

USHA TRAVELS

OFFER PRICE

BHUBANESWAR

KOLKATA 2533/-*

HYDERABAD 3533/-*

BENGALURU 3533/-*

DELHI 3633/-*

MUMBAI 3733/-*

DUBAI 10,333/-*

9937438896

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Online classes were better. We could mute those boring lectures!

WEATHER

BHUB

CTK

MAX

30.2°C

32.0°C

MIN

24.0°C

24.0°C

Humidity

96%

89%

Rainfall

14.5mm

16.0mm

Forecast

Possibility of rain or thunderstorm

MEET ON MAOIST MENACE

CM bats for more infra

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik presented several infrastructure development proposals before the Union govt to combat the Naxalite menace across the country

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 26: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday requested the Centre to consider several development proposals to strengthen infrastructure in Maoist-affected districts of the state. Participating in a meeting of several Chief Ministers, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, to review the Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) situation, he said: "The state government's commitment will continue with our pro-active security strategy combined with sustained and holistic development of tribal areas to address the issue." He requested the proposal of four-laning NH 326 from Jeypore to Motu, via Malkangiri, be considered, as "this will provide a parallel road for traffic from eastern India, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand states to the south, especially Bangalore and Hyderabad. This corridor, in addition to reducing the travelling time substantially will also provide huge economic impetus to this region".



The state government's commitment will continue with our pro-active security strategy combined with sustained and holistic development of tribal areas to address the issue

NAVEEN PATNAIK | ODISHA CHIEF MINISTER

Patnaik also pointed out that the LWE-affected districts are not part of the railways network. "Railway Ministry and Odisha government are already constructing two-legs - from Jeypore to Nawarangpur and Jeypore to Malkangiri - through cost sharing. The missing part between Malkangiri and Bhadrachalam (153 km) and Nawarangpur and Junagarh (118 km) can provide a very viable alternative path to the trunk routes of the railway. This will

have a huge impact on the economic growth of these areas," he said. He also requested the Union government to consider providing mobile connectivity to areas of southern and western Odisha. "There are 6,278 villages in Odisha without any mobile access or connectivity, the largest number in the country. We thank the Union Home Ministry for sanctioning 488 mobile towers for Odisha recently. But to provide coverage to other uncovered villages, an estimated 2,000 more mobile base stations will be required," he said. Noting that most interior areas depend on mobile connectivity and mobile internet for banking, education and delivery of all government services, he said, "Today, the basic need, therefore, is for 4G mobile base stations at all places. It is, therefore, required to upgrade the 2G base stations also, erected earlier."

Diesel costlier by 28 paise

NEW DELHI: Auto fuel prices in the country have maintained stability amid volatility in global oil prices, but the oil marketing companies Sunday increased the pump price of diesel marginally while maintaining stability in petrol prices. In Bhubaneswar, diesel price was increased by 28 paise to ₹97.14, while price of petrol remained stable. While diesel price was hiked by 25 paise per litre in New Delhi to ₹89.07 per litre Sunday, petrol price remained unchanged for the 21th consecutive day. Diesel price was raised Friday as well by 20 paise per litre which oil marketing company sources said was based on the global price movement of the fuel. Fuel prices have been hovering at record levels on account of 41 increases in its retail rates since April this year. It fell on a few occasions but largely remained stable.



Bharat bandh today

NEW DELHI: The Samyukt Kisan Morcha's (SKM) call for a Bharat bandh Monday, to mark the first anniversary of the three controversial farm laws getting Presidential assent, has garnered support from all sections of the society, including political parties. Many Opposition parties have expressed their support to the bandh. The strike will be held from 6 in the morning to 4 in the evening during which all government and private offices, educational and other institutions, shops, industries and commercial establishments as well as public events and functions will be closed throughout the country. However, all emergency establishments and essential services, including hospitals, medical stores, relief and rescue work and people attending to personal emergencies will be exempted. The bandh will be enforced in a voluntary and peaceful manner, the SKM has assured. The All India Bank Officers' Confederation has extended its support to the strike Monday. It has requested the government to have a dialogue with the farmers on their demands and rescind the three laws.

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'GULAB' MAKES LANDFALL IN AP

The cyclone will have major impact on Ganjam and Gajapati districts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: Odisha Sunday experienced light to moderate rainfall as cyclone Gulab made landfall at a place in Andhra Pradesh, about 95 km from Gopalpur in the state where a large number of people have been evacuated as a precautionary measure, officials said. The wind speed of the cyclone is much less in Odisha compared to that in the neighbouring state during landfall. Special Relief Commissioner PK Jena said after 12 noon Sunday, the cyclonic storm suddenly picked up speed and moved over the Bay of Bengal towards

the landmass at 25 km per hour (kmph) and made the landfall three hours ahead of the expected time. "Though three hours have passed since the landfall process started at 6 pm, there isn't any strong wind or was there heavy rainfall in any parts of Odisha," Jena said. The landfall was made at Miduguda and Tokali villages near Kalingapatnam town in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh, an India Meteorological Department (IMD) official said. During the landfall, the wind speed of the cyclone at Kalingapatnam was about 90 kmph while it was 30 kmph at Gopalpur, he said. The system will enter Koraput district before moving towards Chhattisgarh Monday. There is a possibility of extremely heavy rainfall in Koraput, Rayagada and Gajapati districts.k

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

ବିଜୁ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ଯୋଜନା

Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana

Ajay Kumar Das

4189872XXXX

Shri Naveen Patnaik

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

announces

New Smart Health Card

with New Guidelines of

Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana

Before 1st September

70 Lakhs Families

More than 3 crore 50 lakh people covering 96 lakh 50 thousand beneficiary families in Odisha will be benefited

After 1st September

96.5 Lakhs Families

Each beneficiary family will get health coverage of Rs.5 lakhs and additional Rs.5 lakhs for the women members of the family per annum in empanelled private hospitals

HEALTHY ODISHA, HAPPY ODISHA | TOLL FREE NO-104

OIPR-10001/13/0041/2122

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

Today, you will crave total freedom in whatever you are doing, says Ganesha. And sheer entertainment is on the cards for teenyboppers, like mall-hopping or going for a film. The kids will demand a Jumbo Berry ice cone. All in all, it will be a family day for you.

TAURUS

You will wake up feeling determined and decisive today, says Ganesha. Be careful as your rigid views may make you seem stubborn. You may not be willing to come half way during a conflict and will make a habit of articulating your viewpoint. Tension at the workplace will eat through most of your time today, feels Ganesha.

GEMINI

The day promises sensitivity and compassion for you, predicts Ganesha. You may plan a trip with your family members. You may also invest your money in various financial companies, as securing the future of your family will be foremost on your mind.

CANCER

It is high time that you dedicated yourself to your work. If you are looking to try new things, today may not be a very good day to do so. Stick to doing things the way you have been doing them so far, advises Ganesha. All you need is a little attitude adjustment. Today, you are likely to meet an old friend and you will get busy reminiscing about your time together.

LEO

You might be the man of the house, but to make that house a home, you need a family. So keep that in mind, says Ganesha, and remember that your family is the foundation of your success. Make every possible effort to make your family's roots stronger. The fruits of such efforts shall only be sweeter.

VIRGO

Today might just bring those emotions to the fore that have been lying in the closet of your heart since long. You will even develop a bonding – a sentimental attachment – with your belongings. But, if and when you don't find the surroundings to your liking, you shall be like a fish out of the water.

LIBRA

Unleash the artist in you today! Don't be surprised if you happen to discover a love for the fine arts. The stars bestow on you refined aesthetic sense. As a result, your penchant for interior decoration is sure to get a boost. There is also the possibility of you capitalising on the commercial aspect of your newly acquired hobby, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO

Family matters have been screaming for long for your attention now. Your estranged spouse may deal the final blow to sever all ties, foretells Ganesha. But keep calm, and hold that tongue, advises Ganesha. Your priority should be to secure your family's peace.

SAGITTARIUS

Expect a call to late-night revelry and a chance to binge. But you don't seem to be in the mood to let your hair loose and party, says Ganesha. However tempting it may be, your serious side will take over and you shall deny the offer.

CAPRICORN

You will start the day with verve and vigour, and will appear a completely different person at work. There will be a discernible change in your way of working, especially in terms of the level of energy and concentration you will put in.

AQUARIUS

A productive day, as you will receive unrestrained support from your bosses and colleagues. Your creativity will reach its zenith and the resulting work will augment your reputation. The day will seem complete when you spend quality time with your family in the evening, says Ganesha.

PISCES

Happiness shared is double the joy; sorrows shared are half the burden. Your family is the foundation of your success, and it is to them you will turn to in times of failure as well. With their support, getting back to the top of the game will take no time, says Ganesha.

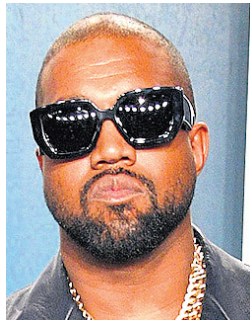


SOPHIE ELLIS-BEXTOR SAYS SHE WAS RAPED AT 17

English singer Sophie Ellis-Bextor has claimed she was raped as a teenager by an older man and she is speaking now to help others. She lost her virginity to the unnamed man, who was 29 at the time, Sophie said in an extract from her new book.

1ST TEASER OF KANYE WEST DOCUMENTARY RELEASED

The first teaser for *Jeen-Yuhs*, an intimate portrait of global superstar Kanye West, has been released by Netflix, reports *Variety.com*. Co-directed by Coodie Simmons and Chike Ozah, better known as Coodie and Chike, the three-act documentary follows West over a 20-year period.



Priyanka's Global Citizen Live look makes her trend

New Delhi: Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas took the internet by storm Saturday when she hosted the Global Citizen Live concert in Paris. Her dress, with an Earth theme got a fantastic response from fans, which made her trend on Twitter.

Priyanka wore a beautiful ensemble by designer Prabal Gurung as she hosted the concert Saturday, which will be streaming live for 24 hours from different parts of the world.

Not only did Twitter users point out her beautiful dress, but also the fact that she made India proud by hosting the global concert in Paris.

Meanwhile, the actress gave fans a glimpse into her trip on social media. She uploaded a picture with the popular Eiffel Tower in the backdrop and captioned in on Instagram as: "An Evening in Paris". **IAN5**



Bhansali talks about inspiration behind making *Heeramandi*

Mumbai: As Sanjay Leela Bhansali's upcoming magnum opus *Heeramandi*, his first-ever web series, is soon to be released, the ace director shares his inspiration for making the show.

The *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam* director said, "*Heeramandi* was something that my friend Moin Baig got to me as a 14-page story, 14 years ago and then finally when we presented it to Netflix, they loved it and they thought it had great potential to make a mega-series. It is very ambitious, it's very big and vast. It tells you the story of courtesans. They kept music, poetry and dance and the art of living. It shows the politics within the brothels and how to emerge as the winner.



It is a difficult one but I hope we come across with flying colours this time."

The series will explore stories of courtesans and the hidden cultural reality of Heeramandi, a dazzling district, during pre-independent India. It's a series

about love, betrayal, succession and politics in the 'kothas'.

Talking about his interest in films, he said, "I remember when I was a four-year-old kid and my father had taken me to a shoot and he said you sit here and I'll meet my friends and come. I was in the studio and it seemed the most comfortable to me. More than a school, a playground, a cousin's house, or anywhere in the world, I thought it was the most beautiful place. When I look back at 25 years, I think it's very precious to me because you have to be blessed to be able to get a chance to make a film and that's why I cling on to the studio because the studio floor is the most magical, that's my temple, that's my everything." **IAN5**

CURTAIN FALLS ON 6TH DEOMALI NAT'L THEATRE FEST

Audience exposed to variety of plays

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput: The three-day 6th Deomali National Theatre Festival (DNTF) 2021, organised by Koraput-based theatre troupe Nandanik at Tribal Museum here, came to an end Saturday evening with the audience being exposed to a variety of theatre.

The concluding day featured three plays, *Two Souls*, an O' Henry adaptation in Hindi by Ashoknagar Nattayamukh (Dir: Avi Chakraborty), *Bharat Leela*, folk drama of Ganjam district by Mahavira Natya Kala Sansad, Odisha and *Takshaka*, an Odia play by Nandanik which was written by Manoj Mitra and designed by Sourav Gupta. It was directed by Saumendra Swain and Rahul Patnaik.

The festival commenced September 23 with a Foundation Day



A scene from Nandanik's Odia play *Takshaka*

Lecture titled, Changing Pattern of Performances in the Digital Era by Prof Sachchidananda Joshi,

Member-Secretary, IGNC, New Delhi. Karna Gouda, a popular folk drama artiste from Koraput was

felicitated while local artiste Himanshu Ranjan Mohanty was conferred with Asim Basu Memorial Award 2020 for his contribution to theatre local artiste Himanshu Ranjan Mohanty on the second day. The day also saw Odia children's play *Punar Mushika Bhava* by Nandanik under the direction of Monideepa Gupta. A mime sketch *Butterfly* was also performed by Ranen Chakraborty of Mimic, Kolkata in the evening followed by *Khuri Ma*, a Bengali adaptation of Munshi Premchand. Written by Sourav Gupta and directed by Kriti Mazumdar, the play was presented by Kathok Performing Repertoire, West Bengal.

The DNTF is the only national level theatre festival in the KBK region and this 6th edition was organised with support from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Uttar Purush's theatre workshop Ranga Bharati-14 comes to an end



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Ranga Bharati-14, a 21-day theatre workshop organised by Uttar Purush, one of City's oldest theatre troupes, came to an end at Utkal Karate School here, Saturday. As many as 20 theatre enthusiasts took part in the programme.

The participants staged play *Sesha Pasanda* written by renowned litterateur late Manoj Das on the last day of the event.

Theatre directors Manoj Patnaik, Haren Sahu, Narayan Sahu, founder

of Utkal Karate School Hari Patnaik and workshop director Choudhury Jayprakash Das were present during the closing ceremony.

Education is like an ocean as there is no end to learning. Theatre, a collaborative art form, helps one face life's challenges successfully, said the guests who attended the final day of the event. Troupe's secretary Prasanna Mishra gave introductory speech while joint secretary Debadutta Pati presided over the event. Member Chakradhara Patra proposed a vote of thanks.

FUN post

PEANUTS



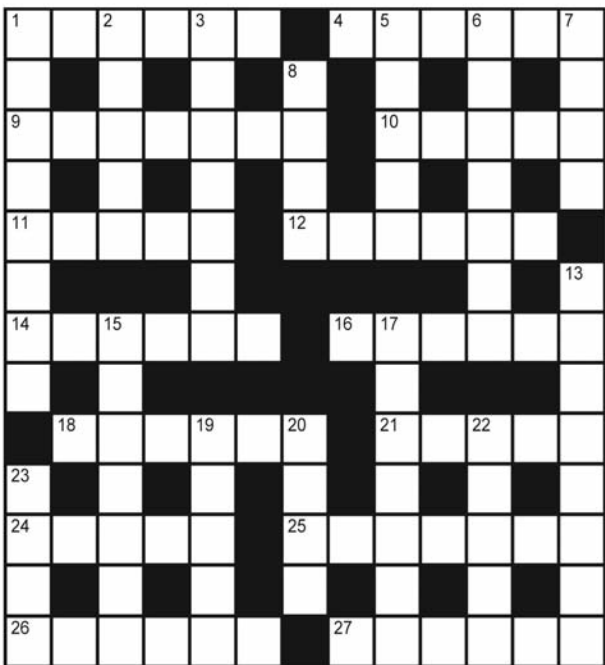
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



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Across

- Under the weather
- Inlegant
- Final result
- Swelter
- 30-day month
- Highest point
- Munificent
- Guiding light
- Conundrum
- Fuse
- Shrimp-like decapod

Down

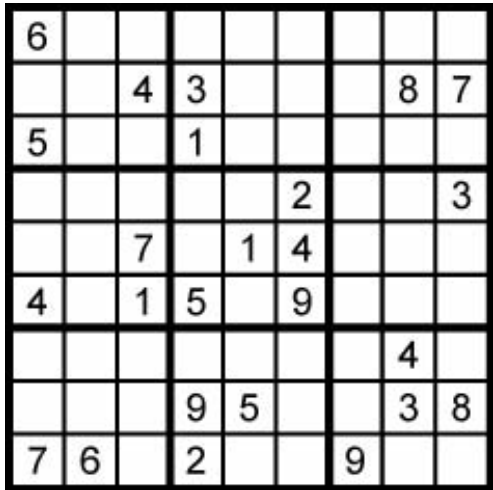
- Adjective used for many a baby
- Procrastinator's word
- Pasta
- Cook's wear
- All over the place

Across

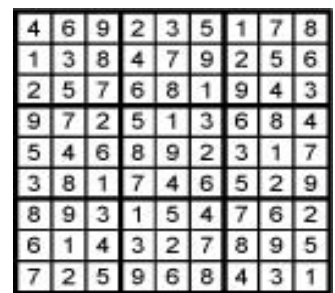
- Diminutive suffix
- Last name in German cars
- Involvement
- Wine date
- Slippery
- Columbus's birthplace
- Mythical ship to Colchis
- Fatuous
- Milky white gem

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

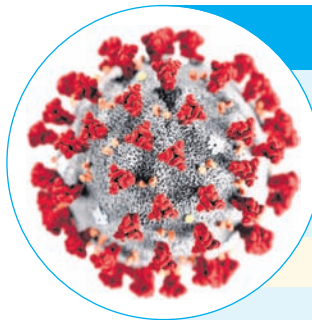


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



TAILORS AT WORK

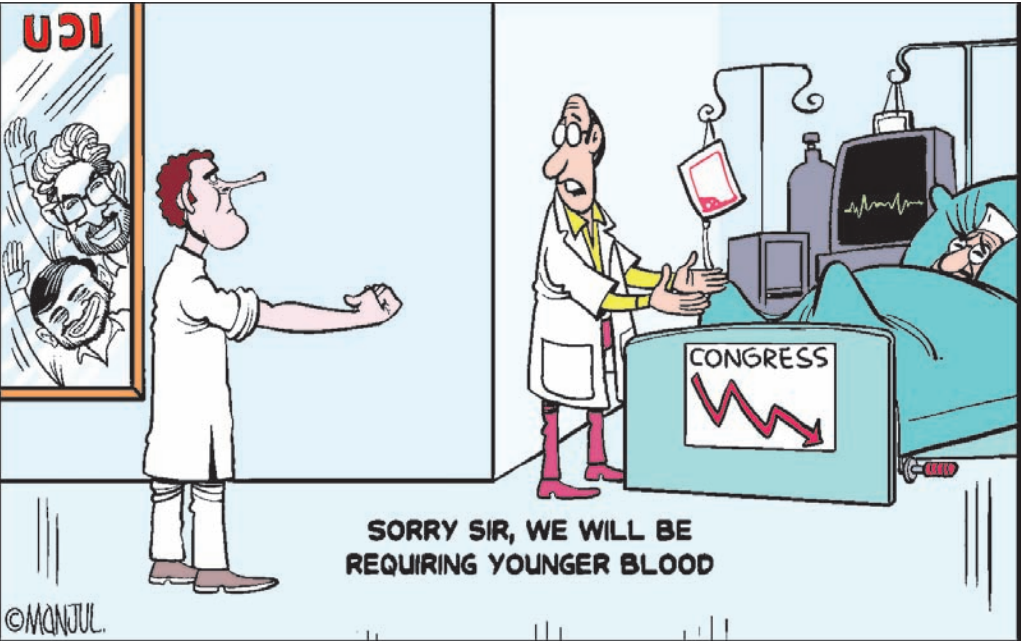
Darjee servitors of Srimandir in Puri stitch canopies for the upcoming festival season, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

| | INFECTED | RECOVERED | DEAD |
|--------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| World | 23,23,96,592 | 20,90,21,723 | 47,59,333 |
| India | 3,36,52,745 | 3,29,02,351 | 4,46,918 |
| Odisha | 10,24,320 | 10,10,829 | 8,175 |

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



BJB lab asst jumps into River Mahanadi

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 26: A middle-aged man went missing after he jumped off the bridge over Mahanadi river at Jagatpur here Sunday, police said. The man, identified as Debasish Das, was a resident of Chauliaganj and was working as a laboratory assistant at BJB Autonomous College in Bhubaneswar, said the official. Jagatpur IIC Rabintra Nath Meher said that the incident took place in the morning when Das, along with his driver, was heading for Tangi. “When they were crossing the bridge, Das asked his driver to stop the vehicle. As soon as the vehicle stopped, Das alighted from the car and jumped off the bridge,” Meher said. Although a team of Jagatpur police and ODRAF personnel, launched a search operation, they could not find him. “Das was a bit disturbed over family issues,” Meher added.

73% in 12 dists develop antibody against Covid

KHURDA HAS THE HIGHEST SEROPREVALENCE OF 80% WHILE JAJPUR, MAYURBHANJ & JHARSUGUDA HAVE A SEROPREVALENCE OF AROUND 68%



RMRC STUDY

The survey found 73.5% seroprevalence among community and 93.9% among healthcare workers

As per data, 70% people of 6-10 year age group, 74% of 11-18 year age group, 75% in 19-44 year age group, 72% in 45-60 years and 66% belonging to above 60 years have developed the antibody

THE STUDY ALSO FOUND THAT 25.6% ARE FULLY IMMUNISED, 41.4% ARE PARTIALLY VACCINATED AND 33% ARE UNIMMUNISED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: At least 73 per cent of the total population in 12 districts of the state have developed antibody against Covid-19, said Sanghamitra Pati, director of Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) here Sunday. On the instruction of the state government, the RMRC had conducted a serological survey in 12 districts during August 29 and September 15. The survey was conducted in Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Khurda, Puri, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Kandhamal, Kalahandi and Nabarangpur districts among the community and healthcare workers. Speaking about the survey report, Pati said they have collected 5,796 samples from community and found that 4,247 have developed antibody against the highly-infectious disease. Similarly, 1,232, out of 1,312 samples collected from healthcare workers have developed the antibody, she added. “We found 73.5 per cent seroprevalence among community and 93.9 per cent among the healthcare workers,” said the RMRC director. Out of the 12 surveyed districts, Khurda has highest seroprevalence of 80 per cent while Jajpur, Mayurbhanj and Jharsuguda have a seroprevalence of around 68 per cent, she further said. On seroprevalence with respect to age, she said, 70 per cent people of 6-10 year age group, 74 per cent of 11-18 year age group, 75 per cent between 19 and 44 years, 72 per cent between 45 and 60 years and 66 per cent belonging to above 60 years of age have the antibody. Among the sero-positive adults, around 66.5 per cent had received at least the first dose of vaccine, said the director. The study also found that 25.6 per cent are fully immunised, 41.4 per cent are partially vaccinated and 33 per cent are unimmunised. There is no major difference in

oped the antibody, she added. “We found 73.5 per cent seroprevalence among community and 93.9 per cent among the healthcare workers,” said the RMRC director. Out of the 12 surveyed districts, Khurda has highest seroprevalence of 80 per cent while Jajpur, Mayurbhanj and Jharsuguda have a seroprevalence of around 68 per cent, she further said. On seroprevalence with respect to age, she said, 70 per cent people of 6-10 year age group, 74 per cent of 11-18 year age group, 75 per cent between 19 and 44 years, 72 per cent between 45 and 60 years and 66 per cent belonging to above 60 years of age have the antibody. Among the sero-positive adults, around 66.5 per cent had received at least the first dose of vaccine, said the director. The study also found that 25.6 per cent are fully immunised, 41.4 per cent are partially vaccinated and 33 per cent are unimmunised. There is no major difference in

96 more children down with Covid

Odisha reported 585 new Covid-19 cases and five more deaths Sunday, the Health department said. Among the new patients, 96 were children, it added. Khurda district reported most of the new cases at 206, followed by Cuttack with 67 cases. There are 5,909 active cases in the state at present. Three districts - Nabarangpur, Gajapati and Boudh - reported no new cases. Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Bargarh, Rayagada and Subarnapur were among the 16 districts that registered new infections in single digits. In the last 24 hours, 601 more people recovered from the disease, taking the total recoveries to 10.1 lakh. The state has so far reported 10.24 lakh cases of Covid-19. Khurda reported two of the latest deaths, while Puri, Keonjhar and Koraput districts registered one death each, according to official data. So far, 8,175 people have died of Covid-19 in the state.

Nabarangpur, Gajapati & Boudh reported no new cases, while 16 districts saw new infections in single digits

the seroprevalence and vaccination coverage among urban and rural areas of Odisha, she added.

Interstate ATM robbers’ gang busted; 4 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: The Commissionerate Police Saturday foiled an ATM loot bid and arrested four interstate robbers’ gang from the outskirts of the Capital city. The arrested were identified as Niraj Sahu, 23, of Maharajpur area and Yogendra Singh, 23, of Gajipur area in Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh, Salim Khan, 32, and Mukesh Pal of Durgapur area in West Bengal. The Commissionerate Police was alerted by cops from other states that a gang of looters have been targeting ATMs across the country through a unique modus operandi. Following the inputs, a special squad of the twin city police has kept a strict vigil on movements at the ATMs in the city. Acting on a tip-off regarding suspicious activities of some unknown youths at an SBI ATM at Tankapani Road, a joint team of Saheed Nagar



The accused persons, who managed to collect debit cards of different banks, used to cover the cash dispenser with their hands blocking the process of cash dispensation

The culprits were using their fingers to manipulate the vending machine which hinders the vending from sending proper command of cash dispense

police and special squad rushed to the spot Saturday evening and apprehended the looters. Sources in police claimed that the accused persons who managed to collect a number of debit cards of different banks used to cover the cash dispenser with their hands blocking the process of cash dispensation. Eventually, the ATM displays an error message on com-

puter screen of the kiosk which they capture and lodge a complaint with costumer care executives of the respective banks about the deduction of money from their accounts despite the unsuccessful transaction due to machine error. The bank would later deposit the particular claimed amount in the account of the accused person. However, the looters used to re-

move their hands and collect the money from cash dispenser immediately after the error message popped up on the computer screen. “The culprits were using their fingers to manipulate the vending machine which hinders the vending from sending proper command of cash dispense. Though the culprits were removing the cash from the dispenser, the vending machine was sending an error code to the server, allowing the culprits to file a complaint in the bank customer care regarding failed transaction and ultimately getting back the money from the bank within three days. Mostly the culprits were cheating the bank in this process,” said the Commissionerate Police. Police found that the accused were involved in as many as 30 ATM loot cases in Baripada, Puri and Bhubaneswar. Police have also sought court’s permission to take the accused on remand for further investigations.

Jumbo stranded at Mundali found dead

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 26: Forest department officials Sunday claimed to have found the carcass of the elephant that was stranded at Mundali barrage Friday and latter swept away in Mahanadi river. The carcass of the pachyderm was spotted in the river near Satabatia area of Jagatpur, said an official of the Forest department. According to sources, a carcass of an elephant was spotted near gate no. 24 of Jobra barrage in the morning. Later, the carcass floated towards Jagatpur as the authorities opened the barrage gate to retrieve the dead animal. “The carcass which was found from Satabatia area is that of the elephant swept away from Mundali barrage. We will conduct a post-mortem on the dead elephant and retrieve its tusks Monday,” said ranger Durgaprasad Sahu.



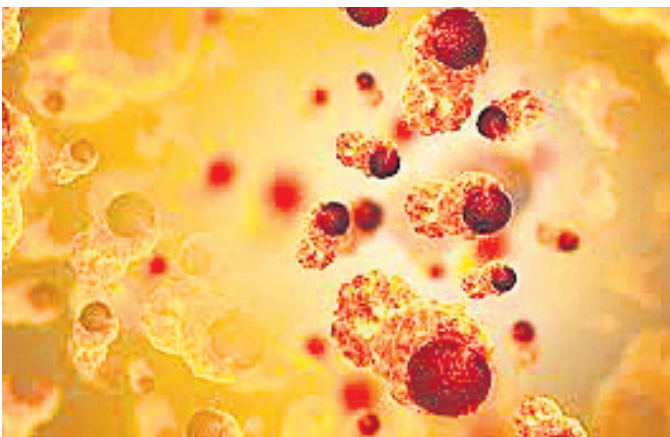
It is worth mentioning here that a herd of 18 elephants from Sukasan forest near Athagarh tried to cross Mahanadi river near Mundali barrage on their way to Damapada-Chandaka forests in the wee hours of Friday. One elephant from the herd swept away in the strong current while others made it to the riverbanks. The Forest department along with the ODRAF launched ‘Operation Gaja’ to rescue the elephant. However, the operation turned tragic as the rescue boat capsized, claiming the lives of TV journalist Arindam Das and ODRAF jawan Sitaram Murmu. The elephant was spotted standing in the water till Friday late night. The next day morning, the animal was not there.

Childhood cancers 7.9% of all cancers: ICMR

The ICMR reports suggested that chemotherapy was still the most typical treatment modality for many cancers, regardless of the clinical extent of disease at presentation

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 26: A total of 7.9 per cent of all cancer cases between 2012 and 2019 were found in children below 14 years, a report prepared by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said. ‘Clinicopathological Profile of Cancers in India: A Report of the Hospital-Based Cancer Registries, 2021’, consolidates data collected during the period across 96 hospital-based cancer registries under the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP). The data pertains to all diagnosed and treated cases of confirmed malignancies reported to these centres across the country. The country registered 13,32,207 cases of cancer during 2012 and 2019. Of these, 6,10,084 were included for analysis, based on the completeness and quality of data. Childhood cancers rank ninth as a leading cause of childhood diseases at the global level, accounting for 11.5 million of the Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs).



In India, according to a recent NCRP report, the proportion of childhood cancers (0-19 years), relative to cancers in all age groups, was found to range from 1 per cent to 4.9 per cent. Delhi reported the highest age-adjusted incidence rate (AAR) of 203.1 per million in boys and 125.4 per million in girls. Leukaemia accounted for nearly half of all the childhood cancers in both genders

in the 0-14 years age group (46.4% in boys and 44.3% in girls). The other common childhood cancer in boys was lymphoma (16.4%) while in girls, it was malignant bone tumour (8.9%). Childhood cancers are presented for two age groups: 0-14 years and 0-19 years to enable national and international comparison, and classified according to the International Classification of Childhood Cancer.

Apart from childhood cancer, the ICMR report says that cancers in sites associated with tobacco use comprised 48.7 per cent of cancers among males and 16.5 per cent among females. The relative proportion of site-specific cancers was higher in males than females except for thyroid cancer (2.5% in females versus 1 per cent in males) and gall bladder cancer (3.7% in females versus 2.2 per cent in males). Among all the cancers, the highest proportion of distant metastasis at presentation was seen in patients with lung cancer (49.2% males and 55.5% females), followed by gall bladder cancer (40.9% males and 45.7% females) and prostate cancer (42.9%). The ICMR reports suggested that chemotherapy was still the most typical treatment modality for many cancers, regardless of the clinical extent of disease at presentation, including cancers of the liver, gall bladder, stomach, lung, and childhood cancers.

Policeman fined ₹50k for defying HC order

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 26: The Orissa High Court (HC) has imposed Rs 50,000 penalty on the investigating officer (IO) of Jaipatna police station for non-production of case diary in connection with a criminal case. The Bench of Justice SPujahari has directed the officer to deposit the amount before the concerned District Legal Services Authority. **The HC had Sept 8 directed the Kalahandi SP to produce the case diary, take action against the IO and file a report** Earlier September 8, the HC had directed the Kalahandi Superintendent of Police (SP) to produce the case diary in the matter, take action against the said IO and file a report in this regard. However, despite court’s order,

no report was filed by the SP and therefore, the court also issued a notice to the SP to show cause as to why appropriate contempt shall not be initiated against him for non-compliance of the court’s order dated September 8, 2021, so also the IO of Jaipatna police station. Further, listing the case September 24, the Court directed that if the show cause affidavits along with the case diary are not received, coercive steps shall be taken against the SP Kalahandi, and the IO to secure their attendance in person along with the case diary before this court. However, the order dated September 24 is not in the public domain right now. Lastly, the court directed that the counsel for the state shall also communicate a copy of this order to the Director of General of Police, Odisha and the Home Secretary to the Government of Odisha, for appraisal of the same and the manner of defiance of court’s order by the police officer, as in many cases the same is being done.

BMC rolls up sleeves to deal with waterlogging

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Sunday reinforced manpower at ward levels, especially at accident-prone areas, to avoid any untoward incident owing to heavy rain triggered by cyclone Gulab. The capital, which witnessed intermittent rains throughout the day Sunday, saw waterlogging in different areas. Observing this, the BMC deployed senior officers including sanitation officers, engineers, health officials among others at different wards. “In order to efficiently manage the waterlogging issues, we have deployed more officials in sensitive points. Moreover, about 20 pumps from the BMC have been installed in different loca-

The capital, which witnessed intermittent rains throughout Sunday, saw waterlogging in different areas

tions though no severe waterlogging was observed in any of the areas. Helpline numbers have been issued for emergency,” said a BMC official. The civic authority also began the process of setting up barricades after identifying about 70 accident prone areas in the city. These include Gayatree Nagar, Syphon at Bairagi Nagar, Jharpada Kesura Road, Kasam Villa, Ganesh Mandap Square, New Forest Park Drain, Lane 7 at Satabdi Nagar, Prakruti Vihar Drain among others.



Artistes of Gunjan Dance Academy perform Odissi during the celebration of Naba Gunjan Utsav in Cuttack, Sunday

OP PHOTO

BHARAT BANDH

2nd selection UG admission
date extended till Sept 30

THE NECESSARY LINKS FOR FINAL DATA UPDATION OF REPORTED STUDENTS, INCLUDING ERROR REPORTING IN THE COLLEGE E-SPACE WILL REMAIN OPEN TILL 7PM OF SEPTEMBER 30

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: The Higher Education (HE) department Sunday extended till September 30 the deadline of Plus III second selection admissions in view of Bharat Bandh Monday.

HE department's Performance Tracking Cell deputy director Rajesh Kumar Sahoo said students short-listed during second selection can report at the allotted colleges till 5pm of September 30 for UG admissions. The necessary links for final data updation of reported students, including error reporting in the college e-Space will remain open till 7pm of September 30, 2021.

Earlier, the students were asked to report at the allotted colleges for second selection merit list admission between September 24 and 28 (upto 5pm). The final data had to be updated between September 24 and 29.

The HE department had declared the second selection merit list for Plus III admissions through Student Academic Management System (SAMS) portal September 23.

As per the official notification, as many as 40,611 students – 19,024 boys, 21,584 girls and three transgenders – have been selected during the second selection. This year, altogether 2,44,252 students had applied for admissions to the difference Plus III courses.

Like the first merit list, in second merit list too, the Buxi

OSRTC buses to stay
off roads till 3pm

Bhubaneswar: Bus services of Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) will remain suspended from 6am to 3pm Monday due to a nationwide strike called by farmer organisations against the Centre's three contentious new agriculture laws.

It was September 27 last year that President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent and brought into force the three legislations, the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of over 40 farmer unions, said in a statement.

Trade unions and several non-NDA parties including the Congress have backed the strike called by the Morcha from 6am to 4pm Monday.

"Keeping in view the Bharat Bandh, OSRTC buses will not ply on 27/9/21 from 6am to 3pm," the Odisha transport authority

tweeted Sunday.

Farmers from different parts of the country, especially Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, have been protesting at Delhi's borders since last November, demanding the repeal of the farm laws over fears that it would do away with the minimum support price, leaving them at the mercy of big corporations.

The three laws – Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act – were passed by Parliament in September last year.

The government has been projecting the three laws as major agricultural reforms.

Jagabandhu Bidyadhar (BJB) Autonomous College recorded the highest cut-off marks.

In the second selection, the on-

line deposit of admission fees through SAMS Odisha portal by the students is between September 23 (2pm) and 27 (upto 11.45pm).

SEEKING VOTES



BJD candidate for Pipli byelection Rudra Pratap Maharathy (L) speaks in a meeting as part of his campaign, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Ecotourism site tag for 'peacock valley' sought

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: An environmentalist has urged the state government to declare the 'peacock valley' near Naraj in Cuttack district as an ecotourism site on the occasion of World Tourism Day, September 27.

Environmentalist Susant Kumar Sahoo has written to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Tourism and Culture Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi and Forest and Environment Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha seeking an ecotourism site tag to the 'peacock valley' at Talghara near Naraj.

According to Sahoo, one can find hundreds of peacocks and peahens at Talghara, located in between Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. "People from the locality usu-



WORLD TOURISM DAY

ally flock to Talghara to have a glimpse of the majestic birds in the morning and evening. Talghara has a huge potential to attract large number of tourists if proper step is taken to develop

the locality as an ecotourism site," Sahoo said in his letter.

Sahoo also claimed that several videos on the peacocks of Talghara have been uploaded and shared on various social media sites. He urged

One can find hundreds of peacocks and peahens at Talaghara, located in between Bhubaneswar and Cuttack

the state government to take immediate steps to protect the peacocks of Talaghara and raise the green cover in the locality.

The environmentalist also urged the state government to relocate the shooting range meant for training in Odisha police from the locality. "Ecotourism site tag to the locality will create employment opportunities for the locals and augment revenue generation," Sahoo pleaded in his letter.

CSIR-IMMT celebrates
80th foundation day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT) Bhubaneswar Sunday observed the 80th foundation day of the parent body CSIR on the premises of the institute here. On the occasion, the chairman-cum-managing director of NMDC Ltd Hyderabad, Sumit Deb, said that CSIR showcased the excellence in research in various technical sectors. Deb emphasised on enhancement of mining sector and advancement and acceptance of research in different sectors like coal, iron ore, green steel and others.

IMMT director Suddhasatwa Basu was also present on the occasion. CSIR-IMMT and NMDC, Hyderabad signed an MoU to pursue joint research & development projects like technology development in the area of low & lean grade iron ore processing, coal, kimberlite waste, utilisation of iron fines waste and tungsten.

Railways cancels 12 trains

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Sept 26: The South Central Railway (SCR) has cancelled 12 trains and short terminated, diverted or rescheduled a few other trains in view of the cyclonic storm 'Gulab' which is set to cross Andhra-Odisha coast Sunday.

Bhubaneswar-Secunderabad, Bhubaneswar-Tirupati, Tirupati-Bhubaneswar, Puri-Chennai Central, Chennai Central-Puri, Sambalpur-HS Nanded, HS Nanded-Sambalpur, and Rayagada-Guntur trains, which were scheduled to commence journey Sunday and Monday, have been cancelled.

The authorities also announced cancellation of Bhubaneswar-KSR Bengaluru City, KSR Bengaluru City-Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar-Yesvantpur and Yesvantpur-Bhubaneswar trains. They also announced diversion of the Puri-Okha train via Khurda Raod-Angul-Sambalpur-Titlagarh-Lakholi-



THE AUTHORITIES ALSO ANNOUNCED REGULATION OF 10 TRAINS IN SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY, CENTRAL RAILWAY AND SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY AS PER THE SITUATION

Balharshah. New Tinsukia - KSR Bengaluru City, which commenced

journey Friday, was diverted via Kharagpur-Jharsuguda-Balharshah. Howrah-Chennai Central, Howrah-Yesvantpur, Howrah-Vasco-da-Gama were also diverted via Kharagpur-Jharsuguda-Balharshah.

Yesvantpur-Budge Budge train was diverted via Vizianagaram-Titlagarh-Asansol, and Kanniyakumari-Howrah train via Vizianagaram-Titlagarh-Jharsuguda-Kharagpur.

Chennai Central-Howrah was diverted via Vizianagaram-Titlagarh-Jharsuguda-Kharagpur.

Guntur-Rayagada train, which commenced journey Saturday, was short terminated at Visakhapatnam and partially cancelled between Visakhapatnam and Rayagada.

Bhubaneswar-Mumbai CSMT and Puri-Tirupati trains have been rescheduled. The authorities also announced regulation of 10 trains in South Eastern Railway, Central Railway and South Central Railway as per the situation.

Thrust on reducing anaemia
under Nat'l Nutrition Mission

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: The Women and Child Development (W&CD) department is now observing the 4th Rashtriya Poshan Maah in the state.

The Rashtriya Poshan Maah aims at improving the nutritional status of children and women and reducing levels of anaemia among them. Experts are of the opinion that community mobilisation is vital for the success of Poshan Maah. This year, four basic themes, one for each week of September, have been identified for observation of the Poshan Maah.

This year's Poshan Maah put emphasis on plantation activities, identification of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) among women and children, distribution of nutrition kits and practice of yoga for healthy life.

According to the experts, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

play a key role in the successful implementation of various activities under the Poshan Maah.

The PRIs and the district administrations are taking steps for plantation activities under Poshan Vatika and Mo Upakari Bagicha initiatives. Nutrition kits comprising of chhatua, groundnut chikki, eggs, atta and besan ladoos and dry ration for cooked meals are being distributed to the beneficiaries at the Anganwadi Centres under the supplementary nutrition programme (SNP). The programme is aimed at improving the nutrition status of the beneficiaries.

The district administrations launched a drive to monitor the growth of children (0-5 yrs) during the first fortnight of the month. Malnourished and underweight children were identified during the drive and necessary steps were taken for improving the health and nutritional status of such children.

Delhi cops in City
to catch conman

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: A team of Delhi Police searching for an accused in a job fraud case has encamped in City for the last two days.

According to sources, the team carried out raids at several places with the help of Nayapalli police Sunday to catch the conman identified as Manoj Mohanty. However, they failed to trace the accused as he changed his addresses at regular intervals.

Sources claimed that Mohanty, who identified himself as the manager of a City-based company, allegedly duped several youths of more than Rs 1 Crore under the pretext of providing job in his firm. Subsequently, he fled the national Capital after collecting money from the victims few months ago.

The team has sought the help of Commissionerate Police to conduct raids at some other addresses of the accused Monday as well.

EDU INSTITUTES
CLOSED TODAY
IN 11 DISTRICTS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: In view of the cyclonic storm Gulab, schools and other educational institutions in 11 districts will remain closed Monday.

While holding a review meeting Sunday, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has directed the Collectors of Ganjam, Gajapati, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Kandhamal, Malkangiri, Khurda, Puri, Nayagarh and Kalahandi districts to keep schools and other educational institutions closed Monday in view of the cyclone.

Following this, the Higher Education department has also directed closing down of all higher educational institutions for a day.

The district Collectors may continue closure of institutions Tuesday depending on the situation in their respective districts.

Virtual tour explores medicinal practices of Kutia Kondh

AS PER THE TRIBE'S BELIEFS, DISEASE IS SOMETHING THAT AFFECTS BOTH BODY AND SOUL, AND ILLNESS IS A SORT OF DISTURBANCE, CAUSED BY THE SUPERNATURAL POWERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS, IN A PERSON'S LIFE-FORCE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: A virtual tour showcasing the indigenous knowledge system and tra-



ditional medicinal practices of Kutia Kondh was aired Sunday through Facebook and Twitter handles of the ST & SC Development (STSCDEV) department and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI), said Director SCSTRTI, AB Ota.

Kutia Kondh tribals live in Kalahandi and Kandhamal districts. Broom making, mat making and basketry are some of their primary occupations. As per the tribe's beliefs, their very existence is linked with the environment and supernatural powers. They believe, disease is



something that affects both body and soul, and illness is a sort of disturbance in a person's life-force caused by the supernatural powers and environmental factors.

The healing practices of the community, therefore, rely on the medicinal efficacy of plants,

animals and minerals administered by folk healers by direction of the divine.

The tour follows Kutia Kondh healers as they collect, process and prescribe their traditional medicines. In doing so, it explores the Kutia Kondh's understanding of illness and how they are treated.

Newborn found
half buried on
riverbank

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barang, Sept 26: A newborn was found half buried on Kuakhai riverbank near Baliyatra Ground here Sunday.

Sources said that a few of the residents of Barimunda village spotted the newborn half buried on the riverbank Sunday afternoon and informed the Mancheswar police.

Upon being informed, the police rushed to the spot and recovered the dead body of the newborn.

"We've recovered the body from the riverbank and sent it for autopsy to Capital Hospital. The bad shape of the body made it difficult for us to identify its gender. It only had a dipper. A case (64/21) of unnatural death has been registered in this regard," said a police official.

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Gajapati, Ganjam admins gear up for cyclone Gulab



POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi/Chhatrapur, Sept 26: With cyclone Gulab set to make landfall Sunday night between Gopalpur and Andhra Pradesh's Kalingapatnam, several districts of Odisha are on high alert to meet any eventuality.

Under the influence of the cyclone, increased wind speed along with heavy to very heavy rains is also being reported across Gajapati district. The streets are nearly empty.

The district administration, meanwhile, has asked people not to panic and said that it is well prepared to face the cyclone.

While a 30-member team of Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) has camped at Paralakhemundi district headquarters, Gumma and Gosani blocks each have a National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team, it was learnt.

According to several sources, as many as 1,737 people from low lying and vulnerable areas have

While a 30-member ODRAF team has camped at Paralakhemundi district headquarters, Gumma and Gosani blocks each have an NDRF team

Ganjam admin has set a target to evacuate more than 61,875 people to safe places such as cyclone shelters

Gulab is the third cyclone after Tauktae and Yaas to make landfall this year



been shifted to safer places by 11:00 am. The evacuated people include 40 from three villages of Gosani block, 185 from three villages of Gumma block, 90 from three villages of Kasinagar block, 357 from nine villages of Mohana block, 93 from four villages of Nuagarh block, 840 from 14 villages of Rayagada block and 32 from two villages of Udaygiri block.

The Ganjam district administration is also deploying all its resources to face the cyclone. District Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange recently convened a meeting through video conferencing at OSWAN hall. He directed all the district level officers, police, fire department and ODRAF teams to be on standby.

In Ganjam district, a target has been set to evacuate more than 61,875 people to safe places such as cyclone shelters and schools at higher places by evening. The concerned officials have been directed to provide them cooked food.

Notably, Gulab is the third cyclone after Tauktae and Yaas to make landfall this year.



Communication on Namangarh- Ajaygarh route under Gumma block in Gajapati district was disrupted following a landslide from the roadside hill due to cyclonic storm Gulab induced rainfall, Sunday

4 cops suspended, HRPC probe suggested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Sept 26: The district police suspended four police personnel Sunday in connection with the custodial death and lathi-charge on protesters in Bargarh, the previous day.

The deceased was identified as Gobind Kumbhar, 25, a resident of ward no-21 of Tora panchayat on Bargarh town's outskirts. Family members, his wife Rubi Kumbhar and residents alleged that Town police picked up Gobind late Friday night and tortured him in the lock up. The deceased is survived by his widow and two minor children.

After a review of DIG Jaynarayan Pankaj, Bargarh SP Rahul Jain suspended two sub-inspectors, an assistant sub-inspector and a home

guard in connection with the death of a youth in police custody.

The suspended police personnel were identified as SI Mangal Kisko, ASI Pitambar Behera, Kshirod Biswal and home guard Gopabandhu Jagdala. Their services have been withdrawn from Town police station and they were asked to report for duty at the district police headquarters.

Even as all seems to be at peace after a day of high tension and violence over the alleged custodial death of a youth in this town Sunday, tension was palpable in the area with the police lathi-charging on the irate protesters during their protest the previous day. The death of Gobind under suspicious circumstances sparked tension among his fam-

CUSTODIAL DEATH



ily members and residents as they launched a road blockade and ransacked the new district headquarters hospital, Saturday. Police ultimately resorted to lathi-charge in order to disperse the protesters, Saturday.

His family members alleged that there is mark of assault on the deceased's back. His wife Rubi lodged a complaint at the Town police station, Saturday. However, police re-

fused to accept the FIR, his family members alleged.

Family members even refused to cremate the body till the authorities of Human Rights Protection Cell (HRPC) make an observation of the body. Police Sunday called a delegation of the family members and members of Bahujan Milita Manch to the district police headquarters and held a series of meetings to diffuse tension.

DIG Jaynarayan Pankaj, SP Rahul Jain and ASP Mirdha Toppo tried to placate them but they refused to yield and insisted on fulfillment of their demands. They finally relented after SP Jain wrote to the ADG, HRPC and DIG (North) requesting to conduct a probe on the basis of complaint filed by the deceased's wife.

Man booked for rape bid on 9-year-old girl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, Sept 26: A 44-year-old man has been booked for allegedly molesting and attempting to rape a nine-year-old girl in Jajpur district, police said.

The alleged incident took place in Lalbag village in Mangalpur police station area September 20 when the girl was playing alone on a road near her house, an officer said.

As per the police complaint lodged by the girl's father Saturday, the accused, a father of two children himself, had allegedly molested her and then tried to rape her when she raised an alarm and managed to return home and narrate her ordeal to her mother, he said.

Her parents took the matter to the village committee the same night but they failed to resolve the issue even after four days, following which they approached the police.

A case under sections of the Indian Penal Code and POCSO Act was registered and a medical examination conducted on the girl. A manhunt has been launched to nab the accused, he added.

MKCG embalming centre a non-starter

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 26: Even as there has been a rise in interest among people to donate their body after death for carrying out studies and research in medical science, lack of an embalming centre in MKCG Medical College and Hospital here has hit the drive in Ganjam district, a report said.

The department of anatomy in any medical college has an important role to play in medical studies. Students admitted to medical colleges have to study the function of various internal body parts and organs through this department while pursuing their medical studies.

The anatomy department of Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati Medical College and Hospital (MKCGMCH) has received permission from the state government to accept human bodies as part of body donation and use them in studies and research of medical students. As a result, the need for establishment of an embalming centre to embalm the bodies received through donations has increased manifold in this medical college.

The college authorities had sub-

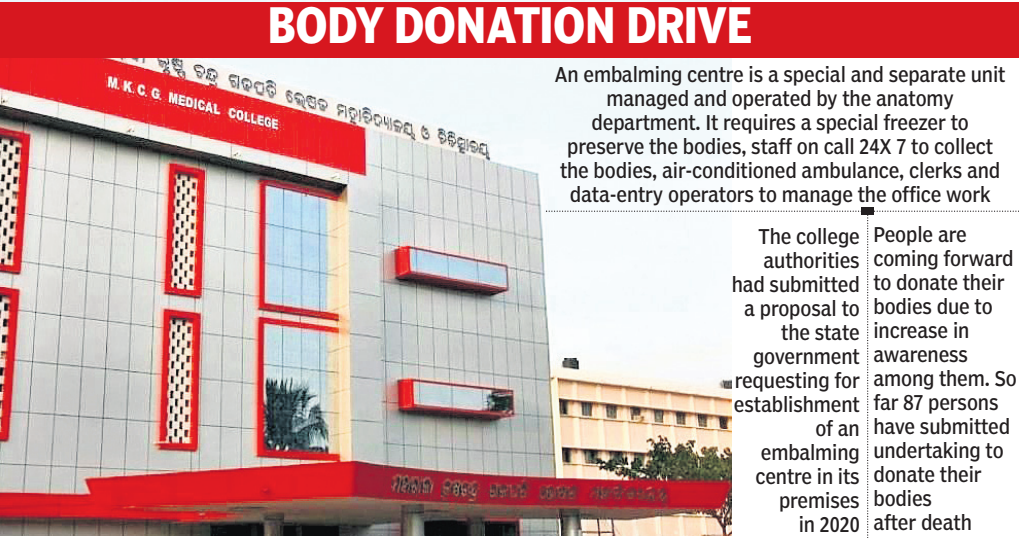
mitted a proposal to the state government requesting for establishment of an embalming centre in its premises in 2020. The college authorities had also sent repeated reminders but their pleas are yet to be addressed.

The establishment of an embalming centre in SCB Medical College and Hospital at Cuttack is also yet to be realised. On the other hand, people are coming forward to donate their bodies and organs due to increase in awareness among them.

Meanwhile, 87 persons have submitted their written undertakings to donate their bodies to the college after death, Professor Dr Sadananda Rath, head of the anatomy department said. A maximum of 33 persons have submitted undertakings for body donation in 2015 while this year seven persons have submitted the same.

However, the state government is yet to make available the facilities in this medical college which is highly required for preserving the bodies. The establishment of an embalming centre has become all the more a necessity with an increase in interest for body donation among the people, he said.

Many benevolent people are com-



An embalming centre is a special and separate unit managed and operated by the anatomy department. It requires a special freezer to preserve the bodies, staff on call 24X 7 to collect the bodies, air-conditioned ambulance, clerks and data-entry operators to manage the office work

The college authorities had submitted a proposal to the state government requesting for establishment of an embalming centre in its premises in 2020

People are coming forward to donate their bodies due to increase in awareness among them. So far 87 persons have submitted undertaking to donate their bodies after death

ing forward to donate their bodies after body donation was accorded legal sanction. It is a matter of concern that the anatomy department of MKCG Medical College has no facility for establishment of an embalming centre.

The department only has facilities to preserve a few unclaimed bodies which are received for studies of the medical students. The department received seven bodies

on donation between 2013 and 2021, Prof Rath said. In 2017, the department received 12 bodies out of which one body was received as part of body donation.

Sources said that an embalming centre is a special and separate unit managed and operated by the anatomy department. The centre requires a special freezer to preserve the bodies, staff on call 24X7 to collect the bodies, air-con-

ditioned ambulance, clerks and data-entry operators to manage the office work.

It is the duty of the centre to collect the bodies in the event of death of any person who has submitted undertaking to MKCG Medical College. However, due to lack of infrastructure it has become a difficult task for the departmental authorities to preserve the bodies, Prof Rath added.

Assistance money given to deceased journo's kin

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, Sept 26: The assistance money announced by the state government to the aggrieved family of reporter Arindam Das who died during 'Operation Gajarah' at Mundali barrage in Cuttack district September 24 was handed over to the reporter's widow Sunday.

"Keonjhar Sub-Collector Rama Chandra Kisku Sunday met the aggrieved family of deceased reporter Das at his ancestral village Raikala of Rajnagar panchayat in Keonjhar district, shared his grief with the family members and handed over a cheque of ₹4,00,000 to Sameeksha, the deceased's wife," informed deputy director of in-

formation and public relations department Sanjeev Barik.

Notably, an elephant got separated from its herd and got trapped in the current of the Mahanadi river while crossing it early September 24. To rescue the animal, an operation was launched and help of Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) was sought. Reporter Das along with his cameraman Prabhat Sinha accompanied an ODRAF team in a boat to cover the operation.

Unfortunately, the operation ended with a tragic incident. The boat capsized. In the mishap, Das and an ODRAF jawan identified as Sitaram Murmu died.



DEMO FOR LOCAL TRAINS



Residents demanding of plying of local trains by Haridaspur railway station under Dharmasala block in Jajpur district and sale of daily and seasonal tickets at the railway counters stage a demonstration in the railway station premises. Residents of five panchayats participated in this agitation and submitted a memorandum to the station master addressed to the Union Railways minister

OP PHOTO

Cop run over by pick-up van

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Sept 26: An Odisha Special Armed Police personnel was killed after being run over by a fertilizer-laden pick-up van in Ganjam district Saturday, police said.

Thirty-eight-year-old Kaibarta Majhi and other police personnel were checking vehicles at Balichhai Chhaka on the Aska-Bhanjanagar Road when the Bhanjanagar-bound pick-up van hit him, an officer said.



He was rushed to the Aska sub-divisional hospital, and later shifted to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur where he succumbed to his injuries, he said.

The driver of the vehicle was found in a highly intoxicated state and he was unable to walk or talk. He was detained, a case was registered, and an investigation was underway, the officer said.

Kaibarta was a resident of a village near Gudari in Rayagada district. He was posted in Aska for the past several months and is survived by his wife, Aska police station inspector PK Sahoo said.

Police officers, including Superintendent of Police Brikesh Rai, paid tributes to him at the hospital. His body has been sent to his native village.

3 poachers nabbed from Bhitarkanika

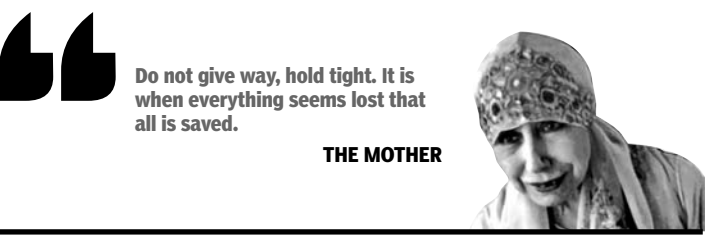
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, Sept 26: Three suspected poachers were arrested for allegedly laying nylon-wire traps to kill spotted deer and wild boar within the core area of Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara district, an official said Saturday.

Fifteen such traps, two nets and as many sharp weapons were seized from the spot in the protected mangrove forest at Patikhara, he said.

The suspects were booked under the Wildlife Protection Act, the forest official said.

The gang was actively indulging in wildlife poaching in the recent past, he added.



Do not give way, hold tight. It is when everything seems lost that all is saved.

THE MOTHER

Bapu & Biden

US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris performed a subtle and clever balancing act when they reminded visiting Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their separate meetings in Washington September 23-24 of the need for upholding the values of democracy and the ‘common bond’ between the ‘natural partners’ - the oldest democracy (USA from 1728) and the largest democracy (India with a population nearing 1.5 billion). The meetings took place when the top leaders of the Quad group of the USA, Australia, Japan and India had their first in-person summit. The importance of the main event was further accentuated by the formation of the tri-nation grouping of Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) a few days back with the objective of containing China and frustrating the latter’s unilateral expansionist designs in the South China Sea.

It was only natural that the US administration would send out a loud and clear message that the importance of Quad is not undermined by the new alliance of the AUKUS, even though the latter makes a qualitative difference in the strategy of the leading ‘democracies’ to unitedly take on China. In the first place, Quad is not a military alliance while at the core of the AUKUS grouping is the Australia-US nuclear-powered submarine deal. Though it will take several years before Australia gets the US submarines, the deal has unnerved China. It has fulminated against the alliance and has termed it an attempt to revive the Cold War years and trigger an arms race in the Indo-Pacific region. Predictably, India would be only too happy to see much of its burden of fighting an aggressive and hostile China, constantly nibbling its territories and encircling it, shifted to the American, Australian and British shoulders. But India along with Japan appears nonetheless concerned about the possible reduction of the importance of the Quad following the mightier tri-nation alliance.

Significantly the question of India and Japan being subsequently included in the AUKUS in some form or the other was raised before the US administration as the Quad leaders met. The White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki not only dismissed the possibility outright, but even joked before the media about the suggestion. She said the formation of the AUKUS was not meant to be an indication, but the US President clearly sent out the message to the world through the French President Emmanuel Macron that there is no one else who will be involved in the security of the Indo-Pacific region. Psaki seemed to have been so much regaled by the suggestion that she retorted with the rhetorical question what AUKUS would then become? JAUkus (J for Japan)? Or, JAIAUKUS (JAI for Japan and India). The fact that the US Press Secretary could be joking on the inclusion of India and Japan into the alliance in such a manner shows the intentions of the three countries to jealously guard the secrecy of not only the military cooperation but more so the nuclear powered attack submarines that are to be given to Australia.

That is understandable. But, what apparently strikes as a jarring note is the insistence of Biden and Harris on raking up the issue of India’s track record of respecting democratic values under the Modi dispensation. Seemingly, it was needless since the agenda included the multinational groupings in the Indo-Pacific, COVID and concerns of climate change. The question is whether the US President and Vice President strayed from the agenda during their interactions with Prime Minister Modi to keep him under pressure so that he doesn’t sing a different tune when the USA needs India both as an ally for tackling Taliban-led Afghanistan after the US pullout and also cornering China in the Indo-Pacific. The answer is probably that they need to keep their own domestic constituencies in good humour by showing them that Modi was definitely not a favourite of the present US administration.

Obviously, the USA would like to see India as an ideological and strategic partner to thwart China’s rise, but it is probably becoming increasingly difficult to overlook or explain the assaults on civil liberties and the threats to India’s minorities under the BJP-led government. The record of the BJP rule has sent disturbing signals to the international community, including the USA. But, if America’s new alliance of democracies against China is to become meaningful, the constituents of the coalition need to be democratic as well. Clamouring for safeguarding human rights in China would lose its meaning if the USA ignores gross violations by any of its allies. This could be why Biden and Harris deliberately raised the issue of protecting democratic principles before Modi. Biden was rather indirect when he spoke about the coming birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, who had given his life for the democratic principles of tolerance and equal opportunities. But Harris was more straightforward when she told Modi democracies around the world are under threat and it is imperative that “we defend democratic principles and institutions within our respective countries and around the world.” To din the message into Modi’s ears without sounding too offensive she even said she knew from her personal experience and family of the “commitment of the Indian people to democracy.” Note worthy is that one of her nieces had raised her voice against the Modi government’s repression of farmers protesting against three farm laws.

This may not sound music to the BJP’s ears as the party’s propaganda machinery would heap praise on Modi’s ‘successful’ US trip. But, that’s the reality that can’t be wished away or glossed over. International politics does not depend on any individual anymore. Eventually, it will be India which will be the gainer or loser in this game of checkmating China.

WISDOM CORNER

- Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage. LAO TZU
- Truth is not something outside to be discovered, it is something inside to be realised. OSHO
- I have learned silence from the talkative, toleration from the intolerant, and kindness from the unkind; yet, strange, I am ungrateful to those teachers. KAHILIL GIBRAN

WORDSWORTH

■ Peristeronic

Pigeon-fancying – to which this word refers – was especially strong in England in the nineteenth century, with great skill expended in breeding new varieties for show. Charles Darwin became a fancier in 1855 to study variation within species as part of his research which became On the Origin of Species. Like other bodies of the period, pigeon-fanciers’ societies looked to the classical languages for suitably distinguished titles. At the time Darwin became involved, a London one was grandly called the Philoeristeron Society. Philo- means a lover of something, from Greek philos, loving; peristeron was invented by a learned founder, which he took from Greek peristera for a wild pigeon or dove. The organisation changed its name in 1867 to the National Peristeronic Society (which still exists), in which peristeronic was another invented word, an adjective with the sense “relating to or concerned with pigeons”. The change of name should not be taken as meaning that the members of the society had ceased loving their pigeons. Another organisation of the time was the Columbarian Society, whose name is from Latin columbarius, a keeper of doves. The related columbarium could mean a dovecote or pigeon loft, but it now refers to a place in a crematorium where urns holding a deceased’s cremated remains are stored; the connection is that the niches for the urns in a columbarium reminded people of roosting holes in a dovecote. Several societies retain columbarian in their names, including the National Columbarian Society in the USA.



Thomas Koch Blank

A NET-ZERO ECONOMY WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT ADDITIONAL SUBSTITUTES FOR FOSSIL FUELS. FORTUNATELY, THE TINY HYDROGEN MOLECULE HOLDS THE KEY

SPECTRUM WORLD TOURISM DAY

Slow, off-beat, nature travel in demand



Narvijay Yadav

SAFETY AND HYGIENE ARE CONSIDERED TO BE THE NEW LUXURY

According to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), international tourism has witnessed a loss of \$1.3 trillion in 2020, while the Indian tourism industry saw a revenue

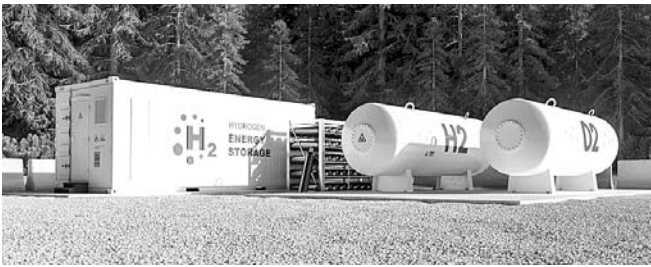
While we already have mature technologies that can replace fossil fuels in many parts of our economy, there are areas where eliminating carbon pollution will be much more difficult. Steel, shipping, aviation, and trucking, for example, account for a combined 40 per cent of our global carbon footprint and are on track to consume two times the remaining carbon budget for staying below 1.5° Celsius of warming.

Fortunately, ‘green’ hydrogen – H2 produced through electrolysis using renewable energy – holds enormous promise for these sectors. Through various applications, this tiny molecule can provide the heat, reduction properties, fuel, and other services needed to replace fossil fuels. In fact, given the technical challenge of getting these ‘hard-to-abate’ sectors to a state of carbon neutrality, hitting 2050 net-zero targets without it would be virtually impossible.

H2 uptake can serve other objectives beyond decarbonisation. For example, hydrogen’s ability to substitute for natural gas in many applications allows for a degree of energy independence and reduced reliance on liquefied natural gas or pipeline imports from Russia. And while renewables like solar and wind are limited by the extent of electrical grids, hydrogen can be transported by pipeline or potentially by ship. That means it could become an exportable renewable-energy source, eventually replacing petroleum as the main global energy commodity.

H2 uptake is starting from vastly differing points, depending on the market. In Europe and Southeast Asia, political and market incentives are already fully aligned for the deployment of H2 infrastructure. But in large oil- and gas-exporting economies, the incentives are often conflicting. Notably, there is significant misalignment in the United States, where natural gas fulfills all the political priorities that hydrogen can provide for other markets.

As a crucial element in achieving 2050 net-zero targets, hydrogen production, storage, and transport represents a multi-trillion-dollar



Green hydrogen holds enormous promise for steel, shipping, aviation, and trucking sectors. Through various applications, this tiny molecule can provide the heat, reduction properties, fuel, and other services needed to replace fossil fuels

opportunity, not only for energy incumbents but also for investors. While hydrogen is currently more expensive (per unit of energy delivered) than competing options such as fossil fuels, the scaling up of electrolyzer production is driving down costs. Within the next decade, we can expect H2 to reach break-even points with fossil fuels across different applications, after which hydrogen uptake will bring cost savings.

Green hydrogen is particularly attractive for developing economies. There is a strong geographical overlap between countries and regions with the lowest production cost for renewable energy and those with lower per capita GDP. These countries thus could secure a global competitive advantage by becoming hydrogen producers and exporters. Doing so would also help them attract zero-carbon heavy industry, such as fertilizer manufacturing or hydrogen-based direct reduction steelmaking.

H2 is also attractive for wealthy industrialised countries, which currently lead the world in the manufacture of hydrogen electrolyzers. However, if the recent history of the photovoltaic (solar panel) industry is any guide, wealthy countries may need stronger industrial policies to ensure that production does not migrate to China and other regions.

There is more work to do before hydrogen can realise its full decarbonisation potential. As matters stand, green hydrogen rep-

resents a very small portion of existing hydrogen production. Instead, most hydrogen is ‘gray’ because it is made using fossil fuels through a steam methane reforming (SMR) process. Though there is potential to capture and store some of the associated carbon dioxide emissions to make a slightly cleaner fossil-based ‘blue’ hydrogen, this option would not be emissions-free. H2 therefore has a complex CO2 footprint, for now.

Furthermore, for hydrogen to deliver on its promise, the decarbonisation of electric grids must happen in parallel. But as with electric vehicles (EVs), we cannot wait for a 100 per cent clean grid to begin deploying electrolyzers; we must start now. This is not as financially risky as it sounds. There will undeniably be a threshold where green hydrogen becomes the lowest-cost source of hydrogen generally.

Nonetheless, using green hydrogen to decarbonise heavy industry will demand a truly awesome amount of electricity. Producing the necessary volume of hydrogen would almost double total current global electricity generation. The only way to meet this demand is to build renewable energy even faster. That, in turn, will lead to critical infrastructure-design questions, such as whether to prioritise H2 pipelines or power lines. And the growth of this sector will have many regulatory implications. To ensure a rapid build-out of hydrogen infrastructure, it will be important

to enable monetisation, create rate structures to encourage capital-expenditure deferral, and provide system-wide planning across infrastructure types.

One high-potential area for repurposing infrastructure is in natural-gas pipeline networks, which, in some cases, can be retrofitted to allow for hydrogen transport. Some thermal power plants can also potentially be repurposed; but, here, the end-to-end efficiency of power-to-hydrogen-to-power is low, so the profitable use cases are limited. For steel industry, the picture is grimmer, as existing blast furnace capacity may need to be replaced with direct reduction. Similarly, gasoline and diesel fueling infrastructure will need to be replaced. But the future of such infrastructure is already in doubt, owing to growing market for battery EVs.

Hydrogen brings enormous opportunities but also a daunting scaling challenge. Globally, the industry currently has the capacity to produce only around one gigawatt of hydrogen electrolyzers each year; whereas, according to the International Energy Agency’s analysis on what a 1.5°C pathway requires, green hydrogen production will need to grow 1,000-fold from today to 2030.

There are actions that can and must be taken to meet this challenge. First, we need policies to ensure stable demand at scale, so that electrolysis makers can leapfrog into industrialised manufacturing. Second, governments must provide subsidies to cover the initial ‘green premium’ until learning-curve effects take over. And, finally, we must address the tension between current asset locations and the places with the lowest-cost clean-sheet footprint for decarbonised industries. Backed by direct and indirect political priorities, hydrogen markets have already gained momentum and crossed the point of no return. As such, they are quickly bringing cleaner industry and a decarbonised economy within striking distance.

The writer is Senior Principal of Breakthrough Technologies at RMI.

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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

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Negligence writ large

Sir, Two heartbreaking incidents in one week have shocked the people of Odisha. A 15-year-old student drowned in an open drain last Sunday in the capital, while popular television reporter Arindam Das was killed when an ODRF boat capsized Friday during an operation to rescue an elephant trapped in the middle of the Mahanadi. Both these disasters were manmade. They happened because precautionary measures were not taken. In the first case, the administration tried to play safe, citing the reason of encroachment of drains. The second incident took place in public and was broadcast live on TV. The question here is whether the members of the ODRF team were experienced. If so, they could have estimated the river. Were the members properly trained? Was that boat right for this activity? Another question is why TV journalists and camera crew were allowed on the boat when there were strong currents in the river. Nowadays, events can be recorded from far through sophisticated cameras. Even when technology has reached such a high level today, it is still useless. The cause of the accident is unknown at this moment. It is imperative to take precautionary measures to prevent such accidents in the future. Two precious lives in the form of the 15-year-old boy and a noted journalist were lost due to negligence.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Missed opportunities

Sir, When we think of dream destinations to visit we always think of countries like Australia, United Kingdom, New Zealand to name a few. India on the other hand is sitting on a heap of gold and is still ignorant about it. With the diverse cultures, bio-geographic regions, an enviable history India can give these countries a run for their money. But sadly India is not cashing in on the opportunity. According to a report, 65 per cent of people in India are dissatisfied with the facilities available at historical places. It is seen that many places of historical importance in India do not have accommodation facilities near them. This is a big deal breaker for all travel enthusiasts. On the occasion of World Tourism Day I wish that the government takes initiatives to improve the state of affairs. It is not always firepower that shows a country’s might. Culture is the greatest might so I wish that the government invests more in the tourism sector.

Noopur Baruah, TEZPUR

35 irrigation projects go defunct in Nayagarh

DPRs FOR RENOVATION OF PROJECTS AWAITING APPROVAL; FARMERS IN DISTRESS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Sept 26: The Odisha government has made provisions for irrigation in some parts of Nayagarh district. However, the potential of the projects has been on the decline due to siltation. The authorities have not carried out the renovation of these projects in a proper manner, a report said.

The water retaining capacity of these 35 projects has declined in the district. As a result, coverage through these irrigation schemes has decreased considerably. Farmers who earlier thrived on water from some of these projects are now at a loss.

The authorities of the Minor Irrigation department have submitted detailed project reports(DPRs) to their higher-ups for renovation of 35 projects, but they are yet to get the necessary ap-



proval.

It was learnt that DPRs of 20 projects were submitted February 1 followed by another set of DPRs

DPRs of 20 projects were submitted February 1 followed by another set of DPRs April 20. DPRs of two other projects were given April 28 and August 4 respectively. However, till date, nothing concrete has materialised

Chadeiyapalli irrigation project in Godipalli pachayat under Odagaon block has allegedly turned useless for farming, because it has lost its water retaining capacity. Trees have sprung up inside the project and it badly needs renovation, locals said

April 20. DPRs of two other projects were given April 28 and August 4 respectively. However, till date, nothing concrete has materialised.

A case in point is the Chadeiyapalli irrigation project in Godipalli pachayat under Odagaon block. The project has allegedly turned useless for farming, because it has lost its water retaining capacity. Trees have sprung up inside the project and it badly needs renovation, locals said.

People used to do fish farming in Kainphulia dam. But this project is no longer sustaining for pisciculture. Its canals have been choked due to siltation.

The other projects that are no longer useful for farming are Rohibanka, Kumbharapalli, Giridipalli, Kural, Bedtank Nadighora, Golagaon, Katarihari and Dholpathar. Several other projects at Dulbi, Krishnapur Badajora, Ranga in Patia panchayat, Kakalama, Baghamara, Bhetabara and Bhuinmundia under Ranpur block, Kosaka, Gosinganala,

Modanala and Sunamohu in Khandpada block have also lost their water retaining capacity.

Locals alleged that they are not getting any benefits from the irrigation projects from Ghagera under Gania block, Malisara and Panasakha under Nuagaon block, Mahinala and Huguri under Dasapalla block, Arakhpalli, Baladia Nuagaon and Nimani projects under Bhapur block. Farmers said these projects no longer provide water for their farmlands.

The issue was raised at the 10th Zilla Parishad meeting where the Minor Irrigation department put forth a report on the status of the projects in the district. The department said that approximately ₹4183.70 lakh will be required for renovation of these 35 irrigation projects. Officials said that only after the DPRs are approved renovation work will start.

Power problems plague residents of Deogaon block

POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogaon, Sept 26: The standing committee of the Odisha Assembly has expressed concern over issues related to power supply in various villages under Deogaon block of Bolangir district.

The panel led by legislator Narasingh Mishra visited Jarasingh, Kuturla, Badabandh, Landapathar, Badabandh and Singhamunda panchayats. Its members took stock of the problems rising out of supply of electricity in these panchayats.

The committee comprising Brajrajnagar legislator Kishore Mohanty and Deogarh legislator Subansh Panigrahy held talks with people at Amapada, Karunajahara, Landapathar, Ghatuladunguri and Balamunda villages where they were drawn attention about frequent power cuts and low voltage. People expressed their unhappiness over this perennial problem.



Assembly committee in Bolangir

The committee members had directed the Energy department to sort out the electricity issues in these villages.

It was learnt that the transformer has not been upgraded at Landapathar while there is no power supply for Jhikermal and Mirdhapada.

Locals BDO, people's representatives, engineers accompanied the committee members during the visit.

105 prawn gheries demolished near Bhitarkanika sanctuary



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rajnagar, Sept 26: Officials have been on a drive to demolish illegal prawn gheries in Bhitarkanika area in Kendrapara district. In the last four days, 105 prawn gheries have been demolished. This was stated Sunday by ranger Dhaneswar Rath. These gheries had come up in Dikarpur, Sundaripal, Praharpur and Joginath mouza of the district.

According to the Forest department, no prawn gheries will be allowed to come up in and around the Bhitarkanika National Park. It is an eco-sensitive zone and so gheries cannot operate as per the Coastal Aquaculture act.

Officials said that in spite of the drive, a number of illegal gheries are still operating in the area. These will also be demolished as soon as possible and in a phased manner,

A number of illegal gheries are still operating in the area. These will also be demolished as soon as possible and in a phased manner

they added. They alleged that the prawn gheries are causing damage to the bio-diversity of Bhitarkanika sanctuary and paddy farming. The saline water from the gheries enters the farmlands and affect its fertility, officials informed.

Since prawn gheries are still operating in Mahakalpara, Rajnagar and Rakanika blocks, the farmers there suffer the most. Paddy farmers and people who work in the gheries often get engaged in conflicts over release of saline water into farmlands. This also affects the law and order situation in the blocks.



People perform rituals on the Reba river bank as part of a river protection drive in Pangira village under Bhandaripokhari block of Bhadrak district, Sunday

FOR PROTECTION OF RIVER

BJD wooing women voters in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 26: Keeping in mind the upcoming panchayat and the civic body polls next year, the ruling Biju Janata Dal(BJD) has adopted a new strategy to make electoral gains in Ganjam district. The BJD is trying to woo the women voters in the district.

The party has taken a number of steps to fortify its women wing to attract the fairer sex. SHGs under the 'Mission Shakti' programme are being re-activated. The SHGs have taken the responsibility of sensitising women for successful implementation of various programmes for them.

SHGs are also being provided loans at mega coordination melas being organised at the block level through 'Odisha Livelihood Mission' and 'Mission Shakti'.

The Ganjam unit of the BJD has announced the names of its functionaries for its Rangeilunda block committee in Gopalpur constituency while party leaders have been asked to immediately form Mahila BJD committees in Gopalpur and

AHEAD OF PANCHAYAT AND CIVIC BODY POLLS



THE GANJAM UNIT OF THE BJD HAS ANNOUNCED THE NAMES OF ITS FUNCTIONARIES FOR ITS RANGEILUNDA BLOCK COMMITTEE IN GOPALPUR CONSTITUENCY

BJD HAD APPOINTED M SUJATA AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT WOMEN'S WING TWO-AND-A-HALF MONTHS AGO. HOWEVER, RECENTLY SHE HAS BEEN REPLACED BY THE MORE EXPERIENCED SANGHAMITRA DALAI

Sanakhemundi constituencies.

It may be noted here that Gopalpur legislator Pradeep Panigrahi has been expelled from the BJD for his alleged involvement in a job scam. The Sanakhemundi Assembly constituency has been won by the Congress in the last State elections.

Keeping this in mind, the BJD is developing its women's wing to gain more votes and to strengthen its base ahead of the panchayat and civic body polls.

Even in urban areas, SHGs will play a crucial role in promoting 'Mission Shakti' with aim to garner women votes.

SHGs are engaged in various activities like plantation and wall-painting in the jurisdiction of the Berhampur Municipal Corporation.

Political circles are abuzz that the ruling party has been trying its best to influence the women vote bank in the district.

The BJD had appointed M Sujata as the president of the district women's wing two-and-a-half months ago. However, recently she has been replaced by the more experienced Sanghamitra Dalai. The party has started the process to reactivate women's organizations in all Assembly segments. MLAs and frontline leaders are being consulted in this regard.

Mission Shakti Mela was held at Keluapalli in Gopalpur September 26 while review of various development works and loan melas were held in some panchayats under Rangeilunda block.

Gopabandhu Das, political secretary to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik was present at these programmes. Party sources said that such programmes will be held in all blocks of Ganjam district.

Couple jumps into Godhas waterfall

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Sept 26: In a horrifying incident Sunday a couple went missing after jumping into the Godhas waterfall inside Sunabeda wildlife sanctuary in this district.

The lovebirds, who are to be identified, are reportedly natives of Thuapani village under Pipalchudi police limits in Gariabandh district in neighbouring Chhattisgarh.

Locals noticed the duo while they were jumping into the waterfall and immediately alerted the local police.

The Dharambandha police started a probe into the matter. Dresses of the couple, a torchlight and polythene bag packed with some papers was found hanging from a tree near the waterfall. Dharambandha police in Nuapada seized them and informed Pipalchudi police about the incident.

The police and a team of fire personnel launched a rescue operation but failed to trace the two or their bodies by Sunday evening.

PM praise for Odia farmer

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Sept 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi heaped praise Sunday on Patayat Sahu of Kalahandi district. Sahu has created a garden of medicinal plants on his farmland. Speaking about Sahu's inspiring story on his popular radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi heaped praise on the nature lover.

"Patayat Sahu ji, who lives in Nandol, Kalahandi district, Odisha, has been doing unique work in this area for years. He has planted medicinal plants in one-and-a-half acres of land," Modi said while addressing the 81st episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' programme.

"Sahu has also carried out documentation of the medicinal plants which he has grown in his farmland," Modi added.

The prime minister also said that during the times of the pandemic, growing such medicinal plants is indeed inspiring. "My dear countrymen, the condition of our lives today is such that the word Corona resonates in our ears many times a day. The biggest global pandemic in a hundred



Patayat Sahu ji, who lives in Nandol, Kalahandi district, Odisha, has been doing unique work in this area for years. He has planted medicinal plants in one-and-a-half acres of land

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

years, Covid-19 has taught every countryman a lot," Modi stated.

Sahu, a 65-year-old man has planted more than 3,000 medicinal plants. The elderly nature lover has used organic manures alone in his garden for growing the plants. Many have used his medicinal plants and have reaped benefits.

EVACUATION DRIVE



Pregnant women were shifted to a Maa Gruha to protect them from cyclonic storm Gulab in Kalimela block of Malakangiri district, Sunday

'Chhatar Yatra' sans devotees

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Sept 26: The Kalahandi district administration has said that the annual 'Chhatar Yatra' of Goddess Manikeswari in this town will be held October 13, sans devotees. "Keeping in mind, the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic, congregation of devotees will not be allowed during the celebration of Chhatar Yatra," District Collector GP Harshad said Sunday.

Devotees can watch live streaming of the rituals on the festival day on TV channels and Facebook page. All rituals of the 'Chhatar Yatra' will be performed by temple servitors as per tradition



all entry points be sealed on day of 'Chhatar Yatra' day to prevent movement of devotees. Five platoons of force will be deployed at the festival site to avoid any untoward law and order situation," Harshad added.

Devotees can watch live streaming of the rituals on the festival day on TV channels and Facebook page. All rituals of the 'Chhatar Yatra' will be performed by temple servitors as per tradition while adhering to Covid-19 safety protocols, the Collector informed. He added

that steps will be taken to raise awareness against animal sacrifice during the festival.

It is pertinent to mention here that a district-level meeting was held to decide on preparation for the upcoming Chhatar Yatra. Additional Collector Sarat Chandra Srichandan and Superintendent of Police Saravana Vivek M and other senior officials also took part in the meeting. It was decided during the meeting that the festival this time will be observed without devotees.

Yogi expands Cabinet ahead of polls

JITIN PRASADA, WHO SWITCHED FROM THE CONGRESS TO THE BJP RECENTLY, WAS INDUCTED INTO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Sept 26: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Sunday expanded his Cabinet by inducting seven new ministers. All the new ministers were administered oath of office and secrecy by Governor Anandiben Patel at a hurriedly convened ceremony at the Raj Bhavan, in the presence of the Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues. Among those who were sworn in are one cabinet minister and six ministers of state. The much-awaited expansion comes barely months before the state is preparing for assembly elections in early 2022. Through this expansion, the BJP has made it clear that it will focus on OBCs and SC/ST categories to ensure its return to power in next year's Assembly elections. While Jitin Prasada, who has



been sworn in as Cabinet minister, is the lone Brahmin leader to get a place in Sunday's expansion, the remaining six belong to OBC (three) and Scheduled Caste (two) and Scheduled Tribe (one). The six ministers of state who

were sworn in are -- Sanjeev Gond (ST-Sonbhadra), Dharamvir Prajapati (OBC-Agra), Chhatrapal Gangwar (OBC-Bareilly), Sangita Balwant Bind (OBC-Ghazipur), Paltu Ram (SC- Balrampur) and Dinesh Khatik (SC-Meerut).

Apart from ensuring a caste balance, the party has also made sure to provide representation to all parts of the state. A surprise omission in Sunday's list is the name of Arvind Kumar Sharma, a former bureaucrat in the PMO who had taken voluntary retirement in January this year to join politics. He came to Lucknow and was immediately made member of the UP legislative council. It was believed that he would soon be inducted into the ministry and given an important portfolio, however that did not happen. There are 53 ministers in the UP Cabinet at present, and seven more could be inducted as per the constitutional limit. This is the third time the Yogi cabinet has been expanded since the Chief Minister was first sworn in on March 19, 2017. As many as 23 new ministers were inducted into the cabinet August 21, 2019.

UNIQUE PROTEST



Farmers lie in pits during a protest against farm laws and seeking compensation for their lands acquired under the UP Housing and Development Board's Mandela housing scheme, in Ghaziabad, Sunday. Samyukta Kisan Morcha has called Monday (September 27) to be observed as Bharat Bandh. PTI PHOTO

Unnerved by Bhim Army, BSP reaches out to youth



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Sept 26: Apparently unnerved by the growing popularity of the Bhim Army among the Dalit youth, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has now decided to give maximum number of tickets to the youth in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. The party has already given the responsibility of wooing Brahmin youth to Kapil Mishra, son of BSP MP Satish Chandra Mishra. BSP president Mayawati's nephew Akash Anand will be given the responsibility of bringing in youth from Dalit communities. In the past two years, when the Covid pandemic set in, the BSP has been absent from the ground. Chandra Shekhar Azad, the Bhim Army chief, on the other hand, has been extensively touring the state during the pandemic. He has been visiting every Dalit family that has been victimised or tormented in recent months. He was seen actively supporting the family of the Hathras Dalit girl who was allegedly raped and later died. The BSP leaders did not even visit the family to offer their support. "The youth today are much more



aware and smarter than they were 20 years ago. They understand which leader and which party is working for them and standing by them. The BSP, under Mayawati, has stopped reaching out to people at the grassroots. One the other hand, Chandra Shekhar has been leading from the front and connecting with the youth. It is natural that the young generation feels disconnected from the BSP" a senior party said on the condition of anonymity. Mayawati, meanwhile, has reportedly asked party coordinators to look for new and young faces for the Assembly elections. However, she has asked them to be sure of their loyalty towards the party before recommending their candidature. "Who can take guarantee of someone else's loyalty in these times when even the father and son have different political choices," said a party zonal coordinator. The biggest hurdle in reaching out to the Dalit youth that the BSP is facing, is the total absence of second rung Dalit leaders in the party. While the majority have been thrown out of the party, the rest have left for greener pastures.

Owaisi factor creates ripple among parties banking on Muslim votes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 26: Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM, which is going to contest next year's Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls on the promise of creating leadership among Muslims, has created unease in the political parties that so far considered the members of the minority community as their core 'vote bank'. Different castes, including Jatavs, Yadavs, Rajbhars and Nishads, which constitute a relatively small part of the population of Uttar Pradesh, more or less have their own leadership, but Muslims, who account for more than 19 per cent of the people in the state, do not see any united leadership. So the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), led by Owaisi, wants to end the 'slavery' of Muslims in the hands of the Samajwadi Party (SP), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Congress, which had been using them as their 'vote bank', according to the leaders of the party. There are 82 Assembly segments in the state where Muslim voters are in a position to make or mar the political fortunes of the candidates. Buoyed by winning five seats in last year's Bihar polls from the Muslim-dominated Seemanchal region, which gave jitters to the RJD and the Congress, Owaisi has already announced that his party will field candidates in 100 of the 403 seats in the Uttar Pradesh election expected to be held early next year. The Hyderabad MP launched



Different castes which constitute a relatively small part of the population of UP, more or less have their own leadership, but Muslims, who account for more than 19 per cent of the people in the state, do not see any united leadership

his poll campaign from Ayodhya earlier this month and since then, has been addressing public meetings at different places. AIMIM national spokesperson Syed Asim Waqar told PTI Sunday that the main goal of the party is to create a political narrative and leadership among Muslims for the progress of the community and a better future. "Even the so-called secular parties, which were getting the votes of the Muslims, never allowed a Muslim leadership to emerge. The report of the Sachar Committee has made out the condition in which the parties have pushed them to," he said. The opinions of experts differ on

whether Muslims, after the rise of Hindutva politics, have become aware enough to create their own acceptable leadership. The SP and the BSP have accused Owaisi of serving the interest of the ruling BJP by trying to divide Muslim votes and dismissed any possibility of the AIMIM having any impact in the country's political heartland. Senior SP leader Abu Azmi discarded Owaisi as a 'vote-katwa' (splitter of votes) who is acting on behalf of the BJP to damage the poll prospects of the Samajwadi Party. State media coordinator of the Congress Lalan Kumar said Owaisi remembers Muslims only at the

time of elections and claimed that the minority community has traditionally supported the grand old party. However, political analyst Parvez Ahmed believes that this time, the 'Owaisi factor' will definitely have an impact in Uttar Pradesh. "The reason for this is that after the rise of hardline Hindutva politics in the country, a large section of Muslims has started to understand the importance of their separate leadership. The SP, the BSP and other parties that claim to be Muslim-friendly have been silent on the issues of Muslims." "The idea is now gaining strength among Muslims that if it they do not have a leadership of their own, the atrocities against them will only increase," he said. At this juncture, Owaisi is not the target of the BJP but of those parties that have so far been trying to get the votes of Muslims on the basis of their fear of the saffron party, Ahmed said. He said another section of the Muslims also thinks what harm has the BJP done to them. "The Muzaffarnagar riots, which left a mark of fear on the minds of Muslims, took place not during the BJP's rule but during the SP regime. During the regime of (Chief Minister) Yogi Adityanath, there was no such riot in which Muslims were specifically targeted. The share of Muslims in government jobs in the state is less than two per cent, while the Congress and other non-BJP parties ruled the state for the longest time," Ahmed pointed out.

Kullu to have weaver design resource centre



Union minister Piyush Goyal at Kullu

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kullu (HP), Sept 26: A weaver services and design resource centre will be set up in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu town to provide a better platform for export of handicraft products in the international market, Union Commerce and Industry and Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal said Sunday. He made this announcement at an interaction with handicrafts and handloom artisans under Seva and Samarpan campaign on the occasion of golden jubilee of the statehood in Kullu, some 200 km from the state capital. CM Jai Ram Thakur presided over the function. Goyal said the state has immense potential for handicrafts and skill upgradation of artisans, modern equipment and training would be provided to prepare qualitative new designs in the weavers service centre. He said more attention was needed to modernise the design, quality, packaging and marketing so that the weavers get better price for their products in the international market. The Union Minister suggested to organising of district-wise exhibitions of the handicrafts in big cities. He asked the weavers to get their trademark for which the Central government has reduced the registration fee by 80 per cent. He also interacted with entrepreneurs of the district and distributed woodcraft, handloom, embroidery machines and certificates to local handicraft and handloom artisans. Thakur said necessary steps have been taken to encourage the artisans. At present, there are 13,572 registered weavers whose livelihood is related to the skill of weaving and embroidery. The handkerchief of Chamba along with Kullu shawl and cap and the shawl of Kinnaur had been given GI (geographical indication) tags. In order to facilitate online sales platform for weavers, an MoU has been signed with Flipkart for online sale of products. Thakur said there had been a big change in the design and quality of handicrafts and handloom products in the state in the last 50 years and thousands of families had made it a means of livelihood. He said Kullu handicrafts, especially caps and shawls, were recognised internationally. "When any head of state comes to India, the Prime Minister welcomes him with a Kullavi cap and muffler, which is a matter of pride for the state." The Chief Minister urged the weavers to preserve the traditional clothes as they were associated with the culture as well.

Himachal's climate-resilient farming attracts foreigners

DEvised BY PADMA SHRI AWARDEE SUBHASH PALEKAR, THE LOW-COST TECHNIQUE IS NAMED AS SUBHASH PALEKAR NATURAL FARMING TECHNIQUE IN THE STATE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Sept 26: "If we want to sustain ourselves in a more natural way, non-chemical farming is a great option," said Carole Durand, 28, from Avero, France. Durand is in Himachal Pradesh with her friend, Shahzad Parbhoo, 36, from Raigad, Maharashtra, to have a firsthand knowledge of the low-cost climate resilient natural farming technique being promoted by the state government under Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana (PK3Y) over the last three years. Devised by Padma Shri awardee Subhash Palekar, the technique is named as Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF) technique in the state. As many as 1,33,056 farmers on 7,609 hectares have already adopted it partially or fully after trainings organised by the State Project Implementing Unit (SPIU), PK3Y, a state official said. Durand is a nurse and came to

India five years ago as she was interested in Yoga. Together for the last three years, she, along with Parbhoo, a management professional, have been exploring the possibilities of non-chemical agriculture as a livelihood option. "My grandfather, who was a strawberry farmer in Correze in France, died of brain cancer supposedly because strawberries required frequent chemical sprays. The chemical farming has done much damage to the health of farmers in that area," said Durand. She said there is awareness among people about organic farming in France, but natural farming is amazing. "I had incidentally met Dr Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, Executive Director, PK3Y, last year while I was doing a one-year apprenticeship at an agriculture farm (based on bio-dynamics) near Anand in Gujarat. He told me about the natural farming initiatives in Himachal Pradesh, wherein the farmers are not using any chemi-



cal fertilizer or pesticide." Durand and Parbhoo visited a number of farmers earlier this month, who are practising natural farming of vegetables, cereals, pulses and fruits, on part of their land in Kangra, Mandi, Shimla and Solan districts and both of them find themselves enriched with knowledge on the concept. "In Maharashtra the development has eaten up agriculture fields near urban areas in a big

way. In Himachal, we saw agriculture farms everywhere. Most of them are taking multiple crops from the same field after they switched to natural farming," observed Parbhoo. He said the farmers in HP were quite aware of the advantages of non chemical natural farming in the long run. "A number of them said they were fed up with the overuse of chemicals which was increasing their expenditure, while

crop production was either stagnant or declining." Parbhoo said the farmers, who have already tested natural farming on a portion of their land, are ready to do it despite challenges in the switch-over. The duo was all praise for Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) staff, working under SPIU, for regular connect with the farmers for emerging issues.

"It has been a great learning," they said, while sharing their experience with Executive Director, PK3Y, Dr Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, State Project Director, Rakesh Kanwar and Secretary, Agriculture, Dr Ajay Sharma in Shimla and said it had been a great learning for them. Durand said the farmers were so warm. "We stayed with one of the apple growers, Rajpal Gejta, an ex-serviceman, a progressive farmer from Rohroo, who is doing natural farming on 5.5 bigha. He talks high about it. He told us about the challenges of keeping an indigenous cow." She said even in France, there is a concept of farmer families, like she saw in Himachal Pradesh, where the entire family works in the fields. Durand and Parbhoo were impressed with the zeal of hill women farmers to take up natural farming initiatives. "We met some women farmers who are collectively doing natural farming in Rathli village in Shimla district. The women do contribute to agriculture in Maharashtra, but they are not so organised in Maharashtra as in Himachal," said Parbhoo. He said a good thing was that the farmers are using natural farming technique with their need based innovations with SPIU's technical support.

of the day quote

It is taught in history that King Mihir Bhoj was a Gurjar-Pratihara. But the BJP people have changed his caste

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY (SP) CHIEF

We have awarded a token of appreciation to 11 village heads in Trichy for successfully vaccinating the whole population in these villages with at least one dose

MA SUBRAMANIAN | TAMIL NADU HEALTH MINISTER

The percentage of population dependent on agriculture fell from 70 per cent to 50 per cent. The new airport terminal at Leh may become operational by December 2022

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Rains lash most parts of MP

Bhopal: People in most parts of Madhya Pradesh woke up to a rainy Sunday morning and the MeT department has predicted more showers in the state over the next few days. "Almost the entire state received rainfall in the last 24 hours," P K Saha, senior meteorologist with the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Bhopal office, told PTI. Due to the weather systems built over Madhya Pradesh, the state is likely to receive showers for another four to five days, he said.

2 get life terms for raping minor

Bareilly (UP): A special POCSCO court has sentenced two persons, including a woman staff of a nursing home, to life terms in a four-year-old rape case of a minor girl in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh. Special Judge Ram Dayal sentenced the main accused, Abhishek Sharma, and woman staff Soni of the nursing home who helped him in the crime.

3 of family dead in lightning strike

Balrampur: Three members of a family, including a brother-sister duo, were killed in a lightning strike in Balrampur district in Chhattisgarh Sunday, police said. The incident took place in a potato field in Duppi village in the evening when the deceased and other family members were working, a Rajapur police station official said.

Five killed in road mishap

Nashik: Five people were killed in a collision between an autorickshaw and a truck on Lasalgaon-Vinchur road in Nashik's Niphad taluka, police said Sunday. The incident took place late Saturday night and all the deceased were traveling in the autorickshaw, a Lasalgaon police station official said. "The autorickshaw was on its way to Vinchur from Lasalgaon when a speeding truck hit it. The dead include the driver of the autorickshaw, three men in the 60-65 age group and a 40-year-old man," the official informed.

3 boys drown

Guwahati: Three boys drowned in the Brahmaputra river near Pandu Ghat in Guwahati Sunday, a police officer said. The boys, aged 14-15, went for a swim in the river while returning from their tuition classes, he said. There were four boys in all, three bodies were recovered and a search is on for the fourth boy, the officer said.



Team India is creating several records daily on this front. Several records have been created in the vaccination drive which are being discussed globally

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

CJI backs 50% reservation for women in judiciary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: Chief Justice of India N V Ramana Sunday exhorted women lawyers to strongly raise their demand for 50 per cent reservation in the judiciary while assuring them of his "total support".

The CJI said that it's an issue of thousands of years of suppression and women are entitled to the reservation and added, "It's a matter of right, and not a matter a charity."

He said, "I want to say that I strongly recommend and support the demand of a certain percentage of reservation in all law schools



I don't want you to cry but with anger, you have to shout and demand that we need 50 per cent reservation

N V RAMANA | CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

of the country for women, so that they can join the judiciary."

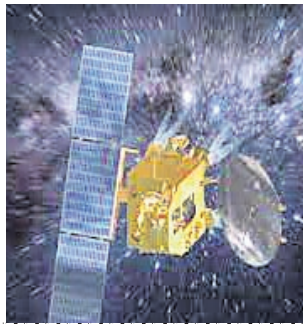
Speaking at a felicitation function organised by Lady Advocates of Supreme Court for the nine newly appointed judges, including three women judges, CJI Ramana said he

has modified Karl Marx's "Workers of the world unite. You have nothing to lose but your chain" quote for the occasion and added: "Women of the world unite. You have nothing to lose but your chain."

The CJI said, "You all are laugh-

INDIA'S MARS PROBE COMPLETES SEVEN YEARS IN ORBIT

India's Mars Orbiter spacecraft has completed seven years in its orbit, well beyond its designed mission life of six months. MOM is ISRO's maiden interplanetary mission. Launched November 5, 2013, the probe was successfully inserted into Martian orbit September 24, 2014 in its first attempt



Two LeT militants killed in encounter

Militants were accused of killing Wasim Bari and his father and brother in July last year

AGENCIES

Srinagar, Sept 26: Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants involved in the murder of BJP leader Waseem Bari and two of his family members last year were killed Sunday in an encounter with the security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district, police said.

Police had received information about the presence of terrorists in Watrina village of north Kashmir's Bandipora Saturday evening, a spokesperson said. Following this, a cordon and search operation was launched in the area by the police, the 14 Rashtriya Rifles, and the Central Reserve Police Force, he said, adding, "Contact with the hiding terrorists was established Sunday morning."

The holed-up terrorists were given multiple opportunities to surrender to which they did not pay any heed and fired indiscriminately at the joint search party. The security forces retaliated leading to the encounter, the police spokesperson said.

He said the two terrorists, identified as Azad Ahmad Shah and Abid Rashid Dar alias Haqani, were killed in the exchange of fire and their bodies retrieved. Arms and ammunition, including two AK-47 rifles and a pistol, and incriminating materials have been seized from the encounter site, he said.

The two slain terrorists were affiliated with the proscribed terrorist outfit LeT. Dar was a Pakistan-trained terrorist who had crossed over the Wagah Border in April 2018 and had infiltrated back in 2019, the police spokesperson said.

Candidates found with Bluetooth slippers, 5 held

AGENCIES

Bikaner, Sept 26: Five persons including three Rajasthan Eligibility Examination for Teachers (REET) candidates were arrested before the exam Sunday as the aspirants were found wearing slippers with Bluetooth devices, officials said.

The exam is being held across the state Sunday under tight security arrangements.

Bikaner Superintendent of Police Priti Chandra said the bluetooth devices were hidden in the slippers to facilitate cheating.

The five accused -- three candidates and two other persons who were there to help them cheat in the paper -- were caught from the Naya bus stand in Gangashahar area before the exam started and are being interrogated, she said.

Mobile SIM cards, Bluetooth devices and other equipment were recovered from their possession, the SP said.



GOVT MULLS INTENSIFYING ANTI-NAXAL OPERATIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: Intensifying operations against the Naxals and choking the flow of funds to them were the two key issues discussed at a high-level meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and attended by six chief ministers and top officials of four other states here Sunday, sources said.

Action against frontal organisations of the Maoists, filling up the security vacuum, concerted action by the Enforcement Directorate, the National Investigation Agency and the state police were other vital issues discussed during the nearly three-hour-long meeting.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Bhupesh Baghel of Chhattisgarh, Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan did not attend the meeting. Their states were represented by senior officials. According to sources, intensifying operations against the Naxals, filling up the security vacuum, choking the flow of funds to extremists and concerted action by the ED, the NIA and the state police were discussed threadbare in the meeting. Focused investigation and prosecution of cases, action against front organisations, co-ordination amongst states, capacity



BIG MOVE

The Chief Ministers who attended the meeting were Naveen Patnaik (Odisha), K Chandrashekar Rao (Telangana), Nitish Kumar (Bihar), Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Madhya Pradesh), Uddhav Thackeray (Maharashtra) and Hemant Soren (Jharkhand)

The central government is also planning to set up Ekavya schools and ensure coverage of post offices in all gram panchayats in Maoist-hit districts

The Naxal problem, also called Left Wing Extremism (LWE), were reported in 61 districts in 2019 and in only about 45 districts in 2020

building of state intelligence branches and special forces of the states, construction of fortified police stations were other issues discussed at the meeting.

The Home Minister reviewed with the chief ministers and offi-

cials the security situation and ongoing operations against Maoists and development projects being carried out in the Naxalism-affected areas, the sources said.

Shah took stock of the requirements of the states, the strength of forces deployed to tackle the extremists, development works like the construction of roads, bridges, school, and health centres being carried out in Naxal-hit areas.

The development issues which were discussed at the meeting include road connectivity, speeding up construction of long pending roads, improvement of telecommunication network by upgrading the mobile towers installed in last five years in Naxal-hit areas and expedition of installation of the more mobile towers in poor network zones.

Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw, Giriraj Singh, Arjun Munda and Nityanada Rai also attended the meeting. Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, Director of Intelligence Bureau Arvinda Kumar, senior civil and police officers of central and state governments also attended it.

According to the Union Home Ministry's data, Maoist violence has reduced considerably in the country and the menace is prevalent now in just about 45 districts.

15 ministers, seven new faces in Channi's Cabinet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 26: Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi carried out his first cabinet expansion Sunday, inducting 15 Cabinet Ministers which included seven new entrants, as the Congress gears up to face assembly elections that are barely five months away.

The new faces in the Channi Ministry are Randeep Singh Nabha, Raj Kumar Verka, Sangat Singh Gilzian, Pargat Singh, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring and Gurkirat Singh Kotli. Rana Gurjit Singh has made a comeback after resigning in 2018 from the Amrinder Singh Ministry. Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit administered the oath of office and secrecy to the legislators. Brahm Mohindra, Manpreet Singh Badal, Tript

Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Aruna Chaudhary, Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria, Razia Sultana, Vijay Inder Singla and Bharat Bhushan Ashu, who were ministers in the previous Amarinder Singh led cabinet, were retained as Cabinet Ministers. Channi was handpicked as Punjab's first Dalit chief minister following the unceremonious exit of Congress veteran Amarinder Singh after a prolonged power tussle with state Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu.

However, the discontent in the faction-ridden party appeared to be far from over.

Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi, Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, Balbir Singh Sidhu, Gurpreet Singh Kangar and Sunder Sham Arora, who were ministers in the Amarinder Singh-led cabinet, did not find a place in the new ministry.



Surya Kiran Aerobatic Display Team performs during the air show conducted by Indian Air Force, in Srinagar PTI PHOTO



20 Oppn leaders under ED lens

With the issuance of notice to the Aam Aadmi Party by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) last week, the number of such leaders and parties has gone up to more than 20. This was the latest in the series of several prominent Opposition leaders and even parties by the ED for the past few years. The TMC Lok Sabha MP and nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister, is also facing ED music.

Anil Deshmukh, Maharashtra's former Home Minister and NCP leader has been under the massive probe by the ED. The NCP Supremo Sharad Pawar himself. Former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti's mother and Farooq Abdullah also faced ED music. Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot and many others also got ED notice. Incidentally, a Supreme Court bench is closely monitoring the long pendency of cases in the CBI, ED and other probe agencies. A total 76 cases of ED are pending since 2012 onward. Of around 2,400 cases that it has registered under the PMLA since 2005, only eight have ended in conviction. Its investigation too has remained tardy, with prosecution complaints having been filed in only 688 cases till June 2019, according to a report. Sonu Sood is paying the price for joining the AAP.

Interestingly, the ED looked the other way in cases where the suspects joined the BJP. The most

prominent is Mukul Roy, who switched to the BJP from the Trinamool Congress (TMC), and Assam's Himanta Biswa Sarma, who crossed over from the Congress.

Vaccine to all adults in poll-bound states

The government has set to administer 100 crores doses by October 7 and vaccinate all adults in five election-bound states of UP, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur, at least with the first dose. Of the 28.63 crore population in these states, 18.95 crore people are above the age of 18 years. Of them 13.10 crores in the age group of 18-44 years. The first dose of Covid vaccine has been given to 9.48 crore people out of these 18.95 crore people in these five states. The Centre is targeting to cover the 18-44 years category in the first phase in the next two months and the remaining adults by January. Goa claims to have achieved a

feather in its cap by administering at least one dose to their entire eligible population and giving first dose to more than 12 lakh population and double dose to 6 lakh people. Punjab is going to polls too and trying hard to vaccinate one lakh doses a day from the current level of 78000. Sources at the Centre say that the target can be achieved within the next two months if both the governments work in tandem. With 28 crore doses of Covidshield, Covaxin and Sputnik V in the kitty in October, the Centre is targeting to vaccinate the entire adult population in five poll bound states by January along with other states. After achieving the target of giving 100 crore doses by month-end to adults, the Centre is set to announce its plans to vaccinate children in the age group of 12-17 years. Of the 44 crore children population of all age groups below 18 years, the priority will be given to the 12-17 years category first. Prof N K Arora, Chairman of country's top body, INSOCOG and Covid Task Force

disclosed that the priority would be given to this age group as they could be carriers of Covid infections. Though the Sero-Surveys had established that the number of children infected with Covid is not higher than that of the adults.

PM's 'Kamraj' plan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi perhaps took a leaf out of the 'Kamraj Plan' when he dropped 12 Union ministers from his Council of Ministers July 7. The shock treatment to party seniors by Modi was no different than what Jawaharlal Nehru gave to his colleagues who were part of the freedom struggle with him. Nehru was the first Prime Minister who executed major political surgery in 1963 more than 58 years ago. Nehru asked all senior ministers of his government to give up ministerial posts. You name a minister or the Chief Minister and you had it in the list; be it Lal Bahadur Shastri, Jagjivan Ram or Morarji Desai, they

were all shown the door. Though VK Krishna Menon had been removed as India's Defence Minister, the Congress was facing a stiff challenge at the hands of the Opposition stalwarts. It was in this backdrop that K Kamraj, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, submitted a plan to Nehru. He offered to quit his post and wanted all senior ministers and CMs to quit and work for the party. Nehru accepted the Kamraj Plan. Later, Kamraj was rewarded with the party president's post. Kamraj persuaded Nehru to bring Lal Bahadur Shastri back into the government sometime later. Perhaps it was part of a succession plan because Shastri was made Minister without Portfolio, virtually working as Deputy Prime Minister. It is a different matter that Shastri died an early death after becoming the PM in 1964 and Indira Gandhi took over with the blessings and support of Kamraj in 1966. It is an irony that the same Indira Gandhi showed Kamraj the door as he formed "syndicate" to oust her in a bitter power struggle.

international

of the day quote

It's important that we move forward. We can't stay in second gear. We've got to get to top gear in living with the virus



SCOTT MORRISON | AUSTRALIAN PM

Fresh Covid-19 outbreaks have hit almost half of the Buddhist pagodas in the capital city of Phnom Penh



HUN SEN | CAMBODIAN PM

We will consider buying a second Russian missile system in defiance of strong objections by the United States



RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | TURKEY'S PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

4 inmates killed

Manila: Four inmates were killed in a shootout Sunday after they tried to escape from a prison in the Philippines' Surigao del Sur province, jail authorities said. The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology said the incident occurred shortly at around 7 a.m. when at least 11 inmates took a jail personnel hostage, reports Xinhua news agency.

Terrorists arrested

Islamabad: Eight terrorists were arrested in separate intelligence-based operations in Pakistan's Punjab province, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of the police has confirmed. According to the CTD in Punjab, the Department's personnel conducted an operation by acting on an intelligence tip-off regarding the presence of terrorists in a locality in Lahore, the provincial capital, reports Xinhua news agency.

Man held

London: British police said Sunday they have arrested a man on suspicion of murdering Sabina Nessa, a primary school teacher killed as she walked in a London park. Nessa's death - as she went to meet a friend a few minutes from her home - has fuelled concerns that women aren't safe on the streets of Britain's capital. The Metropolitan Police force said a 38-year-old man was arrested overnight in southern England.

Six killed

Sanaa: At least six people were killed and more than 20 others injured when crowds celebrating a public holiday in the northwestern Yemeni province of Hajjah were hit by a ballistic missile launched by Houthi rebels, a government official said Sunday. When the attack occurred late Saturday night, hundreds of local residents and soldiers were believed to be attending an event marking the 59th anniversary of the country's 1962 revolution in a public square in downtown Midi City, which is under government control, the official said.

Closely fought German election ushers in post-Merkel era

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, Sept 26: German voters are choosing a new Parliament in an election that will determine who succeeds Chancellor Angela Merkel after her 16 years at the helm of Europe's biggest economy.

Polls point to a very close race on Sunday between Merkel's centre-right Union bloc, with state Governor Armin Laschet running for Chancellor, and the centre-left Social Democrats, for whom outgoing Finance Minister and Vice-Chancellor Olaf Scholz is seeking the top job.

Recent surveys show the Social Democrats are marginally ahead. The environmentalist Greens, with candidate Annalena Baerbock, are making their first run for the chancellor, and polls put them several points behind in third place.

The Social Democrats have been boosted by Scholz's relative popularity after a long poll slump, and by his rivals' troubled campaigns. Baerbock suffered from early gaffes and Laschet, the Governor of North Rhine-Westphalia state, has struggled to motivate his party's traditional base.



About 60.4 million people in the nation of 83 million are eligible to elect the new Bundestag, or lower house of Parliament, which will elect the next head of government. No party is expected to

come anywhere near an outright majority. Polls show support for all of them below 30%.

Such a result could mean that many governing coalitions are mathematically possible, and trigger weeks or months of haggling to form a new government. Until it is in place, Merkel will remain in office on a caretaker basis.

Scholz said as he voted in Potsdam, just outside Berlin, that he hopes voters "will make possible ... A very strong result for the Social Democrats, and that citizens will give me the mandate to become the next chancellor of Germany." Laschet said in Aachen, on

Germany's western border, that the election "will decide on Germany's direction in the coming years, and so it will come down to every vote." Merkel has won plaudits for steering Germany through several major crises. Her successor will have to tend the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, which Germany so far has weathered relatively well thanks to large rescue programmes that have incurred new debt.

Laschet insists there should be no tax increases as Germany pulls out of the pandemic. Scholz and Baerbock favour tax hikes for the richest Germans, and also back an

increase in the minimum wage. Germany's leading parties have significant differences in their proposals for tackling climate change. Laschet's Union bloc is pinning its hopes on technological solutions and a market-driven approach, while the Greens want to ramp up carbon prices and end the use of coal earlier than planned. Scholz has emphasised the need to protect jobs as Germany transitions to greener energy.

Foreign policy hasn't featured much in the campaign, though the Greens favour a tougher stance toward China and Russia.

South Korea will begin administering booster Covid-19 shots for high-risk people, including those aged 60 and older, and medical workers, in the near future

KIM BOO-KYUM | PRIME MINISTER OF SOUTH KOREA

BAN LIFTED

Canada will allow direct flights from India from Monday, lifting the ban on them after a gap of more than five months



Don't shift goalposts, India tells China

After the standoff erupted in eastern Ladakh in May last year, India has consistently maintained that peace and tranquility in the border areas are essential for the overall development of relations between the two countries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Sept 26: India has told China not to "shift goalposts" and "confuse" managing the border affairs and restoring peace at the frontiers with the larger issue of the resolution of the boundary question, which is dealt with by different designated mechanisms.

After the standoff erupted in eastern Ladakh in May last year, India has consistently maintained that peace and tranquility in the border areas are essential for the overall development of relations between the two countries.

Besides being neighbours, India and China are also large and emerging economies and "it is not unusual to have differences and problems", Indian envoy to China Vikram Misri said while addressing the 4th High-level Track II Dialogue on China-India Relations held on September 23.

"The key question is how to deal with them and ensure that outcomes are informed by reasonableness, maturity and respect for the maintenance of peace and tranquility along our frontiers," Misri said.

The meeting held virtually was co-hosted by the School of International Studies of Sichuan University (SCU), China Centre for South Asian Studies and Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) in which several former envoys and scholars took part. Besides Misri, China's Ambassador to India Sun Weidong also participated in the meeting.

Referring to "multi-faceted dia-



logue" held by the two countries since last year including several rounds of talks between the top military officials on both sides and the meetings between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi to resolve the military standoff in Eastern Ladakh, Misri said: "These contacts have resulted in significant progress on the ground".

"Following disengagement in the Galwan Valley in July last year, the two sides have been able to disengage from the North and South Banks of the Pangong Lake in February 2021, and most recently from Gogra in August 2021," he said.

"The conversation between the two sides continues regarding the remaining locations and we hope that disengagement at the remaining friction areas will enable us to reach a point where we can pick up the threads of bilateral co-operation," he said.

"The experience of this multi-faceted dialogue over the last year and a half leads me to believe that we are well-equipped when it comes

to resolving pressing issues in the bilateral relationship," he said.

"Our leaders have in the past concurred that we must work out issues peacefully, prevent differences from turning into disputes and, most importantly, preserve peace and tranquillity in our border areas," he said.

"The recent experience also suggests that at the ground level, when managing a difficult bilateral situation, finding a resolution hinges on mature minds, open channels, and consistency between words and actions. But while these are positive elements we can draw on, we must steer clear of certain obstacles which could block progress," he said.

"The first is to avoid shifting goalposts. For long, the Indian and Chinese sides have adhered to a well-understood distinction between resolving the boundary question and managing border affairs," he said.

"The 1988 understanding between our leaders was precisely for keeping the resolution of the boundary question on a track sep-

arate yet parallel to the bilateral relationship, with the maintenance of peace and tranquillity as the prerequisite," he said.

The Special Representatives mechanism, the Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles of 2005 and the three-phase framework were all designed to work on the boundary question, "which we agreed was a complex and sensitive issue requiring time to work through," Misri said.

"This is the root cause of the tense situation along the borders. We advocate that we should address the boundary issue through peaceful negotiations and we don't think that the border issue should be linked up to our bilateral ties," he said.

But at the same time for managing border affairs on a daily basis, the two countries had evolved a mechanism, "consisting of instruments such as the WMCC (Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs) and a succession of agreements, protocols and CBMs, in order to govern behaviour on the ground and ensure peace and tranquillity".

"A serious violation of peace and tranquillity in the border areas naturally requires us to apply our minds on the basis of established agreements, protocols and mechanisms to resolve it. As we do so, any attempt to confuse border affairs with the Boundary Question is a disservice to the work of those involved in finding solutions," he said. This is why the Indian side has been consistently saying that the current issue is about restoring peace and tranquillity to the border areas.

S Korea urges North to restore hotlines

North Korea has twice reached out to South Korea saying it's open to talks if conditions are met



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Sept 26: South Korea on Sunday urged North Korea to restore dormant communication hotlines, a day after the North repeated an offer to open conditional talks.

The North might be seeking to extract concessions about two weeks after it raised tensions by carrying out its first missile tests in six months. North Korea has twice reached out to South Korea saying it's open to talks if conditions are met.

Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, said Saturday the two Koreas can take steps toward reconciliation if South Korea abandons "hostile policies" and "double-dealing standards".

She didn't elaborate on what specific steps she wants South Korea to take. But some experts say North Korea wants South Korea to play a role in winning relief from U.S.-led sanctions, getting aid, or receiving other concessions such as international recognition as a nu-

clear weapons state.

On Sunday, South Korea's Unification Ministry said it highly values Kim Yo Jong's statement as the South has been consistently pushing to achieve denuclearization and peace on the Korean Peninsula through dialogue.

To hold talks on beginning steps toward reconciliation, a South Korea ministry statement said that suspended cross-border communication lines must be reactivated quickly to promote stable communications between the divided countries. It said Seoul hopes the two Koreas can resume talks on many pending issues.

The South Korean statement refers to a set of phone- and fax-like communication channels between the rivals, which have been largely dormant for more than a year. The two Koreas briefly resumed communications over the channels for about two weeks this summer; but North Korea later refused to exchange messages again after Seoul staged annual military drills with Washington.

Israeli troops kill four Palestinians

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, Sept 26: At least four Palestinian gunmen were killed in shootouts with Israeli security forces during a sweeping West Bank arrest operation cracking down on the Islamic militant group Hamas on Sunday, the Israeli military said.

It was the deadliest violence between Israeli troops and Palestinian militants in the occupied West Bank in recent weeks and came amid heightened tensions following this year's 11-day war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said a Palestinian was shot dead near the northern West Bank city of Jenin and three others were killed in Biddu, north of Jerusalem. The Israeli military said an officer and soldier suffered serious injuries during the arrest in Burqin, near Jenin, and were airlifted to a hospital for medical treatment.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said in a statement that Israeli security forces in the West Bank moved against Hamas operatives "that were about to execute terror attacks in the very immediate future."

He said the soldiers in the field "acted as expected of them" and said his government gave them full support. Lt. Col. Amnon Sheffer, an Israeli army spokesperson, said Israeli forces involved in a joint operation with the Shin Bet internal security agency and the Border Police came under fire while carrying out arrests in the West Bank.

He said the aim was "to stop a Hamas terrorist organization cell that is operating in Judea and Samaria with an intent to carry out terror attacks," referring to the West Bank by its biblical names.

He said four Hamas operatives were killed. The official Palestinian news agency WAFA said 22-year-old Osama Soboh was killed during clashes surrounding an arrest in the northern West Bank village of Burqin, near Jenin. There were no immediate details on the deaths in Biddu.

Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, praised those killed as "heroic martyrs" but did not say whether any were members of the militant group. It blamed their deaths on the "continuing coordination" between the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government.

of the day **quote**

The industry might run short of controllers owing to shortages of semiconductors and other electronic components. Keeping in mind the surge in demand during festive, we have taken appropriate measures to mitigate the near-term risks

KAMAL NANDI | PRESIDENT, CEAMA

We are contemplating on factors like pricing, performance, and infrastructure before we roll out any products (EV) for the Indian market

MOTOFUMI SHITARA | CHAIRMAN, YAMAHA MOTOR INDIA

GI tag for Sojat Mehndi is a win-win for farmers, MSME players, artisans and consumers alike if we can leverage it to enhance its exports given its herbal cosmetic and medicinal uses. It will contribute to both employment and revenue

MUGDHA SINHA | DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SECRETARY, RAJASTHAN

SHORT TAKES

FPIs net buyers at ₹21,875 crore

New Delhi: Remaining positive about the long-term outlook of Indian markets, foreign portfolio investors (FPI) were net buyers so far in September with an investment of ₹21,875 crore. According to data from depositories, FPIs pumped in ₹13,536 crore into equities and ₹8,339 crore into the debt segment during September 1-23, taking the total net investment to ₹21,875 crore. FPIs were net buyers at ₹16,459 crore in August.

Jio adds 6.1M users in July

New Delhi: Reliance Jio led active wireless subscriber additions in July at 6.1 million, while Bharti Airtel's active user adds stood at 2.3 million, according to latest data by TRAI. Riding on the strong gains, Jio has scaled up its active subscriber market share, with its user tally on this count pegged at 346.49 million, analysts said crunching July telecom subscription numbers released by the sector regulator. Bharti and Jio remain neck and neck in VLR (active subscribers), observed UBS report.

HDFC to double rural presence

Mumbai: HDFC Bank, the country's largest private sector lender, Sunday said it aims to double its rural reach to two lakh villages, which will see it hire 2,500 people in the next six months. The city-headquartered bank also said it aims to double its presence in the next 18-24 months through a combination of branch network, business correspondents, business facilitators, CSC (common service centres) partners, virtual relationship management and digital outreach platforms.

Interim fixed salary system by SpiceJet

New Delhi: Budget carrier SpiceJet, which had resorted to hourly-basis pay for pilots amid the pandemic, Sunday said it has introduced a new "interim fixed salary system" for captains and first officers. The airline said not only will pilot salaries "increase significantly" under the new pay structure but those who fly more than the stipulated minimum hours will be paid overtime. The objectives of the new system, it said, are having a pay structure that reflects fixed salary components and other relevant components.



I have had many interactions across various parts of the government leading up to this announcement. In all my conversations, it is absolutely clear that the government has no interest in owning or acquiring or running any other telecom company

RAVINDER TAKKAR | MD AND CEO, VI

GROWING NEEDS OF ECONOMY

India needs 4-5 SBI size banks: FM

With regard to funding for the infra sector, Sitharaman said that a government sector development financial institution is coming up soon

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 26: India needs a lot more banks and a lot more large sized ones to meet the growing needs of the country needs in the path of making a smart recovery post pandemic disruptions, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Sunday.

Speaking at 74th Annual General Meeting of Indian Banks' Association at Mumbai,

Sitharaman said there was an urgent need to scale up banking to meet the growing needs of the industry and also to ensure that all economic centres of the country are covered with at least one physical or digital banking presence.

"We need to scale up banking. The need is for at least four-five more SBI sized banks," she said, while reminding that the amalgamation exercise

among public sector banks have helped in moving ahead with creation of large banks.

Having done two rounds of bank consolidation earlier, the Central government in 2019 decided to merge six disparate and weak PSBs into four in one stroke.

Accordingly, Punjab National Bank (PNB) took over Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India; Allahabad Bank became part of Indian Bank; Canara Bank subsumed Syndicate Bank; and Andhra Bank and

Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister, lauded the efforts of the PSBs to see through that the amalgamation of banks during the pandemic period was completed without any inconvenience to customers

She said that in the post pandemic world, banks would need to change their mindset and the way they conduct their businesses

Digitisation, the Finance Minister said has changed a lot of how businesses are done and banks will now need to think futuristically and keep pace with evolving technology

FM also asked the IBA to conduct a digitised mapping of each district of the country with regard to presence of bank branch operation and their location

Corporation Bank merged with Union Bank of India. Earlier, State Bank of India (SBI) with five of its associate banks while Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank were merged with Bank of Baroda.

Cairn gets time to settle dispute



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: A New York court has paused Cairn Energy's pursuit of US assets of Air India for the recovery of USD 1.2 billion arbitral award, so as to allow the British firm to reach a settlement with the Indian government on the long drawn dispute.

The New York district court delayed the tax suit to November 18, according to court documents reviewed by PTI.

This follows Cairn Energy and Air India jointly asking the court to stay further proceedings in view of the fresh government enacting a fresh law to scrap retrospective taxation in the country.

Sources with direct knowledge of the matter said the finance ministry is framing rules that will lead to withdrawal of the retrospective tax demand on Cairn and 16 other

companies, including Vodafone Group of UK.

These rules require the companies to withdraw all litigations against the government in return for being refunded any money that was collected to force the retrospective tax demand.

A format for the undertaking that the companies will have to furnish committing to withdraw litigations is under finalisation and should be released in coming days, they said.

Companies will have to use that format to give an undertaking, post which the money will be refunded. In all the government has to return about ₹8,100 crore, of which ₹7,900 crore is due only to Cairn.

Cairn has indicated that the refund, without interest and penalty, was acceptable to it — opening an avenue to settle the seven-year-old dispute.

BIZ BUZZ

30 firms may float public issues in Oct-Nov

New Delhi: Hectic fundraising through initial public offerings (IPOs) is expected in October-November, with at least 30 companies are looking to collectively raise over ₹45,000 crore through initial share-sales, merchant banking sources said. Of the total fundraising, a large chunk would be garnered by technology-driven companies. The successful IPO of food delivery company Zomato, which was overwhelmingly subscribed by over 38 times, encouraged new-age tech companies to come out with their primary share-sales. The firms that are expected to raise funds through their IPOs during October-November include Policybazaar (Rs 6,017 crore), Emcure Pharmaceuticals (Rs 4,500 crore) Nykaa (Rs 4,000 crore), CMS Info Systems (Rs 2,000 crore), Mobikwik Systems (Rs 1,900 crore), the merchant banking sources said. In addition, Northern Arc Capital (Rs 1,800 crore), Ixigo (Rs 1,600 crore), Sapphire Foods (Rs 1,500 crore), Fincare Small Finance Bank (Rs 1,330 crore), Sterlite Power (Rs 1,250 crore) RateGain Travel Technologies (Rs 1,200 crore) and Supriya Lifescience (Rs 1,200 crore) may float their IPOs during the period under review, they added.



US-based Hines to expand realty business in India

New Delhi: Bullish on demand for premium housing and office spaces, US-based realty firm Hines Plans to expand its India business and is targeting to form at least three local partnerships for projects across major cities. Hines, a privately-owned global real estate investment firm, entered India in 2006 and has so far invested over USD 400 million equity for development of projects across major cities. In an interview with PTI, Hines India MD and Country Head Amit Diwan said the company is in an advance stage of talks with a few local builders and landowners for acquiring new projects through development management (DM) fee model or joint ventures. "We are witnessing a good demand for premium spaces in both housing and office segments. One of the fallouts of the Covid pandemic has been that people are moving towards quality products," he said. Diwan said the company is also evaluating proposals of acquiring projects in Bengaluru, Mumbai and Pune.



Odisha tops in e-Shram registration

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: After a month from its launch, e-Shram portal marked with the registration of over 1.71 crore workers from the unorganised sector and in unorganised employment. The data has been provided by Union Ministry of Labour and Employment.

As September 25, 2021, total registered workers are 1,71,59,743.

Since week one, Odisha posed top position as maximum workers from the state registered in e-Shram portal. The state maintained its position in second week as well.

Odisha and Bihar have competed



with each other to maintain the first position. While Bihar slipped from 1st to 3rd rank, between week 3 and week 4, Odisha in three out of total four weeks, since the launch of portal, has successfully maintained the first rank in terms of registration of unorganised work-

ers at e-Shram portal.

The portal was launched August 26, 2021 by the Union Labour and Employment Minister, Bhupender Yadav in presence of Rameswar Teli, Minister of State (Labour and Employment).

The portal is the first-ever na-

Services by corporate offices to branches taxable

INSO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 26: In what may pose challenge to companies having wider spread of employees and branches all across the country, an authority for advance ruling (AAR) had said that managerial and leadership services by a corporate office to its group companies and other construction sites registered in different states is considered as supply of service and would be taxable under GST.

This would mean companies having separate GST registration for its head offices and branches would need to pay GST on the services that a head offices gives to its branches and receive payment for it.



The order on the issue came from Maharashtra AAR or MAAR on application filed by Pune-based BG Shirke Construction Technology Private Limited.

The company supplied managerial and leadership services to its branch office and group companies, and received fixed monthly charges from each of them. It asked

MAAR whether it is liable to pay tax on such service which gave its order on affirmative going by a similar order given Karnataka AAR on a separate application. This application is now pending before the Karnataka High Court.

Though AAR orders are valid only for the applicants, tax officials use it for other matters as well. These timings also form the basis for amendment to rules of taxation

According to the tax experts, the present ruling with respect to head offices and their branch operations would create a lot of confusion over the issue of valuation of services rendered and valuation taxes.

Mcap of top-10 valued cos jumps over ₹1.56 lakh cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: The top 10 valued firms added a total ₹1,56,317.17 crore to their market valuation last week, helped by across the board rally which catapulted the benchmark index Sensex to the record 60,000 mark for the first time.

During the last week, the 30-share BSE benchmark rallied 1,032.58 points or 1.74 per cent. The BSE Sensex made history Friday by reaching the 60,000-mark for the first time ever.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Reliance Industries zoomed ₹58,671.55 crore to reach ₹15,74,052.03 crore. The m-cap of RIL went past ₹16 lakh crore mark in intra-day trade Thursday following a rally in its share price.

The valuation of Infosys jumped ₹30,605.08 crore to ₹7,48,032.17 crore. Bajaj Finance added ₹22,173.04 crore to its market valuation to ₹4,70,465.58 crore and Tata Consultancy Services ₹15,110.63 crore to ₹14,32,013.76 crore.

HDFC Bank's market capitalisation rallied ₹10,142 crore to ₹8,86,739.86 crore. The valuation of Bharti Airtel jumped ₹6,068.69 crore to reach ₹4,05,970.66 crore and that of Hindustan Unilever Limited by ₹4,863.65 crore to ₹6,44,199.18 crore.

Kotak Mahindra Bank's valuation surged by ₹4,254.75 crore to ₹4,01,978.75 crore and HDFC added ₹2,523.56 crore to ₹5,13,073.85 crore.

The market capitalisation of ICICI Bank jumped ₹1,904.22 crore to ₹5,01,080.90 crore.

In the ranking of top-10 firms, Reliance Industries was leading the chart followed by Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever Limited, HDFC, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel and Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Audi pitches for lower import duties on EVs

THE COMPANY NOTED THAT LOWER TAXES WOULD HELP IN LOWERING THE PRICE TAG OF THE IMPORTED MODELS WHICH WOULD HELP IT IN ACHIEVING A CERTAIN MINIMUM VOLUMES IN THE MARKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: German luxury carmaker Audi has termed high taxation on imported cars in India an impediment for growth of the electric segment while noting that even some relief in terms of duties could help it sell more vehicles and convince its headquarters to re-invest in the country for local manufacturing of such models.

With a certain scale, the company can then try to convince its global headquarters to re-invest in the country for setting up local manufacturing for models which are currently being imported.

In an interaction with PTI, Audi India Head Balbir Singh Dhillon noted that the company has been able to sell the first set of electric vehicles it imported into the country for sale.

"The first set of e-trons brought



into the country are all sold off. It gives us confidence that people are ready, India is ready for electric mobility. All this is helping us to introduce more and more such cars,"

he noted.

The company last week added two new fully electric four-door coupes – the e-tron GT and the RS e-tron GT - in India, taking the

total number of such cars in its portfolio to five models.

Counting on the positives, Dhillon noted that lower GST rate of 5 per cent and help given by some state governments in terms of registration costs were some of the factors which were beneficial for the electric car segment.

"The biggest impediment is import duties which at over 100 per cent is a stumbling block," he added.

Dhillon noted that the company is aiming for 15 per cent of its total sales per annum in the country to accrue from electric vehicles portfolio by 2025.

Globally, Audi has decided to become an electric vehicle manufacturer from 2030 onwards. Dhillon stated that Audi India is taking steps towards the same direction and is already selling only petrol and electric cars in the country.

Fame II scheme may be extended

In what may come as a boon for people aspiring to ride on their own electric vehicles, the government is looking to extend the provisions of its subsidy scheme FAME II to the buyers of passenger cars meant for personal use. Government sources said that they were also looking at including electric bicycles under the capital subsidy scheme seeing its growing popularity and the need to bring down its cost for customers. The fresh inclusions would make the running Fame II or Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and EV scheme all encompassing covering the entire range of electric vehicles being used both for personal and commercial use and public transport.

‘Mad Max’ mauls Mumbai

KOHLI WINS ‘BATTLE’ OF SKIPPERS AGAINST ROHIT IN CRUCIAL IPL GAME

AGENCIES

Dubai, Sept 26: He is fondly called as ‘Mad Max’. And Glenn Maxwell demonstrated Sunday why he is so aptly titled as Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) blew away Mumbai Indians (MI) by 54 runs in their IPL-2021 encounter here. Maxwell (56, 37b, 6x4, 3x6) first powered RCB to a competitive total of 165 for six wickets in 20 overs. Then when Rohit Sharma (43, 28b, 5x4, 1x6) was threatening to run away with the game, Maxwell came back with the ball to dismiss the MI skipper. Not only that, Maxwell also got the wicket of Krunal Pandya to return figures of 2/23 in his four overs as MI collapsed from 79 for two to 111 all out in just 18.1 overs. Yes Yuzvendra Chahal (3/11) did spin his magical web around the MI batsmen, but it was Maxwell who did the maximum damage by dismissing Rohit. Rightly there couldn’t have been any choice for the Man of the Match award. Except for Rohit and Quinton de Kock (24), none of the other MI batsmen could get into double figures and in the end it became all too easy for RCB.

There was lot of focus on Hardik Pandya, who returned to the side after a long lay-off. However, Hardik did not bowl a single ball and his effort with the bat just lasted six balls during which he scored three runs. India should worry about Hardik’s fitness and have options ready, because in this form the all-rounder will not cause any worry to the opposition in the upcoming T20 World Cup.



IN FULL FLOW: RCB’s Glenn Maxwell shapes to play the reverse sweep during the match against MI, Sunday PHOTO: BCCI

Amid the ruins, Harshal Patel (4/17) was the highest wicket-taker among the RCB bowlers, but the damage had been done truly by Maxwell and Chahal earlier on. Patel was rewarded for the efforts of the other two.

Earlier, Maxwell came good with the bat after skipper Virat Kohli’s (51, 42b, 3x4, 3x6) second consecutive half century. Maxwell justified his expensive price tag with a 37-ball blitzkrieg before Jasprit Bumrah (3/36) brought MI back in the game. He picked up Maxwell

and AB de Villiers (11) off successive deliveries to restrict RCB when they looked well-poised to get 180-plus.

Maxwell was the most severe on pacer Adam Milne (1/48), but one flick from outside the off-stump to the mid-wicket fence off Bumrah was the standout shot of his innings. Such was the ferocity of Maxwell’s hits that even the normally calm Rohit looked helpless.

At the onset, Kohli hit the very second ball of the match from

Brief scores

RCB 165 for 6 (Glenn Maxwell 56, Virat Kohli 51, Jasprit Bumrah 3/36) beat MI 111 all out in 18.1 overs (Rohit Sharma 43, Harshal Patel 4/17, Yuzvendra Chahal 3/11, Glenn Maxwell 2/24) by 54 runs.

Trent Boult (1/17) for a six to set the tone of the game.

There can be no doubt, the in the game of the ‘two skippers’ who had the last laugh.

SHORT TAKES

Sania wins 1st title

Ostrava (Czech Republic): Sania Mirza won her first title of the season as she and her Chinese partner Shuai Zhang beat the pair of Kaitlyn Christian and Erin Routliffe in the women’s doubles final of the Ostrava Open tennis tournament here Sunday.

The second-seeded Indo-Chinese duo defeated the third-seeded pair of American Christian and New Zealander Routliffe 6-3, 6-2 in the summit clash in 64 minutes.

Maverick man

New Delhi: Bishan Singh Bedi once invited Pakistani cricketers Zaheer Abbas, Javed Miandad, Mudassar Nazar and others for dinner in Australia and cooked delectable food for the 25-odd guests, according to a new book released Sunday. Bedi turned 75 Saturday and his former teammates, friends and admirers from the cricket fraternity came together to pay unique tribute to him through a festschrift of sorts. The special book – ‘The Sardar of Spin: A Celebration of the Art and of Bishan Singh Bedi’ – has a foreword by Kapil Dev, messages from Sunil Gavaskar, EAS Prasanna and Farookh Engineer.

Joshua beaten

London: Oleksandr Usyk ended Anthony Joshua’s reign as world heavyweight champion in front of the Londoner’s home crowd with a stunning unanimous points decision victory Saturday. Usyk scuppered hopes of a ‘Battle of Britain’ unification bout with fellow world title-holder Tyson Fury. Joshua ended the 12th and final round of the contest backed up on the ropes. The impressive Ukrainian won 117-112, 116-112 and 115-113 on the judges’ scorecards.

Arsenal triumph

London: Arsenal hammered Tottenham Hotspur 3-1 in the north London derby of the Premier League played Sunday here. Emile Smith Row (12th), Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (27th) and Bukayo Saka (34th) sealed the game for the Gunners in the first half itself as Spurs looked hopelessly out of sorts. Son Heung-min got one back for the Spurs, but by then Arsenal had sealed the three points in their favour. It could have been a tennis score had the Arsenal forwards managed to utilise all the chances that came their way.

AGENCIES

UDANTA SINGH IN TEAM AFTER BRIEF HIATUS

23-member squad for SAFF tourney

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: Indian football team head coach Igor Stimac named Sunday a 23-member squad for the upcoming SAFF Championship in the Maldives with Bengaluru FC winger Udanta Singh returning to the side. Udanta, who missed the two international friendly matches against Nepal earlier this month, made the cut for the October 1-16 regional tournament.

In a late night development, goalkeeper Amrinder Singh was replaced by Dheeraj Singh after the former tested positive for Covid-19.

The players and the support staff will assemble Monday in Bangalore and fly out to the Maldives the next day. Stimac, and other members of the technical staff, will join the squad directly in Maldives on the same day.

Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and hosts Maldives are the other teams in the championship. Each team play each other once with the top two teams qualifying for the final.

“We are all looking forward to the SAFF Championship as the leading football country in this part of Asia,” Stimac said. “These 4-5 games are

extremely crucial for us as we won’t have any other chance of getting together before the start of the third round AFC Asian Cup qualifiers next season. So these matches should help us to improve a few points in our game,” Stimac added.

The Blue Tigers have won the SAFF Championship (formerly SAARC Cup) seven times.

India begin their campaign October 4 against Bangladesh. Their other matches are against Sri Lanka (October 7), Nepal (October 10) and Maldives (October 13).

The squad

(Goalkeepers): Gurpreet Singh, Dheeraj Singh, Vishal Kaith; **(Defenders):** Pritam Kotal, Seriton Fernandes, Chinglensana Singh, Rahul Bheke, Subhasish Bose, Mandar Rao Dessai; **(Midfielders):** Udanta Singh, Brandon Fernandes, Lalengmawia, Anirudh Thapa, Sahal Abdul Samad, Jeakson Singh, Glan Martins, Suresh Singh, Liston Colaco, Yasir Mohammad; **(Forwards):** Manvir Singh, Rahim Ali, Sunil Chhetri and Farukh Choudhary.

JHULAN COMES TO THE PARTY TO SEAL VICTORY FOR INDIA

Eves end Aussie streak

AGENCIES

Mackay (Australia), Sept 26: The Indian eves ended Australia’s unbeaten streak of 26 ODI matches here Sunday by defeating the hosts by two wickets. Call it poetic justice or what you may, the winning boundary came off the blade of veteran cricketer Jhulan Goswami. Incidentally it was she who had bowled a torrid last over in the second game of the series which had allowed Australia to win the game on the last ball. Jhulan with three wickets and the winning boundary made it up for the ‘Women in Blue’ to win the ‘Woman of the Match’ award.

Earlier brilliant half centuries by Yastika Bhatia (64, 69b, 9x4) and Shafali Verma (56, 91b, 7x4) set up the platform for India’s victory. The two put on 101 runs for the second wicket to ensure that the tricky chase of 265 was possible. Australia had earlier finished on 264 for nine wickets in their 50 overs.

Towards the end, Deepti Sharma (31, 30b, 3x4) and Sneha Rana (30, 27b, 3x4) shared 33 runs for the seventh wicket to take India closer to victory.

Incidentally, this was Indian women’s highest-ever run chase in ODIs. In spite of the victory, the eves however, lost the series 1-2 as Australia had won the first two ODIs of the three-game series.

ALL-ROUNDER JADEJA SCRIPTS TURNAROUND WITH LATE ONSLAUGHT


Kings tame Knights in thrilling encounter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Sept 26: Ravindra Jadeja (22, 8b, 2x4, 2x6) came good when it mattered the most and helped Chennai Super Kings (CSK) achieve a thrilling two-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in their IPL encounter here Sunday.

Jadeja launched into pacer Prasidh Krishna, who bowled the 19th over, where the pacer lost his length completely under the Saurashtra all-rounder’s onslaught with CSK reaching the target of 172 in exactly 20 overs. Jadeja hit all his boundaries and over-boundaries in the 19th over as Krishna went for 22 runs in the penultimate over to leave CSK with four runs to get in the final over:

TODAY’S MATCHES

 SRH  RR

Time: 07:30 pm

TELECAST

Star Sports channels & Hotstar

But there was more drama in store as Sam Curran and Jadeja were snuffed out by Sunil Narine (3/41) before Deepak Chahar ended the match with a single.

In pursuit of a challenging 172, CSK were down and out at 142/6 before Jadeja took the onus on himself to deliver.

KKR had posted 171/6, as they rode on late flourish by former skipper Dinesh Karthik (26, 11b, 3x4, 1x6) and Nitish Rana (37, 27b, 3x4, 1x6). Their 40-run sixth wicket



TURNING POINT: Ravindra Jadeja hits through the off-side during his match-winning knock Sunday for CSK against KKR PHOTO@BCCI

stand off just 18 balls propelled KKR past the 170-run mark. The top scorer for the Knights was Rahul Tripathi (45, 33b, 4x4, 1x6).

Seamer Shardul Thakur (2/20) and Jadeja (1/21) performed impressively to keep KKR under leash till the 13th over when they were 93 for four. However, the last seven overs yielded 78 runs and KKR were able to put on a more than fighting score largely due to Sam Curran (0/56) leaking runs at the back end. Even Josh Hazlewood (2/40) got a bit of stick helping KKR’s cause.

CSK weren’t able to capitalise on the aggressive 74-run opening start given by Ruturaj Gaikwad (40, 28b,

BRIEF SCORES

KKR 171 for 6 (Rahul Tripathi 45, Nitish Rana 37 n o, Shardul Thakur 2/20) lost to CSK 172 for 8 (Faf du Plessis 43, Ruturaj Gaikwad 40, Sunil Narine 3/41) by 2 wickets.

2x4, 3x6) and South African Faf du Plessis (43, 30b, 7x4). KKR pegged CSK by sending both the openers back in quick succession. CSK then suffered a middle-order collapse. Spinner Varun Chakravarthy had got KKR back into the game by dismissing MS Dhoni.

However, then came the Jadeja show and CSK were home while topping the table with 16 points.

100th F1 title for Hamilton

AGENCIES

Sochi, Sept 26: Lewis Hamilton became Sunday the first Formula One (F1) driver to win 100 races with victory in the Russian Grand Prix here. In the process Hamilton retook the championship lead from Max Verstappen.

Hamilton dropped to seventh place when he was boxed in at the first corner but fought back and passed Lando Norris for the win when the McLaren driver stayed out on slick tires in late rain and slid off the track.

“It’s taken a long time to get to 100 and at times, I wasn’t sure it would come,” Hamilton said. It was Hamilton’s fifth win of the season and his first since the British Grand Prix in July.

“It’s a magical moment. I could only have dreamed of still being here and having this opportunity to win these races and get to drive with such phenomenal talents this late in my career,” the defending champion added.

Dutch driver Verstappen finished second while Carlos Sainz led the race early on and finished third for Ferrari. Daniel Ricciardo narrowly missed the podium for McLaren in fourth and Hamilton’s teammate Valtteri Bottas was fifth.

After his tough start, Hamilton started moving up with an overtake around the outside of Fernando Alonso, a duel with echoes of their season as teammates when Hamilton was a rookie in 2007.



STANDING TALL: Jhulan Goswami is congratulated by teammates after she picked up the wicket of Meg Lanning

“We were just trying to stay there and finish the game. It was difficult for the bowlers Friday and today (Sunday) as the senior bowler I wanted to stand up and use the new ball well. I told Meghna (Singh) to make sure that we stay till the last ball,” Jhulan said after the match.

India were given the right start when Shafali and Smriti Mandhana (22) put on 59 for the opening wicket. It was, followed by the century-plus stand between Shafali and Yastika.

Earlier, Indian bowlers again let Australia off the hook as the

home team recovered from 87 for four to a 260-plus score. Ashleigh Gardner (67, 62b, 8x4, 2x6), Beth Mooney (52, 64b, 6x4) and Tahlia McGrath (47, 32b, 7x4) made some useful contributions.

Pacers Jhulan (3/37) and Pooja Vastrakar (3/46) were the best bowlers for India.

Brief scores: Australia 264/9 (Ashleigh Gardner 67, Beth Mooney 52; Jhulan Goswami 3/37, Pooja Vastrakar 3/46) lost to India 266 for 8 in 49.3 overs (Yastika Bhatia 64, Shafali Verma 56; Annabel Sutherland 3/30) by two wickets.

Poor show by Indian shuttlers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vantaa (Finland), Sept 26: The men’s pairing of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila was the only bright spot as India suffered a 1-4 loss to Thailand in their group A opener, jeopardising the chances of qualifying for the knockout stage of Sudirman Cup badminton tournament here Sunday.

PV Sindhu and the men’s doubles duo of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy have given this event a miss. The onus was on senior players such as Kidambi Srikanth and women’s doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy to carry the team through.

However, Srikanth and the duo of Ashwini and Sikki lost their respective matches, while the young Malvika Bansod also went tamely in women’s singles.

Former World No. 1 Srikanth was no match for three-time world junior champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn and lost 9-21, 19-21 in 50 minutes. Sikki and Ashwini ran out of steam during a 21-23 8-21 loss to World No. 8 combination of Jongkolphan Kititharakul and



MR Arjun (left) and Dhruv Kapila

Rawinda Pradjangjai. India fell further behind when World No. 10 Pornpawee Chochuwong trounced Malvika 21-11, 21-14.

Arjun and Kapila gave India some hope with a 21-18, 21-17 win over Supak Jomkoh and Kittinupong Kedren. However, Thailand sealed up the tie as Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai thrashed B Sai Pranee and Tanisha Crasto 21-13, 21-11 in the mixed doubles match.

India will play Monday defending champions China, before taking on hosts Finland in the world mixed team championships Wednesday. India have reached the quarterfinals of the tournament twice, in 2011 and 2017, but this time it looks distinctly impossible.