching his head after a dismal defensive performance by his team in the face of wave after wave of attacks by City.

Club Brugge hold PSG on Messi's first start

**BRUGGE (BELGIUM):** PSG's formidable attacking trio of Lionel Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappe was left frustrated by a spirited Club Brugge that created the best chances and defended well to earn a 1-1 draw in their Champions League group opener.

Messi hit the crossbar during his 150th appearance in the competition but could not score for his new club after PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino sent out his three superstars all together for the first time.

Messi had previously made only one substitute appearance for PSG — in a 2-0 win against Reims last month — since he ended his career-long association with Barcelona last month.

Brugge captain Hans Vanaken drew the hosts level in the 27th minute after Mbappe set up Ander Herrera's opener in the 15th.

Both PSG and City are chasing an elusive first title in European soccer's top competition. City will travel to the Parc des Princes September 28 for a much-awaited clash.

Mbappe played in a center forward role, with Neymar and Messi deployed on the wings, but the trio often switched positions. They played 50 minutes together before Mbappe, who suffered an apparent ankle injury, was replaced by Mauro Icardi.

PSG imposed a fast tempo and monopolised possession from the start as the visitors struggled to string passes together in the early stages. But the Belgian champions gradually got into the match and enjoyed several good spells of pressure while PSG lacked cohesion and gave the ball away too often in midfield.

Brugge came back with the same attacking spirit after the interval. Forwards Noa Lang and Charles De Ketelaere were a constant threat and the hosts found space at ease but lacked a cutting edge.

PSG took the lead on their first chance after Mbappe dribbled past defender Clinton Mata down the left wing and crossed the ball near the penalty spot for the unmarked Herrera, who scored his first Champions League goal with a low shot past Simon Mignolet.

The Brugge goalkeeper was then forced into a good save after Messi accelerated past two defenders and picked out Mbappe in the box with a precise pass. Moments later, Vanaken found the net at the conclusion of a fine collective move from Eduard Sobol's cutback in the box.

The game became an entertaining end-to-end affair. Messi came close with a left-footed curled shot from the edge of the box that hit the crossbar.



Lionel Messi dribbles past Noa Lang during PSG's match against Club Brugge, Wednesday

OTHER MATCHES  
Griezmann jeered as Atletico held by Porto



**MADRID:** With Antoine Griezmann loudly jeered by the home fans, Atletico Madrid couldn't manage more than a 0-0 draw against Porto in the Champions League. Griezmann, back with Madrid after two seasons with rival Barcelona, came off the bench in the second half but couldn't spark the hosts to victory. He was booed before the match and when he came onto the field, with most in the crowd at the Wanda Metropolitano Stadium expressing their discontentment with how the France forward left the club. Many fans in the crowd of nearly 40,000 applauded Griezmann but they were not nearly as loud as those who protested. Griezmann played five seasons with Atletico before leaving when Barcelona paid 120 million euros (USD 141 million) for him.

Haller 4-fer helps Ajax rout Sporting CP



**LISBON:** Ajax added to their scoring spree early in the season with debutant Sebastien Haller finding the net four times in the team's 5-1 win at Sporting Lisbon in the Champions League Wednesday. Making his Champion League debut, Haller scored twice in the first 10 minutes and twice again in the second half to help Ajax reach 18 goals in their last five matches. Steven Berghuis also scored for the Dutch champions at the Jose Alvalade Stadium in Lisbon. The victory ended a 22-match unbeaten home streak in all competitions for Sporting, which is back in the Champions League for the first time since 2017-18.

Bellingham, Haaland seal Dortmund victory

**ISTANBUL:** Erling Haaland scored again to help Borussia Dortmund to a 2-1 win at Turkish champion Besiktas in their Champions League opening game Wednesday. The 18-year-old Jude Bellingham was outstanding as he scored the opener and set up Haaland for the Norwegian's ninth goal in six games across all competitions this season. Bellingham scored when he took Thomas Meunier's cross on his chest before firing the ball through goalkeeper Ersin Destanoglu's legs. The Englishman then set up Haaland for the second when the midfielder moved past a defender by switching the ball from his right foot to his left before he picked out Haaland for an easy finish. Francisco Montero scored Besiktas' consolation goal in the fourth minute of injury time with a header off Miralem Pjanic's free-kick.



Advani manages to defend Asian title

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Doha, Sept 16:** India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani on Thursday defended his Asian Snooker Championship title defeating Amir Sarkhosh of Iran here.

The Indian great was competing in his first assignment in almost two years due to COVID-19. Advani had won the title in 2019 before the 2020 edition got scrapped due to the pandemic. His tally of Asian titles across both snooker and billiards now stands at 11, apart from the two Asian Games golds of 2006 and 2010.

It was the Indian who dictated most of the final in his 6-3 victory. Advani drew first blood by winning the first frame with a 55 break. After that a 50 break in the second and some fine potting in the third made the winner enjoy a 3-0 lead before the Iranian pulled one back.

At 3-1, the Indian employed his billiards knowledge and capitalised on every opening he got to go 4-1 up.



The next two frames were shared by the finalists with a remarkable display of quality potting from both players. However, just when the Indian was one frame away from win, Amir found his touch and bridged the gap to 5-3.

A fine break of 43 gave Amir the lead in the ninth frame but the crowd got to witness a perfect climax from the 23-time World Champion as he pieced together an exquisite championship-winning clearance break of 63 to end the match and a two-year wait for an international title.

India's ODI tour of NZ postponed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Wellington, Sept 16:** India will not be touring New Zealand later in the year due to a packed calendar and COVID-19 related restrictions. India would have had to quarantine for 14 days to play three ODIs as part of the World Cup Super League.

A New Zealand Cricket (NZC) spokesperson confirmed to Stuff that the India games will be played after the T20 World Cup in Australia next year. New Zealand anyway are scheduled to tour India in November for two Tests and three T20s.

New Zealand will be hosting Bangladesh, The Netherlands and South Africa in the summer besides the seven teams in Women's World Cup in March-April. The Tests against Bangladesh and South Africa are part of the World Test Championship.

"We've got to be mindful of players coming back from a long winter and we've got to give them time at home as well," NZC chief executive David White said.

Virat to quit T20I captaincy post World T20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, Sept 16:** Virat Kohli Thursday announced he will step down as India's T20 skipper after the T20 World Cup in UAE but will continue to lead the side in ODIs and Test cricket, a decision that paves the way for Rohit Sharma to captain in the shortest format.

"I've decided to step down as the T20 captain after this T20 World Cup in Dubai in October," the 32-year-old, who is here to compete in the IPL that resumes Sunday, said in a statement posted on his Twitter page.

"Understanding workload is a very important thing and considering my immense workload over the last 8-9 years playing all three formats and captaining regularly for last five to six years, I feel I need to give myself space to be fully ready to lead Indian team in Test and ODI cricket," Kohli explained.

For some time, there has been speculation surrounding Kohli's future as white-ball captain especially in the backdrop of Rohit's brilliant track record of winning five



Rohit Sharma (R) favourite to takeover T20I captaincy from Virat Kohli

IPL titles for Mumbai Indians.

The 34-year-old Kohli is Kohli's deputy in the white-ball formats and is most likely to take up the leadership role when India clashes with New Zealand in a home series in November that will feature three T20Is along with two Test matches.

BCCI Secretary Jay Shah, in a statement issued by the Board after

Kohli's announcement, said the body has been in discussion with Kohli for a while now.

"We have a clear roadmap for Team India. Considering the workloads and ensuring that we have smooth transition, Virat has decided to step down as T20I captain after the upcoming World Cup," Shah said.

"I have been in discussions with

Virat and the leadership team for the last six months and the decision has been thought through. Virat will continue to contribute as a player and as a senior member of the side in shaping the future course of Indian cricket," he added.

Kohli took over India's limited-overs captaincy in 2017, succeeding MS Dhoni. "I have given my everything to the team during my time as T20 captain and I will continue to do so for the T20 captain and will continue to do so for the T20 team as a batsman moving forward," he further added.

The decision, Kohli said, was taken after consulting head coach Ravi Shastri, his heir apparent Rohit, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah. The T20 World Cup starts October 17 and Kohli will be under intense pressure to deliver the trophy.

Kohli has played 90 T20 Internationals scoring 3159 runs with 28 fifties and captained India in 45 of those games winning 27 and losing 14. He has a winning percentage of 65.11.