



GREAT START

Actor Baisali debuts in Odia film *Kedaar Gouri*, an adaptation of Kabibara Radhanath Ray's poem of the same name

LEISURE

P2



'HUGE MISTAKE'

France ambassador to Aus described as a 'huge mistake' Australia's cancellation of a major submarine contract

INTERNATIONAL

P10



IPL RESUMES TODAY

Mumbai Indians face Chennai Super Kings in the UAE to mark the resumption of the second phase of IPL 2021

SPORTS

P12

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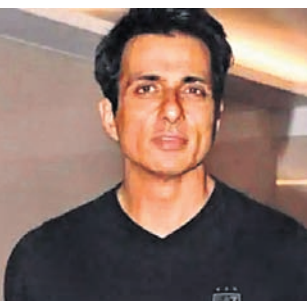
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NEAR BHUBANESWAR AIRPORT

Sood in soup over I-T fraud

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 18: The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Saturday alleged that actor Sonu Sood and his associates evaded tax of Rs 20 crore and claimed that after the Income Tax (I-T) department raided him and a linked Lucknow-based infrastructure group it was found that he routed his "unaccounted income in the form of bogus unsecured loans".

It also accused Sood of violating the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act. The department had launched searches against the 48-year-old actor



and the Lucknow-based group of industries involved in infrastructure September 15 and the CBDT said the action was continuing.

"During the course of search at the premises of the actor and his associates, incriminating evidence pertaining to tax evasion has been found. The main modus operandi followed by the actor was to route his unaccounted income in the form of bogus unsecured loans from many bogus entities," said the CBDT.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Good that nobody knows anything about the new CM. By the time public come to know, we would have won the elections!

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
MAX	32.4°C	32.6°C
MIN	24.8°C	24.5°C
Humidity	97%	92%
Rainfall	35.7mm	2mm
	Partly cloudy	sky

Rajasthan passes Bill to register child marriages

The Bill says a marriage between a bridegroom who has not completed 21 years and a bride who has not completed 18 years of age could be registered within 30 days of the marriage

AGENCIES

Jaipur, Sept 18: The Rajasthan Assembly has passed the Rajasthan Compulsory Registration of Marriages (Amendment) Bill, 2021 by voice vote which the opposition BJP claimed has legitimised child marriages.

The Bill was tabled in the Assembly to amend a 2009 Act on mandatory registration of mar-



UPPING THE ANTE: Members of various farmers' outfits take out a tractor rally in Amritsar, Saturday, to protest against the Union government's farm reform laws PTI PHOTO

Many shy away from second jab

Health experts pointed out the drive at the current pace might not be able to vaccinate the entire eligible population by December 2021

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: A top official associated with the state's Covid-19 vaccination drive has expressed concern over people not turning up for their second dose, a lacuna that is slowing down the exercise in the state.

Odisha has administered the first jab to over two crore people so far, while only 69.8 lakh have taken both the doses, the official said. "Around 28 lakh more people should have taken the second dose by now. The second dose administration has been slow in parts of the state, especially in tribal areas," Dr Bijay Panigrahi, the nodal officer for Odisha's Covid-19 vaccination drive, stated. Despite being given reminders, several people have failed to take their second dose on time, he rued. The official said health workers have been told to motivate locals to complete their vaccination course. Odisha has so far inoculated 51.4 per cent of its 3.9 crore eligible population with the first dose. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday expressed gratitude to the state's healthcare professionals for their commitment to the drive.

"Glad to inform that #Odisha has crossed another significant milestone in its fight against #COVID19 by ensuring at least one dose of vaccination for more than 2 crore people. Thanks all our healthcare professionals for their

commitments to this mass vaccination drive," the CM tweeted. Health experts in the coastal state, however, pointed out that the drive, at the current pace, may not be able to achieve its target of vaccinating the entire eligible population by December 2021.

Meanwhile, Odisha Saturday logged 695 new COVID-19 cases, including 83 children and adolescents, taking the state's tally to 10,19,621, according to an official of the health department. Six fresh fatalities pushed the toll to 8,128, he said. Khurda district registered the maximum number of new infections at 323, followed by Cuttack at 90.

The state currently has 5,876 active cases, while as many as 10,05,564 patients, including 719 Friday, have recovered from the disease.



VAX HESITANCY

Odisha has administered the first dose of the anti-Covid vaccine to over 2 crore people so far, while only 69.8L have taken both the doses

Positivity rate in the state stands at 5.13%, while six fresh fatalities pushed the toll to 8,128

commitments to this mass vaccination drive," the CM tweeted.

Health experts in the coastal state, however, pointed out that the drive, at the current pace, may not be able to achieve its target of vaccinating the entire eligible population by December 2021.

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The state currently has 5,876 active cases, while as many as 10,05,564 patients, including 719 Friday, have recovered from the disease.

Captain calls it quits

Amarinder said he felt 'humiliated'; the name of former PCC president Sunil Jakhar is doing the rounds for the top job

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, Sept 18: Declaring that he felt humiliated, Congress veteran Amarinder Singh Saturday resigned as Chief Minister of Punjab, ending one chapter of dissent but throwing open another of uncertainty for the ruling party in the state headed towards elections in about four months.

Singh, one of the Congress' powerful regional satraps, put in his papers after speaking to party president Sonia Gandhi and shortly before a crucial meeting of the Congress Legislature Party.

7 girls drown in Jharkhand pond

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Latehar, Sept 18: Seven girls aged between 12 and 20 years drowned in a pond at a village in Jharkhand's Latehar district Saturday during 'Karma Puja', a senior official said.

The tragedy occurred at Bukru village under Shregada in Balumath police limits when the girls had gone to the pond for immersion after Karma Puja, a major festival in Jharkhand, Deputy Commissioner Abu Imran said.

The Deputy Development Commissioner of the district, Shekhar Verma, has been asked to hold an inquiry, Imran said.

"The thing is that this is the third time the party called the MLAs. You have an element of doubt on me... I feel humiliated," he told reporters outside the Punjab Raj Bhawan after submitting his resignation to Governor Banwarilal Purohit, who accepted it.

Over 50 MLAs in the party had written to Gandhi seeking that Singh be replaced as Chief Minister, a move that capped months of a fractious feud between him and Navjot Singh Sidhu who was recently made state Congress president much against the senior leader's wishes. The Congress has 80 MLAs in the 117-member Assembly.

Singh, credited with putting the party back in the saddle in Punjab after an intensely fought poll battle that decimated the Shiromani Akali Dal and stymied the Aam Aadmi Party's hopes, submitted



Amarinder Singh submitting his resignation to Gurbangobind Singh

his resignation along with that of his council of ministers a little after 4:35pm. Indicating that the dissension-riven party could see more tension, Amarinder Singh said when asked about his future course of action, "As far as my future politics is concerned, there

each other, were sent to the Latehar district hospital.

According to officials, a group of 10 girls from the village had gone to the pond with 'Karam Dali' for immersion when two of them started drowning and shouted for help. In an effort to save each other, seven of them drowned in the deep pond while three other girls are undergoing treatment. Officials said after hearing their desperate cries, villagers rushed to their rescue.

"Four girls died on the spot while three others breathed their last on way to Balumath CHC," they said. District officials also rushed to the scene.

'Sidhu anti-national, mixed up with Pak'

Congress leader Amarinder Singh Saturday launched a no-holds-barred attack against state party chief Navjot Singh Sidhu, calling him 'anti-national', 'dangerous' and a 'total disaster'. The Congress veteran also said he won't accept Sidhu as the next CM or the party face in the upcoming Assembly polls. He also said Sidhu is clearly mixed up with Pakistan.

is always an option and I will use that option when time comes."

Sidhu, who has been eyeing the chief minister's post, however, is unlikely to be a probable choice for the chief minister's replacement, sources pointed out. The name of former PCC chief Sunil Jakhar is doing the rounds.

Babul Supriyo joins Trinamool



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 18: Former Union minister and BJP MP Babul Supriyo Saturday joined West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's All India Trinamool Congress.

"Today, in the presence of National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee and Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien, former union minister and sitting MP Babul Supriyo joined the Trinamool family," the official account of the AITC tweeted.

On July 31, Babul, also a playback singer, declared that he had quit politics and would soon resign as the MP too. He had cited a difference of opinion between him and the state BJP leaders, saying that it was 'harming the party'.

"I will continue to work constitutionally as an MP in Asansol. Politics is beyond the constitutional post and I withdraw myself from it. I will not join any other party. I will vacate the MP bungalow in Delhi and release security personnel from their duties soon," he was quoted saying.

A minister in the Narendra Modi Cabinet, Supriyo was dropped in a reshuffle that took place in the month of July.



of the registration of child marriages under it, Dhariwal said. "The Bill does not say that child

marriage is valid. The Bill says that after marriage, only registration is necessary. It does not

imply that child marriage is valid. If the District Collector wants, he or she can still take action against the child marriages."

"This amendment is not in contradiction to the central law. The Supreme Court has also ruled that there should be compulsory registration of marriages. Hence the Bill includes child marriages," he said.

During the debate, Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria (BJP) said, "I think this law is completely wrong. The legislators who have passed it have not seen it. Section 8 of the Bill violates the present law in force against child marriages."

"Today, majority of the people agree with this law and have men-

tally prepared themselves. They provide education to their students but they dislike the concept of child marriages. But if you justify child marriages like this, then it will create a wrong impression for the people. The Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha will be defamed," Congress MLA Sanyam Lodha said.

"I am surprised that (this happened) in Rajasthan, where child marriages are considered a regressive custom, and where, in 1927, the Sharda Act (Child Marriage Restriction Act) came into existence in Rajasthan," said Deputy Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathod in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You already feel deeply connected to the universe. But today, you may want to particularly thank God for all His small mercies. You cherish your loved ones even more today, says Ganesh, and you may spend lavishly on people dear to you.

TAURUS
Today, passionate and possessive are the two words that will define your relationship with the people you love, predicts Ganesh. You may choose to take pains for the sake of others, which seems to be highly fulfilling. Your good spirit will sky-rocket by evening. Make sure to change your disadvantage into your advantage, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
Putting things in order will be your top priority, says Ganesh. You will possibly have a romantic dinner with your sweetheart. Seductive conversations may culminate in sensuous consummation. Your personal feelings will stir up your partner's private thoughts.

CANCER
It is high time you paid attention to your family. You have been so lost in work and in making money that you have almost forgotten the very people you have been slogging for. Your spouse has been trying hard to improve the relationship. Ganesh feels it is time you respond to your partner's needs.

LEO
A mixed bag of fortunes, a bittersweet pill, call it what you will, but today brings with it a lot of things packed within its 24-hour period. Ganesh foresees a hectic morning, and an even more frantic afternoon. So, respite will be a luxury for you today. If this was the bitter end of the pill, then its sweet results will be like a balm on your frayed nerves, says Ganesh. A fabulous time with your loved ones, a scrumptious dinner that is going to delight your appetite, and a sensuous evening are all in the offing.

VIRGO
Give people a word of encouragement and motivate them to achieve bigger things, advises Ganesh. Don the thinker's cap and you may find yourself in contemplation. Criticism will hurt you, but be as unflappable as you can and proceed to your target, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
It is your friends who prove to be lucky and beneficial for you today, especially if they happen to be walking the corridors of power, says Ganesh. Do not hesitate to start that new joint venture today. See your popularity grow by leaps and bounds as you get due recognition for your abilities and efforts.

SCORPIO
It is high time you diverted all your energies towards your object of love, advises Ganesh. Research-oriented work could well be an option too. Ganesh says you are likely to find someone special to talk about those good old times and have a great time.

SAGITTARIUS
A day full of cheer and joy is in store. You will probably enrol in a part-time course and sharpen your skills. But for those in police and legal professions, you will be the lions of the jungle! Roar and stamp your authority, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
After running about helter-skelter for getting your work done, you will sit back and spend the day planning the course of future action. Sudden and unexpected profits are on the cards, but you will need to be mindful of how best you utilise it. You can expect a few good opportunities to knock at the door, but open the door before they turn to look for shelter elsewhere.

AQUARIUS
Some days, you crave to know everything. Today is one such day. You will also prove a worthy opponent. You may upset your adversaries' plans, much to your own advantage. You have it in you to be a scholar. You will also prove the strength of your character, especially when the going gets tough.

PISCES
Today is likely to be a day of mixed fortunes, says Ganesh. While a hectic morning and a positively frantic afternoon will see you at your wits' end, a sumptuous dinner with your sweetheart, followed by a sensuous evening, will delight you out of your mind.



INDIE SINGER NIKITAA'S SINGLE FAREWELL OUT

Indie artiste Nikitaa is back with her latest single titled *Farewell*. Sung, composed and written by Nikitaa, Farewell articulates the feeling of indecisiveness in a relationship and the strength one needs to put an end to it. The music video showcases the artiste bringing the emotions of the song to life.

TAYLOR SWIFT RE-RELEASES HER WILDEST DREAMS

Taylor Swift announced a surprise revamp of her 1989 single *Wildest Dreams* Friday on her social media. She wrote on Twitter and Instagram story, "Hi..Saw you guys got Wildest Dreams trending on Tiktok, thought you should have my version."



Shilpa talks about 'new endings'

MUMBAI: Actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra uploaded a page from a novel on her Instagram story, leaving followers wondering what it meant. It is the second such post by the actress after the arrest of her husband Raj Kundra in a porn-related case.

The post, uploaded Saturday on her Stories, had a quote from author Carl Bard. It read: "Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending."

The page ended with two lines: "I don't have to be defined by things I've done in the past. I can make the future what I want it to be."

As a supplementary charge sheet was filed against Raj recently, Shilpa had gone to Vaishno Devi.

Earlier, in August, Shilpa had posted a quote from author Sophia Loren, which read: "Mistakes are part of dues one makes for a full life."

Shilpa celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi with her son Viaan and daughter Samisha a few days back.



The Healing Touch talks about human resilience



POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: At a time when the battle against Covid-19 pandemic is far from over, director Sweta Kumar Dash has come up with *The Healing Touch*, a short film that delivers a message that apart from medication, mental strength also plays a key role in recovery from the disease.

Released Friday here at OIJ Bhawan,

the film has been produced by Neela Mohapatra under the banner of Social Message.

The film tells a story of a Covid-19 infected husband who is battling for life in an intensive care unit of a Covid hospital. On the verge of death, he earnestly asks for the doctor's mobile phone to talk to his wife for one last time. The doctor obliges and observes the conversation between the

Baisali to debut in Kedaar Gouri

POST NEWS NETWORK

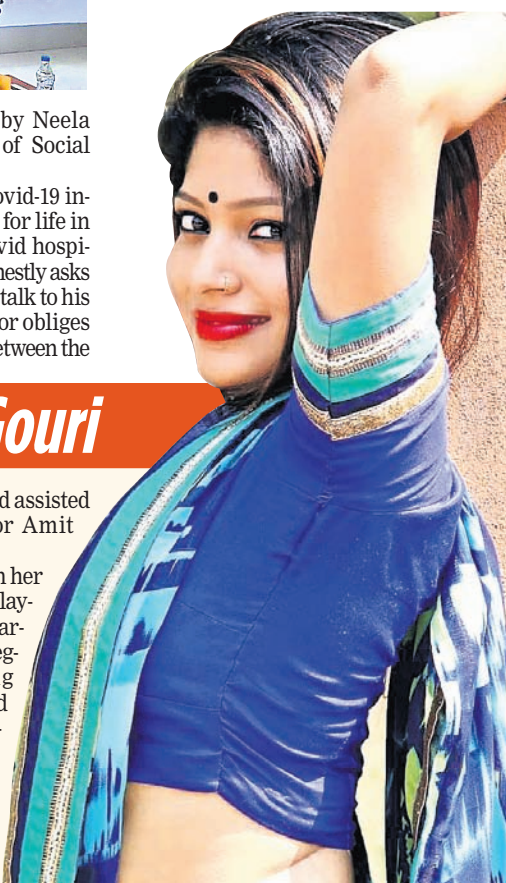
BHUBANESWAR: Actress Baisali, who rose to fame doing music videos like *E Mana Mo Mana - 2* and *Tora Kunch Kunchia Bala*, is all set to make her debut in Odia film industry opposite Ashiit Kumar Patra in *Kedaar Gouri*.

An adaptation of Kabibara Radhanath Ray's famous poem of the same name, the film is being made under the banner of Brajalaxmi movies.

Baisali, an astute Odissi dancer, had earlier worked in National Award winning film *The Waterfall*, made in 2016. While doing her post-graduation in New Delhi, she was actively

involved in theatre and had assisted *Badhai Ho* fame director Amit Sharma.

The debutant actress, on her character, says, "I will be playing Gouri and I find the character very relatable. I am regularly attending acting workshops with Ashiit and director Biswajit Panda. I believe *Kedaar Gouri* has the potential to become a milestone in the history of Odia cinema and will help me evolve as an actor."



Russian film beats Tom Cruise epic to be first shot in space

THE CHALLENGE IS THE STORY OF A RUSSIAN DOCTOR WHO'S SENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION TO SAVE THE LIFE OF A COSMONAUT

NEW YORK: More than 60 years after the erstwhile Soviet Union beat the United States into orbit with the launch of its Sputnik satellite, a new space race is heating up between the two rivals, reports *Variety.com*.

The Russians plan to produce the first feature film *The Challenge* to be shot in outer space, ahead of Tom Cruise's upcoming \$200-million space epic.

The Challenge is the story of a Russian doctor who's sent to the International Space Station to save the life of a cosmonaut. If all goes according to plan, the production team will lift off next month on a 12-day mission to pull off the historic first.

Last year NASA announced that it was partnering with Elon Musk's SpaceX and Tom Cruise to shoot a



movie that would be partly filmed aboard the International Space

Station. Directed by Doug Liman, the untitled film was rumoured to

have a budget of \$200 million. Russian space agency Roscosmos

then announced its own plans to shoot an out-of-this-world (literally!) feature, hoping to achieve liftoff before its Hollywood counterpart.

A collaboration between Roscosmos, public broadcaster Channel One, and leading studio Yellow, Black and White, *The Challenge* will be directed by Klim Shipenko, whose blockbuster comedy *Son of a Rich* is Russia's highest-grossing film of all time.

The space movie stars Yulia Peresild, a veteran screen and stage actor, who was cast after a country-wide talent search last spring. The production team underwent a crash course in space travel earlier this year at the Yuri Gagarin Centre for Cosmonaut Training. Thursday, a commission of medical and safety experts from the centre gave the project approval to go ahead.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

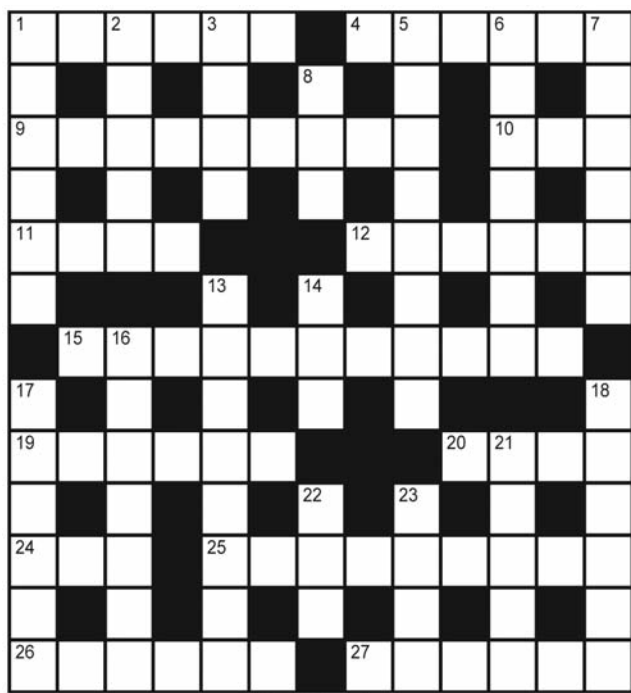


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Pall Mall locale
- 4 African antelope
- 9 Pub feature (4,5)
- 10 Squid's squirt
- 11 Fencing sword
- 12 Kingdom
- 15 Fanciful yarns (4,7)
- 19 Cold dessert
- 20 Hourglass fill

Down

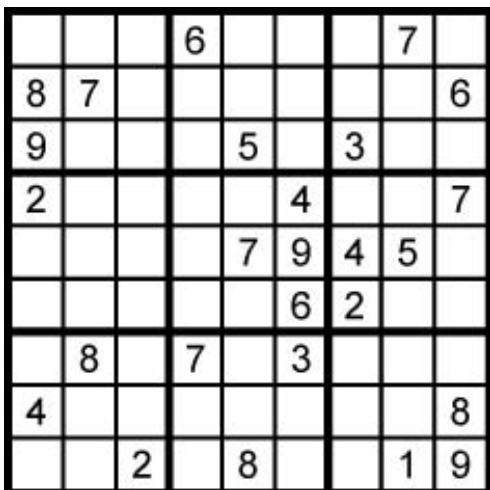
- 1 The way up
- 2 Surgeon's assistant
- 3 Globes
- 24 Varnish ingredient
- 25 Like an old piano, maybe (3,2,4)
- 26 Lengthen
- 27 Balkan nation

Across

- 5 Just so-so
- 6 Rabble-rouse
- 7 Obliquely
- 8 Cave dweller
- 13 Rarity (4,4)
- 14 Broke bread
- 16 Brandy flavour
- 17 Tristan's love
- 18 Cleave
- 21 Entertain
- 22 Greek letter
- 23 In the distance

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.

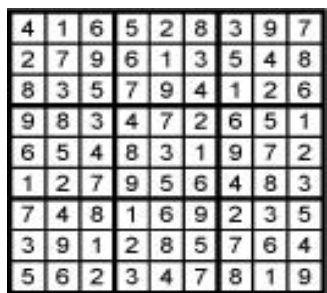


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

State witnesses 8% rise in crime against SCs, STs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: Crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes rose by over 8 per cent each in the state in 2020 in comparison to the previous year, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

There were 2,046 incidents of atrocities in Odisha in 2020, a rise of 8.48 per cent from the previous year. There were 114 cases of rape, the fifth highest in the country under the ST category, which has a population of 95.9 lakh in the state – as per the 2011 Census. Odisha registered 30 assaults

in the state, the highest in the country. There were 585 cases of criminal intimidation against SCs with a rate of 8.1 per lakh population, the second highest in the country. The report stated that 564 people were arrested for crimes against STs, while police filed charge sheets in 575 cases in the year. As many

NCRB DATA



The rate of total crime against SCs is 28.5 per lakh population, higher than the national rate of 25, while it is 6.5 for STs against a countrywide rate of 7.9, the NCRB said in its latest report.

The country saw a rise of 9.4 per cent in crimes against SCs and 9.3 per cent in atrocities against STs, the 'Crime in India 2020' report, which was published Tuesday, stated.

The number of crimes against STs in Odisha was the fourth highest in the country last year with 624 cases, registering a rise of 8.33 per cent from 2019. In case of the SCs,

on tribal women with intent to outrage her modesty. Eight murder and five attempt-to-murder cases were lodged under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act with the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The state recorded 182 victims of rape and 103 assaults on SC women with intent to outrage her modesty. Twenty-eight murders and 40 attempts to murder occurred last year against the SCs, which constituted a population of 71.9 lakh in the state in 2011.

In case of the STs, 115 incidents of criminal intimidation occurred

as 1,556 people were arrested for crimes against SCs and police filed charge sheets in 2,088 cases.

Courts acquitted eight people for atrocities against STs, while there was zero conviction. A total of 5,229 cases are pending trial at the end of the year with pendency of 99.8 per cent.

Only five people were convicted for atrocities against the SCs with a conviction rate of 3.72, while 170 accused were acquitted. The number of cases pending trial at the end of the year was 14,323 with a pendency percentage of 99.1.

Twin city cops bust interstate SIM swapping racket; 2 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: The Commissionerate Police Saturday busted a major interstate mobile SIM swapping racket operating from the state. The Twin City police also arrested two persons involved in the unauthorised digital transfer of vanity mobile SIM numbers without the knowledge of the genuine customers.

The accused were identified as Keshab Chandra Dhir, 27, of Samia village under Bairi police limits in Jajpur district, and Sanjay Kumar Panda, 27, of Rasulgah Nua Sahi area here. Dhir has been staying at Mancheswar area in the capital city.

Speaking to the media, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Umashankar Dash revealed, "A private telecom company had lodged an FIR with the Commissionerate Police alleging that as many as 35 unique and vanity mobile numbers, comprising a single digit multiple times (such as 0000 or 8888), which the company sold to customers at a premium have been deactivated recently."

During investigation, police came to know that two former employees of the telecom company illegally sold the vanity numbers, allotted to other customers, by accessing the LAPU Number (Local Area Payment Unit) – the system used to recharge, activated SIM and for digital SIM swap.

"These two employees were supposed



The fraudsters illegally sold the vanity numbers, allotted to genuine customers, by accessing the LAPU Number (Local Area Payment Unit) – the system used to recharge, activated SIM and for digital SIM swap

to deposit the LAPU number when they left the company. Instead they kept it and used it to digitally swap different vanity SIM cards without the knowledge of the genuine customer. The accused sold the vanity SIM numbers to people using the Internet market in exchange of large sums, thereby causing losses to the customers who had bought these SIMs spending huge money," claimed police sources.

The accused made fake identity documents like AADHAAR, PAN and driving license of the actual customers and upload these fake documents along with the photographs of the victims through these LAPU numbers to activate and swap the SIMs in the name of their 'fake' customers.

It has been found that fraudsters in other parts of the country were also in-

involved with the racket. "To get a physical SIM they used the IMSI number of the SIM through WhatsApp from their associates in different locations of India," police sources added.

These criminals used the SIMs to steal personal data of the original customer and commit various crimes like bank and other online fraud.

The accused have reportedly confessed to have done at least 36 SIM swapping in Bhubaneswar and the victims are from different parts of the states.

Dash also informed the media that the agencies that facilitated the illegal SIM transfer will be questioned along with the current users of the vanity numbers after verifying the fake documents. The accused will be soon taken on remand for further interrogation.

WOMAN COP SENTENCED TO 2 YRS RI FOR GRAFT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 18: A woman police officer was sentenced to two years rigorous imprisonment by a special Vigilance court in Sundargarh Saturday in a 14-year-old bribery case.

The court also directed Budhuni Minz, a former sub-inspector of Mahila police station in Rourkela, to pay a fine of ₹5,000. Currently, Budhuni is posted at the office of the Keonjhar Superintendent of Police. In case of failure to pay the fine she will undergo an additional rigorous imprisonment for three months, the court said.

According to sources, Minz had been facing trial in the court of Sundargarh Special Judge in connection with a case filed against her at Sambalpur Vigilance police sta-

tion in January 2007. She had allegedly received illegal gratification of ₹5,000 from a person to facilitate the release of the latter's parents on bail.

The court of the special vigilance judge, Sundargarh, pronounced the verdict Saturday and sentenced her to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of one year and pay a fine of ₹5,000 for the offence under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Budhuni was also convicted under Sections 13(1)(d) punishable U/s 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of two years and to pay a fine of ₹5,000.

Both the sentences will run concurrently, the court ruled.

Manorama Mohapatra passes away at 87

PNN & AGENCIES

Cuttack, Sept 18: Eminent Odia litterateur and journalist Manorama Mohapatra died here Saturday. She was 87.



The former editor of the largest Odia daily 'Samaja' was rushed to the SCB Medical College and Hospital after she complained of chest pain. She died while undergoing treatment, sources at the medical establishment said.

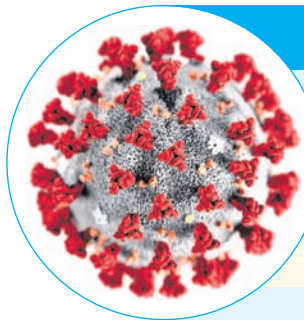
The daughter of Padma Bhushan awardee Radhanath Rath, Mohapatra was the face of women empowerment in Odisha.

She had won the Sahitya Academy Award in 1984, Soviet Nehru Award in 1988, Critic Circle of India Award in 1990, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar Samman in 1991 and Rupambara Award in 1994.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and many other dignitaries including Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan condoled her death. Patnaik said the state has lost a learned and an esteemed personality.

ROAD SAFETY MEET

MPs Bhartruhari Mahtab and Subhas Singh and Collector Bhawani Shankar Chayani participate in the Member of Parliaments' Road Safety Committee Meeting in Cuttack, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	22,85,87,449	20,52,01,390	46,95,798
India	3,34,17,390	3,26,32,222	4,44,529
Odisha	10,19,621	10,05,564	8,128

RAKHI MESSAGE CONTEST



Orissa POST and **Dharitri** Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy with Gupta Distributors owner-cum-partner Rajesh Gupta, Ruchi Masala MD Sarat Kumar Sahoo, marketing manager of Panasonic SK Rafiq and the winners of Dharitri Rakhi Message Contest 2021 at the Press Club of Odisha in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Classroom teaching for 2020-21 UG 1st yr from Sept 20

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: The Higher Education (HE) department Saturday directed the universities and colleges for commencement of classroom teaching for 2020-21 first year undergraduate (UG) students from September 20.

In view of improvement in Covid-19 situation in Odisha, state public universities and government as well as non-government degree Colleges (coming under the HE department) are hereby directed to commence physical classroom teaching for 2020-21 UG first year students (for both 3 year & 4 year UG Courses) from September 20 by following Covid-19 prevention guide-

The decision regarding commencement of classes of 2021-22 UG and PG first semester/ first year students shall be communicated later, said HE department secretary



lines, said the letter sent by HE department secretary Saswat Mishra.

As per the guidelines, teachers, staff, students residing in containment zones shall not come to the universities and colleges. Face mask or face cover shall be mandatory for the students, teachers and staff.

Besides, frequent hand washing or hand sanitisation shall be ensured in colleges and universities. Moreover, social distancing shall be maintained in classrooms, libraries laboratories and other places, said the guidelines. If required, crowded classes can

be divided into batches and teaching hours in a day can be extended. Spitting in campus shall be strictly prohibited and respiratory etiquettes shall be strictly followed on campuses. There must be an isolation room ready for any emergency, added the guidelines issued by the HE department.

Mishra further instructed that hostels shall be opened for students from September 19. The boards are advised to follow the covid-19 protocols in hostels, he added.

According to the HE department secretary, suitable decision regarding commencement of classes of 2021-22 UG and PG first semester/ first year students shall be communicated later.



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FERTILIZER TRANSPORT

Develop roads, infra at rake points: State to DMs, Rlys

Poor condition of the approach roads and non-provision of electricity are hindering timely handling and transportation of the rakes, resulting in the unavailability of fertilizers to the farmers



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: In a bid to deal with the shortage of fertilizers in the state, the Odisha government has directed Collectors of 17 districts to repair the approach roads and street lights at the railway rake points.

There are 23 railway rake points for transportation of fertilizers in different districts. However, many of these points are in bad shape due to lack of maintenance and poor infrastructure.

After the issue was taken up by state Agriculture Secretary SK Vashishth, the Transport department has asked the Collectors of Bolangir, Balasore, Bargarh, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Khurda, Keonjhar, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Nuapada, Rayagada, Sambalpur and Sundargarh to take steps towards developing the approach roads and street lighting facility to the rake points, sources

said, Saturday.

This apart, Vashishth has also urged the general managers of East Coast Railways (ECoR) and South Eastern Railways (SER) for the development of infrastructure at the railway rake points in Odisha.

Presently, about 12 lakh MT fertilizer is annually supplied to Odisha through 23 rake points. Besides, the Centre has approved three other rake points at Naranpur, Nayagarh and Angul, which remain non-functional till date. The peak period of fertilizer requirement in the state is from mid-July to September, during which the most of the rainfall frequency is distributed

“Fertilizer, being a hygroscopic material, needs to be protected from water. However, most of the rake points in Odisha, at present, do not even have shed facility throughout the rake length to protect the commodity from water,” Vashishth said in a letter to the general managers.

On the other hand, the Indian

Presently, about 12 lakh MT fertilizer is annually supplied to Odisha through 23 rake points

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The peak period of fertilizer requirement in the state is from mid-July to September, during which the most of the rainfall frequency is distributed

Railways has restricted the unloading time of the rakes to just nine hours. Poor condition of the approach roads and non-provision of electricity are hindering the timely handling and transportation of the rakes. These are also the reasons why the transporters and manufacturers often express their unwillingness to supply fertilizers through these rake points, Vashishth pointed out.

The resultant effect is that the farming community suffers from unavailability of fertilizers at the critical juncture of requirement, which adversely affects the production and income of the farmers as well as the GDP of the nation as a whole, he further explained.

Putting forth the aforementioned argument, the Agriculture Secretary has sought personal intervention of the railway authorities in ensuring smooth and timely supply of fertilizers to the state, in the greater interest of the farmers.



People stop by to watch the flood water gushing near the Naraj Anicut, Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Heavy rainfall likely across Odisha till Sept 21

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: Several districts of the state will receive heavy rainfall till September 21 under the influence of a cyclonic circulation that is moving towards Odisha coasts, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast, Saturday.

Currently, the cyclonic circulation lies over east-central and adjoining northeast Bay of Bengal and is very likely to move towards Odisha coasts during next 12 hours, said the IMD.

Under the influence of the cyclonic circulation, heavy rainfall is very likely to occur in several places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Puri, Dhenkanal, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh districts till September

'Yellow warning' for 13 districts

BHUBANESWAR: The IMD, Bhubaneswar, Saturday gave a yellow warning over 13 districts for next 24 hours. Owing to cyclonic circulation, a yellow warning has been issued for Mayurbhanj, Balasore and Bhadrak. During the same time thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Koraput. The state capital might experience partly cloudy skies with possibility of moderate rain or thundershowers. While maximum temperature is expected to be around 32°C, minimum temperature could be around 25 °C.

19 early morning.

In addition, one or two places in Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sonepur, Nuapada, Bolangir, Deogarh districts will also witness heavy rainfall from September 19 to early morning of September 20.

Heavy rainfall is also very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Nawarangpur,

Nuapada, Bolangir from September 20 till early morning, September 21.

Meanwhile, the recent rainfall has improved the drought situation in the state, said Engineer-in-Chief of Water Resources Department, Dhiren Kumar Samal.

Talking to the media Saturday, Samal said that the late rainfall came as a relief when the state

was facing a drought-like situation. It led to the rise in the water level of many medium reservoirs.

At present, the water level at 11 reservoirs is 50-75 per cent, 75-100 per cent in 20 reservoirs, and 100 per cent in two reservoirs.

Three blocks in three districts have received rainfall above 50 mm, while 19 blocks in 12 districts have received rainfall from 20 mm to 50 mm in the last 24 hours.

Talking about the flood situation in the state, Samal said that the water of Brahmani river is flowing below the danger level at Aul. The discharge of water into the sea has also increased.

There will be a further increase in the discharge of water September 19 but it will decrease September 20. However, there is no flood threat in the area, he added.

YOUTH ENDS LIFE; FAMILY CRIES MURDER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: The family members of Prakash Bal, who allegedly committed suicide by hanging from a ceiling fan in a locked room of a Kalyan Mandap, Saturday claimed that he was murdered.

Prakash had recently been to his village in Jajpur district and reportedly informed his family members about his severe financial crisis. He told them that many lenders were pressuring him to payback their loan amount. The lenders allegedly threatened to kill Prakash if did not return their money soon, family members of the deceased claimed.

However, police sources said that a suicide note left by Prakash stated that he had exhausted all his savings by playing online games like PUBG and FreeFire. He had also allegedly taken huge amount as loan from various persons in the last few months.

Workshop for women artisans on traditional handicraft held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: Fair Trade Forum-India (FTFI) organised a three-day training workshop for women artisans on 'Design Thinking and Product Innovation in Traditional Handicraft' in the capital City recently.

More than 30 women artisans participated in the training programme, which is a part of the project 'STREE' (Social Transformation and Economic Empowerment of Women Artisans in India). 'STREE' is supported by the European Union and facilitated by FTFI.

The training programme was conducted by master trainers Srita Bhol and Damrudhar Behera. On the first day of workshop, women artisans – Community Facilitators (CFs) – interacted among themselves as well as the master trainers.

The master trainers made pre-



sentations on design thinking, its processes and activities for the participants to understand the concept in detail. The aim of the programme was to integrate the CFs with the design thinking process with a human-centric approach and empathise with customers for better design development of the products as per the market demand.

Later, the group representatives shared their presentations on understanding of persona develop-

ment and customer journey map. The artisans took great interest in understanding the presentations and had active interaction with the each other and master trainers.

The second day also saw enthusiastic involvement of the CFs in different activities, such as defining customer problems, ideating solutions and developing prototypes. The CFs presented their understanding of the topics through artistic and colourful interpretations on paper charts.

RENGALI IRRIGATION PROJECT 2nd phase by July 2024

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: The second phase work of the Rengali irrigation project will be completed by the end of July 2024, official sources said.

Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra Saturday reviewed the project and asked the Water Resources (WR) department officials to complete the project on time.

WR chief engineer Diptiranjana Panda said the total length of the left canal of the Rengali irrigation project is 141 km starting from Samal barrage to Baitarani river.

The government has set a target to provide irrigation facilities to 1,14,300 hectares through this project, of which. So far, 71 km of the canal has been constructed and irrigation potential has been created for 40,000 hectares, he said.

The second phase of the project involves a total investment of ₹2,255 crore. A loan of ₹1,787 crore from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been obtained for constructing 52 km of the canal.

Out of the 52 km length, 25 km of the canal has been constructed along with two tributary canals. This has created irrigation facility for 9,558 hectares in Dhenkanal and Jajpur districts.

Asking the officials to expedite the work, the Chief Secretary has set different timelines for completion of the remaining work of the project. Target has been set to create irrigation potential for 18,558 hectares by July 2022, 23,558 hectares by July 2023 and 23,558 hectares by July 2024.

Mahapatra advised the officials to encourage the beneficiary farmers to cultivate non-paddy and cash crops in the irrigated area.

Congregation banned for Ananta Brata in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: Ahead of the auspicious 'Ananta Brata', Monday, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Saturday instructed that there will be no public gathering in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Issuing a directive in this regard, the BMC clarified that the event, which is observed at the Ananta Vasudeva temple every year, will have no public gathering, public darshan and Mahaprasad sevam of any kind in the temple this year.

The BMC further said, "The Ananta Brata usually witnesses very large gatherings. However, the current Covid scenario demands caution and restrictions on congregation of people."

The civic authority had issued comprehensive guidelines under which the temple administration shall ensure that only the sevayats, who are fully vaccinated, are permitted to attend the rituals.

BSCL to generate revenue from smart vending zones

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: After more than three years since its inception, the Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) here has decided to use its smart vending zones, located between Vani Vihar to Sishu Bhawan Square, for revenue generation by displaying advertisements.

The BSCL has asked all interested parties to submit their bids to select an advertising agency for the advertisement space rights on 300 of its vending kiosks. The advertisement space rights provided by the BSCL will be given to the agency for a period of three years.

"The advertising space on the vending kiosks, owing to their strategic location, gives bidders a unique opportunity to promote

their brands value.

This, combined with the development of Smart Janpath, will provide the advertisers enough room to grab the attention of their targeted audience. This will not only help improve trade opportunities for vendors, but also generate revenue for BSCL," said BSCL general manager, Kamaljit Das.

It may be mentioned here that earlier in 2018, the BSCL had initiated the smart vending zones in the state capital to organise the vendors in City. About 30 such zones were initially deployed on a pilot basis from Master Canteen to Rajmahal Square. This had come in the backdrop of the BSCL's ₹79.5 crore project of redeveloping the Janpath Marg.

As per sources, while the proj-

ect was aimed to become functional by 2020, the pandemic delayed the initiative. However, allotment for all 300 kiosks was over by June this year.

Following the success of this initiative, the project will be introduced in other market areas of Satya Nagar, Bhubaneswar railway station, Unit IV and Unit I and Unit II.

"We are planning to develop similar models across the City Vending zones of different categories like fruits, vegetables, OMFED and OPOLFED will be created after land is provided by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC). The allotted vendors will get a unique identity card (UIC) and the vending zones will be solar-operated as well," a BSCL official mentioned.

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 18: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday congratulated the officials of Agricultural department involved in the implementation of the Odisha Millets Mission as the state bagged 'Best Millet Promoting State' award under 'Poshak Anaj Awards'.

The award has been instituted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations.

"Odisha has received the prestigious 'Best Millet Promoting State' Award under 'Poshak Anaj Awards' by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Indian Institute of Millets Research and Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations from Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar. Congratulate all the stakeholders who are setting an example by suc-



cessful implementation of Odisha Millet Mission at grassroots," the chief minister tweeted.

Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar presented the award to Odisha Agriculture and Farmers

Empowerment department secretary Suresh Kumar Vashishth at a national convention in Hyderabad, Friday.

Inaugurating the two-day 'Nutri-Cereal Multi-Stakeholders' Mega Convention 3.0' at the Hyderabad

ODISHA RECEIVED THE 'BEST MILLET PROMOTING STATE' AWARD UNDER 'POSHAK ANAJ AWARDS' INSTITUTED BY THE ICAR, IIMR AND FAO

UNION MINISTER NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR PRESENTED THE AWARD TO AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT SECRETARY SURESH KUMAR VASHISHTH AT A NATIONAL CONVENTION IN HYDERABAD, FRIDAY

International Convention Centre (HICC) Friday, Tomar said the United Nations declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets due to the initiatives taken by India.

Recalling that since ancient times millets have been used in abundance in our country, the Union Minister urged the present generation to understand the importance of nutritious food grains like millets and make it a part of their daily diet.

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DRDO ESPIONAGE

CB to take 5 accused on 7-day remand; picks up 4 B'deshis



POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Sept 18: The SDJM Court Saturday allowed the Odisha Crime Branch to take the five contractual staffers of DRDO's office at Chandipur on seven-day remand in connection with the espionage case.

Crime Branch's ADG Sanjeev Panda said the five arrested will be interrogated to gather more information, for which the probing agency had appealed to the court

350 gm of brown sugar seized; four arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Sept 18: Police arrested four persons including a woman while they were peddling drugs in Balasure during separate raids, Saturday. Police also seized around 350 grams of brown sugar in two separate raids in the district.

Jaleswar police Friday had seized 200 grams of brown sugar with the arrest of Sk Muntaz from Rajpur area in the district.

It conducted a raid at the house of Sk Nur Hussein in Jhadeswarpur slum and seized 150 grams of brown sugar. Hussein along with his wife and two sons, Sk Bhikari and Sk Raja were apprehended during the raid.

A few days ago, excise officials seized brown sugar worth ₹15 lakh and arrested two persons including a woman in Jaleswar area.

Acting on intelligence inputs about the drug trafficking, a 10-member team of excise officials intercepted a van at Chhalani Chhak on NH-60. The van was carrying the contraband from Jaleswar area.

Despite raids and seizures of drugs, enforcement agencies yet to curb the drug smuggling in this coastal town. Drugs are being supplied from parts of neighbouring West Bengal.

SI shoulders bier, earns praise from all quarters



POST NEWS NETWORK

Baliguda, Sept 18: Going beyond his mandate, a sub-inspector of Baliguda police station shouldered a decomposed body. Appreciation is pouring in for him from different quarters.

Rabindra Mundari, the police officer, had gone to a spot under Baliguda police limits in Kandhamal district to inspect a murder case Friday. The crime spot was in a forested area where

The Bangladeshi citizens are connected with the DRDO espionage case. They had allegedly received money from Pakistan through their savings accounts

Bangladesh from a slum in Balasure town in connection with the DRDO espionage case Saturday morning. They had allegedly received money from Pakistan through their savings accounts, a senior official said.

It is pertinent to mention, Chandipur police acting on a tip-off had arrested four persons Tuesday and registered a case (No-76, Dated-14.09.2021, under the Sections-120-B/121-A/34 of IPC written with Sections-3, 4 and 5 of Official Secrets Act, 1923) in this connection. Subsequently, one more contractual employee was also apprehended.

the deceased was buried after the crime. After preliminary investigation, the body was exhumed.

Since the spot was inaccessible, a hearse van was kept ready on the road, around 2 kilometres away from the spot, to carry the body to the hospital.

It was when the police wanted four people to come forward to shoulder the body to take it to the hearse that none, including the deceased's family members, turned up as the body was emitting a foul smell. After much persuasion, three people agreed. Still one man was shy of a quartet.

Seeing none was stepping forward, Rabindra, without giving a second thought, pitched in and carried the cot on which the body was laid out up to the hearse.

Rabindra's humanitarian act has since been earning him accolades. Friends, family members and local people are calling him on his mobile phone to thank him for going out of his way and carrying the body for two kilometres.

Sub-divisional police officer Manoj Pujahari and inspector-in-charge of Baliguda police station too heaped praise on him.



Artistes performing traditional Sambalpuri dance at a function on 'Nuakhai Bhetghat' organised by the district administration at Tapaswini auditorium in Sambalpur, Saturday

Flood miseries mount in Bhadrak, Balasure

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak/Balasure, Sept 18: Water level in Baitarani river has started receding. However, it flowed just under the danger mark at Akhuapada Saturday.

Low-lying areas in the district are still marooned while relief and rescue operations have started in some pockets.

According to reports, thousands of people in over 15 panchayats have been surrounded by floodwaters even as rain has started due to another low pressure.

People are worried over the rain which lashed the state after a day of respite. "If heavy rains continue to lash, situation will worsen further in low-lying areas. All the rivers and creeks are now full of water," they added.

Water levels are still high in Baitarani, Salandi, Kapali, Genguti and Nalia. Farmers alleged that the floodwater has washed away crops in hundreds of hectares while further rain will wreak havoc in more panchayats in the low-lying areas.

Over 300 families in Shyamsundarpur panchayat are yet to be rescued from their houses.

It is said that over 60 panchayats are likely to be affected by flood while the district administration has braced up for the rescue operation. NDRF and ODRAF teams have been kept ready.

There is also no let-up in flood situation in low-lying areas under Dhamnagar and Bhandaripokhari blocks.



Five panchayats under Bhandaripokhari block were inundated while paddy in hectares of farmlands was washed away by floodwater, reports said.

Reports from Baliapal said over 30 village under Baliapal block in Balasure have remained cut off from rest of the world due to flood from Subarnarekha.

As villages are marooned, people have to commute on small boats in precarious condition at Asti, Pal Champi, Madhupur, Choudhry Kud and Bishnupur.

Officials visited flood-hit villages Saturday, but locals alleged dry food or relief has not been provided to them.

A tractor laden with fish was washed away by floodwater on Bahaballpur-Haladipada road under Sadar block Friday. The driver and

the helper of the tractor remained missing for hours. Later, they were rescued by locals at Panchupada.

6 more gates of Hirakud closed

SAMBALPUR: Following less rainfall in the upper catchment areas of the Mahanadi, the Hirakud dam authorities closed six more gates Saturday. They had also taken stock of the flood situation in lower catchment areas of the river before closing the sluice gates.

As of now, floodwaters are being discharged from 18 sluice gates. Yesterday, 4,87,203 cusec water was entering the reservoir and the same amount of water was being released through 28 sluice gates. Against the retaining capacity of 630 ft of the reservoir, the water level stood at 628.83 ft.

Earlier in the morning, four gates were closed. By 10 am, the reservoir's water level stood at 628.17 ft.

With 10 gates closed now, the flood situation in low lying areas has started improving. The flood water at Mundali barrage in Cuttack district also remains stable.

Notably, reservoir consists of 64 sluice gates with 24 on its right side and 40 on the left. 16,440 Cusec of floodwater is discharged from a single sluice gate when the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) reaches 630 ft.

Over 1 lakh marooned in Balasure

BHOGRAI: The water level in Subarnarekha in Balasure district has come down after water release from Chandili dam was stopped. It flowed under the danger mark at Rajghat Saturday afternoon.

However, over one lakh people are still marooned in northern Balasure – Bhograi, Baliapal, Jaleswar and Basta. Communication in these blocks has been disrupted. People are seen crossing floodwater in banana rafts. A person was washed away by floodwater in Bhograi while he was fishing. The deceased was identified as Manudhar Nayak (35).

As many as 18 panchayats in Bhograi block were inundated. Thousands of hectares of farmlands were washed away by flood. However, relief and rescue operations have not yet started in some areas.

Man on parole dies by suicide

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahanga, Sept 18: A prisoner, who was on parole, died by hanging with the help of a piece of cloth Friday night at his father-in-law's house in Barahipur village under Mahanga police limits in Cuttack.

The deceased has been identified as Rajkishore Nayak of the village in Cuttack. Although Rajkishore was a native of Kakatpur area in Puri district, he had been staying at his father-in-law's house in Barahipur for several years, a police official stated.

Rajkishore was earlier convicted

The deceased was identified as Rajkishore Nayak, a native of Kakatpur area in Puri district. He had been staying at his in-law's house in Barahipur

in a bombing and murder case that took place at Tribenishwar Bazaar in 2008. He had been serving life imprisonment at Choudwar Circle Jail and came home on parole May 21 this year, in the wake

of second wave of Covid-19.

Rajkishore was to return to jail as his parole completed Saturday. However, he committed suicide last night for reasons not known so far; a member of his in-law's family expressed.

On being informed, Mahanga police reached the house in Barahipur village and seized the body of Rajkishore. Police have registered a case in this connection and launched a probe.

The body was sent to Mahanga community health centre for post-mortem. A detailed probe is underway, the police official said.

Barbil girl finds place in Indian Rugby team



POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, Sept 18: Sincerity, dedication and efforts can ensure success for anyone aspiring to scale great heights. This adage is aptly suited for 17-year old girl Mama Nayak. She has been selected for the 14-member India Rugby team to play international matches. She has done the district as well as the state proud with her achievement.

Mama Nayak was born of a poor family at Tabhasaruan village under Barbil block in Keonjhar district as the youngest daughter of Dhruva Charan Nayak and Nandini Nayak.

Her father ekes out his living by doing daily wage work and farming. She has two sisters and a brother. She is the youngest of her siblings.

Apart from Mama, two other Odia girls have found place in the under-18 Indian Rugby team.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has congratulated the three Odia Rugby players on their being selected to the Indian squad. He has wished them success at the international competition.

17-year old Mama Nayak was born of a poor family at Tabhasaruan village under Barbil block as the daughter of Dhruva Charan Nayak and Nandini Nayak

Rugby Sevens Competition is being organised by Uzbekistan Rugby Association at Tashkent for two days – September 18 and 19.

In school days, Mama had a forte for sports. When she was eight, her parents sent her to KISS in Bhubaneswar for studies. She is currently pursuing Plus-II Arts in KISS.

She bagged gold at the national level school sports competition in 2017. In 2018, she has won bronze medal for playing at national sub-junior Rugby Sevens. Apart from Rugby, she has a lot of interest in Kho-Kho and football. She gave credit for her success to her parents and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
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No.C-984:- **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NO. SEPHDRAYAGADA-26/2021-22 Dt.13.09.2021**

01	Name of the work	: Installation of VFD Pannel for different pump house in Gunupur Municipality
02	Number of works	: 1 No.
03	Estimated cost	: 39.25 lakhs
04	Period of completion	: 3 (Three) months
05	Class of contractor/bidder	: Manufacture / Dealer/ Sub-Dealer
06	Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 10.00 A.M. of Dt.20.09.2021 to 17.30 P.M. of 04.10.2021
07	Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 17.30 P.M. of 04.10.2021
08	Date & time of opening of bids	: At 11.30 A.M. of 05.10.2021
09	Name and address of the officer inviting bid	: Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Rayagada
10	The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in .	

Sd./- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, RAYAGADA
OIPR-13052/11/0006/2122

Government of Odisha , Department of Water Resources,
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
BALANGIR IRRIGATION DIVISION, BALANGIR
e-mail-ee.bol.irr@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice No. 02 of 2021-22
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. – BID-BGR-02 OF 2021-22
No. 1079 / Dated, 14.09.2021

No.A-454:- The Superintending Engineer, Balangir Irrigation Division, Balangir on behalf of His Excellency, the Governor of Odisha invites online Percentage rate tenders in Single cover system to be received in online mode only for the works as detailed below. Bid documents consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms & conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-Procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in in complete online process only.

1.	Nature of work	: Civil.
2.	Number of works	: 08 (Eight)
3.	Approximate amount put to tender	: Rs. 8.85 lakh to Rs 44.38 lakh
4.	Period of completion	: 2 (Two) months to 4 (Four) Calendar months.
5.	Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	: Dt. 22.09.2021 -10.00 AM to 04.10.2021 up to 5.30 P.M.
6.	Last date & time of seeking Tender clarification	: Dt. 22.09.2021 to 04.10.2021 during office hours
7.	Last date & time of receipt of Bids in the portal	: Dt. 04.10.2021 - upto 5.30 P.M.
8.	Date, time & place of opening of bids in the portal	: Dt. 05.10.2021 at 11.00 AM- in the office of the Superintending, Balangir Irrigation Division, Balangir
9.	Name & address of the officer inviting bid	: Superintending Engineer, Balangir Irrigation Division, Balangir. At- Lalitkira, P.O.- Rajendra College, Dist: Balangir, PIN-767002.
10.	Any corrigendum required will be made available in Govt. website only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal- https://tendersorissa.gov.in	

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
BALANGIR IRRIGATION DIVISION, BALANGIR
OIPR-32113/11/0002/2122



Students and teachers taking out a rally on maintaining cleanliness on beach on the occasion of International Coastal Cleanup Day at Gopalpur in Ganjam district Saturday

OP PHOTO



Where are the jobs?

A few months after taking office, Modi said in the Lok Sabha that MNREGA would be continued only because it would show how poorly Manmohan Singh's government had performed. "My political instincts tell me that MNREGA should not be discontinued," he said, mocking the Opposition benches, "because it is a living memorial to your failures. After so many years in power, all you were able to deliver is for a poor man to dig ditches a few days a month." Modi would instead let the scheme die naturally as his government would create better jobs.

This would be done by underfunding it and by making it accessible to fewer people. After the government had taken office, Nitin Gadkari had indicated that MNREGA would be limited to less than a third of India's districts. Another thing that the Modi government would do to discourage MNREGA work would be to delay payments to workers who are meant to be paid in 15 days. Delays went up from 42 per cent in 2012 to 70 per cent in 2014. Six months after Modi had taken office, by December 2014, except for five states, all others had received significantly lower funds from the Centre in 2014, compared to 2013.

As India's economy has begun to weaken and unemployment has risen, the Modi government has begun to invest more and more in the scheme the prime minister had called a failure. In 2014-15 MNREGA got ₹32,000 crore, in 2015-16 ₹37,000 crore; in 2016-17 ₹48,000 crore; in 2017-18 ₹55,000 crore; in 2018-19 ₹61,000 crore; in 2019-20 ₹71,000 crore; and in 2020-21 ₹111,000 crore. The memorial has become almost three times the size it had been under Manmohan Singh. However, it is still not able to meet the demand for jobs by a population that has no work.

In the current year, ₹73,000 crore has been set aside on the assumption that demand is low, but 80 per cent of the money has already been spent in the first five months of the financial year. And most demand for work under MNREGA is going unmet as we will see. MNREGA guarantees 100 days of employment in the year at ₹200 per day to each registered household, meaning that the family would receive ₹20,000 for the year. A total of 13 crore Indian households are registered, covering half the population, which is 25 crore households. There was a decline of 24 lakh job cards in 2016 but after demonetisation there was an increase of 18 lakh job cards the following year. This shows that when there is an economic stress, poor Indians fall back on MNREGA but when things are going well they look for non-MNREGA jobs.

A study by the Centre for Economic Data and Analysis (CEDA) affiliated to Ashoka University notes that last year, MNREGA demand increased by 1.5 crore, meaning eight times more additional demand than in that hard year after demonetisation. Unfortunately, in our biggest states, the government is failing to ensure that those who want work get it. In Uttar Pradesh, the average employment per registered household was 18 days (Rs 3,600) and in Bihar it was 11 days (Rs 2,000). These are not numbers that households can survive a year on. Ninety-five per cent of registered households did not receive the full 100 days of work last year. That is the condition that we find ourselves in today. The other thing that the CEDA survey revealed is that the youth, not being able to find permanent employment elsewhere, are now seeking MNREGA jobs. From 20 per cent of the age group 18-30 looking for MNREGA work in 2018, the figure has almost doubled to 37 per cent.

The government's own data says that the number of Indians 15 and above who are working or looking for work is 40 per cent of the workforce. This number is over 60 per cent in the United States, closer to 70 per cent in Thailand and Indonesia and over 70 per cent in China. India's work participation rate is lower than Pakistan and Bangladesh. Are Indians lazy? No, there are no jobs.

The Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy says that in 2016 42 per cent of India's working age population was employed. This fell to 41 per cent in 2017, then 40 per cent in 2018, then 39 per cent in 2019 and it is now 36 per cent. The total number of Indians who are working today is less than five years ago though the population has grown by seven crore.

The problem is not one that will go away and as we have seen the numbers are getting progressively worse. The impact that this is having and has already had has not been fully examined because the politics of our country is focussed on other things. India has always been a poor nation where the majority suffers silently while a tiny set of people does well. Things today may not appear to be very different from the way they were a thousand years ago. The question is, will the majority silently suffering remain the case at a time when inequality is visible to the extent that it is today? If the answer to that question is no, then it is vital that as a nation we discuss the problem and not wait for it to explode.

WISDOM CORNER

- He will win who knows when to fight and when not to fight. **SUN TZU**
- To know what you know and what you do not know, that is true knowledge. **CONFUCIUS**
- A liberal is a man too broadminded to take his own side in a quarrel. **ROBERT FROST**

WORDSWORTH

Pelf

The only place you're still likely to find this word used at all often is in the Indian subcontinent, where it remains part of the active English vocabulary, at least of journalists. They continue to use it in the older British sense of money, especially when it has been gained dishonestly or dishonourably. It's now rare elsewhere except in historical contexts or among writers who like to demonstrate the breadth of their vocabularies. You might replace pelf by ill-gotten gains or filthy lucre or other expressions that disparage the senseless acquisition of mere wealth or which express the Christian view that the love of money is the root of all evil. Its own root is the Old French pelfre, booty or spoils. A relative has bequeathed us pilfer, to steal things of little value. The first sense of pelf in English was of objects of value that had been stolen or taken as the spoils of war. By the fifteenth century it had taken on the idea of money or riches, but particularly seen as a corrupting influence. Abraham Lincoln had this sense in mind when he wrote in 1864: "Murders for old grudges, and murders for pelf, proceed under any cloak that will best cover for the occasion." When the Reverend Henry Todd produced a new edition of Samuel Johnson's famous Dictionary in 1818, he added "paltry stuff" to Dr Johnson's definition of "money, riches". That wasn't a pejorative editorial comment but a note of a usage that Johnson had left out because it was already defunct in the London speech of his time, though it clings on to this day in some British dialects. It had been around since about 1550, meaning broadly trash or rubbish. Stephen Gosson wrote in Pleasant Quips For Upstart Newfangled Gentlewomen in 1595, "All this new pelf, now sold in shops, in value true, not worth a louse." It could also mean detritus or waste; in 1589 George Puttenham said in The Arte of English Poesie that "Pelf is properly the scraps or shreds of tailors and of skimmers." Dialect senses have included grass, roots, weeds and other waste material raked off the land. All in all, not a word you will want to make friends with.

FOCUS FOOD SECURITY

HIDDEN HUNGER



Treating food as a commodity to be sold for profit, rather than as a fundamental human right, is precisely what has led to the crisis of hidden hunger



Brittany Kesselman

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE STRICT MEASURES IMPOSED TO CONTAIN ITS SPREAD BROUGHT HIDDEN HUNGER OUT OF HIDING

In South Africa, many people struggle to access sufficient quantities of healthy food. Because their diets are high in processed foods, refined starch, sugar, and fat, they face a double burden of malnutrition and obesity, or what is known as 'hidden hunger.' It is hidden because it does not fit the stereotypical image of hunger created by media coverage of famines. But it is everywhere.

To be clear, the problem is not a shortage of food. In South Africa, hunger is a result of lack of access. Getting enough calories and adequate nutrients is largely tied to income. Beyond the high cost of healthy food, hidden hunger in the country reflects the limited availability of nutritious products in low-income areas, the cost of energy for cooking and food storage, and lack of access to land for household food production.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the strict measures imposed to contain its spread brought hidden hunger out of hiding, as many people who had been able to afford just enough food to survive suddenly found themselves going without. According to one study, 47 per cent of households ran out of money to buy food during the early stages of the initial lockdown in April 2020. Job losses, a crack-down on informal vendors, and price increases caused by interruptions in global food and agriculture supply chains all contributed to a sharp rise in food insecurity. Images of long lines for emergency food assistance brought the issue into public view. Increased levels of child hunger in particular were worrying, but unsurprising, given the abrupt closure of schools and school-based nutrition programmes.

The pandemic also made the consequences of hidden hunger more apparent. Because adequate nutrition is necessary for a healthy immune system, food-insecure individuals are more likely to become ill. Additionally, there is a correlation between the severity of COVID-19 and diabetes, a disease associated with poor diets. Data from Cape Town suggest that COVID-19 patients with diabetes were almost four times more likely to be hospitalised and over three times more likely to die from COVID-19 than patients without diabetes.

But while COVID-19 increased food insecurity and highlighted the consequences of hunger, it also produced potential solutions for increasing access to affordable, healthy food. In the face of disruptions to global supply chains, more localised food systems began to emerge. Where the government failed to implement adequate measures to offset the economic repercussions of lockdowns or the closure of school nutrition programmes, civil-society groups sought to fill the void. Across South Africa, community action networks sprang up to address hunger, with volunteers providing meals and other assistance to fellow community members.

Around Johannesburg, for example, the C19 People's Coalition sought to link small-scale farmers who lost access to their usual markets to communities in need of food assistance. Unlike most gov-

ernment food packages, which were procured from large corporations and contained non-perishable items with almost no nutritional value, these vegetable packages sought to support the livelihoods of small-scale farmers while also promoting the health of vulnerable households.

And yet the state bears significant responsibility for addressing hidden hunger, particularly in South Africa, where the right to food is enshrined in the constitution. And examples from around the world demonstrate what is possible when a committed government works together with civil society to tackle food insecurity.

In Belo Horizonte, Brazil, dubbed "the city that ended hunger," some of the notable programmes include "popular restaurants" that serve thousands of subsidised healthy meals every day; subsidised fruit and vegetable shops; a food bank that salvages food waste and distributes prepared meals to social organisations; and farm stalls to connect small-scale producers directly to urban consumers. These and other programmes support farmers' livelihoods and consumer health, while also delivering economic benefits and strengthening communities.

The upcoming United Nations Food Systems Summit claims it will bring together different stakeholders to create more sustainable and equitable food systems, but grassroots movements, academics, and civil-society groups have criticised the summit for bypassing the existing UN Committee on World Food Security to create a new forum tarnished by undue corporate influence, a lack of transparency, and unaccountable decision-making. These groups have called for a boycott and are organising a global counter-mobilisation.

The big corporations that are set to dominate the UN summit – seed companies, agrochemical producers, food processors, and retailers – do not have real solutions to hunger. Treating food as a commodity to be sold for profit, rather than as a fundamental human right, is precisely what has led to the crisis of hidden hunger. Shockingly, South Africa's largest supermarket chains managed to generate profits during 2020, even as half of the country's households were unable to afford food. Retailers boasted of their food donations while paying their workers – who were designated 'essential' – some of the lowest wages in the country.

The real solutions to the crisis of hidden hunger must come from those most affected – the small-scale farmers producing healthy food for their communities and the low-income consumers who struggle to access adequate nutrition. These voices have been sidelined from the UN summit, yet the solidarity-based initiatives they created during the pandemic represent the most secure foundation on which to build a more just and resilient food system.

The writer is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Society, Work, and Politics Institute at the University of Witwatersrand.

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SPECTRUM CLIMATE ACTION

Case for a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty



FINDING VIABLE SOLUTIONS FOR MANAGING THE FOSSIL-FUEL INDUSTRY'S DECLINE IS NOW MORE CRITICAL THAN EVER

The northern summer of 2021 has brought a series of record-breaking natural disasters. The list – which includes intense flooding in China and Western Europe, heatwaves and drought in North America, extreme drought in Africa, and wildfires in the sub-Arctic and Southern Europe – is long, growing, and global.

This is the beginning of climate chaos, and it delivers a stark message: we can no longer rely on historical patterns to inform predictions of future natural disasters. Notably, the latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) more clearly attributes extreme weather events to humans' influence on the climate, pointing out that fossil fuels have caused 86 per cent of carbon-dioxide emissions in the past decade.

For decades, a small number of extremely rich and powerful private and state-owned firms have profited greatly from selling these fuels while deceiving the public and influencing governments to forestall political action to tackle climate change. Big Oil's strategies to preserve its business model for as long as possible are well documented. Facebook ads promoting their 'climate friendliness' and 'green gas' were viewed 431 million times in 2020 alone.

Such corporate deceit is especially problematic for countries in the Global South, which are striving to improve their economic security and risk locking themselves

into dirty infrastructure assets that will become stranded. In fact, every region has high renewable energy potential. International collaboration and support, particularly finance from the Global North, is essential to realising it.

The lack of an international mechanism directly addressing fossil fuels means that the industry has continued to expand significantly, even since the 2015 Paris climate agreement was signed. According to the United Nations' Production Gap Report, planned fossil-fuel production in 2030 is currently 120 per cent greater than would be allowed under a 1.5° Celsius carbon budget.

Implementing these plans would threaten to trigger runaway climate change. But their backers seem to be getting away with it, clearly showing that political leaders have turned a blind eye to this most obvious driver of climate chaos. Even so-called climate champions like Canada, the UK, the US, and Norway are approving new fossil-fuel projects while sounding the climate alarm in step with the IPCC.

While focusing on minimising emissions might have been a sensible approach in the early 1990s, it is clearly not enough today. We also need a complementary mechanism explicitly geared toward constraining fossil-fuel supply.

Emerging initiatives such as the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance can serve as forums that establish a new norm of climate leadership and create political space to advance dis-

cussions among first movers and vulnerable countries. But as political momentum grows, a pathway for establishing an international legal instrument needs to be worked out. One tool that is gaining global support and would help to put us on a meaningful path toward a livable climate is a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Such a treaty would emulate existing international agreements that aim to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons, landmines, ozone depletion, and other security risks. And it would be based on the three pillars of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. On the first pillar of a future treaty – non-proliferation – the world has made significant progress in the past few months. The International Energy Agency said that any new fossil-fuel development will conflict with the Paris agreement's goals, G7 members agreed to stop financing new coal projects, and many jurisdictions banned all new fossil fuel permits.

The second pillar is a feasible phaseout. Most climate scientists agree that we need to wind down existing fossil-fuel stockpiles and production. Even without any new coal, oil, or gas projects, the world would produce 35 per cent more oil and 69 per cent more coal by 2030 than is consistent with a 1.5°C pathway.

Third, a new treaty should help to enable a just transition away from fossil fuels through a process

of international cooperation that has equity at its core. Wealthy fossil-fuel-producing economies would lead the way and share the benefits and burdens of the transition with poorer countries, workers, and affected communities. This should include the provision of financial resources to enable policymakers to implement and sustain necessary climate policies.

Hundreds of organisations representing thousands of individuals have joined the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. Earlier this year, the Dalai Lama and 100 other Nobel laureates called for an end to fossil-fuel expansion, while more than 2,000 academics and scientists have signaled their support in an open letter.

We will have to live in a world in which extreme climate events become more intense and frequent. But the first rule of getting out of a hole is to stop digging. And that requires not succumbing to the power and influence of the fossil-fuel lobby and its political allies.

Finding viable solutions for managing the fossil-fuel industry's decline is now more critical than ever. A Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty offers a vision and path for what true international climate leadership and cooperation could look like.

Tasneem Essop & Lili Fuhr are steering committee members for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative.

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Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Overburdened courts

Sir, Successive CJIs have expressed their dismay over the pendency of cases in courts at various levels. CJI NV Ramana has lamented about the mind-boggling pendency and meagre infrastructure in Indian courts. Lack of adequate infrastructure, paucity of funds, shortage of manpower, procedural delays and lackadaisical attitude of the government have overburdened the Indian courts – the civil courts to the Supreme Court. Special courts for specific legislations, as requested by the judiciary are not given the green signal by the government. The judges are expected to try different types of cases in the available time frame. The step-motherly approach of the government towards the judiciary is legendary though the problem partially stems from an equally diffident judiciary which is loathe to reach out to the government. The proposal of the Law Commission of India to increase the judges' strength by five times has been lying in the cold storage. Some solutions put forward from time-to-time are increasing the age of superannuation of judges, asking former HC judges to come out of their retirement, restricting the judges' vacations, morning and evening courts and so on. However, all these will come to naught if there is lack of transparency, accountability and mutual trust in the dealings between the judiciary and the government.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Tackling cybercrimes

Sir, According to the NCRB data, there has been an 11.8 per cent increase in cybercrimes over the past year. Due to the pandemic, resorting to online means for most of our day-to-day activities has become inevitable. However, increased accessibility coupled with a lack of awareness has led to this surge in cybercrimes. To tackle this, people must be informed about their rights and the various laws that exist to protect them. Empowering them with cyber-security education and encouraging them to report such crimes have become necessary.

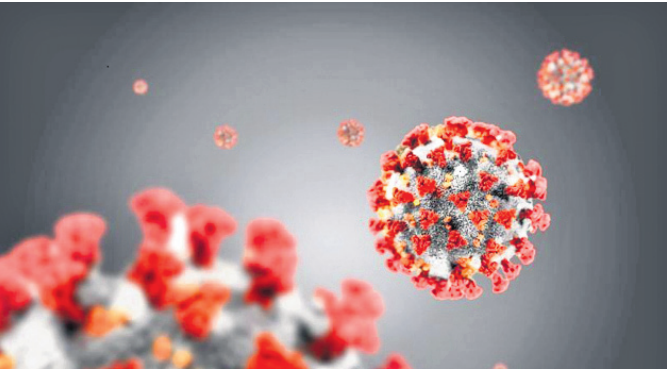
Niveditha Menon, BANGALORE

Crucial phase

Sir, After innumerable COVID-19 deaths, the condition in India can finally be called stable with the country reporting less than 3 lakh active cases. But the next couple of months are crucial with the reopening of almost all public places. Vaccines are crucial in our fight against the coronavirus. The states and Union Territories must administer the unused vaccines provided by the Centre so that the country can avoid the next possible outbreak.

Apoorva Ajith, GHAZIABAD

Over 112 teachers, staff yet to take Covid vaccines in Ganjam



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Sept 18: Even as the second wave of Covid pandemic is yet to abate with health experts warning of a third wave, teachers in Ganjam district are not showing enough inclination to take the Covid vaccine to check the spread of the pandemic, a report said. Reports said over 112 teaching and non-teaching staff of various schools and colleges have not yet taken Covid vaccines. They are reportedly reluctant to take vaccines and playing truant. There are 996 teaching and 386 non-teaching staff in schools and colleges under Chhatrapur block and NAC area. Out of them, 712 teachers and 248 non-teaching staff have taken both the doses of Covid vaccines while 196 teachers and

Awareness drives are being conducted in schools and colleges in the district and all concerned are motivated to take the vaccines

114 non-teaching staff have taken only the first dose of vaccine. Sources said that spread of Covid pandemic among children has raised concerns among all. While there is no facility for Covid vaccines for the children it is mandatory for the teaching and non-teaching staff of schools and colleges to take the jab. The health and education departments are monitoring the vac-

cinations of the teaching and non-teaching staff of schools and colleges on a daily basis. Awareness drives are being conducted in schools and colleges and all concerned are motivated to take the vaccines. However, despite a series of measures, many teachers and non-teaching staff of schools and plus two institutions under this block have not yet taken Covid vaccines. Sensing the hesitation, Abinash Satapathy, block education officer of Chhatrapur block launched a special vaccination drive for the teaching and non-teaching staff of various institutions under the block. The staff of the Munsipentha community health centre (CHC) assisted the programme following which many teaching and non-teaching staff took the vaccines. According to reports available from the BEO's office, as many as 88 teaching and 24 non-teaching of various government, private and grant-in-aid schools and colleges under the block and the NAC area are yet to be administered with vaccines by Friday. Among teachers, three are from government institutions while 85 of them are from private institutions. Similarly, out of the non-teaching staff one from government institutions and 23 from private institutions have not taken vaccines.

ELEPHANTS TRAMPLE TWO TO DEATH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Parjang/Baripada, Sept 18: In separate incidents, elephants trampled two people including a minor boy in Dhenkanal and Mayurbhanj districts late Friday night. A farmer guarding his crop was trampled to death by an elephant at Khandualmunda village under Mahabirod forest range of Dhenkanal forest division. The deceased was identified as Upendra Amat. He was guarding his crop at night when the animal killed him.

Forest Ranger Haramohan Nayak and a team of officials initiated a probe into the incident. The incident sparked tension in the area as villagers demanding immediate compensation to his survivor and job to the next of his kin staged a road blockade on the highway, Saturday morning. They relented after the forest ranger transferred Rs 4 lakh to the bank account of the deceased. Reports from Baripada said, a 15-year-old boy was trampled to death by two elephants in Mayurbhanj

district, a forest officer said Saturday. The incident took place when Chandan Murmu was sleeping in his house at Madhuria village in Rasagobindpur block Friday night. Two tuskers damaged the thatched house and trampled the boy to death, Rasgobindpur Forest Range Officer Prasanta Behera said. His parents fled the house when the tuskers attacked it, Behera said. A post-mortem examination was conducted and a case of unnatural death was lodged, the officer added.

NATURE WORSHIP



Tribals participating in 'Karama' festival at Lathikata near Rourkela on the concluding day of the festival, Saturday OP PHOTO

Rourkela to have solar-powered cold storage

THE CIVIC BODY WILL ENGAGE ONLY WOMEN SHGs TO MANAGE THE COLD STORE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 18: Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) will soon have 5MT cold storage to be run on solar energy and managed by women self-help groups in the city, a report said. The civic body in joint collaboration with a local technical startup Koel Fresh Private Ltd jointly organised a training session for women self-help groups for the handling of 5MT cold storage at VSS Market, in Chhend recently. The idea was to enhance not just the livelihood of women but also fruits and vegetable vendors who are forced to throw away or sell their produce at a lower price at the end of their trading day due to the absence of any proper storage facility. With such provisions, even the residents of the city would benefit as fresh produce would be made available to them right at their doorsteps. Two women self-help groups (SHGs) of the city have been selected for this prestigious project. They already have the experience of



working with RMC and possess necessary skills of working as a team which makes them a befitting choice. The training session was divided into three sessions. In the first session, they were told about the theory aspect of cold storage operation to make them familiar with the new task. Demo and mock drills were carried out in the next session

while the last session was open to discussions where the team addressed the concerns of the SHGs members in detail. The members expressed their happiness on being part of this project and showed great enthusiasm throughout the sessions. They are confident that they would be able to perform in their newly assigned roles.

Rourkela is now competing in the last leg of Global Mayors' Challenge 2021, a worldwide innovation competition organised by Bloomberg Philanthropies. The team had proposed to establish solar-powered cold storage outlets at various locations to be managed by women SHGs.

With such provisions, even the residents of the city would benefit as fresh produce would be made available to them right at their doorsteps. Two women self-help groups (SHGs) of the city have been selected for this prestigious project. They already have the experience of working with RMC and possess necessary skills of working as a team which makes them a befitting choice

HABITAT RIGHTS



A workshop on habitat rights of Juang tribals underway at Talapada village under Telkoi block in Keonjhar district, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Ex-Patna MLA Ramray Munda dies

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patna, Sept 18: Former legislator of Patna Assembly constituency in Keonjhar district Ramray Munda passed away Saturday morning at his residence in Chakundapal village under this block. He was 83. Ramray had been suffering from old-age complications for past several years. He had represented Patna as a candidate of erstwhile Swatantra Party in Rajendra Narayan Singh's ministry from 1966 to 1972. Before joining politics, he was working as a staffer in Keonjhar forest department. Subsequently, he worked as a teacher. The former legislator was inspired to join politics by then Keonjhar MP Govind Munda. Ramray was quite popular in the constituency segment for his politeness and strong anti-corruption attitude. A pall of gloom descended on the constituency segment in Keonjhar district after the news of his demise spread in the region. The standing Patna MLA Jagannath Naik expressed his deep condolences.

DIGNITY DENIED IN DEATH

Body carried on trolley in Jajpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bari, Sept 18: In yet another incident of dignity being denied in death, a youth's body was seen being carried on a trolley in Bari area in Jajpur district. And the trolley was being pulled by none other than men in khaki. The incident occurred Friday but it has been a topic of discussion here with some people condemning the act and holding the local administration responsible. The deceased was identified as Ranjan Kumar Kar (39) of Shankarakul village of Ishanapur panchayat in Bari block. According to locals, Ranjan had come to the local market three days ago for some works. But he never returned home. His body was found floating at Ishanpur ghat. Local people immediately informed Ramchandrapur police who reached the spot and with help of local youths fished out the



body. To take the body to the hospital for post mortem, neither a hearse nor an ambulance reached the spot. The policemen put the body wrapped in polythene sheet on the trolley and pulled it along the road in full public view. Since the time the incident came to the fore, intellectuals, senior citizens and common people of the locality have been critical of the local administration. They asked why the administration did not make any arrangements to carry the body. A few days ago, a woman in labour pain did not get ambulance

facility and delivered a baby under a tree at Bhawanipur village in Bari block. Even as such incidents are repeatedly happening, why the administration is still taking them casually, they asked. In this regard when ABDO Maheswar Sethi was contacted, he said, "We had received the information regarding recovery of the dead body. But the police and other officers presented at the spot had not informed us about how the body was being taken. They did it on their own choice."

Ganjam farmers seek agri college

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 18: Ganjam district is an agrarian economy, but a proposal to set up an agriculture college in the district has been pushed to back burners, a report said. It is alleged that the agriculture college is a long standing demand of the people in the district. The ambitious project has been a victim of apathy of the people's representatives and the administration. Various outfits have alleged that former agriculture minister Pradeep Maharathy had agreed to set up the college and stated that MLAs, the MP will decide the site of the college in 2014, but no step has been taken in this regard since then. At the recent extended executive body meeting of the BJD at Bhanjanagar, a draft proposal was passed for the proposed college. But locals said such a draft proposal is a gimmick. Reports said, Ganjam has a pop-



Ganjam has a population of 35 lakh as per the 2011 census while 70 to 80 per cent of people depend on farming. Over the years, farmers' outfits and organizations have been demanding an agriculture college

ulation of 35 lakh as per the 2011 census while 70 to 80 per cent of peo-

ple depend on farming. Over the years, farmers' outfits and organizations have been demanding an agriculture college. A college of fisheries has been set up near Berhampur University under OUAT-Bhubaneswar.

2 MINORS AMONG 4 HELD FOR MINOR'S GANGRAPE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rairangpur, Sept 18: Bahalda police Saturday arrested four persons including two minors on charge of gangrape of a minor girl and later making her obscene video viral near here in Mayurbhanj district. The accused were identified as Bhairu Soren, 25, and Sriram Hembram, 26, and two minors from the same village of the survivor. Police registered a case over a complaint by the survivor and pro-

duced the accused at a POCSO court and before the juvenile justice board in Baripada. Police also recorded the statement of the survivor under Section 164 of Indian Penal Code before the magistrate, IIC Panchanan Mohanty said. Reports said the accused gangraped the minor near a brick kiln in her village Wednesday evening. They also clicked her obscene photographs on their mobile phones and later made it viral. Further investigations are on, the IIC said.

Body found hanging from pole

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Sept 18: A pall of gloom descended on Bhairi village under Kuturi outpost of Jayapatna police limits in Kalahandi district Saturday morning after a youth's body was found hanging from an electric pole. The deceased has been identified as Gajaraj Naik, a native of Bhairi village. It was some villagers who were out for work and first spotted Gajaraj's naked body hanging from

the electric pole in the morning. Police reached the spot and brought down the body. The body was sent for post mortem after completion of the inquest. According to villagers, Gajaraj seemed to be under severe mental distress for some time. He might have committed suicide by climbing up the electric pole and getting himself electrocuted. However, the exact reason why he had been upset is yet to be ascertained. Police have registered an unnatural death case and launched a probe.

Mumbai police on high alert

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 18: Mumbai Police is on high alert and security has been beefed up across the city for the 10th and last day of immersion of Ganesh idols Sunday, especially in the wake of recent arrests of terror suspects, an official said.

The ten-day Ganesh festival will come to an end Sunday. The celebrations have been subdued this year due to the restrictions imposed in view of the coronavirus pandemic. Processions, the hallmark of immersion days, are banned.

Anti-sabotage measures are being taken and security around vital installations has been increased, said deputy commissioner of police S Chaitanya, the Mumbai police's spokesperson, on Saturday.

Apart from intensified patrolling in sensitive areas, there will be heavy deployment of security personnel at immersion points, he said. Extra lights, cranes, swimmer-sliffe guards, ambulances and fire brigade teams would be arranged to handle any eventuality, he added.

As many as 100 additional officers and 1,500 personnel from the Local Arms and other branches will be deployed, the DCP said.

Besides, at least three companies of the State Reserve Police Force (SRPF), one company of CRPF, 500 home guards and 275 constables from outside units will be stationed in the city.

The police are also keeping tabs on known criminals and have increased surveillance at hotels, lodges, vital installations and sensitive locations.

Ganesh Festival



Maha ATS arrests man with terror links

The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has apprehended a man from Mumbai in connection with the Pakistan-organised terror module busted by the Delhi Police earlier, sources said Saturday. The man named Zakir was nabbed from suburban Jogeshwari during an operation conducted on Friday night, sources in the police department said. He was later taken into custody for questioning, they said. The Delhi Police's Special Cell had Tuesday busted the terror module with the

arrest of six men, including two Pak-Isi trained terrorists. Officials had said that the terrorists were allegedly planning to carry out several blasts across the country. The module was allegedly planning to carry out blasts across the country. Jan Mohammad Shaikh, one of the six suspects, is a resident of Dharavi in Mumbai. Zakir, whose name cropped up during the interrogation of arrested suspects, was in touch with Jan Mohammed Shaikh, sources

said, adding that a separate FIR under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was registered against Zakir here. The ATS told the Mumbai court Saturday that Zakir has been arrested in connection with a criminal conspiracy to carry out terror attacks using explosives in Maharashtra and elsewhere. He was in touch with one 'Anthony' from a neighbouring country, and the ATS wanted to find out who this person was and what his role was in the conspiracy, it said.

Officials also held meetings with Ganesh mandals, peace committees, mohalla committees and others stakeholders, the police

spokesperson added.

The Delhi Police's Special Cell had Tuesday busted a terror module with the arrest of six men, in-

cluding two Pakistan-trained terrorists. One of them was a resident of Dharavi in Mumbai, police claimed.

'Covid test must for Mumbai returnees'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 18: The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has asked people to undergo COVID-19 test on returning to the city from their hometowns after the Ganpati festival, as a precautionary measure, an official said Saturday.

The civic body has set up 266 centres offering free RT-PCR tests to people who have returned to Mumbai after celebrating Ganpati festival, additional municipal commissioner (western suburbs) Suresh Kakani said. "The next 15 days are crucial. The BMC has set up 266 centres offering free RT-PCR tests for those who have returned to Mumbai after the Ganpati festival. People will get the test results delivered to their homes," Kakani said.

Mumbai mayor Kishori

The civic body has set up 266 centres offering free RT-PCR tests to people who have returned to Mumbai

Pednekar said, "People should take care as they would have come in contact with others at their hometowns. There are testing centres, which should be used by people. Precautions will help prevent further spread of the infection."

"Vaccines are available for everybody. People should come forward to take the jab," the mayor said.

Mumbai Friday reported 434 fresh cases of COVID-19 and three casualties that took the tally of infections to 7,37,164 and toll to 16,042. The city currently has 4,658 active cases.

Sinha hands over forest rights certs to tribal communities of Jammu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Sept 18: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha handed over certificates of individual and community forest rights to the members of tribal communities of Jammu division Saturday.

Addressing the event, Sinha said a new era of social equality has been ushered in for tribals in the union territory with the handing over of individual and community forest rights certificates to them.

He said their participation was significant in the implementation of the Forest Rights Act.

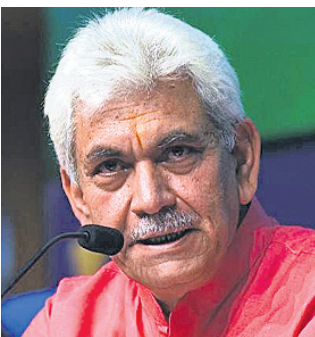
We have formulated a robust mechanism to ensure these rights are decided at the grassroots level in consultation with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and the forest department, he said.

The Lt Governor also felicitated the Deputy Commissioners of Rajouri, Jammu, Poonch and Kishtwar for their outstanding work in the law's implementation in their respective districts.

He also lauded the efforts of elected public representatives and the officers of tribal affairs and forest departments.

The UT administration is steadfast for their holistic development and prosperity," he added.

Sinha said the government has launched various schemes to extend best education and medical facil-



ities, besides offering sustainable employment opportunities, to the tribal youth.

We have also finalised a plan to build transit accommodation for migrant population and develop tribal villages as model villages," he said, adding the work on transit accommodation would start soon in tribal areas of Kandi, Thanamandi in Rajouri, Behram Gala in Poonch and along the national highway in Udhampur and Ramban.

Plans are also there for similar facilities in Dubjan and Lal Ghulam in Shopian and along the national highway in Pulwama district of Kashmir, he said.

I want to assure you that the UT administration is committed to protect your interests and whatever difficulties or obstacles may come, we will work to remove them from the way of your development and prosperity, he told the tribal communities.

460 J&K, Ladakh youths join elite JAKLI regiment



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Sept 18: A total of 460 well-trained recruits Saturday joined the army here as young soldiers after a successful attestation parade at Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAKLI) centre, a defence spokesperson said.

However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the ceremony was conducted without the parents of the recruits following all the norms and advisors.

The attestation parade of recruit course serial number 126, de-

picting graduation of a recruit and his transformation into a young soldier, was reviewed by Commandant Officers Training Academy, Chennai and Colonel of JAKLI regiment Lt Gen M K Das at recruitment training camp Dansal, the spokesperson said.

He said the dauntless young soldiers of the regiment hailing from all regions and religions of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, marching in precise unison with a singular aim of devoting their lives in service of the nation, singing their regimental song

'Balidanam Veer Lakshnam', inspired one and all as their voice echoed in the entire region.

Their salute to the tricolour with national anthem playing inspired patriotic fervour amongst all present during the parade, the spokesperson said.

Lt Gen Das congratulated the young soldiers for their immaculate parade and impressed upon selfless service towards the nation.

He praised their contribution towards encouraging more and more youth from Jammu and Kashmir to come forward to join the security forces and also highlighted the vital role played by their parents in motivating their wards to join this noble profession. The young soldiers who excelled themselves in varied facets of training were also felicitated by Lt Gen Das.

Recruit Peer Sartaj Ahmed Wani was awarded the Sher-e-Kashmir Sword of Honour and Triveni Singh Medal for being adjudged 'Overall Best Recruit', while recruit Amandeep Singh Chib was awarded the Chewang Rinchen Medal for being 'Best in Firing'.

Recruit Parmeet Sharma was awarded the Maqbool Sherwani Medal for being 'Best in Physical Training' and Recruit Mohd Asad was awarded the Bana Singh Medal for being 'Best in Drill', the spokesperson said.

IAF to hold air show over Srinagar's Dal Lake Sept 26

THE AIR SHOW WILL BE ORGANISED BY THE AIR FORCE STATION SRINAGAR AND THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR ADMINISTRATION AS PART OF THE ONGOING CELEBRATIONS COMMEMORATING 'AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 18: An air show will be held here September 26 where IAF's skydiving team Akash Ganga and Suryakiran Aerobatic and Display Team and paramotor flying will maneuver the skies over the famous Dal Lake, officials said on Saturday.

The air show will be organised by the Air Force Station Srinagar and the Jammu and Kashmir administration as part of the ongoing celebrations commemorating 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', they said. The main aim of the exercise – under the theme 'Give Wings to Your Dream' – is to motivate the youth of the valley to join the Indian Air Force (IAF) and to promote tourism in the region, the officials said.

The event will be flagged off by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) over-



looking the Dal Lake.

More than 3,000 college and school students are expected to participate in the programme to witness the impressive maneuvers of the IAF, which will motivate them

to dream about a career in the force and in the aviation sector, the officials said.

The show will also develop passion among the students to give wings to their dreams. Along with



This October 26, Jammu & Kashmir would be celebrating the 75th anniversary of its accession to India and the Indian Army's first landing in Srinagar

The committee constituted 7 September 2021 has Principal Secretary Home, Shaleen Kabra, as Chairman. Administrative Secretaries of Rural Development, Department, Housing & Urban Development Department, General Administration Department, Department of Culture besides Special Director General of CID and Divisional Commissioner of

Jammu Kashmir are functioning as its members.

Even as some bureaucratic sources revealed that the personalities and the public assets had been identified and their CID clearance was in its final stage, Secretary Culture Sarmad Hafeez said that the committee's first meeting was expected anytime in the current month. As of now, I am not aware of any list of the names, he asserted.

According to well-placed sources, there was remarkable stress on naming several roads, bridges, parks, stadiums and other schemes after the national heroes the people who had laid sacrifice of life in clashes with terrorists, intruders or the enemy forces from 1947 to 2021.

ED moves court against Deshmukh for non-compliance of summons



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 18: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has moved a court here against former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh for failing to appear before the probe agency despite being summoned multiple times in a money laundering case.

The ED filed the plea in a special court Friday seeking action against Deshmukh under IPC section 174 (non-attendance in obedience to an order from public servant). The section attracts a simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or fine up to five hundred rupees or both.

The probe agency had issued multiple summonses to Deshmukh in the money laundering case registered against him by it. However, the NCP leader has failed to appear before it so far.

Two of Deshmukh's aides - Sanjeev Palande and Kundan Shinde - have been arrested in the case. They are currently in the judicial custody.

Besides the duo, the probe agency in its charge-sheet filed recently, has also named dismissed Mumbai police officer Sachin Waze as an accused. However, Deshmukh or his family members have not been made accused in the charge sheet.

The ED launched a probe against Deshmukh and his associates after the CBI filed an FIR against the NCP leader April 21 after former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh accused him of corruption.

Singh had alleged that Deshmukh had asked Waze to collect Rs 100 crore from city bars and hotels every month, a charge denied by the former minister.

Deshmukh resigned a minister in April this year.

by the IAF while flying aircraft in the sky over the world-famous Dal Lake, the officials said.

Stalls will be established at SKICC where students will be familiarised with the achievements of the Air Force, employment opportunities in the IAF, recruitment rules and eligibility criteria, they added.

Srinagar-based PRO Defence Col Emron Musavi said the display will include flypast by various aircraft of the IAF.

"The spectators would also get to witness paramotor flying and IAF's skydiving team Akash Ganga in action. 'Ambassadors of IAF', Suryakiran Aerobatic Display Team, will be performing in the valley after a gap of 14 years," he said.

Col Musavi said the symphony orchestra of the IAF would also be performing at the event.

The event would also consist of a photo exhibition depicting the history of the IAF, he said.

Looking forward to many more days of 2.1 crore vaccinations. This pace is what our country needs

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

Vaccination is not like cutting a cake on a birthday. Vaccination is a programme, it is a process. It has to be accelerated every day, not scale a peak on a birthday. I wish the PM celebrated his birthday every day

P CHIDAMBARAM | CONG LEADER

Congress always talked about tribal welfare in a bid to get their votes, but did not do anything for their well-being. Their intention was to divide the tribal votes by fielding different parties and faces

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Sonowal, Murugan for RS bypolls: BJP

New Delhi: The BJP Saturday named Union ministers Sarbananda Sonowal and L Murugan as its candidates for the Rajya Sabha bypolls in Assam and Madhya Pradesh respectively, according to a party statement. Both leaders were recently inducted into his Council of Ministers by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, necessitating their elections to Parliament in six months. Their election to the Rajya Sabha is all but certain as the BJP has a majority in the both state assemblies.

RN Ravi sworn-in as TN Governor

Chennai: Ravindra Narayan Ravi was Saturday sworn-in as the Governor of Tamil Nadu, succeeding Banwarilal Purohit who has since been shifted to Punjab. Ravi, shifted from Nagaland, said he saw his new role more as an opportunity than a challenge. Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, Sanjib Banerjee administered the oath of office to Ravi at an official ceremony held at the Raj Bhavan here. Chief Minister M K Stalin, his cabinet colleagues, Leader of Opposition K Palaniswami and others participated at the swearing-in. He is the 26th Governor of the state.

Centre reduces Supriyo's security

New Delhi: The Union government has scaled down the armed security cover of central paramilitary commandos given to Babul Supriyo who left the BJP and joined the Trinamool Congress Saturday, official sources said. The cover has been reduced from the second-highest level of Z category to Y category, after an order was issued by the Union home ministry Friday. The security cover given to VVIPs and high-risk personalities under the central scheme, ranges from the highest Z+ followed by Z, Y+, Y and X categories.

Porn-scam: Raj Kundra seeks bail

Mumbai: Four days after the Mumbai Police filed a charge sheet, businessman Raj Kundra - the prime accused in a porn racket - has filed a bail application seeking release as the investigations are now over. The bail plea is likely to come up for hearing before a Mumbai Sessions Court Monday. Kundra, whose earlier bail applications were rejected, has contended that since the Mumbai Police has already filed a charge sheet, it is clear that the probe against him is over and he is now entitled to bail.



But due to all your efforts, yesterday was a special day for me. Birthdays will come and go, but I will never forget yesterday. I cannot thank you all enough

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD

20 authors received the Sahitya Akademi Award for 2020 at a ceremony in New Delhi Saturday. The executive board also announced the Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize 2020 in 24 Indian languages Saturday



‘Indianisation of our legal system need of the hour’

When I say Indianisation, I mean the need to adapt to the practical realities of our society and localise our justice delivery systems: CJI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Sept 18: Chief Justice of India Justice NV Ramana called for Indianisation of legal system in the country Saturday in a function held in Vidhana Soudha in Bangalore organised by the Karnataka State Bar Council to pay tributes to Late Justice Mohana M Shantanagaudar.

Very often our justice delivery poses multiple barriers for the common people. The working and the style of courts do not sit well with the complexities of India. Our system, practices, rules being colonial in origin may not be best

suited to the needs of the Indian population, he opined.

The need of the hour is the Indianisation of our legal system. When I say Indianisation, I mean the need to adapt to the practical realities of our society and localise our justice delivery systems. For example, parties from a rural place fighting a family dispute are usually made to feel out of place in the court, he observed.

They do not understand the arguments or pleadings which are mostly in English, a language alien to them. These days judgments have become lengthy, which further complicates the position of



litigants, he elaborated.

For the parties to understand the implications of a judgment, they are forced to spend more money, he underlined.

Courts need to be litigant centric,

as they are the ultimate beneficiaries. The simplification of justice delivery should be our pressing concern. It is crucial to make justice delivery more transparent, accessible and effective, he noted.

Procedural barriers often undermine access to justice. The common man should not be apprehensive about approaching the courts and authorities. While approaching the Court, he should not feel scared of the Judges and Courts. He should be able to speak the truth, he said.

It is the duty of the lawyers and the judges to create an environment that is comforting for the litigants and other stakeholders. We must not forget that the focal point of any justice delivery system is the litigant is the justice seeker, he explained. In this light, usage of alternate dispute mechanisms such

as mediation and conciliation would go a long way in reducing the friction between parties and would save resources. This also reduces the pendency and requirement for having lengthy arguments with lengthy judgments. As Justice Warren Burger, the former Chief Justice of the United States stated, I quote- The notion that ordinary people want black-robed judges, well-dressed lawyers in fine courtrooms as settings to resolve their disputes is incorrect. People with problems, like people with pains, want relief and they want it as quickly and inexpensively as possible, he noted.

‘No need for booster doses at this stage’

Though India has not yet rolled out the third dose, there are reports some healthcare workers and politicians in Mumbai have taken a booster shot



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: Will a booster shot provide the turbocharge for Covid immunity that India is looking for? Maybe in an ideal situation where most people are fully vaccinated but not when less than a quarter of the adult population has received both doses, say experts.

As the global debate on booster shots gathers momentum, several scientists here said the priority must be to ensure that more people are inoculated with at least their first jab.

Immunologist Satyajit Rath said that less than 15 per cent of Indian adults have been vaccinated with two doses, and this clearly means that all Indians “who are more vulnerable to infection” have not yet necessarily gotten two doses.

“I therefore think that it is ethically

premature to begin planning a third dose to a fortunate category of people at this stage,” Rath, from New Delhi’s National Institute of Immunology (NII), told PTL.

“It is also pragmatically premature to do so, since we have no really clear idea of who is ‘more vulnerable to infection’.” We do know that some co-morbid categories are more vulnerable to serious illness, but two doses of the current vaccines currently protect quite well against that,” he explained.

Immunologist Vineeta Bal agreed, saying India should not think of providing booster doses at this stage when about 40 per cent of the eligible population is yet to receive the first dose.

In her view, vulnerable people, those with co-morbidities, may be considered for additional shots on a “case by case basis”.

“... but it has to be remembered that additional shots do not cover specific variants, which are supposed to be more ‘dangerous,’” Bal, guest faculty at Pune’s Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, told PTL.

“Hence the utility of an additional shot will be limited, in terms of expanding immunity,” she argued. Though India has not yet rolled out the third dose, there are reports some healthcare workers and politicians in Mumbai have taken a booster shot.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director General Balram Bhargava said earlier this week that a booster dose is not the central theme at the moment and getting two doses remains the major priority. On Friday, India administered a record over 2.5 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses, taking the cumulative number of doses administered in the country to 79.33 crore, according to data on the Co-WIN portal. With this, an estimated 63 per cent of India’s adult population has received its first dose and 21 per cent are fully vaccinated, official sources said. According to Rath, all current Covid vaccines in use worldwide remain very effective for protection against serious illness or death from the infection, without any booster doses.



People walk past a wall graffiti, painted as Tokyo 2020 Olympics medal winners athletes, in New Delhi, Saturday

Tharoor for change in Cong leadership

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 18: Three-time Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha member Shashi Tharoor Saturday said there should be a new leadership of the Congress party. None has spoken a word against Sonia Gandhi, but she herself is saying she wishes to step down and hence a new leadership should take over quickly. If Rahul Gandhi wishes to take over, it should happen quickly, said Tharoor to the media as he arrived near Ernakulam on a day that saw the party’s Punjab unit implode. He said if the Congress has to come back, things should fall in place quickly and should get ready to face the elections and for that it should happen now.

Oppn unity can’t be built by undermining leaders, says Congress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: The Congress Saturday accused the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress of undermining the leadership of the grand old party and said its attack on Rahul Gandhi was unwarranted and in poor taste.

The remarks of the Congress came after the TMC’s Bengali mouthpiece ‘Jago Bangla’ ran a cover story attacking Gandhi by saying he has failed to take on the BJP and Banerjee, who is the chief minister of West Bengal, should be the opposition’s face now.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said he has seen reports citing an article in the official publication of the Trinamool Congress (TMC).

The same is not in good taste as Rahul Gandhi – a former Congress president – is fighting a bigger battle to save democracy, he said.

Let me say that Rahul Gandhi and the Congress Party are fighting a bigger battle of saving democracy, protecting the Constitution and our national ethos that are under attack from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP-RSS, Surjewala said.

We also find the attack on Rahul



Gandhi is unwarranted and in poor taste, he said.

Jago Bangla had ran the cover story with the headline ‘Rahul Gandhi failed, Mamata is the alternate face’.

Surjewala said the Congress respects all political parties and their leadership and recognises their contribution in the united fight against the BJP.

Everyone must understand that Opposition unity cannot be built by undermining the leadership of other parties, including the Congress Party. In fact, all like-minded parties, including Mamta Banerjee ji, have repeatedly vowed to fight together. Hopefully, those writing such articles will take note of Mamata ji’s and Opposition parties’ stance, he said.

Congress leader in Lok Sabha and the party’s West Bengal chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the views expressed by TMC’s mouthpiece will weaken the unity and convergence among opposition parties.

Oppn-ruled states demand extension

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: Finance ministers of Opposition-ruled states have demanded that the GST compensation cess regime be extended beyond June 2022.

Briefing reporters after the 45th GST Council meeting in Lucknow Friday, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said the regime of paying compensation to states for revenue shortfall resulting from subsuming their taxes such as VAT in the uniform national tax GST

GST COMPENSATION

will end in June next year.

However, the compensation cess, levied on luxury and demerit goods, will continue to be collected till March 2026 to repay the borrowings that were done in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to compensate states for GST revenue loss.

In his speech at the meeting, Tamil Nadu Finance Minister P Thiagarajan demanded continuation of the compensation mechanism, and deferment of a decision on this issue.

“While we are broadly, and firmly in favour of the continuation of the compensation mechanism, we are concerned by many of the details,” he said.

Thiagarajan said all the Council Members will require some time to analyse and assess the features and consequences of the options presented during the 45th meeting, and hence expect that any decision on the way forward will be deferred to the 46th meeting at least.

“To be doubly sure, we formally place a request that no final decision be made on this most impor-

tant issue without the benefit of the time needed to fully assess the options,” Thiagarajan added.

Briefing reporters, Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopal on Saturday said he has pitched for extending the GST compensation regime as he highlighted that the state is already grappling with significant revenue shortfall.

In case the GST compensation regime ends next year, the state will face further revenue shortfall, Balagopal said and expressed hope that it would be extended.

About 50% rise in child marriage cases in 2020

EXPERTS SAY THE GRADUAL RISE IN THE CASES OF CHILD MARRIAGE MAY NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THERE HAS BEEN A JUMP IN SUCH INSTANCES BUT THAT THE REPORTING OF SUCH CASES HAS ALSO INCREASED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: About 50 per cent rise in the cases of child marriages has been recorded in 2020 over the previous year, according to the recent NCRB data, with experts saying it does not only mean there has been an increase in these instances but that there also has been a rise in reporting.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data of 2020, a total of 785 cases were registered under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.

The number of cases registered was the highest in Karnataka at 184, followed by Assam at 138, West Bengal at 98, Tamil Nadu at 77 and Telangana at 62.

In 2019, 523 cases were regis-

tered under the act, while in 2018, 501 cases were lodged.

According to the data, the number of cases registered under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act in 2018 was 501, in 2017 was 395, in 2016 was 326 and in 2015 was 293.

Child marriage, according to the Indian law, is a marriage in which either the woman is below the age of 18 or the man is below the age of 21.

Experts say the gradual rise in the cases of child marriage may not necessarily mean that there has been a jump in such instances but that the reporting of such cases has also increased.

Roop Sen, Founding Member of Sanjog, one of the NGOs which is a part of the Indian Leadership Forum Against Trafficking, a na-



tional platform by and for the survivors of human trafficking said the increased instances can be due to a number of factors.

It is a mix of both increased re-

porting and instances. There have been increased incidences of adolescents girls falling in love and eloping and getting married that also contribute to increased num-

Our staffs working in rural and slum areas tell us that child marriage has risen sharply during the pandemic. Many families have lost their livelihoods and, with children at home all day, they feel they have no choice but to marry their daughter to reduce the number of mouths they have to feed

ANINDIT ROY CHOWDHURY | DIRECTOR, PROGRAMMES AND POLICY, SAVE THE CHILDREN

ber of child marriages.

Many grassroots organisations say a distinction must be made on child marriages and child led marriages. These phenomena are very different. In a number of cases of elopement, POCSO is invoked, he said.

Kaushik Gupta, Advocate, Calcutta High Court, said government departments, DMs, local panchayats have become conscious, leading to an increase in reporting.

I do not think that there has been a gradual increase in child marriage I think there has been a gradual increase in reporting. Most importantly, the government department, the DM local panchayat have become conscious, hence the reporting has increased. They also want to show their efficiency by preventing cases and saying at the end of the day so many child marriages have been prevented, he said.

of the day quote

Only by confronting the truth of this cruel behaviour and humbly seeking forgiveness from victims and survivors (of clergy sexual abuse) can the church find the way to once again be considered and trusted as a place of welcome and security for those who need it.

POPE FRANCIS

On International Equal Pay Day, let's resolve to dismantle the discrimination and harmful gender stereotypes that contribute to the gender pay gap

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

After meetings in Dushanbe with leaders of Afghanistan's neighbours & especially a lengthy discussion with Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon, I have initiated a dialogue with the Taliban for an inclusive Afghan govt to include Tajiks, Hazaras & Uzbeks.

IMRAN KHAN | PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Crowds rally at US Capitol

Washington: In the shadow of a fortified Capitol, a few hundred demonstrators turned up Saturday for a rally to support those charged in January's riot, but were vastly outnumbered by the media and a heavy police presence. US Capitol Police were taking no chances, with hundreds of officers brought into Washington in an effort to avoid a repeat of the pre-inauguration attack. The fence around the Capitol was put back up, the city police force was fully activated and Capitol Police requested assistance from the National Guard. There were a few scuffles as the rally started and one person was arrested for carrying a knife, police said, but no major incidents were reported early on.

Houthis execute 9 over official's killing

Sanaa: Yemen's Houthi rebels Saturday said they executed nine people for their alleged involvement in the killing of a senior Houthi official in an airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition more than three years ago. The public executions by firing squad were carried out in the rebel-held capital of Sanaa, according to the Iranian-backed Houthis who distributed photos apparently showing the executions. The executions took place despite repeated calls by rights groups and lawyers to stop the killings. They said the trial held in a rebel-controlled court where the nine were convicted and sentenced to death was flawed. The nine were among more than 60 people the Houthis accused of involvement in the targeted killing of Saleh al-Samad in April 2018. Former President Donald Trump was also accused, according to court documents obtained by The Associated Press.

1st COVID case in American Samoa

Pago Pago: American Samoa, a US territory in the Pacific, reported its first case of coronavirus Friday. The territory's acting governor, Lt. Gov. Talauega Eleasalo Ale, and health officials said the islands' first case of COVID-19 was in a resident who returned to America Samoa from a trip to the US mainland and Hawaii earlier this week. The infected traveller flew in Monday, the first day of newly resumed commercial flights from Honolulu to Pago Pago. The route had been suspended since March 2020 because of the pandemic.



People just want to get back to normal and even at the best of times Canadians are never very enthusiastic about an election
JUSTIN TRUDEAU | CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER

COVAX MISSES TARGET

The latest supply forecast for Covax suggests that accelerating vaccination in low-income countries looks unlikely. Covax estimates it will have distributed 1.425 billion vaccine doses by the end of 2021, significantly less than the 2 billion doses it was aiming for earlier this year.



WORLD CLEANUP DAY



Diving instructor Carmela Sevilla holds a mesh bag filled with trash during an underwater cleanup drive in Bauan, Batangas Province, Philippines.

France recalls envoy protesting Australia-US submarine deal



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canberra, Sept 18: France's ambassador to Australia described Saturday as a "huge mistake" Australia's surprise cancellation of a major submarine contract in favour of a US deal, delivering a final protest as the envoy was recalled from the country in an unprecedented show of anger among the allies.

Jean-Pierre Thebault delivered his comments as he left his residence in the pandemic locked down capital of Canberra.

"This has been a huge mistake,

a very, very bad handling of the partnership," Thebault said, explaining that the arms agreement between Paris and Canberra was supposed to be based "on trust, mutual understanding and sincerity." Paris recalled its ambassadors to Australia and the United States Friday to protest a deal among the United States, Australia and Britain to supply Australia with a fleet of at least eight nuclear-power submarines.

Thebault flew out of Australia on a flight to Doha, Qatar, around 17 hours after the announcement

from Paris. The US deal scraps a 90 billion Australian dollar (\$66 billion) contract with French majority state-owned Naval Group, signed in 2016, to build 12 conventional diesel-electric submarines.

"I would like to be able to run into a time machine and be in a situation where we don't end up in such an incredible, clumsy, inadequate, un-Australian situation," the French ambassador added.

Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne's office earlier had issued a statement responding to the diplomat's recall and noting Canberra's "regret" over its ally's withdrawal of its representative.

"Australia understands France's deep disappointment with our decision, which was taken in accordance with our clear and communicated national security interests," the statement said. It added that Australia values its relationship with France and looked forward to future engagements together.

Payne and Defence Minister Peter Dutton are currently in the United States for annual talks with their US counterparts and their first with President Joe Biden's administration.

US admits Kabul drone strike killed 10 Af civilians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Sept 18: The US military has admitted that a deadly drone strike days before its pullout from Afghanistan was a "tragic mistake" as it did not kill the ISIS-K planners bent on attacking the Kabul international airport, and instead killed 10 innocent civilians, including an aid worker and seven children.

Briefing reporters on the results of the investigation of the August 29 drone strike in Kabul, General Kenneth Frank McKenzie, the commander of the US Central Command, also said it was "unlikely that the vehicle and those who died in the attack were associated with Islamic State-Khorasan or were a direct threat to US forces".

The strike by a Hellfire missile in Kabul on August 29, which was launched in an effort to kill ISIS-K planners, instead killed 10 civilians, he said. "Our investigation now concludes that the strike was a tragic mistake," he admitted.

The Pentagon had maintained that at least one ISIS-K facilitator and three civilians were killed in what Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. Mark Milley had previously called a "righteous strike" on the

compound in Kabul last month.

However, the strike must be considered in the context of the on-ground situation at the Hamid Karzai International Airport following the ISIS-K attack that killed 13 US soldiers and more than 100 Afghan civilians. Also, a substantial body of intelligence had indicated the imminence of another attack, McKenzie said.

He said that having thoroughly reviewed the findings of the probe and supporting analysis, he is convinced that as many as 10 civilians, including up to seven children, were tragically killed in that drone strike.

"It was a mistake, and I offer my sincere apology. As the combatant commander, I am fully responsible for this strike and this tragic outcome," he told reporters.

"Moreover, we now assess that it is unlikely that the vehicle and those who died were associated with ISIS-K or were a direct threat to US forces. I offer my profound condolences to the family and friends of those who were killed. This strike was taken in the earnest belief that it would prevent an imminent threat to our forces and the evacuees at the airport," he said.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pics show NK expanding uranium enrichment plant

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Sept 18: Recent satellite images show North Korea is expanding a uranium enrichment plant at its main Yongbyon nuclear complex, a sign that it's intent on boosting the production of bomb materials, experts say.

The assessment comes after North Korea recently raised tensions by performing its first missile tests in six months amid long-dormant nuclear disarmament diplomacy with the United States.

"The expansion of the enrichment plant probably indicates that North Korea plans to increase its production of weapons-grade uranium at the Yongbyon site by as much as 25 percent," Jeffrey Lewis and two other experts at Middlebury Institute of International Studies

at Monterey said in a report. The report said satellite images taken by Maxar shows construction in an area adjoining the uranium enrichment plant at Yongbyon.

It said a satellite image taken Sept 1 shows North Korea cleared trees and prepared the ground for construction and that a construction excavator is also visible. The report said a second image taken Sept 14 showed a wall erected to enclose the area, work on a foundation and panels removed from the side of the enrichment building to provide access to the newly enclosed area.

"The new area is approximately 1,000 square meters, enough space to house 1,000 additional centrifuges," the report said. "The addition of 1,000 new centrifuges would increase the plant's capacity to produce highly enriched ura-

nium by 25 percent." Nuclear weapons can be built using either highly enriched uranium or plutonium, and North Korea has facilities to produce both at Yongbyon. Last month, earlier satellite photos on Yongbyon showed signs that North Korea was resuming the operation of other facilities to produce weapons-grade plutonium.

North Korea calls the Yongbyon complex "the heart" of its nuclear programme. During a summit with then-President Donald Trump in early 2019, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un offered to dismantle the entire complex if he was given major sanctions relief. But the Americans rejected Kim's proposal because they viewed it as a limited denuclearization step.

Some US and South Korean experts speculate North Korea is



covertly running at least one additional uranium-enrichment plant. In 2018, a top South Korean official told parliament that North Korea was estimated to have already man-

ufactured up to 60 nuclear weapons as well. Estimates on how many nuclear weapons North Korea can add every year vary, ranging from six to as much as 18 bombs.

Af only nation to bar half its population from secondary edu

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 18: The Taliban have effectively banned girls from secondary education by ordering high schools to reopen only for boys.

The edict makes Afghanistan the only country on earth to bar half its population from getting a secondary education, the Guardian reported. Girls were not mentioned in Friday's announcement, which means boys will be back at their desks next week after a one-month hiatus, while their sisters will still be stuck at home, the newspaper said in the report.

The Taliban Education Ministry said secondary school classes for boys in grades seven to 12 would resume Saturday, the start of the Afghan week. "All male teachers and students should attend their educational institutions," the statement said. The future of girls and female teachers, stuck at home since the Taliban took control, was not addressed, the Guardian report said.

In a further sign that the recently announced Taliban government is tightening restrictions on women, the former ministry of women's affairs building in Kabul has been handed over to the newly re-established ministry for the prevention of vice and promotion of virtue. This was the group's feared enforcer in the 1990s, charged with beating women who violated bars on everything from going out in public without a male guardian to an obsessively prescriptive dress code that even forbade high heels, the report said.



Nearly 740 km or so of metro lines are operational in various cities in India and the network span is steadily scheduled to rise to about 900 km by 2022

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | UNION HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS MINISTER

The news of manipulation of World Bank's Doing Business Ranking is shocking. DB was under my charge from 2012 to 2016. There was pressure from govts. We never gave in. Sad that this changed. I may add, to India's credit, I never had pressure from India's govt—current or previous

KAUSHIK BASU | FORMER CHIEF ECONOMIST OF WORLD BANK

We are hopeful that after the recent High Court direction, the government will implement the Tariff Commission report soon. Implementation of new pricing will help the industry survive

RAGHAVENDRA GUPTA | CHAIRMAN, IMA

SHORT TAKES

Flipkart to add 1.2L suppliers by Dec

Bhubaneswar: Flipkart is currently on a track to add 1.2 lakh new sellers to its platform by December 2021. Flipkart has already added around 75,000 sellers on its platform over the last few months as MSMEs and small business entrepreneurs. The Flipkart marketplace supports digital commerce for 3.75 lakh sellers and is working towards taking this number to 4.2 lakh sellers on its platform. The new sellers and MSME base will predominantly come from Tier 2 and 3 markets such as Agra, Indore, Jaipur, Panipat, Rajkot, Surat, and others.

Britannia startup boost continues

Bhubaneswar: Britannia Marie Gold's My Startup campaign has successfully run across two seasons, providing funds and skill development for Indian homemakers to embark on their entrepreneurial journeys. In 2020, a partnership with NSDC helped the campaign provide 10,000 homemakers with basic communication skills, financial literacy through access to information and communication technology (ICT), along with micro entrepreneurial skills for socio economic self-reliance. In its Season 3, the campaign has been broadened to help homemakers leverage the internet to grow their businesses. 77% of homemakers who desire to set up their own ventures, consider technology as an enabler in this journey - as noted in the survey by Britannia and Momspresso.

Deadline shifted to link PAN, Aadhaar

New Delhi: Centre has extended the deadline for linking Aadhaar with PAN by six more months, till March 2022. The earlier deadline was till September 30. Accordingly, the decision came as a relief measure for tax players during pandemic era. "The Central Government, in continuation of its commitment to address the hardship being faced by various stakeholders on account of the Covid-19 pandemic, has, on consideration of representations received from various stakeholders, decided to extend timelines for compliances under the Income-tax Act, 1961," CBDT said in a statement late Friday night.



To realise the plan of 15,000 startups, the government will set up technology labs and incubators that will play a critical role for nascent firms to transform the state into a knowledge society

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | CM, KERALA

ZYDUS CADILA GETS USFDA NOD

Drug firm Zydus Cadila Saturday said it has received approval from the US health regulator to market Vortioxetine Tablets, used to treat depression, in the American market. Vortioxetine is used to treat depression. It works by helping to restore the balance of a certain natural substance (serotonin) in the brain



ISRO to help startup test rocket systems

THE PACT WILL ENABLE AGNIKUL COSMOS UNDERTAKE TESTS AND ACCESS FACILITIES AT ISRO CENTRES TO TESTING ITS 3D-PRINTED, SINGLE-PIECE, SEMI-CRYO ENGINE AND OTHER SYSTEMS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 18: The Department of Space (DoS) has entered into a Framework MoU with aerospace startup Agnikul Cosmos for access to ISRO facilities and expertise towards the development and testing of subsystems of space launch vehicles.

The MoU will enable the company to undertake multiple tests and access facilities at various ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) centres for testing and qualification of its single piece 3D printed Semi Cryo engine and other systems. It will

also enable Agnikul, based in National Centre for Combustion R&D of IIT-Madras, Chennai, to avail technical expertise of ISRO for testing and qualifying its space launch vehicle systems and sub-systems.

Agnikul said the MoU would formally enable it to go forward with its testing plans at ISRO. With this level of Govt support, low earth orbit does look close, tweeted the company, which raised USD 11 Million Series A round from institutional and angel investors earlier this year.

Top Agnikul officials met DoS secretary and ISRO Chairman, K



Sivan, who assured all support from DoS for qualifying Agnikul

launch vehicle systems. ISRO's Scientific Secretary and Chairman,

Interim IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre) Committee, R Umamaheswaran signed the MoU Friday on behalf of DoS and Agnikul CEO Srinath Ravichandran inked it from the company side.

Meanwhile, earlier this week, the ISRO Chairman inaugurated the spacecraft research laboratory at Bellatrix Aerospace located at the Indian Institute of Science campus here. This privately funded propulsion lab has in-house facilities for development and testing of electric and green chemical propulsion technologies, according ISRO.

Google abused Android dominance: CCI probe

The report finds the mandatory pre-installation of apps amounts to imposition of unfair condition on the device manufacturers in violation of India's competition law

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 18: Google abused the dominant position of its Android operating system in India, using its "huge financial muscle" to illegally hurt competitors, the country's antitrust authority found in a report on its two-year probe seen by agencies.

Alphabet Inc's Google reduced "the ability and incentive of device manufacturers to develop and sell devices operating on alternative versions of Android," says the June report by the Competition Commission of India's (CCI) investigations unit.

The CCI did not respond to a request for comment on the report. Senior CCI members will review the report and give Google another chance to defend itself, before issuing a final order, which could include penalties, said another person familiar with the case.

Its findings are the latest antitrust setback for Google in India, where it faces several probes in the payments app and smart television markets. The company has been inves-



ANTITRUST FINDINGS LATEST SETBACK FOR GOOGLE IN INDIA

GOOGLE LEVERAGED PLAY STORE'S DOMINANCE - REPORT

THIS WEEK, SK'S ANTITRUST REGULATOR FINED GOOGLE \$180M FOR BLOCKING CUSTOMISED VERSIONS OF ANDROID

tigated in Europe, the United States and elsewhere.

'VAGUE, BIASED AND ARBITRARY'

Google submitted at least 24 responses during the probe, defending itself and arguing it was not hurting competition, the report says.

Microsoft Corp, Amazon.com Inc, Apple Inc, as well as smartphone makers like Samsung and Xiaomi, were among 62 entities that responded to CCI questions during its Google investigation,

the report says.

Play Store policies were "one-sided, ambiguous, vague, biased and arbitrary", while Android has been "enjoying its dominant position" in licensable operating systems for smartphones and tablets since 2011, the report says.

India remains a key growth market for Google. It said last year it would spend \$10 billion in the country over five to seven years through equity investments and tie-ups, its biggest commitment to a key growth market.

No GSTR-1 filing for defaulters from '22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: Businesses that default on filing summary return and paying monthly GST will not be able to file GSTR-1 sales return of the succeeding month from January 1 next year.

The GST Council in its Lucknow meeting September 17 has decided to take a host of measures to streamline compliance, including mandatory Aadhaar authentication for businesses to file refund claims.

These moves would help prevent revenue leakage due to evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST), which was launched July 1, 2017.

Currently, the law restricts filing of return for outward supplies or

GSTR-1 in case a business fails to file GSTR-3B of preceding two months. The Council has also made Aadhaar authentication of GST registration mandatory for being eligible for filing refund claim and application for revocation of cancellation of registration.

The notification also provided that in case businesses do not provide Aadhaar number, then GST registration would be granted only after physical verification of the place of business.

The Council has now decided businesses will now have to link their GST registration with biometric Aadhaar for claiming tax refunds as also applying for revocation of cancellation of registration.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 18: Khimji Jewellers, the largest jewellery brand of Odisha, has been conferred with India's Coolest Store Award 2021 under the category 'India's Coolest Success Story' for having the most inspiring success story with a legacy of 85 years.

Sumeet Khimji, director of Khimji Jewellers, received the award from the popular Bollywood actress Chitrangada Singh at Taj Diplomatic Enclave held in Delhi. The second edition of Coolest Store Award was organized by the Indian Jeweller Magazine, one of the major magazines of Indian Jewellery industry.

Expressing his gratitude, Sumeet Khimji said, "It is an honor to receive India's Coolest Store award which is the coolest yet prestigious



award of the industry. Since its inception, Khimji Jewellers has been dedicated to deliver excellence to people. We always believe in catering best jewellery experience to our customers, and provide them with an essence of exclusivity and trust resonating luxury."

Khimji Jewellers was established in the year 1936 with its

first jewellery store in Baripada of Mayurbhanj district, Odisha. At present, it is the largest jewellery brand of Odisha with its presence in the entire state. From its exclusive jewellery designs, to luxurious showrooms, the jewellery brand is also recognised as the most eminent lifestyle brand of the state.

Cryptocurrency Hyper Fund under govt scanner

With the Multi-Level Marketing model, Hyper Fund has been luring investors with higher returns, a common practice under ponzi schemes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 18: The government is keeping a close eye on cryptocurrency floating in the market based out of the country following alert that agencies responsible to check financial fraud are watching a company called Hyper Fund.

Sources said Hyper Fund, a DEFI by Hyper Tech Group has come under the radar recently. The Group claims to have launched the Hyper Fund to provide a decentralized financial infrastructure. Hyper Fund was announced in mid-2020.

As per the company website it

is led by Ryan Xu, however, with the Multi-Level Marketing (MLM) model Hyper Fund has been luring investors with higher returns and such offerings, a common practice under Ponzi Schemes, that got the authorities alerted in the first place.

According to sources, complaints against such Funds have started pouring in several states. In India, the RBI, Union Finance Ministry and SEBI had warned people against cryptocurrency trading. The RBI is planning to launch India's official digital currency: E Rupee soon.

Regulators in UK have issued warning against such fund and



the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) have warnings issued for both Hyper Fund and Fund Advisor. On its website, which was first published March 23, 2021 and later updated August 31, the FCA said,

"We believe this firm may be providing financial services or products in the UK without our authorisation. Almost all firms and individuals offering, promoting or selling financial services or

US probes possible insider trading at Binance

Washington: US officials are examining possible insider trading and market manipulation at Binance, Bloomberg News reported Friday, potentially adding more heat to the cryptocurrency exchange that has become a target of regulatory scrutiny in many countries. Authorities are looking into whether Binance or its staff profited by taking advantage of its customers, Bloomberg reported, citing people with knowledge of the matter. "At Binance, we have a zero-tolerance policy for insider trading and a strict ethical code related to any type of behavior that could have a negative impact on our customers or industry," the world's biggest crypto platform said in a statement. The company has faced warnings and business curbs from financial watchdogs from Britain and Germany to Japan, who are concerned over the use of crypto in money laundering and risks to consumers.

products in the UK have to be authorised or registered by us. This firm is not authorised by us and is targeting people in the UK."

Centre hikes domestic airline capacity, tweaks airfare caps formula

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 18: Airlines can now operate a maximum of 85 per cent of their pre-Covid domestic flights instead of the 72.5 per cent allowed till date and set their own fares for tickets beyond fifteen days of the booking date, the Ministry of Civil Aviation stated Saturday.

The easing of capacity and pricing restrictions comes after several rounds of discussions between Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and CEOs of airlines.

Till now price caps were applicable on tickets up to 30 days from the booking date. The move will enable airlines to operate more flights and will push up passenger loads with the onset of festive season next month. Notably, the ministry in an order issued Saturday said that if the fare cap applicability date starts from September 20, the fare bands shall be applicable till October 4. However, any booking done September 20 for travel on or after October 5 shall not come under the fare bands.

"On the following day, if the current date is September 21, the fare bands shall be in force till October 5, and for travel on or after October 6, the fare bands shall not be applicable. So, the fare bands will shift by a day every day," the ministry said. Besides, the current fare cap shall be further applicable up to 15 days with immediate effect.

The minimum and maximum fare chargeable shall continue to be rolled over for the 15-day cycle or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Covid-19 might shift India's growth model

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 18: The Covid-19 pandemic could act as an inflection point to shift India's growth model from being consumption driven to investments-led.

In its Ecoscope report, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said with Covid-19 hurting India's 'Household' (HH) and 'Government' sectors adversely, the continuity of strong consumption growth is in question.

On the contrary, with listed companies' financial positions improving and an uptick in household investments in the Real Estate sector (called physical savings), the narrative of investment-led recovery is gaining momentum.

The report prescribed that various economic participants - households, governments, listed companies, and unlisted corporates -- to increase their fixed asset investments in the immediate future based on their financial position.

At present, the listed and unlisted corporate sector accounts for only about half of total investments in India.

The 'HH' sector including unincorporated enterprises accounts for 35-40 per cent in India's investments, while the remaining 12-13 per cent is contributed by centre and states governments.

It further pointed out that unless 'HH', 'Unlisted Corporate', and government sectors can improve their financial positions - leading to a demand uptick -- a strong revival in investments seems challenging.



STAGE SET FOR PART 2

Indian Premier League returns as precursor to ICC T20 World Cup; defending champions Mumbai Indians face longtime rivals Chennai Super Kings today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 18: Players will be getting valuable experience in the UAE conditions ahead of the T20 World Cup while the Indian cricket board will be hoping its money-spinner stays away from the looming COVID-19 shadow when the IPL resumes with the blockbuster Chennai Super Kings-Mumbai Indians clash here Sunday.

As the second wave of COVID-19 wreaked havoc in India in April-May, the water-tight IPL bio-bubble was also breached, forcing the suspension of the tournament after 29 games.

With too much at stake for all stakeholders including the players, teams and BCCI, there was little doubt over the completion of the world's biggest T20 competition. It was only about when the BCCI would squeeze in the IPL in an ever-pack global calendar.

After a few alterations in the franchise cricket and international calendar, the best possible window was found with the BCCI slotting in the tournament as the lead up to the T20 World Cup.

Last week, doubts over smooth conduct of the tournament resurfaced with the outbreak of COVID-19 in the Indian team's camp in England but fortunately for the organisers, the issue did not escalate and the available Indian and

English players arrived here safely.

The entire IPL was held in the UAE last year without any hassles and the BCCI will be hoping for a similar experience this time around.

Fans, albeit a limited number, will also be present at an IPL venue for the first time since 2019, adding immensely to the event's spectacle.

Though the squads have already been announced for the World Cup, an IPL performance seldom gets unnoticed and there could be some players, including Indians, who make the squad in the 11th hour in case of injury with the ICC allowing changes until October 10.

India skipper Virat Kohli, who will step down from T20 captaincy after the World Cup, would love to get his hands on the elusive trophy and Royal Challengers Bangalore showed signs earlier in the season that they could finally go all the way.

Delhi Capitals, who finished runners-up in 2020, are leading the points tally and are primed to win their maiden title. The other teams in the top four are three-time champions CSK, RCB and the mighty Mumbai Indians, the winner of a record five titles and the team to upstage.

There are 31 games to be played in UAE conditions instead of the usual 60 and that could mean good pitches for the majority of the tournament. With the conditions different from India and pitches expected to be slower, all teams have emphasised on starting from scratch.

CSK and MI renew their celebrated rivalry to kick start the IPL resumption Sunday Having al-

STANDINGS


Teams	M	W	L	NRR	Pts
DC	8	6	2	+0.547	12
CSK	7	5	2	+1.263	10
RCB	7	5	2	-0.171	10
MI	7	4	3	+0.062	8
RR	7	3	4	-0.190	6
PK	8	3	5	-0.368	6
KKR	7	2	5	-0.494	4
SRH	7	1	6	-0.623	2

ready played half of their 14 league games, MI, who have three wins from seven games, can't afford another slow start.


CSK, aka Dad's Army, finally seemed to have found a winning combination after the disappointment of 2020. Their young guns like Ruturaj Gaikwad and Sam Curran delivered in the first half of the season while their spinners – Imran Tahir, Moeen Ali and Ravindra Jadeja – also came to the party. Moeen and Jadeja also impressed with the bat. Now the team will be hoping its stalwarts, skipper Dhoni and Suresh Raina, too find their touch.

MI, on the other hand, will be hoping to up their game like they often do in pressure situations. Their famed middle-order did not exactly set the stage on fire and

Most Runs (Top 5)

Players	M	50s	100s	HS	Avg	SR	Runs
 Shikhar Dhawan (DC)	8	3	0	92	54.28	134.27	380
KL Rahul (PK)	7	4	0	91*	66.20	136.21	331
Faf Du Plessis (CSK)	7	4	0	95*	64.00	145.45	320
Prithvi Shaw (DC)	8	3	0	82	38.50	166.48	308
Sanju Samson (RR)	7	0	1	119	46.16	145.78	277

Most wickets (Top 5)

Players	M	Avg	Eco	SR	BB	W
 Harshal Patel (RCB)	7	15.11	9.17	9.88	5/27	17
Avesh Khan (DC)	8	16.50	7.70	12.85	3/32	14
Chris Morris (RR)	7	16.00	8.61	11.14	4/23	14
Rahul Chahar (MI)	7	18.36	7.21	15.27	4/27	11
Rashid Khan (SRH)	7	17.20	6.14	16.80	3/36	10

TOTAL 6s	TOTAL 4s
380	810
Highest team total (20 Overs) : 221/6, PK (v RR)	Lowest team total (20 Overs) : 133/9, KKR (v RR)

their bowling in the powerplay also can be better.

Skipper Rohit Sharma, who has been in stellar touch of late, will be expected to continue in the same vein and the likes of Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan and leggie Rahul Chahar, come

into the event a more confident trio having made the World Cup squad.

Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya would be expected to bowl regularly in the tournament which will also tell the India selectors on how he is shaping ahead of the ICC showpiece.

Sehwag lauds MSD inclusion as mentor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: MS Dhoni was always a bowlers' captain in white ball cricket and his presence as team mentor for the T20 World Cup will immensely benefit Jasprit Bumrah and Co, feels former India opener Virender Sehwag.

Dhoni was recently named mentor for the mega event by the BCCI. "I am very happy that MS accepted the offer to be the Team Mentor for the T20 World Cup. I know many people want that MS should again comeback into the mainstream of Indian cricket and being roped in as the mentor is the best thing that could have happened," Sehwag told this agency in an exclusive interview.

Sehwag, who has played alongside Dhoni for a decade, knew what his core strength was as a captain and that is understanding his bowlers' psyche in limited overs format.

"As a keeper, MS was exceptional with his understanding of field placements and this is something that will help the bowling unit in this World Cup. The bowlers can pick his brains and get useful tips on planning against a batsman," the explosive opener of yesteryears said.

For Sehwag, there can't be a better 'mentor' than Dhoni when it comes to young players, who are a bit introvert and need someone to guide them as they try to express themselves on the field.

"There are always players in any international side, who are shy and

do hesitate to go up to their skipper and strike up a cricketing conversation. MS has always been that kind of a person who is easily approachable and also a perfect trouble shooter for youngsters."

While the BCCI has announced the 15-member squad with three reserves, Sehwag believes that with ICC giving a window to change teams till October 10, there could still be room for some good performers, who have missed the bus.

"100%. We have around seven matches minimum left for the teams. That means you still have a platform to perform and those who are on the fringes could still impress the Indian selectors who would be watching the tournament closely.

"Since ICC allows a window to change teams, I will not be surprised if there are some changes in the original squad," the Nawab of Najafgarh said.

Talking about Virat Kohli, Sehwag said that Kohli at least owes one IPL trophy to Bangalore since he enjoys such a huge fan following.

"IPL is important for every captain but I think more so for Virat as with his huge fan base, everyone wants Virat to win a trophy for the Bangalore franchise. If not multiple times then at least once in his tenure as captain," the 42-year-old said.

"This has been a strange year off the field due to pandemic and who knows it might be a different year for Bangalore from previous seasons and they go on to win the trophy."



Pant spending time on balcony to get acclimatised to conditions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 18: Coming off a long tour of the United Kingdom, Delhi Capitals captain Rishabh Pant sought to get acclimatised to the UAE's extreme heat by spending time on the balcony of his hotel room during the mandatory quarantine.

However, it was still not comfortable when he did his first training session Friday ahead of the IPL's resumption. Pant said that he is currently focussing on getting used to the conditions in the UAE.

"It's pretty hot here in the UAE. I was trying to sit on the balcony during my quarantine period as much as possible to get used to the conditions. But, it still felt quite



hot when I took part in my first practice session here.

"I'm just trying to get used to the conditions now and hopefully, I will be fully acclimatised to the conditions in 2-3 days," Pant said in a release issued by Delhi Capitals.

Bopanna, Ramkumar crack in must-win tie

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Espoo (Finland), Sept 18: Rohan Bopanna and Ramkumar Ramanathan blew away their chances in the must-win doubles match as India lost the World Group I tie to Finland after conceding an unassailable 0-3 lead, here Saturday.

Captain Rohit Rajpal changed the doubles combination at the last minute by pairing Bopanna with Ramkumar instead of left-handed Divij Sharan but nothing helped as they lost the crucial match 6-7(2-7), 6-7(2-7) to Henri Kontinen and Harri Heliovaara in one hour and 38 minutes.

Both Prajnesh Gunneswaran and Ramkumar had lost their singles matches Friday and to stay alive in the tie, the Indians needed to win the doubles. The reverse singles have now been rendered inconsequential.

After doing all the hard work, the

Indians cracked at crucial junctures. At 3-3, the Indian pair attacked the serve of Heliovaara, going 30-all but the home player served big on the next two points to ensure the set stays on serve.

Eventually the opening set went to tie-breaker. Ramkumar's double fault and a volley error at the net gave Finland pair five set points. They converted the second when Ramkumar could not return Kontinen's serve.

A forehand winner by Ramkumar at 30-all in the second game of the second set, set up the first break chance for India and they converted when Kontinen could not return Bopanna's backhand.

In the second-set tie-breaker, Heliovaara pulled off a sensational forehand winner at 5-2 to get to first match point and it was all over for India when Ramkumar could not return the ball in the next point.



Kumble, Laxman in BCCI's plans as India coach

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 18: Life may come to a full circle for Anil Kumble as the Sourav Ganguly-led BCCI might ask him to apply for the post of head coach of the Indian team along with VVS Laxman once Ravi Shastri finishes his term after the T20 World Cup.

Kumble was the coach of the Indian team for a year between 2016-17 when the Cricket Advisory Committee headed by Sachin Tendulkar, Laxman and Ganguly had appointed him, replacing Shastri.

However, a bitter fall-out with captain Virat Kohli led to Kumble tendering his resignation after the Champions Trophy final defeat against Pakistan.

Along with Kumble, the board may also approach Laxman, who has been a mentor of the IPL side



Sunrisers Hyderabad for some years now. However, Kumble will be favourite even as Laxman are ready to also remain in contention.

"Anil Kumble's exit needs course correction. The manner in which the CoA succumbed to the pressure of Kohli and removed him,

wasn't the best example set. However, it also depends on whether Kumble or Laxman are ready to apply for the job," a senior BCCI source privy to development told this agency on conditions of anonymity.

Kohli has already announced

DELHI FC PLAY OUT 2-2 STALEMATE WITH BENGALURU FC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 18: Delhi FC and Bengaluru FC played out a thrilling 2-2 draw in a high-octane Group C match of the 130th Durand Cup at the Mohun Bagan ground here Saturday.

Willis Deon Plaza (58th, 62nd minutes) scored a brace for Delhi FC while Siva Sakthi N (27th) and Bidyashagar Singh (75th) scored the

two goals for Bengaluru FC. Group C is now wide open with all four teams having a chance to advance to the next stage.

The first half was a relatively quiet affair with both teams creating opportunities but failing to convert on most occasions. The slippery conditions here did not help either.

However, in the 27th minute, Siva Shakti took a brilliant shot at



goal to put the Blues ahead. Delhi FC played catch up post that. There were some great moments created by Willis and Himanshu Jangra in the first half but Bengaluru keeper Lara did well.

The second half was an absolute turnaround with both teams looking all charged up. Delhi FC were the more dominant team and in the 58th minute, Willis scored the equalizer courtesy a brilliant header.

The Trinidad and Tobago national scored his second of the game four minutes later.

Bidyashagar then collected a well-directed cross from Harmanpreet Singh, made no mistake and scored the equaliser in the final quarter.

Both teams gave it their all to go one ahead in the final minutes but the match ended in a draw with the two sides earning a point each.

SEPTEMBER 19-25, 2021

SUNDAY POST

HERE . NOW



INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF THE DEAF

Beating the Odds

P
3,4 COVER STORY



**KENDRA
SANGEET NATAK
AKADEMI
WINNING CHHAU
EXPONENT
SADASIBA
PRADHAN TRAINS
SLUM KIDS AT HIS
LEISURE TO KEEP
THE DYING FOLK
DANCE FORM
ALIVE**



Keeping the Flame Burning

As the semi-classical dance form now faces an existential crisis, concerted effort is needed for its survival. I am writing a book on Mayurbhanj Chhau to popularise it and to pay tribute to my Guru Srihari Nayak, a legendary exponent of the dance.

Innovation is Key

I eat, drink and breathe dance which has been my driving force in life. On Sundays, I choreograph new steps for fresh presentations and prepare scripts for dance dramas.



Pet Lover

I spend some quality time with my pet dog Naruto and a few winged guests who are regular visitors on my terrace. The pleasure of birds picking grains from my hand cannot be described in words.

Avid Gardener

Gardening is my favourite pastime. I have a big garden that houses plants such as pansies, petunias, impatiens and different types of rose and marigold. All are my prized possessions for the vibrant colour they add to the landscape.

Mentoring Young Talents

I love to train slum children free of cost. A few of them even showcased their talent at many cultural events under my tutelage. This I do to keep the dying dance form alive.



Sadasiba Pradhan being felicitated by late President Pranab Mukherjee

With aspiring dancers during a training session

RASHMI REKHA DAS, OP

**WhatsApp
This Week**

Only on Sunday POST!

Send in your most interesting Whatsapp messages and memes received to: features.orissapost@gmail.com
And we will publish the best ones

THE BEST MEMES OF THIS ISSUE

- When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.
- Smiles are contagious... Be a carrier!
- My wallet is like an onion, opening it makes me cry.
- I was born intelligent, but education ruined me.

MOST AWAITED BIOPIC

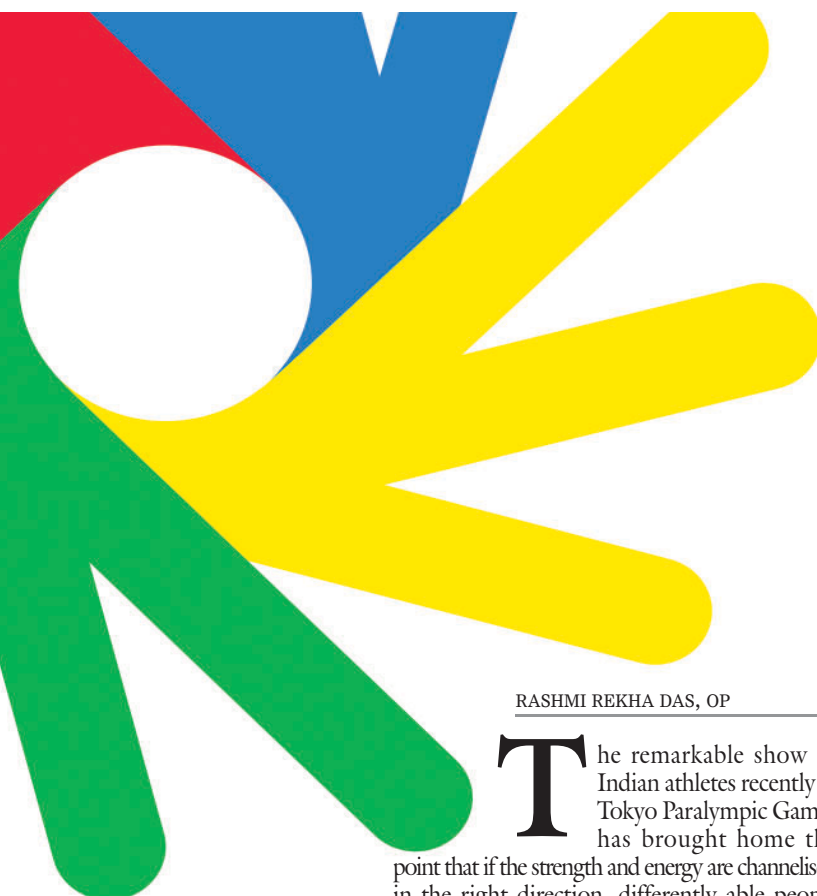
Dear Sir, It was heartening to learn that a biopic is being made on the eventful life of Sourav Ganguly, one of the most successful captains to lead the Indian cricket team. At a time when most fans had lost interest in the game, following the match-fixing fiasco in late 1990s, Sourav took charge. His aggressive style of leading and some great decisions in the greater interest of Indian cricket breathed life into the game in the subcontinent. Sourav Ganguly was a part of a legendary batting line-up that consisted of Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, and VVS Laxman. They were called the 'Fab 4' back then as they held Team India together for a long time. I look forward to watching the biopic to know some little known facts of Sourav's life.

JITENDRA GOCHHAYAT, KOLKATA

LETTERS

A WORD FOR READERS

Sunday POST is serving a platter of delectable fare every week, or so we hope. We want readers to interact with us. Please send in your opinions, queries, comments and contributions to features.orissapost@gmail.com
B-15, Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar - 751010, Orissa.
Phone (0674) 2549982, 2549948



INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF THE DEAF

Beating the Odds

RASHMI REKHA DAS, OP

The remarkable show of Indian athletes recently at Tokyo Paralympic Games has brought home the point that if the strength and energy are channelised in the right direction, differently able people can achieve astonishing feats that non-disable ones can only dream about.

People like Pramod Bhagat and Krishna Nagar have turned role models for many who believe in themselves despite their physical disability.

Like Pramod and Krishna, there are many amazing sports personalities in Odisha who too have proved that they are not less able.

Ahead of International Week of the Deaf (IWDeaf), **Sunday POST** profiled a few stellar performers for whom disability is just a state of mind.

Loma Swain

Girls with disabilities often suffer from psychological trauma and are subjected to discrimination. It's not easy for them to fight with physical shortcomings. But Loma Swain was made of sterner stuff. Despite being deaf and mute, the girl from Bhutamundai village in Jagatsinghpur district, has so far bagged 14 gold medals by representing India in karate, judo and wrestling.

The Plus III final year student of Satyabhama Devi College for Hearing Impaired in Bhubaneswar, has made the state proud by winning two gold medals under 'Kata' and 'Kumite' categories of karate at the 14th International Karate Championships held at Kandy in Sri Lanka, May 8, 2016. However, Loma's journey



Loma Swain



Loma her gold medal at a state-level competition

was not an easy one.

Her father Sanjay Swain, a social worker, says "When Loma was found deaf-mute at the age of two, we were devastated. It was quite depressing when neighbours and some relatives made fun of her impairment. She was not allowed to play with their kids. So, I made up my mind to help Loma create her own identity to earn the respect of others. She used to take a lot of interest in karate. So, I encouraged her to take up the sport as a career. I was a state-level wrestler and that enabled me to help her at the beginning."

"Then I hired a trainer who took her karate classes at home. Later she joined Sriharsha Mishra School for Deaf & Dumb in Bhubaneswar for high school education and also took admission in Utkal Karate School.

It was famous coach Hariprasad Patnaik who took her in his fold and encouraged her to take part in state level competitions. Then there was no looking back for her."

Despite being physically challenged, Loma takes part in competitions in the general category. Besides, she has also won state-level wrestling championship twice in the general category. In 2019, she also bagged a gold medal for judo in the senior category at a national-level judo competition.

Loma, the second daughter of Sanjay and Jyotirmayee was also selected as the icon by the Khurda district administration to encourage physically-challenged voters to exercise their franchise in the general elections.

Sarita Routray

Despite her physical limitations, Sarita's athletic achievements often give complex to the able-bodied sportsmen and women. She has represented India in cycling (the only one from the state) at the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games held in Los Angeles, USA and in floor hockey at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria, helping her team clinch the bronze medal. Besides, she is very good at floor ball and beach volleyball. She participated in Unified Beach Volleyball event organised by the World Summer Games Organising Committee in 2015, and grabbed the individual medal.

Apart from her international appearances, she has bagged scores of gold, silver and bronze medals at several district, state and national level tournaments in athletics, bocce, cycling, floor hockey and floor ball. That's not all. She is an exponent of Odissi also.

It is not only a Pramod Bhagat or a Krishna Nagar, who reaped golds at Tokyo Paralympics, there are quite a few challenged sports personalities in Odisha who haven't let 'dis' come in front of their 'ability'.



Sarita at 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games (File photo)



Sarita Routray

Celebs With Hearing Loss

RAJEEV BAGGA

He is an Indian born deaf badminton player, who represents Britain. He was Indian national champion, and reached the main stage of the 1990 All England Open Badminton Championships, the only deaf person to do so. He has won 12 golds and been singles champion at the Deaflympics from 1989 to 2001, and was named 'Deaflympian of the Century' by the International Committee of Deaf Sports in 2001. In 1991, he won India's highest sports honour, the Arjuna award.



VIDISHA BALIYAN

She is an Indian female deaf model, beauty pageant winner and a retired tennis player. She has represented India at the 2017 Summer Deaflympics and also represented India at the 2019 Miss & Mister Deaf World contest. In 2019, she won the Miss Deaf World Contest and became the first ever Indian to be crowned as a Miss Deaf World.



Bill Clinton

The former US President has had high-frequency hearing loss for most of his life. It makes it harder to make out the voices of children and women. At age 51, Clinton was fitted with two hearing aids after his 1997 physical.



Halle Berry

Academy Award winner Halle Berry, who has starred in a multitude of blockbusters, suffers from hearing loss, having lost 80 per cent of hearing in her right ear. This was a result of domestic violence from an abusive former partner. Berry has since become a champion of domestic violence reduction.



Whoopi Goldberg

This Academy Award-winning actor wears two hearing aids. Goldberg blames it on years of listening to loud music. She has trouble making out low-pitch sounds, which is less common than hearing loss in high frequencies.



Anuskhya Acharya

Anuskhya's speech and hearing disabilities couldn't stop her from achieving sporting excellence at national level. She bagged two bronze medals at the VIIth National Badminton Championship for the Deaf in Uttar Pradesh and another at 20th National Games at Hyderabad. She also won silver at the 4th National Junior Games. The same year, she became the first deaf and mute girl to win the State School Games. Later, she



Anuskhya Acharya

participated in State School Badminton Championship (senior) at Damanjodi and finished third. For her sporting achievement, Anuskhya was conferred with Best Sports Person of the Year in 2019 by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. That apart, she participated in the Inclusive Fashion Show by Inclusive Talent Society Trust held in January 2020 and bagged first position and went to Delhi to represent

Odisha.

Despite her achievements, some people did not approve of her playing the sport, says her father Pravat Acharya, an engineer at Doordarshan. "But I am confident that through this, my daughter will have a secure future and she will become independent," he adds.

About Anuskhya's tryst with badminton, Pravat says, "She started showing a liking towards badminton after watching a match on television. It was then I took her to Sahid Nagar-based Indoor Hall where she played badminton. However, neighbours and relatives asked us not to give too much attention to her interest in sports and send her to a hostel. They never allowed their children to play with Anuskhya. In the meantime, she started playing badminton matches and enjoyed them. She didn't look back after that. She has already brought laurels for the state and we are confident she will one day make her presence felt at the international level.



Anuskhya sharing dias with winners at Inclusive Fashion Show



Houses of Parliament

A MEMORABLE

Autumn in Ottawa

forth in all its kaleidoscopic glory.

The first glimpse of Ottawa, that's considered one of the world's most attractive capitals reveals wide, open spaces with a cosmopolitan population spread out, freely displaying a symbiotic relationship between nature and human beings. Long walks by the banks of the Ottawa and Rideau rivers during crimson sunsets can be a tranquil out-of-the-world experience that is highlighted by changing hues of maple, English oak, elm and other trees. The ground is replete with yellow, brown, orange and red leaves shed from woody trees.

Walking through spick and span tree-lined streets with appealing houses featuring manicured lawns, perennial flower beds, huge trees laden with leaves in Fall hues sans boundary fences or walls instils a sense of soothing pleasure. With Halloween round the corner, decorated pumpkins and stuffed Jacks-in-trousers, shirts and hats are often displayed outside residences.

One of the major highlights in Canada is its exceptionally well-maintained public transport system that's perhaps the best in the world. A day's bus pass allows you to board any bus or train throughout the day any number of times. And if you happen to be a senior citizen above 65, Wednesdays are free! The sophisticated luxury buses with only a driver to oversee the tickets or passes are always punctual. No waiting time as the movements of buses or trains can be monitored on the mobile phone. Uber cab owners, often immigrants from countries like Sudan, Turkey, Ethiopia, Bangladesh and occasionally India are highly educated professionals who drive their cars around to earn an extra buck. "It's the best way to develop your communication skills," opines Shalom whose boss advised him to drive around for six months in order to hone his presentation skills. Most of the cab owners or drivers are very informal and love to talk about the regimes and countries they have migrated from.

The immaculate trains, slick escalators, underground metro connectivity services are something one has to experience to believe. For senior citizens, Wednesday offers exclusive discounts on purchases in selected shops. Posh apartments for retired persons who can afford 3500 Canadian dollars a month are available to foster bonds of companionship and camaraderie amongst senior citizens.

One of the most happening places in Ottawa is the Parliament Hill. A lot akin to Britain's Houses of Parliament in London, the Gothic style Canadian Parliament Buildings comprising

the Senate, the House of Commons and Library are located on Parliament Hill. Green roofs of the three buildings with graceful spires jutting out remind you of London. The lighted clock on the Peace Tower stands out imposingly. Many national festivals, public ceremonies are celebrated on the grounds here. Canadian Independence Day July 1st every year is marked by amazing parades and fireworks.

To be continued...

The writer is a retired principal of Chatrapur Women's college, Ganjam



Succulent apples to be relished

SUJATA PATNAIK

Pronounced AHT uh wuh, the Canadian capital is a scenic city, resplendent with unparalleled natural beauty. Luminous lakes, sparkling springs, gushing rivers, lush green tree-lined parks and myriads of flower beds lend picturesque majesty to the panoramic landscape.

With the advent of fall, the green leaves of the ubiquitous maple and other deciduous trees change colour, first into golden yellow, then light crimson and other stunning shades to finally transform into flaming red. A sight to behold! Autumnal leaves shed to reveal dark frames of skeletal branches whose silhouettes can be equally enticing during scarlet sunsets. The change, a gradual process, is unevenly spread across the encompassing foliage. Hence the season lends a unique tapestry to the parks, woodlands and cityscape. Visitors to the city during September-October, when there is a nip in the air are greeted to this riot of colours as Nature bursts



Carpet of maple leaves in Rideau Hall Gardens

Tabu reunites with Vishal Bhardwaj

Tabu and filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj make for a hit pair. The duo has worked together in blockbusters like *Maqbool* and *Haider* and a third film seems to be in the offing. According to a news portal, Vishal has roped in Tabu for his next directorial venture, an action packed entertainer.

Interestingly, Vishal's son Aasmaan Bhardwaj is all set to debut as a filmmaker with *Kuttey* which also stars Tabu as one of the leads. *Kuttey* also features Arjun Kapoor, Naseeruddin Shah, Konkona Sen Sharma, Kumud Mishra, Radhika Madan and Shardul Bhardwaj in pivotal roles.

Vishal said, "*Kuttey* is extremely special to me as it is my first collab-

oration with Aasmaan and I'm excited to see what he does with it. Luv Films and Vishal Bhardwaj Films are also coming together for the first time and I am immensely excited about this association. I have worked with Naseer Sahab, Tabu, Konkona and Radhika on different films throughout my career and Aasmaan has brought them all together in one film itself. We cannot wait for the audience to witness this captivating thriller on the big screen."

AGENCIES



Kriti's revelation about sister Nupur

While Kriti Sanon has been winning applause through her performances, her younger sister Nupur is set to follow suit. While she began her journey as an actor through a music video and is hoping to land a role in an interesting film project, Kriti opens up about how much her sister's loves to be in front of the camera.

In an interview, Kriti, said that Nupur loves posing for camera and puts in extra effort every time she's getting clicked.

"Nupur likes to get clicked. When there are festivities at home she sees to it that she's dressed

well as per the occasion before she gets snapped," reveals the Mimi actor.

Sharing an example, Kriti further adds, "Like, say during Rakshabandhan she was all dressed before she came on camera to tie rakhi. On the other hand, I don't bother so much. I can tie a rakhi in my pajamas also."

To this, Nupur replies saying, "We are celebrating Indian festivals toh we have to dress up that way, right? Also *pura lockdown mikaala hai* without any celebrations and excitement, *ab mauka mil raha hai to dress up toh kyu na kare?*"

IAN S

Shimmy's plot touched me deeply: Pratik

As his short film *Shimmy* released September 17, actor Pratik Gandhi shares how deeply he is connected with the story in which he plays the father of a teenage daughter.

Talking about the film, Pratik said, "I feel blessed that *Shimmy* found me. The story touched me deeply. As an actor I have always believed in experimenting and with *Shimmy* I got to play around a lot internally as an actor. Amol is a very relatable character going through an unknown curve as a parent of a teenage daughter. Disha is a very talented writer and director who can add her magic to the simplest of moments."

The film is directed by Disha Noyonika Rindani, produced by Guneet Monga of Sikhya Entertainment.

IAN S



Anushka calls Madhuri 'Queen'

With the advent of reels, many celebs have actively been taking part in trends and creating fun videos from their daily lives. One such celebrity who has actively been doing so, is Madhuri Dixit.

The actress recently took part in a viral Instagram reel trend — 'Showing off your model face'. Having said that, she dropped a video of herself along with her make-up artist Florian Hurel executing the trend.

While the post was liked and shared by several fan clubs, actress Anushka Sharma too, acknowledged her video by resharing on her Instagram handle, and called her 'Queen'.





Making goodness respectable

The Vicar of Wakefield, by Oliver Goldsmith, one of the best loved novels of the Victorian age, has been eulogised by no less a literary figure than Walter Scott "We read Vicar of Wakefield in youth and age and return to it again and again and bless the memory of an author who contrives so well to reconcile us to human nature".

It is a gentle fable with philosophical depth and emphasis on the theme of fortitude and the time honoured values of faith, hope, love, humility and loyalty. No critique or comment on the novel can do more justice to it than the author's own "Advertisement" at the beginning "The hero of this piece unites in himself the three greatest characters upon this earth; he is a priest, a husbandman and the father of a family. He is drawn as ready to teach and ready to obey; as simple in affluence and majestic in adversity." Though he heroically endeavours to fulfil these roles he fails at them owing to a lack of prudence and therein lies the twists and turns of the novel and its ultimate lessons.

It is also a satire on the cultural mores and class distinctions of the day and on the wide eyed piety and innocence of Dr Primrose compromised by rascals who rob him of everything he valued and held dear. The loss of his modest wealth, the seduction of his daughter, the abduction of another, the incarceration of himself and his son, the fire that engulfs his house rendering him homeless, his enforced fellowship with criminals and felons teach him divine patience and continued faith in the almighty. In the end through a series of incredible coincidences, the "deus ex machina" all evil machinations are defeated, the wrongs are righted and the just and righteous are honoured. Doctor Primrose, gullible though he is, falling prey to deceit, maintains his moral superiority in the face of the odds that would have broken a lesser man.

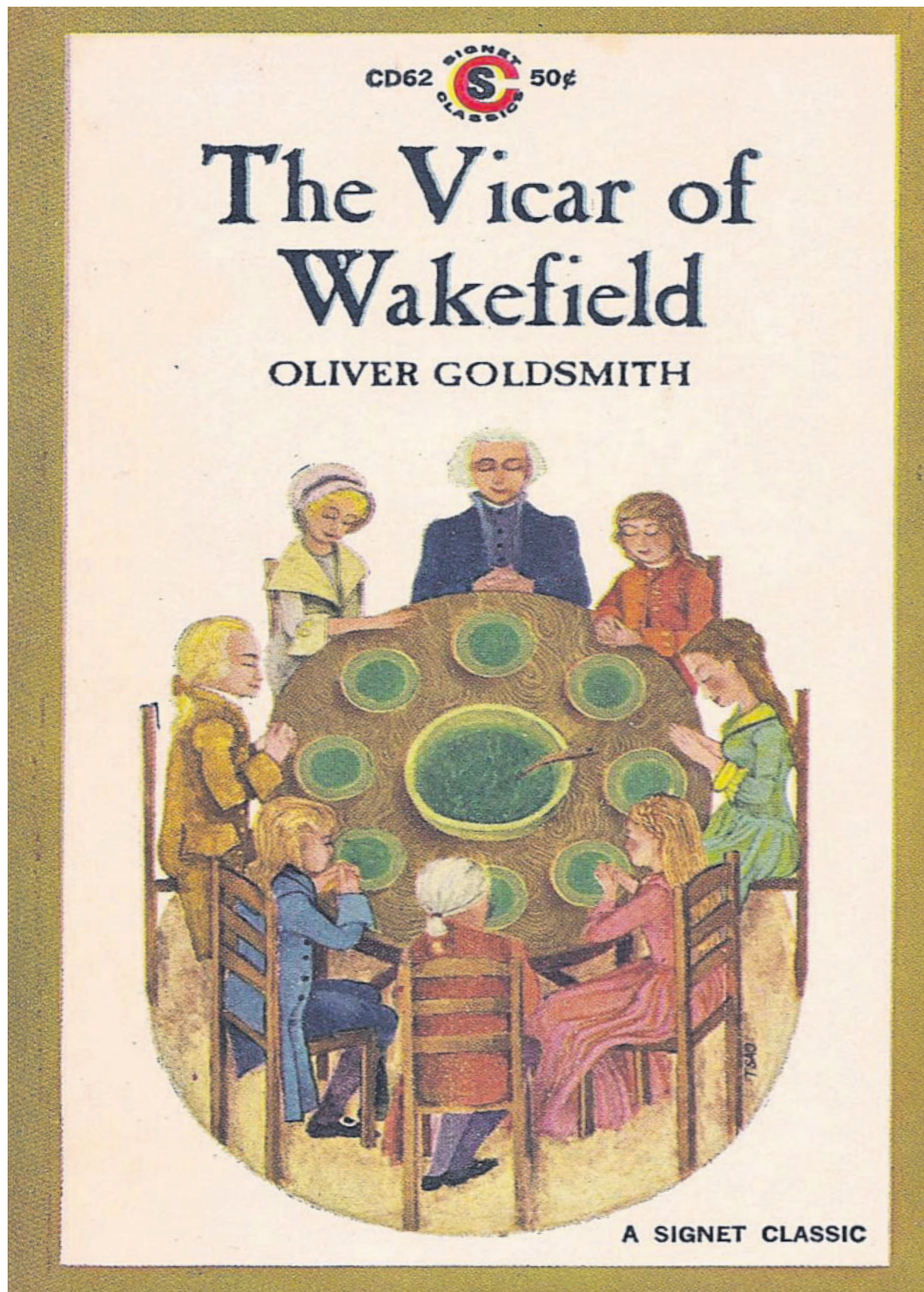
The first half of the novel is a pastoral idyll whereas the second half is of catastrophe and misery of a respectable family. Though it is the domestic portrait of a pastor's family it is largely affected by external circumstances, the microcosm of the family struggling against the macrocosm of an unkind world. The underlying idea of the story is that vanity and imprudence leads to disaster and prudence leads to happiness. The vicar is the narrator, reviewing the story of his life as it were, chewing the cud of his memories and arriving at a wisdom that gives him peace. Whether we choose the pathetic, digressive or lighter parts of the novel we find the best and truest sentiments expressed in beautiful language. Perhaps few characters in literature have been described with purer dignity than that of the excellent pastor rising above sorrow

and oppression and labouring for the reformation of felons into whose company he had been thrust by his villainous creditor.

The novel has been admired by sages like Goethe, for the way it makes goodness respectable. It has been widely referenced in British literature- Dickens in David Copperfield, George Eliot in Middlemarch, Jane Austen in Emma. Dr Johnson, a great admirer of Goldsmith wrote the epitaph for his monument in Westminster Abbey "Nullum quod tetigit non ornavit"- "He

touched nothing that he did not adorn". Though Goldsmith achieved fame scores of years after writing his novel it has since come to be read with appreciation and respect by millions of readers. The adage "handsome is that handsome does" which has attained common parlance was uttered by the pastor's wife when she received compliments for her children. When the pastor was critical of a flamboyant neighbour and his intentions he forewarns his daughters but desists from pursuing the matter with his brilliant comment "That virtue which is required to be ever guarded, is scarcely worth the sentinel."

In his efforts to reform the criminals he had been incarcerated with, the good pastor's philosophy draws from the heart of the Bible "Heaven we are assured is much more pleased to view a repentant sinner than ninety nine persons who have supported a course of undeviating rectitude". Advocating the fact that in law a punishment should be commensurate with the magnitude of the crime and the law should be a protector rather than a tyrant for the people, he says "that few minds are so base as that perseverance cannot amend; that a man may see his last crime without dying for it." In the grand finale of the book, the Vicar after all his travails, never losing sight of righteousness in the arduous journey of life, is restored his cheerful home, hearth and family and happily reflects "I had nothing now on this side of the grave to wish for; all my cares were over; my pleasure was unspeakable. It now only remains that my gratitude in good fortune should exceed my former submission in adversity." In today's world beset by several ills there is much to learn from the good vicar's equanimity and forbearance.



SUDHA DEVI NAYAK



Abhipsha