



EXPLORING ALL AVENUES

Actor Mamata Nanda, after making her mark in TV and films, has debuted in the music video *Marichika*

LEISURE P2



IRAN INVITES IAEA CHIEF

UN nuclear watchdog chief Rafael Grossi to visit Tehran for talks that may ease the Iran-West stand-off

INTERNATIONAL P10



DJOKO IN FINAL

Novak Djokovic enters US Open final and he is only a win away from Calendar Slam as well as record 21st GS title

SPORTS P12

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3 NABBED FOR ₹60L LOAN FRAUD

CUTTACK: The Commissionerate Police Saturday claimed to have arrested three persons for their involvement in a loan fraud case. Accused Satya Shankar Satpathy alias Bapi of CDA Sector-9, Rajkishore Swain alias Raju of CDA Sector-10 and Khetramohan Tripathy of Niali Ratanpur were produced in a local court, police said. Police have seized several forged documents including land records, PAN cards, voter identity cards and driving licences from the accused, said Cuttack DCP Prateek Singh. The DCP said senior branch manager of Union Bank of India's HC Bar Council branch, Suresh Kumar Mohanty, had lodged a complaint in connection with the loan fraud at Lalbag police station September 3.



WETTEST MONSOON IN 46 YEARS

NEW DELHI: Record heavy rains lashed the national capital Saturday, making it the wettest monsoon season in 46 years and causing extensive waterlogging that affected operations at the Delhi airport, disrupted traffic on key roads and left passengers trapped in vehicles in flooded underpasses. Delhiites woke up to the sound of thunder and lightning this morning and, according to the weather department, the city recorded 121.1 mm rainfall from 5:30 AM to 5:30 PM. It had recorded more than 100 mm of rainfall on two consecutive days at the start of the month -- 112.1 mm September 1 and 117.7 mm September 2.

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IN MEMORIAM

From left, former US President Bill Clinton, former First Lady Hillary Clinton, former President Barack Obama, former First Lady Michelle Obama, President Joe Biden, First Lady Jill Biden, and others stand for the national anthem during the annual 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony at the National 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York, Saturday (REPORT ON P10)

Mumbai rape victim dies

The 34-year-old woman was brutalised with a rod in a chilling similarity to the 2012 'Nirbhaya' gangrape case of Delhi

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 11: A 34-year-old woman, who had been raped and brutalised with a rod by a man inside a stationary tempo in suburban Sakinaka area, died at a hospital during treatment in the early hours of Saturday, police said.

The crime took place in the wee hours of Friday. The suspect who had been arrested within a few hours of the incident has been now charged with murder.

While the city police formed a Special Investigation Team to probe the incident, Opposition BJP demanded capital punishment for the accused and questioned if women were safe in Maharashtra.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray termed the incident as a 'blot on humanity'. "The trial in the case will be held on a fast track and the victim, who succumbed to injuries today, will get justice," he said in a statement. He has discussed the case with state Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil and Mumbai Police Commissioner Hemant Nagrale, Thackeray added.

The Sakinaka area in the western suburbs has several industrial units. According to police, accused Mohan Chouhan, 45, worked as a

driver and lived on the pavement in the same area. Besides being raped, the victim woman was assaulted with an iron rod in her private parts and lost a lot of blood, a police official said. She had also been stabbed with a knife, he added.

Police commissioner Nagrale told reporters that the crime came to light when the watchman of a company located on Khairani Road called the police control room and said that a man was seen thrashing a woman. Police reached the spot within 10 minutes and found the victim inside a parked tempo.



As her condition was serious, they decided to take her to hospital in the same vehicle so as to save time. They got the key of the tempo from the watchman and drove her to Rajawadi hospital in suburban Ghatkopar, the commissioner said. The police also obtained CCTV footage of the spot. A man seen leaving the tempo was identified as Mohan Chouhan who hails from Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh, the commissioner said. He was arrested and produced in a court which sent him to police custody till September 21, Nagrale said. His blood-stained clothes were seized. They would be sent for forensic analysis, police said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



How can he get a better portfolio? I have more prize on my head than him!

CM's Nuakhai gift: ₹743cr to KALIA beneficiaries

The state government has provided more than ₹3,200 crore to farmers under the scheme since the outbreak of Covid-19

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: On the occasion of Nuakhai festival, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday distributed ₹742.58 crore among farmers under the KALIA Yojana.

An assistance of ₹2,000 each has been credited into the bank accounts of 37,12,914 small and marginal farmers covered under the scheme for the Rabi crop season.

Greeting the farmers on Nuakhai, Patnaik said that Nuakhai is the festival of mother earth and the farmers are the biggest worshippers of the mother.

"The problems of farmers are the problems of all of us and the problems of the state. Therefore, their issues can never be ignored," the CM said, adding he is in touch with the Union government to resolve the shortage of fertilizer in the state. The state government has also drawn the attention of the Centre on issues related to MSP and crop insurance several times, the CM said.



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik releasing funds under the KALIA scheme via virtual mode as ST Secretary VK Pandian looks on.

Stating that his government is always with farmers, Patnaik said that the state had received deficient rainfall in the month of August. With several parts of the state now experiencing rainfall, there might be an overall change in the drought-like situation, he added. The Chief Minister further said that the state government is monitoring the situation and field-level agriculture officials have been asked to remain in touch with farmers and keep a close eye on the situation. He advised the farmers to work under the guidance of the Agriculture department.

Patnaik said that KALIA Yojana is the best scheme in the country for the welfare of farmers. Odisha is the only state in the country

which provides assistance to landless farmers, he added.

Millions of small farmers are getting the benefits under the KALIA scheme. The state government has provided more than ₹3,200 crore to farmers under the scheme since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, he said.

Joining the programme from Nayagarh, Agriculture Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo highlighted the state government's agricultural development programmes and said that the KALIA scheme has been a boon for the farming community. Farmers from Sambalpur, Bargarh and Bolangir shared their opinions on the benefits of the KALIA scheme. ST Secretary VK Pandian moderated the programme.

Heavy rain in state over next 2 days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: The meteorological department has advised fishermen to return to coast after warning of heavy to very heavy rain in Odisha over the next two days as a low pressure area formed over the Bay of Bengal Saturday and is likely to turn into a depression.

The low pressure area, which formed in the morning Saturday, is likely to move northwestwards and turn into a depression over the northwest Bay of Bengal off the north Odisha-West Bengal coasts during the next 48 hours, the weatherman said.

It is then very likely to move west-northwestwards across north Odisha and north Chhattisgarh during the subsequent two to three days, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said in a release.

As a result strong wind with speeds reaching 45-55 kmph and gusting up to 65 kmph are very likely along and off the Odisha coast over the next three days. Sea conditions will be rough, it said.

Fishermen have been advised to return to the coast from the deep sea by Saturday night and not to venture into the sea till Tuesday, according to the Met centre.

Govt agencies 'intimidating' media, says EGI

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 11: Expressing concern over the Income Tax 'surveys' conducted at the offices of two news websites, the Editors Guild of India (EGI) Saturday criticised the move saying the "dangerous trend of government agencies harassing and intimidating" independent media must stop as it undermines the constitutional democracy.

September 10, teams of I-T officials visited the offices of NewsClick and NewsLaundry and conducted investigations through the day, the body noted.

The Guild said it is deeply disturbed about the I-T 'surveys' at the offices of the two news websites.

"The guild is deeply concerned that such indiscriminate seizure of journalists' data, which could include sensitive information such as details of sources, stories under work and other journalistic data, is in violation of free speech and freedom of press," it said in an official statement.

Mars rocks collected by NASA rover boost case for ancient life

The rover has been operating in a region known as the Jezero Crater, just north of the equator and home to a lake 3.5 billion years ago, when conditions on the Red Planet were much warmer and wetter than today

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, Sept 11: NASA's Perseverance Mars rover has now collected two rock samples, with signs that they were in contact with water for a long period of time boosting the case for ancient life on the Red Planet.

"It looks like our first rocks re-

veal a potentially habitable sustained environment," said Ken Farley, project scientist for the mission. "It's a big deal that the water was there for a long time."

The six-wheeled robot collected its first sample, dubbed "Montdenier" September 6, and its second, "Montagnac" from the same rock September 8.

Both samples, slightly wider than a pencil in diameter and about six centimeters long, are now stored in sealed tubes in the rover's interior.

A first attempt at collecting a sample in early August failed after the rock proved too crumbly to withstand Perseverance's drill.



The rock that provided the first samples was found to be basaltic in composition and likely the product of lava flows.

Volcanic rocks contain crystalline minerals that are helpful in radiometric dating. This in turn could help scientists build up

a picture of the area's geological history, such as when the crater formed, when the lake appeared and disappeared, and how climate changed over time.

"An interesting thing about these rocks as well is that they show signs of sustained interaction with groundwater," NASA geologist Katie Stack Morgan told a press conference.

The scientists already knew the crater was home to a lake, but couldn't rule out the possibility that it had been a "flash in the pan" with floodwaters filling up the crater for as little as 50 years.

Now they are more certain groundwater was present for much

longer. "If these rocks experienced water for long periods of time, there may be habitable niches within these rocks that could have supported ancient microbial life," added Stack Morgan.

The salt minerals in the rock cores may have trapped tiny bubbles of ancient Martian water.

"Salts are great minerals for preserving signs of ancient life here on Earth, and we expect the same may be true for rocks on Mars," added Stack Morgan.

NASA is hoping to return the samples to Earth for in depth lab analysis in a joint mission with the European Space Agency sometime in the 2030s.

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	32.6°C	32.5°C
TEMP MIN	25.5°C	26.0°C
Humidity	82%	89%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Light rains likely

leisure



KATE BECKINSALE RUSHED TO HOSPITAL AFTER BACK INJURY

Actress Kate Beckinsale has reportedly been taken to a Las Vegas hospital after she injured her back at a hotel. The 48-year-old actress was rushed to the emergency room and kept there for a long time as her condition was unclear, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

WON'T LIE TO DAUGHTERS ABOUT MY PAST: DREW BARRYMORE

Actress Drew Barrymore, who began as a child artiste in *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, says she will never lie to her daughters about her past, as she wants them to see how far she's come after her battles with drug and alcohol abuse.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You are deeply interested in the occult and the paranormal and today, you may indulge in something to do with it. So, you may buy a full colour 15x10 glossy on shamanic rites or the tantra! Ganesh suggests using such knowledge for peaceful ends.

TAURUS
This day your mind is likely to be blissfully drawn towards your personal friends and family members. Your warm and intimate relationships will stay uppermost in your mind and fill the day, not leaving room for anything else. Hanging out together with them will give you immense pleasure and contentment.

GEMINI
You will keep your emotions aside and concentrate solely on your work today. You will have to waste a lot of time in fulfilling the demands made by those around you. However, the more demands you fulfill, the more their expectations will rise, says Ganesh.

CANCER
New positive turn in life of lovers. It may lead to marriage. You will play role in bonding all members of the joint family and will meet with success. you will respect tradition and custom. Adopt a careful approach, counsels Ganesh.

LEO
You will be extremely serious about your work today and will work diligently to finish your tasks. You will be focussed and disciplined about your projects. You will feel the need to improve your style of functioning. Traders can expect good financial gains today, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Your ambitions and desire to undertake more work will be very prominent today. After working hard all day, try to get yourself some recreation and relaxation, perhaps at a private party, a social gathering or maybe even at a marriage reception, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
You will be drawn towards those of the opposite sex today says Ganesh. You will meet people who share the same wavelength that you do in the afternoon, and this will lead to a lot of interesting discussions. You will want to expand upon your knowledge of the world today and will be successful in your efforts.

SCORPIO
Expressing your feelings becomes important at some point of time. Today, you are in a mood to express emotions for your near and dear ones. And why not? After all, they need to be appreciated. Though your heart is full of emotions today, do not express in a way that you become vulnerable in eyes of general public.

SAGITTARIUS
No wonder, if you feel like you are stuck in a rut. Your energy level and enthusiasm has gone for a toss due to mundane routine. Unfortunately, your stars too seem to be lazy today, and there's nothing on the cards that can cheer you up. Ganesh advises to let the day pass calmly and wait for a better tomorrow.

CAPRICORN
At times you are very direct in your approach and often end up hurting your near ones badly. Today, you'll bandage some old wounds and make efforts to restore old relationships, says Ganesh. But, your struggle to improve rapport may not be as successful as you want it to be.

AQUARIUS
The cupid may strike you today! The singles may feel the energy and excitement of budding romance. Equally blissful day for the married couples, too, as they will spend quality time with each other. Go down the memory lane, go through some photo albums and cherish those long lost moments, says Ganesh.

PISCES
Unexpected expenses are likely to crop up today. There are strong indications that you will set out upon a journey or a picnic to some nearby place, without too much prior planning. However, the journey will be comfortable and your travel plans will go off without a hitch.

Pranati Prakash's journey down the memory lane

Mumbai: *Cartel* actress Pranati Rai Prakash has taken a journey down the memory lane to recall Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations from her childhood days.

Talking about the festival, Pranati said, "Most of my memories of Ganesh Chaturthi are from Mumbai because it's here that people celebrate the occasion in the grandest style. I have memories of making idols, visiting places, watching dance processions, and praying." "However, as a child, I never saw a huge procession because I was always inside the Army cantonment and we did everything inside. But I loved dancing and eating different types of sweets, playing with my friends and being around aunts who would tell us stories," she recalled.

Opening up on how she celebrates the festival now, the actress said, "This year, I've made a painting of Lord Ganesh that I shared on social media for my fans and followers. I wished all my close ones through messages, followed by visiting their places, being a part of the pooja, having a meal together and celebrating the presence of the Ganapati Bappa!" On the work front, Pranati features in the latest Alt Balaji web series *Cartel*. IANS



Mamata makes music video debut in Marichika

POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: Actress Mamata Nanda who won viewers' hearts in daily soaps like *Manini*, *Uansi Kanya* and in a few Odia movies, has made her debut in the musical video *Marichika*.

Sung by Ananya Sritam Nanda and Sasank Sekhar, the musical also features Abhieskh Giri. The music was composed by Sasank Sekhar and directed by Sthita Patnaik while Gyana Ranjan Satpathy and Satya Ranjan Bal have penned the lyrics.

Mamata says, "I got several offers for music videos earlier also but didn't find them interesting. However, the story of *Marichika* touched my heart. The plot revolved around a couple who were deeply in love during their college days. But they couldn't marry for some reasons. After a few years when they meet, the girl apologises to the boy for not waiting for him."

"My character has two shades. One is of a bubbly college girl and the second is of a mother who meets her ex after a long time," adds the actress.



Tisya with her father Priyadarshree

Unique Nuakhai wishes from state's youngest scuba diver

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: On a day when social media spaces were overflowing with Nuakhai wishes, Tisya Panigrahi, Odisha's youngest scuba diver, did something unique to celebrate western Odisha's most important festival.

The 11-year-old girl along with her father Priyadarshree Panigrahi, also a trained scuba diver, dived into Arabian Sea in the Gulf Of Oman on the east coast of UAE at Fujairah, to wish people on the occasion of Nuakhai. They dived at Dibba Rock dive site.

After descending to a depth of around 40 feet amidst colourful coral reefs and beautiful marine life, they displayed celebratory placards to send out their wishes. One of the placards read 'Nuakhai Juhar' while the other one read 'Happy Nuakhai'.

Diving instructor Hani El Hajjar from Lebanon helped them take photographs and videos using a special underwater camera.

Sambalpur born Tisya became Odisha's youngest scuba diver August 22, 2020 when she obtained her Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) Junior Open Water Scuba Diver License in UAE at the young age of 10. "Being from Odisha's Sambalpur district, Nuakhai holds a very special place in our hearts. So, we decided to do something unique and special on this occasion," Priyadarshree said.

"An underwater message on Nuakhai never happened before and I thought this is a good way to popularise Nuakhai at global level," he added.

"Nuakhai unspools many childhood memories for me. I particularly like the festival because we get to dress in traditional clothes, dance to peppy Sambalpuri songs and get great traditional foods," says Tisya.



Tisya and her father wishing people from below the water

Indian rock band Euphoria joins music NFT

In the music space, an NFT can be stated as a piece of creative work that is stored on a digital ledger. Artists and musicians can create NFTs to auction off various forms of digital media to their fans



New Delhi: In a new trend that indicates the utilisation of blockchain technology in the music industry, Hindi Rock giant *Euphoria* is set to launch its latest album titled *SALE*, in the form of a Non-Fungible Token (NFT).

The band will drop the music album NFT and nine behind-the-scenes photographs on the invite-only NFT project *Token Runway*, after which it will be auctioned before its public release. The auction commenced September 9 and culminates September 12, subsequent to which, the album will be released September 14.

The album *SALE* is the 8th one by *Euphoria*, composed of 7 songs that will take listeners on a ride across genres, sounds, styles, emotions and life experiences. Written at various points

"We believe that it is important to take our music to all communities. This will widen the outreach of our work to the global blockchain community and we certainly are looking forward to it. As seasoned musicians, we think it is essential for us to be a part of this movement."

In the music space, an NFT can be stated as a piece of creative work that is stored on a digital ledger. Artists and musicians can create NFTs to auction off various forms of digital media to their fans. This marks the beginning of an era when artists are able to do business directly to fans and sell their NFTs like they used to with self-produced CDs.

NFTs operate on a blockchain, which is a publicly accessible and transparent network -- meaning anyone can see the details of any NFT transaction. Computers involved in the transactions become part of the network, which keeps updating and can't be hacked. IANS

PEANUTS



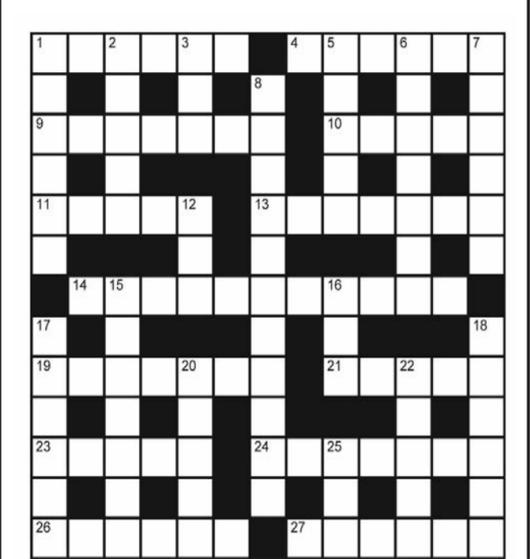
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



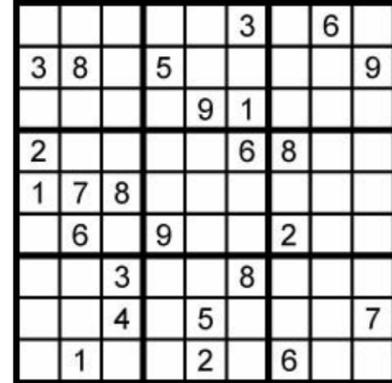
FUN post CROSSWORD



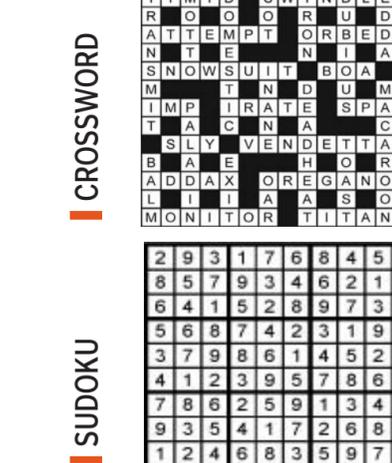
- Across**
- 1 One with a mortgage
 - 4 Peregrine, for one
 - 9 Pasta
 - 10 Cupid's projectile
 - 11 Spirit of a people
 - 13 Choices
 - 14 Hibernia (7,4)
 - 19 Resting place
 - 21 Marina sight
 - 23 Penniless
 - 24 Worship
 - 26 Parthenon site
 - 27 Deleted
 - Down**
 - 1 Beast of burden
 - 2 Kiosk
 - 3 Engine need
 - 5 Show flexibility
 - 6 Gas saver (3,4)
 - 7 State-of-the-art
 - 8 Shakespeare comedy (2,3,4,2)
 - 12 Lady's man
 - 15 Gigantic
 - 16 Slick
 - 17 Anxiety disorder
 - 18 Be there
 - 20 Ancient Greek theater
 - 22 Fish and
 - 25 Paddle

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.



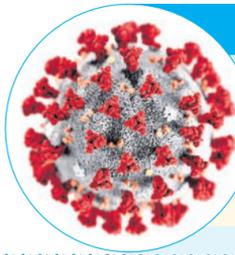
SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

CRAFTS MUSEUM VISIT

Governor Ganeshi Lal, who is on a four-day tour to Puri, Saturday visits Sudarshan Crafts Museum set up by eminent sculptor Sudarshan Sahoo



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	22,48,72,441	20,14,44,824	46,34,493
India	3,32,08,330	3,23,74,497	4,42,317
Odisha	10,15,713	10,01,254	8,092

3 nabbed for ₹60L loan fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 11: The Commissionerate Police Saturday claimed to have arrested three persons for their involvement in a loan fraud case.

Accused Satya Shankar Satpathy alias Bapi of CDA Sector-9, Rajkishore Swain alias Raju of CDA Sector-10 and Khetramohan Tripathy of Niali Ratanpur were produced in a local court, police said.

Police have seized several forged documents including land records, PAN cards, voter identity cards and driving licences from the accused, said Cuttack Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Prateek Singh.

The DCP said that the senior branch manager of Union Bank of India's (UBI) High Court Bar Council branch, Suresh Kumar Mohanty, had lodged a complaint in connection with the loan fraud at Lalbag police station September 3.

As per the complaint, Satya Shankar had availed loan to the tune of ₹60 lakh from the said UBI branch January 28, 2019 to invest in certain business. He had mortgaged a piece of land at Paikapur near Chandaka that was owned



The accused along with the seized documents

OP PHOTO

IN A NUTSHELL

Satya Shankar Satpathy of CDA Sector-9 had availed ₹60-lakh loan from the UBI branch January 28, 2019 to invest in certain business

However, he defaulted on payment of instalments a few months after availing the loan

Investigations revealed that he had fraudulently mortgaged a piece of land at Paikapur near Chandaka that was owned by one Satyabadi Baliarsingh of Nayagarh

by one Satyabadi Baliarsingh of Nayagarh.

Satya Shankar had produced forged land records, Baliarsingh's PAN card, voter identity card and other documents while availing the loan. However, he defaulted on payment of instalments a few months after availing the loan, said the complaint.

Subsequently, the bank authorities had filed a suit against Satya Shankar and Baliarsingh in the Cuttack Debts Recovery Tribunal March 31, 2021. Taking up the case,

the tribunal had served notices on the duo.

Upon receipt of the tribunal notice, Baliarsingh complained that he was unaware of the bank loan availed by Satya Shankar and that he had not signed any document to be the guarantor. Baliarsingh had alleged that Satya Shankar had availed the loan by producing forged documents.

Police investigations confirmed that Satya Shankar along with Swain and Tripathy had forged the land records and other docu-

ments to avail the loan. Even Tripathy had impersonated Baliarsingh when the bank officials visited the mortgaged land," said the DCP.

Acting on the complaint of the UBI, the Lalbag police arrested the trio, he added.

"We will soon seek the permission of the court to take the accused on remand for further investigation into the case. We suspect the involvement of some more individuals in the loan fraud case," said the DCP.

GRACEFUL MOVES



Artistes perform at 'Ganesh Mahotsav' at Kala Vikash Kendra auditorium in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

BJP slams state govt over border row, blames intelligence failure

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: The state leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Saturday castigated the state government for its alleged failure in managing the affairs of interstate border disputes.

Party leader Bhrugu Baxipatra Saturday informed a presser here that the borders of Odisha are now vulnerable. "Neighbouring states from all sides are now eyeing on Odisha's land. They are trying to take control over some of our areas," he said.

The BJP leader said that the state government has failed to safeguard its own territory and plan countermeasures to thwart such steps taken by some neighbouring states. "The government has also failed to furnish details in the courts," he added.

Baxipatra maintained that other states have gained from the lax attitude of the Odisha government. "Be it Kotia in Koraput or Manikapatana in Gajapati district, the invasions from other states are on the rise," he said.

"After Kotia, a new territorial controversy has erupted in



This is a total failure of the state intelligence system. While Andhra government comes with four platoons to the bordering areas, Odisha government goes with four constables

BHRUGU BAXIPATRA | BJP LEADER

Manikapatana. Andhra Pradesh has even tried to conduct Panchayat elections there," he said.

Blaming the state government for its 'inaction' in such issues, he

said, "The Andhra government has been trying to woo the people of these areas by including them in many government schemes such as drinking water, roads, education and health. The state government has been half-heartedly opposing Andhra government's interference in our land," he said.

Baxipatra also alleged that the state government was ignorant of the Panchayat elections by AP in these areas. "This is a total failure of the state intelligence system. While the AP government comes with four platoons to those areas, the Odisha government goes with four constables," he said.

1.6 lakh candidates appear for NEET-PG at 679 centres

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 11: The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)- Postgraduate was held at 679 centres in 270 cities across the country Saturday with 1.6 lakh candidates appearing for it following Covid-19 protocols. The exam was rescheduled twice in view of Covid-19.

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, in a tweet, claimed that some students have complained to him about a last-minute change of exam centres that has led to their inconvenience.

When asked about it, the Executive Director of the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) Pawanindra Lal said two centres each in Sonapat and Panipat were changed September 8 and 9 respectively due to security issues and the candidates were moved to new centres in Delhi.

Cong leader Shashi Tharoor claimed that some students have complained to him about a last-minute change of examination centres

Tagging screenshots of a tweet about change in exam centre, Tharoor wrote on the microblogging site: "Over a hundred NEET-PG, 2021, aspirants have written to me because the government doesn't respond!"

"The exam is tomorrow and they are in crisis. The latest complication: many students have been informed at the last minute of a change of centre (one day before the exam); many haven't got admit cards," he said in the tweet.

However, Professor Lal said, "All

care was taken to inform each and every candidate individually by phone calls, emails and SMS to ensure they download and print the new admit card with new centres and are able to reach the venue on time."

Initially, the NEET-PG was scheduled to be held January 10 but was rescheduled for April 18 because of the Covid-19 situation.

"It was again rescheduled because of the second Covid wave on the orders by the PMO. In those orders, it was mentioned that the exam would be held after August 31. Then the earliest possible date was announced for September 11," Lal said.

He said 1,66,259 candidates appeared for the NEET-PG Saturday and all were provided protective gears comprising a face shield, mask and hand sanitiser for the safe conduct of the exam.

CM launches light & sound show at Samaleswari Temple



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday inaugurated the light and sound show at the Samaleswari Temple in Sambalpur on the auspicious occasion of Nuakhai.

The Chief Minister in his message said that the added attraction can help the devotees of Maa Samaleswari get versed with the glorious history of the temple.

Patnaik released a video message on the occasion. While greeting the people of the state on Nuakhai, the Chief Minister talked about the cultural heritage of Sambalpur.

ADDING TO THE GRANDEUR



The light and sound show underway at Samaleswari Temple in Sambalpur, Saturday

OP PHOTO

13,043 students apply for offline Plus II exam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: A total of 13,043 students have applied for Plus II offline examination, Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) said Saturday.

According to a CHSE official, the council had announced September 2 that Class XII students who were dissatisfied with the marks allotted to them on basis of alternate assessment can register their names for the Annual Higher Secondary (Special) Examination, 2021, which would be conducted offline.

The council had clarified that examination or registration fees will not be collected from the students. However, the last date for registration on SAMS e-Space was fixed for September 9

The council had clarified that examination or registration fees will not be collected from the students. However, the last date for registration on SAMS e-Space was fixed for September 9.

"Those who will appear for the annual special examination would have to forego their presently awarded marks. Results of the offline examination will be treated as final," a CHSE notification read.

Notably, the offline examination will be held only for major papers. Marks in other papers will be awarded on the basis of marks secured in the major papers, which will be decided by the CHSE.

State's first shelter home for transgenders by next year

THE BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION WILL PAY THE SELECTED AGENCY ₹3,403 PER BEGGAR PER MONTH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) will soon launch state's first-of-its-kind shelter home for transgender beggars in the Capital city, in a bid to rehabilitate and further empower the third gender.

Issuing a tender, the BMC stated that it is looking for parties that will look after the management of the 50-bed capacity shelter home here. The shelter home, which would be set up

at an estimated cost of ₹40.83 lakh, is likely to come up in southwest zone of the BMC by next year.

"This is for the first time that an urban local body (ULB) in the state is coming up with such an initiative. The shelter home with 50-bed capacity will be set up to rehabilitate the transgenders seeking alms in the City. The centre will provide nutritious food four times a day. Apart from basic amenities, the shelter will have a 500 sqft hall area for activities and skill training for the inmates," said BMC's

TOWARDS A BEGGAR-FREE CITY



deputy commissioner, Welfare, Kamalakanta Behera. Sources at the BMC said that

The shelter home with 50-bed capacity will be set up to rehabilitate the transgenders seeking alms in the City

The centre will provide nutritious food four times a day

Apart from basic amenities, the shelter will have a 500 sqft hall area for activities and skill training of the inmates

the civic authority on selection of the agency for management of the shelter home will also make pay-

ments to the agency at ₹3,403 per beggar per month for two years. Moreover, the agency will also conduct regular health checkups of the inmates and may also be required to provide facilities for Covid testing, if necessary.

It can be mentioned here that the initiative is being taken to make Bhubaneswar the first beggar-free Capital city in the country.

While the BMC already has eight shelter for urban homeless (SUHs), three SUHs have been dedicated exclusively to rehabilitation of eld-

erly, women and children and differently-abled. While other SUHs for beggars have seen about 100 inmates earning incomes through small trades, the proposed SUH is set to rehabilitate the transgenders.

"Usually most transgenders involved in begging are physically more capable than women, children, elderly and others. We aim to rehabilitate them by imparting skill training and setting up small businesses for them so that they do not get involve in begging again," Behera added.

Fresh nCoV cases dip below 700 after 3 days



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: Odisha's daily detection of new Covid-19 cases dropped below 700 after a gap of three days as 630 more people, including 116 children, tested positive for the infection Saturday, taking the state's caseload to 10,15,713, a Health department official said.

Eight fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 8,092. Two deaths were reported from Cuttack district and one each from Balasore, Dhenkanal, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Malkangiri and Mayurbhanj districts. This apart, 53 other Covid-19 patients have also died due to comorbidities so far, he added.

While 630 new cases were detected in 29 districts Saturday, it was 745 Friday, 771 Thursday and 762 Wednesday. The rate of infection among the children and adolescents in the age group of 0 to 18 years Saturday stands at 18.41 per cent against 15.97 per cent Friday and 15.17 per cent Thursday.

Of the new cases, 368 were from quarantine centres while the remaining 262 were local contact cases. Khurda district, of which the state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the highest of 221 new cases followed by Cuttack (118). Subarnapur district did not report any new case during the last 24 hours.

Odisha now has 7,020 active Covid-19 cases while as many as

20-25% of vaccinated not producing antibody

Ajay Parida, Director of Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar, Saturday revealed that 20-25 per cent of the vaccinated people are not developing antibodies post inoculation. The revelation was made based on the outcome of the genome sequencing conducted on 600 samples of the state between August and September first week. Out of the 600 samples, 425 turned out to be infected with the delta variant. However, no new mutation was found in the samples. Since antibodies are not being produced in many cases, administering a third dose, also known as the booster dose, is currently being scrutinised.

data released by the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

The state has so far administered over 2.51 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses to the people including over 62.31 lakh beneficiaries taking both doses of the jab.

10,00,548 patients including, 689 Friday, recovered from the highly infectious disease. This marked a major milestone in the state crossing 10 lakh recovery figure, the Health official informed.

Incidentally, the number of daily recovery (689) Friday was more than the number of newly infected in last 24 hours Saturday.

The state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) now stands at 0.98 per cent as 630 people tested positive out of 63,817 samples tested Friday.

The coastal state has thus far conducted over 1.87 crore samples for Covid-19. The positivity rate now stands at 5.40 per cent, the

Daily inoculation target revised

The state government, meanwhile, has set a new target to inoculate 4.13 lakh people every day against its earlier target of 3.5 lakh daily.

The H&FW Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) P K Mohapatra has directed all district Collectors, Municipal Commissioners, and Chief District Medical and Public Health Officers (CDM & PHOs) to plan accordingly and meet the target set for their respective districts.

"Taking into account the feedback received from the Collectors, and the expected vaccine supply from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), the

daily target for Covid vaccination has been revised," Mohapatra said.

In his letter, the ACS said that MoHFW supplies all syringes for the Covid vaccination programme. It has been observed that the vaccine is supplied earlier than the syringes, causing a temporary shortage of the latter.

In order to tackle the issue, the state government has allowed all districts to borrow required syringes (0.5ml/1 ml/2 ml) from the state (OSMCL) supply (meant for patients) and temporarily divert the same for Covid vaccination. Once MoHFW syringe supplies reach, the same can be recouped, he said.

FIRST TO AID



Twin city Police Commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi attends a program by St. John Ambulance Service on World First Aid Day near traffic police station, Bhubaneswar

KISS inks pacts with RD, Utkal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: KISS signed two MoUs with Rama Devi Women's University and Utkal University of Culture Saturday.

KISS Deemed to be University also inducted 23 distinguished academicians as Emeritus Professors into its academics family

KISS will collaborate with the two universities in the fields of academics and research. Rama Devi University Vice Chancellor Aparajita Choudhury signed the MoU on behalf of the university while Byomkesh Tripathy signed the agreement on behalf of Utkal University of Culture and Deepak Kumar Behera signed the MoU on behalf of KISS Deemed to be



University Registrars of two universities were present at the MoU signing ceremony.

KISS Deemed to be University also inducted 23 distinguished academicians as Emeritus Professors into its academics family Saturday. They were felicitated at a special induction programme by KIIT & KISS founder Achyuta Samanta. They will guide and advise the institution in innovative research to

receive national and international recognition.

Their job will be completely honorary. Congratulating them, Samanta said, "By the care and co-operation of these distinguished educationists, KISS can embark on a glorious academic journey. With their help, KISS will enhance its academic standard and ensure the growth of thousands of tribal students."

₹1,299Cr sought from Centre for road infra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: The state government has sought ₹1,299 crore from the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for development of 31 road projects in Odisha. State Works Secretary Krishan Kumar has written a letter to the Under Secretary in the Ministry for this purpose.

Kumar requested the Ministry for the sanction of funds to the tune of ₹1,299 crore under Central Road & Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) scheme & Interstate Connectivity (ISC) scheme during the financial year 2021-22.

Out of the amount sought, ₹1,001 crore would be for 25 road projects under CRIF, ₹123 crore for three projects under EI, and ₹175 crore for three road projects under Interstate Connectivity (ISC) scheme. Excluding four state highways, all proposed road projects are major district roads (MDR).

NO TO CURBS



Cuttack Samajik Sangathan members hold a demonstration at Stadium Square here demanding unhindered celebration of the coming Durga Puja

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

NAVAL WING NCC PLANS 13-DAY VOYAGE FOR CADETS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 11: The Cuttack group of the NCC Naval Wing has planned a 253-km voyage on Mahanadi river from Satkosia (gorge) to Paradip for 60 cadets as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the nation-wide celebration of the 75th year of India's independence. The 13-day journey from 15 to 27 September aims to instil self-confidence, spirit of adventure, discipline and self-reliance amongst the cadets.

The cadets, along with the crew, will carry the Tricolour to Paradip on three DK Whalers and a safety boat. They will also campaign on Fit India Run, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Swachh Bharat, and TB



and HIV awareness, apart from the 75th Anniversary of independence.

The agenda also includes two plantation drives, and visits to schools and colleges at the halt-

ing points between Satkosia and Paradip. The motive of the voyage is to have the cadets get waterman-ship experience by pooling and sailing the Whaler boats on the river.

NCB seizes 502 kg ganja; one held

BHUBANESWAR: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Saturday seized around 502 kg of cannabis which was being transported to the national Capital. The sleuths also arrested a drug peddler during the raid at Manguli Square in Cuttack during the wee hours Saturday. The accused was identified as Munna Lal of Faridabad district, Haryana. NCB sources claimed that the sleuths Friday received reliable inputs about the transportation of ganja from Khurda to New Delhi in a 10-wheeler container (HR-38U-9546). Subsequently, the sleuths intercepted the vehicle at Manguli Square. The accused was Saturday produced before the court which sent him to judicial custody.

Over 7,500 students attend SAITED 2021 virtually

THE ANNUAL EVENT PROVIDED A MEGA PLATFORM TO STUDENTS TO DISCUSS AND SHOWCASE THEIR IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: The SAI International Saturday hosted the 5th edition of one of India's biggest Science and Technology fests 'SAITED 2021' virtually with the theme 'The Journey To Infinity and Beyond'. The event was attended by more than 7,500 students from across the country and abroad virtually, said the SAI Internationals sources.

The day-long student driven event was managed by the students of classes XI and XII from the science stream with handholding

support from mentors.

The teams had been divided into six corporate structured groups each with a different portfolio and headed by a director. There was a marketing team, a finance team, an advertising team, IT team, logistic team and research team. The annual event provided a mega platform to the students to discuss and showcase their ideas, experiences, observations and findings through various activities.

This year's event hosted over 7,500 students from over 300 schools across India and overseas showcasing more than 120



projects at the Science exhibition. Schools from Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan were part of

this mega event along with the National Progressive schools of India and Round Square Schools

from India and abroad. The annual mega event SAITED was divided into two segments - 1)

science based activities, workshops, competitions and 2) TED Talks, MED Talks in which experts in the field of science, technology and medicines gave valuable inputs to the students.

Activities like Tech Fair were exhibited on the theme 'Sustainable Development Goals 2030'.

The other activities were: TED Q - Science Quiz, Science Debate, Science Acapella, If I were, JAM, Science Up Comedy, Arguably the Best, and a myriad of interesting science-based games that gave a unique blend of fun with learning.

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FORGED CERTIFICATES AND FAKE TEACHERS IN GANJAM

Salaries of 10 BEOs held up



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Sept 11: Amid the ongoing process of scrutinizing teachers' certificates and other documents to detect fake ones, the administration has stopped salaries of 10 block education officers (BEOs) in Ganjam district, a report said.

The report said that for various reasons, the scrutiny is getting delayed. The directorate of education has ordered action against the officials over delay in scrutiny of certificates.

However, various quarters have been alleging that officials of the education department and police officials are protecting the teachers who have grabbed jobs on the basis of forged certificates. It is ar-

gued that as the process gets delayed, fake teachers get time to knock at the court's door.

It is said that certificates deposited at one office are not shifted to upper level offices for scrutiny.

Though officials have sent certificates to various boards and universities for verification, reports are not available from the latter. As a result, the fake teachers are allowed to work and get salaries.

Given the delay in scrutiny, the education department has held up the salaries of 10 BEOs in Dharakote, Kabisuryanagar, Khallikota, Shergad, Aska, Hinjili, Patrapur and Ganjam blocks in the current month.

The education department had received complaints that 102 teach-

ers have grabbed jobs by furnishing forged documents.

A list of fake teachers has been sent to the district education officer and 22 block education officers. A case in this regard is sub-judice at the High Court. Action taken reports are not available from block officials. Some BEOs have so far filed FIRs at different police stations against 45 teachers.

Police investigations are in some cases are getting delayed, leading to delay in action against teachers. Meanwhile, five more teachers have been sacked. In 2019, five fake teachers had been arrested in the district. Then, the district education officer directed the BEOs to take disciplinary measures against the teachers, who have got employed by producing fake certificates.

Chhatrapur BEO Abinash Satpathy said that the verification of documents of the teachers whose jobs have been regularized since 2011 is still going on.

It was learnt that verification reports about certificates of 44 CT teachers, 14 BE teachers and 262 other teachers are yet to be available from the university-concerned and the Board of Secondary Education.

Brown sugar worth ₹30L seized, 2 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Sept 11: Two persons have been arrested after brown sugar worth Rs 30 lakh was recovered from their possession in Balasure district, police said Saturday. Acting on a tip-off, a team of police personnel raided an area in Jaleswar Thursday night and seized 300 gram of the contraband, a senior police officer said.

Brown sugar worth over Rs 6 crore has been seized by a special task force of the state police and excise department in and around Jaleswar area in the past two months, he added.

Kendu leaves worth ₹12L seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jamankira, Sept 11: Forest officials have arrested two persons with a huge cache of kendu leaves loaded in a 10-wheeler truck in Badarama range of Sambalpur district Saturday. The seized kendu leaves were valued at Rs 12 lakh.

Officials of the kendu leaf office at Badarama got a tip-off about the kendu leaf smuggling. They conducted a raid in the area near Kunteisara filing station.

The truck had three different registration number plates. Forest officials searched for valid documents for the leaves. The driver and the helper could not produce documents.

As per the preliminary investigation, kendu leaves were being transported in the truck to West Bengal from Sambalpur district. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway.

Tusker electrocuted, poaching suspected



POST NEWS NETWORK

Khamar, Sept 11: A tusker was electrocuted after it came in contact with live wires allegedly laid by poachers at Badagunda Khasada reserve forest in Khamar forest range under Deogarh forest division of Angul district, forest officials said Saturday.

Forest officials seized its decomposed carcass and took it for post-mortem. The incident may have occurred five days back but came to the light Saturday after locals noticed the dead pachyderm and informed forest officials. Electric wires and a bottle were seized from the spot.

Sources said Khamar forest

range is a natural habitat for scores of elephants. It is suspected that the elephant was trapped into the live wire laid by poachers to kill the pachyderms for their ivory. Locals alleged poaching of wildlife is on the rise in the area due to negligence of forest officials and members of the elephant squad.

Khamar ranger Chandrasekhar Gadnayak said efforts are on to nab the accused. Deogarh DFO Khyama Sarangi said the tusker was separated from the herd and was roaming alone in the forest. The DFO said action will be taken if charges of negligence are proved against the forest officials. Further investigation is on to ascertain the cause behind the elephant's death.

Youth, girl die in road mishap in Kandhamal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Sept 11: In a tragic road mishap, a youth and a girl died after the motorcycle they were travelling on met with an accident at Budhadani under Sadar police limits in Kandhamal district late Friday night.

The deceased were identified as Ashish Diga and Deepa Kanhara.

Ashish and Deepa were returning home after participating in Ganesh puja celebration in their locality. As they

nearly Budhadani, Ashish lost his control on the bike, leading to the mishap. The bike rammed against a roadside guard wall. Both the rider and pillion rider were thrown off the bike. They died on the spot.

On being informed, police recovered the bodies and sent them for post-mortem. While local residents said travelling at very high speed proved fatal for them, the police said they have launched a detailed investigation to find out what had caused the accident.



Youths participating in a 'Fit India Freedom Run' event organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra at Coronation ground in Phulbani, Saturday

OP PHOTO

RUN FOR FREEDOM

Youth shot dead in Rourkela over past enmity

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 11: A youth, who sustained critical injuries after being shot at and attacked with sharp-edged weapons, succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment at the Ispat General Hospital here, late Friday night.

The deceased identified as Jeetendra Saha alias Gore is a resident of Rimjhim slum under Plantsite police limits. After the murder, police detained a person named Md Amir while the rest of the accused escaped. Tension was palpable in the area as police force was deployed at major intersections in the city to prevent any law



After the murder, police detained a person named Md Amir while the rest of the accused escaped. Tension flared up in the city

and order situation. Police rushed to the spot and started an investigation. A scientific team was pressed into service. Police claimed that the murder might have taken place over past enmity as Saha was earlier accused of murdering Dilu Khan of

Nala Road area with his associates, January 7. He was arrested for this murder and was jailed. He came out of the jail in March this year.

The incident occurred when miscreants arrived at his house and called him outside. They took

him a few yards away from his house and fired four rounds at him. Later, they hacked his head and limbs with sharp-edged weapons.

His aunt who happened to see them offered resistance, but the miscreants also fired at her. The miscreants fled when locals rushed to the spot. The locals rescued the two and admitted them in Ispat General Hospital where Saha succumbed to injuries.

In his dying statement to police, he revealed the names of five persons who attacked him.

Rourkela SP Mukesh Kumar Bhamoo said a probe is on and all the accused involved in the murder will soon be arrested.

Special vax drive for teachers kicks off

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Sept 11: A special vaccination drive was launched for teachers in Ganjam Saturday.

According to reports, Covid infection is yet to be curbed in the district while apprehensions about the third wave of the pandemic posing threat to children have left health officials and the administration worried.

Meanwhile, the government has permitted schools and colleges to operate, but many teachers and non-teaching staff have not received vaccination.



The district administration has directed teachers to get themselves vaccinated as they come in close contact with students in schools.

Reports said, scores of teachers in Chhatrapur block and some other blocks are waiting for jobs. There were media reports in this regard.

Chhatrapur block education officer Abinash Satpathy has led from the front and helped in organizing a special vaccination programme for teachers at Munsiphet community health centre.

Another vaccination programme was organised at Pratigopalpur school for teachers in three sessions Saturday.

The special drive is expected to ensure vaccination of all teachers in phases. Officials of the block education office were monitoring the vaccination programme.

Couple ends life

Digapahandi: In a shocking incident, a couple hailing from Podamari Bhanja Sahi under Patapur police limits in Ganjam district allegedly committed suicide by consuming poison over a family dispute. Reports said, following a feud, Santosh Gouda of Podamari Bhanja Sahi and his wife drank poison. While Santosh died at home, Nayani breathed her last at the Community Health Centre (CHC) here. On being informed, Patapur police rushed to the spot and started an investigation into the incident.

Nuakhai celebration toned down

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Sambalpur, Sept 11: People of Odisha celebrated Nuakhai with fervour Saturday amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Nuakhai, an agrarian festival mostly celebrated in western Odisha, has turned into a mass fiesta across the state over the years. On Nuakhai, people welcome the new rice of the season.

Even as traditional rituals were followed, the festivities were subdued this year due to the pandemic. People from western Odisha now living outside the state also celebrated the festival at their locations amid the heart-break of not being able to return home due to different restrictions amid the pandemic.

Notable celebrations happened in Bangalore, Bhopal, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai. The colourful festival, marked by people wearing outfits made of Sambalpur fabric, is celebrated a day after Ganesh Chaturthi.

Sambalpur music is also an integral part of the festival as young men and women dance to the beats of 'dul-duli', a drum.

PANDEMIC EFFECTS



PM Narendra Modi, Governor Ganeshi Lal and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik greeted people on the occasion. The CM said Nuakhai is the identity of the state's art, culture and tradition.

Nabanna' (new rice) was offered to the goddess Samaleswari between 10.15 am and 10.25 am, as per the 'lagna' for the ritual fixed by the Pundit Mahasabha

Families, wearing new clothes, get together on this day to offer prayers to goddess Samaleswari and eat delicacies made of the newly-harvested crop. The younger members of the family seek blessings of the elder ones -- 'Nuakhai Juhar'.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the people on the occasion. In a tweet, he said, "Nuakhai Juhar! Greetings to everyone on this auspicious occasion. On Nuakhai we laud the outstanding efforts of our industrious farmers and their role

in nation building. I pray for everyone's good health and well-being."

Governor Ganeshi Lal also greeted the people on the occasion. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said Nuakhai is not only a festival, but it is the identity of the state's art, culture and tradition.

"I pray to Maa Samaleswari that may you all have a happy and prosperous life," said Patnaik through a video message. He also appealed to the people to follow Covid protocols while celebrating the festival.

This year, 'nabanna' (new rice) was offered to the goddess between 10.15 am and 10.25 am, as per the 'lagna' for the ritual fixed by the Pundit Mahasabha. According to the decision taken by the authorities, devotees were allowed to visit Samaleswari Temple after the 'nabanna' ritual from 12 pm to 5.30 pm.

The origins of the festival date back to the Vedic ages, but the early records of its celebrations point to the 12th century when Chauhan Raja Ramai Deo of Patanagarh identified agriculture as an important means to maintain the cohesiveness of a societal arrangement.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR ENERGIZATION OF OVERHEAD TRACTION WIRES
PROFORMA - 10.01

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the Sambalpur Division in East Coast Railway, that the 25,000 volts, 50 Hz, AC Overhead Traction Wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date, the overhead traction lines shall be treated as live at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead lines.

DESCRIPTION	TKM	DATE OF CHARGING
ELECTRIFICATION OF VEDANTA SIDING IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY	32	30.09.2021

INTRODUCTION OF AC 25 KV TRACTION "WARNING TO ROAD USERS"
PROFORMA - 10.02

It is notified for information of the Public that in connection with Electrification of Vedanta Siding in Sambalpur Division of East Coast Railway, height gauges have been erected at all the level crossings with clear height maximum 4.78 Meter above road level with a view to prevent loads of excessive height from coming into contact or dangerous proximity to live traction wire (contact wire), which shall be at a height minimum 5.5m above the rail level crossings.

Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for the purpose of loading vehicles and to see that the loads carried on road vehicles do not infringe the height gauges under any circumstance.

The danger of a load of excessive height are as follows:-

- Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the railway line.
- Danger to the materials or equipment carried or the vehicle itself.
- Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the conductors.

PR-364/M/21-22 Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer(TRD), Waltair

Government of Odisha No. O-656
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Nabarangpur, Umerkote
e-mail: eerwukt@gmail.com & eerwukt@ymail.com
Date: 07.09.2021

Letter No. 2409

e-Procurement Notice

- Name of the work :- Road & Building Works
- Total No. works :- 31 (Thirty One) Nos.
- Approx. Estimated Cost :- Varies from 1.06 Lakhs to 41.04 Lakhs.
- Class of Contractor :- "A", "B", "C" & "D" Class of Contractor
- Period of Completion :- As per TCN

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Last Date & Time Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
		From	To		
Executive Engineer, R.W. Division-II, Nabarangpur, Umerkote	Online Tender/05/RWD-UKT/2021-22	14.09.2021 at 11.00 AM	23.09.2021 up to 5.00 PM	22.09.2021 at 11.00 PM	24.09.2021 at 11.00 AM

Further details can be seen from the Government website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in
OIPR-25103/11/0005/2122 Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Nabarangpur, Umerkote

Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)
Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India
Date- 06.09.2021

PUBLIC NOTICE No. 12/2021

Whereas the Central Government constituted the Central Ground Water Authority vide notification Number S.O. 38(E), dated 14th January, 1997, followed by notification number S.O. 1124(E) dated 6th November, 2000 and S.O. 1121 (E) dated 13th May, 2010 of the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment & Forests, for the purposes of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the whole of India and to issue necessary regulatory directions.

And whereas the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi, in its Order dated 15.04.2015 in O.A. No. 204/2014 and connected matters, has directed that "any person operating tubewell or any means to extract groundwater should obtain its permission and should operate the same subject to law in force, even if such unit is existing unit or the unit is still to be established".

And whereas, in pursuance to above directions from Hon'ble NGT all existing /new ground water users including Industrial/ infrastructure/ Mining Projects were directed to submit their applications for No Objection Certificates (NOC) latest by 30.06.2020 vide Public Notice dated 01.04.2020.

And whereas revised CGWA guidelines for NOC for ground water withdrawal have been notified vide Notification No. S.O. 3289(E), dated 24.09.2020, available on CGWA website (<http://cgwa-noc.gov.in/LandingPage/Guidelines/NewGuidelinesNotified250920.pdf#ZOOM=100>).

Now, therefore, all the users including Residential apartments, Group Housing Societies, Government water supply agencies in urban areas and Industrial, Infrastructure and Mining Projects and Swimming Pools whether existing or new (except exempted category as per section 1 of notified guidelines), drawing or proposing to draw ground water are required to obtain NOC as per the guidelines and are hereby directed to submit their applications for NOC through online portal of CGWA (<http://cgwa-noc.gov.in>) or respective State Authorities, as the case may be. The applications received in CGWA shall be processed as per guidelines dated 24.09.2020 and subsequent public notices issued in this regard.

Since, the last date provided for submission of applications is already over, the applicants shall be liable to pay a late fee of Rs. 1 lakh, along with ground water abstraction/restoration charges w.e.f. 24.09.2020. However, such applicants shall be exempted to pay Environmental Compensation till 31.03.2022. All project proponents drawing ground water but fail to apply for NOC by 31.03.2022 are liable to face legal action and pay Environmental Compensation for illegal withdrawal of ground water.

It is hereby also informed that all the ground water users whose applications for grant of NOC have been rejected by CGWA on the ground of non-submission of mandatory documents shall be required to resubmit their applications for grant of NOC by 31.03.2022 through online portal of CGWA or respective State Authorities, as the case may be, failing which legal action as per proviso of the notified vide Notification No.S.O. 3289(E), dated 24.09.2020 shall be initiated.

Chairman,
davn 45104/11/0001/2122
06.09.2021

True knowledge is not attained by thinking. It is what you are; it is what you become.
SRI AUROBINDO



PM's ego at stake

Later this month, on 26 September, the Samyukta Kisan Morcha has called for a 'Bharat Bandh' to seek the repeal of the farm laws. The question is why is the protest, which began last year, still continuing? It is instructive to examine the details.

The farmers' movement gave the Union government a set of eight demands. First, to repeal the law that allowed tax-free trade of agricultural produce outside of regulated mandis, stop corporates from entering the agriculture sector and provide a guarantee for the Minimum Support Price. Second, they demand repealing the law allowing contract farming. Third, they also want the law amending the Essential Commodities Act, decriminalising the hoarding of agricultural produce repealed. Fourth, to withdraw the amendments proposed in the Electricity Ordinance 2020, which would end power subsidies and replace them with a cash subsidy. Fifth, to eliminate the taxes on fuel to align the price of petrol and diesel to international crude prices. Sixth, to repeal the Straw Pollution Ordinance 2020, which criminalises the burning of stubble. Seventh, to stop the Union's legislative encroachment into the domain of states: agriculture is a state subject and not a Union one. And lastly to unconditionally release those jailed in the Bhima Koregaon case and for the CAA protests. On 30 December last year, the Modi government agreed to drop the amendments in the Electricity Ordinance (Point 4) and to exempt farmers from the stubble burning penalty (Point 6).

On 12 January this year, the Supreme Court 'stayed' the implementation of the farm laws. The stay addressed points 1, 2 and 3. The court then appointed a four-member committee to speak to the farmers and the government and make recommendations. One of the committee's members, Bhupinder Singh Mann, withdrew himself saying he was in support of the farmers. The other three included two agricultural economists who had written in support of the government. The farmers unions refused to meet the committee and it gave its recommendations to the court in a sealed cover six months ago, in March.

A couple of months ago, on 4 July, Piyush Goyal's Ministry of Consumer Affairs imposed a limit of 200 tonnes (wholesale) and 5 tonnes (retail) on the stocking by traders of all pulses except moong. This was because prices were rising, but this limit meant that the government was itself going against the repeal of the Essential Commodities Act.

Last week, one of the Supreme Court committee's members expressed his frustration about their report still remaining in its sealed cover. He also said that the government and the court would have to consider the "law and order situation" which would arise if the report was released. The committee has apparently not favoured repeal of the laws but, according to this member, Anil Ghanwat, the laws have "many defects" which need to be addressed.

This then is the current situation of the demands for which the farmers are still on protest. Some of their demands have already been met, some have been stayed and in one case the government, without repealing, has itself undone a key law. Earlier this year, the government said it was willing to stay the implementation of the laws for 18 months. So what stops the government from just repealing the laws that are in any case not being implemented? The laws were passed as ordinances in June, passed off as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package, passed in a dubious fashion in the Rajya Sabha without a division vote and have seen the biggest and longest mass protest of the world.

Some 600 farmers have already died while on this protest. There is no group that is demanding the implementation of the laws, this is important to note. There is no pressure on the government to implement the laws. It has merely put the laws away in cold storage and is ignoring the protests and hoping that they end from exhaustion or something else on their own, though that does not appear to be happening and a 'Bharat Bandh' is on the horizon.

So why is it letting the protests continue instead of just doing what is already obvious and repealing the laws? That is the question. And the only answer one can think of is that this is being done to preserve the image of toughness and 56 inches and all the rest of it. One hopes that this is not the reason, because it says something awful about this nation's leadership, but it is difficult to see what else it could be.

WISDOM CORNER

If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride - and never quit, you'll be a winner. The price of victory is high but so are the rewards.
BEAR BRYANT

I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.
JIMMY DEAN

I hated every minute of training, but I said, 'Don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.'
MUHAMMAD ALI

WORDSWORTH

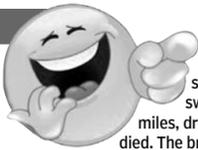
■ Candent

Though only large dictionaries include it and the Oxford English Dictionary says it is obsolete or archaic, candent has retained a toe-hold on usage in the sense of something glowing, as if with white heat, largely in SF and fantasy novels whose authors delight in obscure language. Neal Ascher used it in *The Voyage of the Sable Keech*: "The rock blew apart in a candent explosion, hurling pieces of itself out into space", as did Robert Asprin in his fantasy anthology *Shadows of Sanctuary*: "Shards punched through knife holes and widened them to let quicklime spill down in a candent stream". Clark Ashton Smith wrote it into *The Black Abbot of Puthuum*: "Noon, with its sun of candent copper in a blackish-blue zenith, found them far amid the rusty sands and iron-toothed ridges of Izdrel", and Poul Anderson borrowed it for *The Long Night*: "The stars were scattered about in their myriads, dominantly ruby and ember, some yellow or candent, green or blue." It was almost completely replaced by incandescent in the first decades of the nineteenth century. Both are relatives of candour, candid and candidate, the linking thread being the concept of whiteness. The last three are from Latin *candidus*, white (Roman candidates for public office wore togas rendered white so they could be easily seen in the Forum, which had nothing at all to do with white then being figuratively the colour of innocence and frankness). Candent is from the verb *candere*, to be white or to glow, and incandescent derives from the related verb *incandescere*, to become white-hot.

LOL

Swimming to safety

There was a blonde, a redhead, and a brunette. They were all trapped on an island and the nearest shore was 50 miles away. The redhead swam trying to make it to the other



shore she swam 15 miles, drowned, and died. The brunette swam 24 miles, drowned, and died. The blonde swam 25 miles, got tired, and swam back.

FOCUS RADICAL ISLAM

COUNTERING ISLAMIST THREAT

The Taliban are part of the global movement of radical Islam. The movement contains many different groups, but they share the same basic ideology. In simple terms, this holds that there is only one true faith and only one true view of that faith, and that society, politics, and culture should be governed only by that view. Radical Islam believes not only in Islamism – the turning of the religion of Islam into a political doctrine – but in the justification of struggle, by armed means if necessary, to achieve it. Other Islamists agree with the ends but eschew violence.

This ideology inevitably conflicts with open, modern, culturally tolerant societies. Nearly everything about the September 11, 2001, terror attacks and their aftermath, particularly now, is mired in controversy. But what cannot be seriously disputed is that since 9/11, though thankfully there has been no further terrorist attack on that scale, radical Islam has not declined in force. What is disputed is why.

Is radical Islam a coherent ideology that represents a first-order threat to our security? Or are we facing, despite some common themes, a series of disconnected security challenges, each of which requires handling on its own terms, based on local circumstances? Is Islamism itself a problem, or only its manifestation in violent extremism? Is it akin to revolutionary communism and thus to be countered by a combination of security and ideological measures over the long term? Or is that to overstate and overestimate Islamism and thus perversely, as some argue about the Western interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq, to elevate its appeal rather than diminish it?

This is a fundamental strategic question. And it needs a clear answer.

In my view, Islamism, both the ideology and the violence, is a first-order security threat. If left unchecked, it will come to us, even if centered far away from us, as 9/11



Islamism is a first-order threat to the security of open, modern, culturally tolerant societies. Its defeat, like that of revolutionary communism, ultimately will come through confronting its violence and ideology with a combination of hard and soft power

demonstrated. This ideology – whether Shia, promulgated by the Islamic Republic of Iran, or Sunni, promoted by groups on a spectrum from the Muslim Brotherhood through to al-Qaeda, the Islamic State (ISIS), Boko Haram, and many others – has been the principal cause of destabilisation across the Middle East and beyond. Today, it is a principal focus of instability in Africa.

Like revolutionary communism, Islamism operates in many different arenas and dimensions. Its defeat also ultimately will come through confronting both the violence and the ideology with a combination of hard and soft power. But if this analysis is correct, then especially after the fall of Afghanistan, the leading powers must unite to develop an agreed strategy. Even if initial discussions on forging one center on Western countries, China and Russia also have profound security interests in countering this ideology. We also need to assess our vulnerability accurately: COVID-19 has taught all of us about deadly pathogens. Bio-terror possibilities may seem like the stuff of science fiction, but we would be wise now to prepare for their potential use by non-state actors.

If we reject this analysis, the alternative is, in effect, to say that Islamism is a second-order problem. Where we are directly threatened, we retaliate through counterterrorism measures, involving drone strikes, surveillance, and Special Forces. Otherwise, we leave matters alone. But if this is where policy is heading, it is far too limited in its understanding of the problem.

We need to work out what we mean by not "remaking" countries from which terrorist threats can arise. I understand it means that we do not attempt what we tried in Afghanistan. But one thing should be understood: our "remaking" of Afghanistan did not fail because the Afghan people didn't want their country "remade." For sure, we could have "remade" better, but Afghans did not choose the Taliban takeover. The Taliban have re-conquered the country by violence, not persuasion.

The main barrier to "nation-building" is usually not a country's people, but rather poor institutional capacity and governance, including corruption, over many years. Above all, there is the challenge of trying to build while internal elements with external support are trying to destroy.

But counterterrorism measures

alone won't remove an entrenched threat. Instead, we could seek a middle course. For example, in the Sahel, we could adopt a strategy of assisting countries with security but also supporting governments' own development efforts, because poverty and underdevelopment undoubtedly facilitate the extremists. In a way this is what we did in Afghanistan after 2014 when NATO's mission became one of "train, advice, and assist."

Even this will encompass more than conventional counterterrorism. We will need some "boots on the ground." Naturally, our preference is for the boots to be local. But that will not always be possible.

Yet, Western societies have understandably become deeply averse to casualties amongst their armed forces. This is not a problem of the West's armed forces themselves, which comprise brave, extraordinary people. But it is now an overwhelming political constraint to any commitment to Western boots on the ground, except for Special Forces. The problem this gives rise to is obvious: if the enemy we are fighting knows that the more casualties they inflict, the more our political will to fight erodes, then the incentive structure is plain.

There is an additional challenge for Europe and NATO. It is clear now – if it wasn't before – that America has decided that for the foreseeable future, it has a limited appetite for military engagement. Yet, the crisis was on Europe's doorstep, not America's.

Europe now faces an immediate challenge from the destabilisation of the Sahel, and is already facing the fallout from Libya's chaos, Syria's civil war, and other tensions in the Middle East. For these purposes, Britain is part of Europe, like it or not, and needs to work with Europe to find security solutions.

The writer, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1997 to 2007, is Chairman of the Institute for Global Change.

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SPECTRUM CALAMITIES

Cost of natural disasters in India

The Covid-19 pandemic has hit countries across the world, including India, resulting in vanishing economic activities, deaths and affecting millions of people. Meanwhile, the wrath of nature has left no stone unturned to hit human footprint menacingly. Economic losses are soaring. The recent floods, landslides and heavy rains that killed more than 125 people in Maharashtra are a burning example of nature's wrath. In India, 60% of land is prone to earthquakes, 40 million hectares to inundation, 80% of land is exposed to cyclones, and 68% of the landmass is affected by drought. The country is facing complications to cope with the devastating nature of frequent natural disasters in the 21st century.

A natural hazard becomes a natural disaster when the former batters human footprint. The drastic climate change snowballs into a natural disaster, affecting millions, killing thousands and extinguishing significant assets annually. On an average, 4,037 people died and over 4.9 crore were affected annually between 1980 and 2019. As a result, the country has to bear economic losses to the tune of over \$2.7 billion due to natural disasters every year.

The Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CREED) has recorded 573 vital natural dis-

asters between 1980 and 2019. Nevertheless, the frequency and magnitude of human and economic losses would have been substantially higher if one took into account the natural disasters at the local level. The annual average number of disasters was 11 and 11.7 in the 1980s and 1990s respectively in India. However, the frequency of natural disasters rose dramatically in the 21st century – from 11 in the 1980s to 18.6 in the 2000s to 16.1 in the 2010s. Natural disasters have increased by 69.09% between the 1980s and the 2000s and 46.36% between the 1980s and the 2010s. Although natural disasters have declined slightly in the 2010s compared to the 2000s, it was substantially high in the 2010s compared to the 1980s and 1990s. The considerable rise in natural disasters reflects the climate change impact in the 21st century.

The CREED classified natural disaster as meteorological (storms, extreme-temperature, fog), hydrological (floods, landslides, wave action), geophysical (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, mass movements), climatological (drought, wildfire), biological (epidemic, insect infestation, animal accidents) and extra-terrestrial (space-weather). The share of hydrological disasters at 50.61% is high, followed by meteorological (33.16%), biological (10.30%), geophysical

(3.66%), and climatological disasters (2.26%). Hydrological and meteorological disasters constitute 80% of natural disasters. Approximately, 90% of deaths occur due to hydrological (34.45%), geophysical (30.49%) and meteorological (25.32%) disasters. Hence, India must focus on hydrological, geophysical and meteorological-related disasters to reduce human losses. Apart from deaths, around 94% of people are affected by climatological (54.70%) and hydrological (39.23%) disasters. The hydrological disasters accounted for 66.33% of economic losses worth \$71.58 billion annually followed by meteorological (23.06%) / \$24.89 billion, climatological (5.69%) and geophysical (4.90%) disasters between 1980 and 2019.

Increasing population, urbanisation, environmental degradation and industrialisation accelerated the frequency of natural disasters in the 21st century. Ignoring the risks of natural disasters may hamper achieving several sustainable development goals. Natural disasters can also challenge India's macroeconomic performance, reinforcing poverty and weakening economic development. The natural disasters affected the marginalised sections more compared to the affluent sections, thus increasing economic and social in-

equality. In fact, such inequality has reached its peak in India in the post-pandemic period. Higher economic inequality implies reducing the marginalised section's purchasing power and weakening consumption demand.

Thanks to the advancements in science and technology it has been possible to strengthen the timely warning and evacuation process, which helped reduce deaths tolls in the 2010s. Fatalities and affected figures have been decreasing despite increasing frequency of natural disasters. Yet, India is yet to mitigate the risks of natural disaster as still more than 2,000 people fall victims to natural disasters every year. We need greater attention and integrated efforts with proper strategy and technology to bring down the casualties below 1,000 annually. India has also failed to reduce economic losses due to disasters. The losses are growing continuously since 1980 due to lack of natural disaster-resilient infrastructure. India needs a better strategy, technology, and investment to cope up and minimise the risks and costs triggered by natural disaster.

The writer, a senior research fellow at Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, is currently working on 'Natural Disasters in Asia'.

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

Orissa POST

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Ranking institutions

Sir, 'Institutional ranking' is a common practice to assess the overall quality of centres of excellence through different yardsticks. In India, the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) put in place in September, 2015, ranks institutions through a pre-determined methodology. No educational institution is without blemishes though there are some centres that can consistently hold their head high. The 2020-21 rankings are no different than the earlier ones. The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have been crowned with glory in the engineering field, and the institutes that topped various disciplines in the previous years have more or less done an encore. IIT Madras has bagged the top honour in the 'overall' category which makes it stand apart because this category is not limited to competing with its own stream. As expected, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has done well again by ranking second in the overall division. Besides, IISc is now the numero-uno in research. One positive feature of this year's list is that research was added as a category for assessment. Though the participating institutions numbered 6,000, many institutes did not meet the criteria for competition or simply did not participate. That said, NIRF needs to be more dynamic - ensuring enhanced engagement is crucial.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Violating rules

Sir, The recent brutal attack on an ex-serviceman after collecting penalty for not wearing a mask and again demanding penalty from him at another spot shows that the rules and laws are meant only for the common citizens and not for the public servants? Such unlawful behaviour against an ex-military person by the law enforcers shows that it's high time the government rescinds the dubious laws restricting the safe movement of public. If a person's movement creates a hindrance in public place or interfere with others' movements only then can the keepers of laws come to play, but not with mundane things like not wearing a mask. On the other hand, it's time for civil organisations to pose questions as to how many times fines have been collected from those ignoring the mandatory use of official Odia language in public offices, how much has been collected from unruly acts inside the Assembly or how much has been collected from the public servants who give fake information when contesting polls to enter public services.

JB Dash, BHUBANESWAR

3 dead in separate road accidents

Bhadrak/Dhenkanal, Sept 11: Three persons died and one sustained grievous injuries in two separate road accidents Friday night in Bhadrak and Dhenkanal districts.



In the first incident, two men were killed while another was injured after a motorcycle they were riding on was severely hit by a truck on NH-16 near Kaharapokhari locality under Bhandaripokhari police limits in Bhadrak district. According to an eyewitness, the truck hit the ill-fated motorcycle head-on. On being informed by locals, a team of fire services personnel from Bhandaripokhari im-

mediately reached the accident site and rescued the three injured men in critical condition.

Later, the injured were sent to the Bhadrak district headquarters hospital (DHH) for treatment. However, doctors at the health facility declared two of them 'brought dead'.

The other injured man was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack after his condition deteriorated. Identities of the three men have not been ascertained yet.

In the second incident, a motorcyclist was killed after his two-wheeler rammed into a car which was previously parked in front of a wine shop on NH-55 near Kanteikolia area in Dhenkanal district.

The deceased was identified as 45-year-old Jagamohan Pradhan of Paikadahikhor village in the district. Jagamohan was on his way from Gobindapur village to Dhenkanal town when he met with an accident at around 8.30pm.

The injured was rushed to Dhenkanal district headquarters hospital (DHH). He succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment.

WATERLOGGED STREET



A biker negotiating a flooded road in Berhampur after a heavy downpour, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Bear mauls man to death in Nabarangpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharigaon, Sept 11: A man died after he was mauled by a wild bear in the forest near Tipakhuda village in Nabarangpur district Saturday.

Bana Singh Gouda, the deceased, a resident of Tipakhuda under Jharigaon police limits, had gone to the nearby forest to attend nature's call when the mishap occurred.



Unaware of the bear's presence, Gouda went into the forest. As he was passing through, a bear came out of a bush and attacked him, giving him little time to respond.

Critically wounded Gouda was rescued by local people and immediately rushed to the Jharigaon community health centre (CHC) in a 108 ambulance. However, it was too late and the doctors pronounced him received dead. On being informed, the police and forest department officials visited the spot and launched an investigation. Police said the body will be handed over to the family after autopsy.

Casuarina forests along Balasore coast shrinking



POST NEWS NETWORK

Langaleswar, Sept 11: A thick cover of casuarina forests lined along the coasts in Balasore district, but this cover has been shrinking every year due to smuggling of wood and coastal ero-

sion, a report said. Casuarina forests near Kasaphala river mouth, Dubidubi river and Odisha Coast Canal under Sadar block are fast declining.

In most cases, locals have been chopping off trees to meet their firewood requirements. "Local

ECO CONCERN

Casuarina forests near Kasaphala river mouth, Dubidubi river and Odisha Coast Canal under Sadar block are fast declining. In most cases, locals have been chopping off trees to meet their firewood requirements

Local people are seen cutting casuarina trees from Rajdhani Chhak under Silang police limits to Panchupada bridge, some conscious citizens lamented

Spread over 100 hectares of land, casuarina forests and mangroves act as deterrent against the natural disasters and protects human settlements. The forests also block advancing movements of surging waves, they pointed out

people are seen cutting casuarina trees from Rajdhani Chhak under

Silang police limits to Panchupada bridge," some conscious citizens lamented.

Spread over 100 hectares of land, casuarina forests and mangroves act as deterrent against the natural disasters and protects human settlements. These forests also block advancing movements of surging waves, they pointed out.

Locals alleged that the forest department is taking no steps for regeneration, protection and maintenance of these forests in coastal pockets.

The thick casuarina forest is vanishing at an alarming rate due to open felling and smuggling of the trees.

As part of a coastal afforestation programme, the forest department should check sea-erosion in the region. There is a need for developing a green cover along the shoreline, locals added.

If the illegal tree felling continues unchecked and forest de-

partment fails to protect forests, the beach would certainly turn into a desert soon. It will also affect the ecology, the locals warned.

"Instead of keeping a check on such activities, officials have turned a blind eye," a villager alleged.

A massive awareness campaign on the importance of casuarina forest among the seaside villagers can check the practice, locals said.

"Lakhs of rupees are spent for creation of mangroves and casuarinas forests so as to check soil erosion and protection of riparian villages from natural disasters. These forests are vanishing here," lamented former sarpanch Dillip Kumar Mohanty and locals like Bhude Sahu, Bishnu Binda and Jayanti Murmu.

DFO Biswaraj Panda said protection of forests is the responsibility of the forest department. "If some people are clearing trees, investigation will be conducted. Action will be taken," he added.

Man held for masquerading as doc, running clinic for 3 years in Ganjam

AGENCIES

Berhampur, Sept 11: A 45-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly impersonating as a doctor and running a clinic for last three years in Ganjam district, police said Saturday.

Several medicines and basic medical equipment worth over ₹1 lakh have been seized during a search operation at the facility in Kumpapada village in Jagannath Prasad block Thursday, a senior officer said.

"We came to know that his educational qualification is only Class VIII, and he impersonated himself as an MBBS doctor," Jagannath Prasad police station inspector Dillip Nayak said.

The man was running the clinic with a four-bed indoor facility for past three years and was asked to close the unit for some days in 2020 over violation of the COVID guidelines, he said.

The accused used to issue prescriptions to patients in the name



of Dr Lal, and had earlier worked as a labourer in a textile mill in Gujarat's Surat, the officer said.

During interrogation, he revealed that he was only dealing with people who were suffering from minor ailments and had referred several critical patients to hospitals in Berhampur and other cities of the state and Andhra Pradesh, police said.

Everyday, over 100 patients visit his clinic for treatment, sources said. A case has been registered against him, and further investigation is underway, the officer added.

EMPOWERMENT



Women labourers at a training programme on Covid-19 and its prevention at Srimula health centre under Kamakhyanagar block in Dhenkanal

Sand mafia thrives in Jagatsinghpur district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Naugaon, Sept 11: Taking advantage of the ongoing impasse between local tehsil office and police, sand mafias are carrying out illegal mining in Naugaon area of Jagatsinghpur district, a source said.

The sand mafia mints money while the state government loses revenue worth crores of rupees. A total of six sand quarries were earlier auctioned alongside Debi river under Naugaon tehsil limits. They are Sikhara, Bachhalo, Palandi, Arakhakuda, Galadari and Ereda.

However, the Naugaon tehsil office has not given permission for quarrying so far, despite completion of the auction. Bidders are yet to submit their documents with



the tehsildar, a source said.

Meanwhile, as the tehsil office has not yet decided on the jurisdiction of the areas where quarrying can be carried out, the bidders are suffering. One can, however, regularly see several sand-laden trucks, Hyvas and tractors going outside the district.

Tehsil officials said members of the sand mafia regularly threaten them when they conduct raids. It

happens because local police do not cooperate with the tehsil officials when raids are conducted and action is initiated against illegal quarrying, informed Naugaon tehsildar J Kalpana.

She said several letters (No-101, 1131 and 1134) have been written to Naugaon police in this regard. Photo copies of the letters have also been forwarded to Jagatsinghpur SP and the District Collector, the tehsildar informed.

Naugaon IIC Abhay Kumar Behera, however, refuted the allegations. He said the police have not received any official correspondence on the issue. He pointed out that only a tehsil office clerk is always sent to conduct raids, although it is the responsibility of tehsildar and additional tehsildar.

Bodies of 2 women recovered

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patna/Dhenkanal, Sept 11: In separate incidents, bodies of two women were recovered in Keonjhar and Dhenkanal districts Saturday.

A report says, the body of a woman, 35, was found hanging from the roof of her house at Mundasahi of Khinchibeda village under Barbil panchayat in Keonjhar district.

The deceased was identified as Reena Munda, second wife of Bishnu Munda. The reappearance of Bishnu's first wife and a subsequent quarrel with her is said to be the reason why Reena took to the extreme step.

Bishnu married 12 years ago. Later, his wife left him. Thereafter, Bishnu married Reena. A community feast was organised in the village two days ago. Reena had gone to the feast. There she met with Bishnu's first wife and a nasty quarrel ensued between them. Reena later ended her life Friday night. A team from Patna

police station reached the spot, recovered the body and sent it for postmortem.

In another case, the decomposed body of a woman tied to a bridge was spotted Saturday morning under mysterious circumstances near Bhejia village under Parjang police limits in Dhenkanal district.

Preliminary inquiries by police suggested that the deceased might have been raped and murdered. Identity of the woman has not been ascertained yet.

After the local residents noticed the woman's body under a bridge on NH-149, they immediately informed the police about it.

Parjang police rushed to the spot and recovered the body.

Later, police sent to a nearby hospital for post-mortem.

Police have registered a case in this connection and a probe is underway, a senior official informed. Further details of the incident are awaited. Everything will be cleared only after the post mortem report, police said.

Teacher by profession, green crusader by passion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Sept 11: Bishnuprasad Padhi, a teacher by profession, is a resident of Nami village under Bhandaripokhari block in Bhadrak district. He successfully divides his time between his profession and passion of planting trees since 1999 Super Cyclone.

Padhi says the devastation caused by the Super Cyclone, particularly to trees, left him shattered. "Seeing large numbers of huge trees lying on the ground everywhere, I was shocked. A kind of desire grew within me to plant trees, to replenish the lost greenery to some extent," he narrates.

So far he has planted over 8,000 trees. It needs mention that he spends one third of his salary towards plantation.

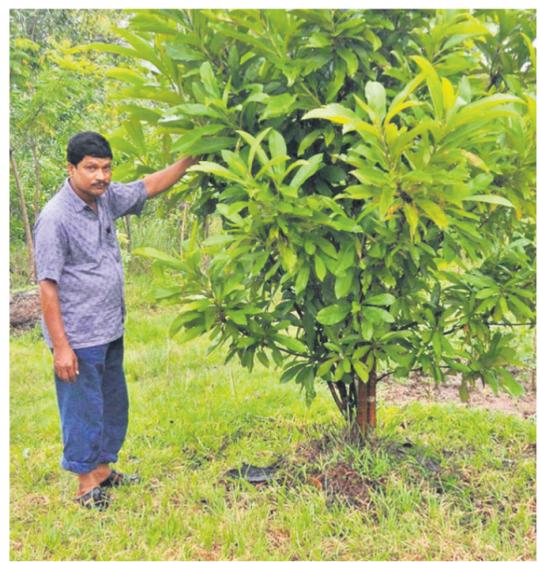
The garden spreading over three acres of land near his house and Nami College is a testimony to his hard labour. Another garden, two kilometres from Manjuri Road

Station and eight kilometres from Chhatabar National Highway, takes the cake. Padhi started working at the garden on the Rath Yatra day, 2016. Now this garden is an envy of passersby. It has varieties of plants and trees starting from medicinal plants to fruit bearing ones. It has 30 different types of trees including Neem, Asan, Harida, Bahada, seven to eight types of mango trees and Acacia.

He spends most of his leisure time in this garden. He gets up at 5 am daily and after finishing his chores, he goes to the garden. He is there till 9 am. He takes care of plants, herbs and trees, treating them with medicines and manures. After returning from the school at 5 pm, he again works at the garden. There is a house in the garden where he reads and narrates the Bhagabata to people.

People say they have not seen any day when he has skipped his duty.

He employs a homeless person named Nanda Jena to take care of



Super Cyclone, particularly its impact on trees, left me shattered. A kind of desire grew in me to plant trees to replenish the lost greenery to some extent, said Bishnuprasad Padhi

the garden. He says he spends over ₹1 lakh every two years to repair the fence. "My family members never oppose me. Rather, they inspire me to go ahead with my works," he adds.

Now he works at Gedema Primary School in Keonjhar district. But the teachers, staff, students of his earlier schools where he served and local people are still remembering him for his efforts to add greenery to the institutions. For this, he has been felicitated on several occasions.



Rain's record-breaking spree on

Experts say the increase in the number of heavy rain events in many parts of the country is directly linked to climate change

CAPITAL INUNDATED



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: Record heavy rains lashed many parts of the national capital Saturday, making it the wettest monsoon season in 46 years and causing extensive waterlogging that affected operations at the Delhi airport, disrupted traffic on key roads and left passengers trapped in vehicles in flooded underpasses. Delhiites woke up to the sound of thunder and lightning this morning and, according to the weather department, the city recorded 117.9 mm rainfall from 5.30 am to 2.30 pm. It had recorded more than 100 mm of rainfall on two consecutive days at the start of the month - 112.1 mm September 1 and 117.7 mm September 2.

As many as 262 waterlogging complaints were received by the public works department and civic agencies till Saturday afternoon (1.30 pm), a recurring problem in the city during the Monsoon. An old building in Delhi's Narela area, which was declared a dangerous structure by civic authorities, collapsed. However, no one was injured in the incident, officials said. As the forecourt of the Delhi airport was also waterlogged, three flights were cancelled and five diverted to Jaipur and Ahmedabad. Images shared on social media,

purportedly of the area, showed submerged cars and the people wading through the water to reach the entry gate of the airport. Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said that he spoke to airport officials and was told that the waterlogged forecourt was cleared up within 30 minutes. The Aerocity area - which houses multiple luxury hotels - near the airport was also waterlogged in the morning with people trying to maneuver their cars through the accumulated water, showed another set of videos. The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) said the waterlogging at the forecourt was for a short period and operations have

7 heavy rain events, highest in a decade

Delhi has witnessed seven heavy rain events this monsoon season so far, the highest in a decade, and these spells account for more than 60 percent of the rainfall recorded in the city, according to the India Meteorological Department data. Experts say the increase in the number of heavy rain events in many parts of the country is directly linked to climate change. The number of 'heavy rain' days this year is very high as compared to previous years. A highly unusual monsoon season this year has yielded 1,100 mm of rainfall in Delhi so far, the highest in 46 years, and almost double the precipitation recorded last year, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Saturday. The figures are subject to change as more rainfall is predicted in the city during the day. Normally, Delhi records 648.9 mm of rainfall during the monsoon season, according to the IMD. The monsoon withdraws from Delhi by September 25. Light to moderate rain is likely in the next two days. Another wet spell is predicted around September 17-18, the official told PTI.



been back to normal since 9 am. Delhi Fire Service safely rescued 40 passengers from a bus that was trapped at an underpass of Palam flyover towards airport road due to waterlogging, officials said. Another 18 passengers were trapped in a tempo and a truck and were rescued from the waterlogged area of outer Delhi's Munkda. Waterlogging resulted in heavy traffic jams at busy road stretches, including ITO, Ring Road, Mukarba Chowk, Azadpur, Pul Prahladpur and Rohtak Road. The authorities had to shut traffic movement on the Pul Prahladpur underpass due to extensive waterlogging there.

Kerala govt conducts seroprevalence study to assess Covid spread

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 11: The Kerala government is conducting a seroprevalence study, also known as sero survey, to take stock of the spread of Covid-19 among the people in the state. State Health Minister Veena George said that the study began earlier this month and is expected to be completed by the end of September.



The study would help understand the Covid seropositivity rate among various age groups including children, she told reporters here. Asked about the reopening of schools in the state, George said the study will help understand the seropositivity among children and the government will take further decisions about it after the results are out. The study report would be submitted to the CM, General Education and other concerned officials, who would take a call on the reopening of schools after that.

Kerala mulls reopening schools after 16 months

While colleges in Kerala are set to reopen from October 4, state Education Minister V Sivankutty Saturday dropped hints of restarting schools after 16 months. The Minister said, "With Covid taking over things across the world, and now with things slowing down, the decision to reopen schools cannot be taken by the Education Department alone. The local government and the Health department are closely involved in this, besides a committee that oversees all Covid activities which is led by the Chief Minister. With the Chief Minister himself suggesting, after speaking to global experts, that it is time to open schools, we already have started working on it." He also added that the Education department and its top officials are working towards it.

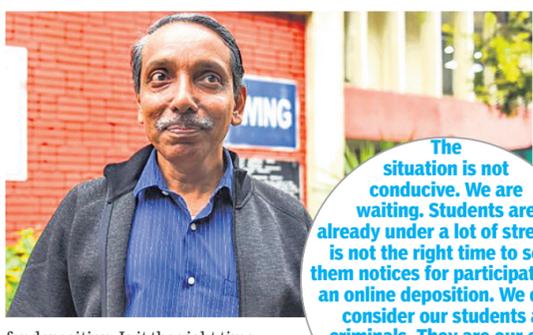
On the concerns regarding Nipah virus reported in Kozhikode last week, she said that all the samples tested so far had turned out to be negative, which is a matter of relief. Source tracing is equally important as contact tracing. A special team from the National Institute of Virology is already collecting samples from the state to identify the source of the spread of the virus, she said. However, the Minister said that the ongoing strict vigil and restrictions in the affected areas would continue for some more

time. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Friday said his government had conducted a complete house-to-house survey within three-kilometer-radius from the house of the 12-year-old boy who succumbed to Nipah virus September 5 as part of its fever surveillance.

Campus violence JNU VC: Probe delayed by Covid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) vice-chancellor M Jagadeesh Kumar said the coronavirus pandemic has delayed the probe into the violence on the campus in January last year that left around 35 people injured. Asked why the committee set up by the university to probe the incident did not conduct online depositions, he said the students are already under a lot of stress and it is not the right time to send them notices for online depositions.



A group of masked men armed with sticks and rods attacked students and teachers and damaged property on the JNU campus January 5, 2020, prompting the university administration to call in the police. JNU Students' Union president Aishe Ghosh was among those injured in the violence. Days after the incident, JNU set up a five-member committee to probe the incident and recommend measures to ensure the safety of students. "The committee is looking into the matter. It has to call the students for deposition. Is it the right time to call them when they are in their hometowns? For this, we need to see the condition. These are our students. Considering the Covid situation, depositions have not been conducted. We are waiting for the situation to normalise," Kumar told PTI Friday. In August this year, the Lok Sabha was informed by Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai that the Delhi Police had not arrested anyone in connection with the JNU violence, even though several people were examined.

The situation is not conducive. We are waiting. Students are already under a lot of stress. It is not the right time to send them notices for participating in an online deposition. We don't consider our students as criminals. They are our own students.

After the violence, there was a clamour for Kumar's removal as the JNU VC and the Delhi Police came under attack for not acting when the mob was running riot on the campus and especially, for naming student union leaders, including Ghosh, in two FIRs for alleged vandalism. On the Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers' Association's (JNUTA) objection to the renewal of the contract of security agency Cyclops for another two years by the university's Executive Council (EC), Kumar said the contract had not been renewed but extended till the process of appointing a new agency is completed. If you want to appoint a security agency, then you have to follow the tendering process and the General Financial Rules laid down by the government. During this Covid period, many of our staff members were down (with coronavirus). You cannot suddenly ask the security people to pack their bags and leave and put the security of the campus at risk, he said.

Kannur syllabus, bishop's jihad comments fuel political uproar

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 11: Even as Covid continues to rage in Kerala, the raging topic of discussion cutting across political spectrum Saturday was the new syllabus for study at an MA course in Kannur University and the statement by a Catholic bishop with regard to 'narcotic jihad' and Saturday even the Kerala Governor expressed his view.



It was two days back Syro Malabar Church Pala diocese bishop Mar Joseph Kallarangatt said that Catholic girls in Kerala were now becoming the victims of 'Love and narcotic Jihad' and the traditional rival political parties came out criticising the bishop and at Kannur, lot of heat was generated after Kannur University Vice Chancellor Gopinath Ravindran Friday broke his silence and echoed the line of the CPI-M backed Students Federation of India (SFI) Union's view that there is no need to withdraw books of prominent RSS

ideologues in the curriculum of the newly started Master's course in Public Administration at Kannur University. Later a two member committee was appointed to submit its report on the syllabus issue. On Saturday, the much learned and Sanskrit expert Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, often known for his views, without touching on the ongoing syllabus debate told the media that, he returned to the state only yesterday

and he does not know what was discussed on the syllabus issue. I am not aware of the ongoing discussions, but I will say diversity is the law of nature. As a student one should be exposed to everything, then only one can come up with innovative ideas, said Khan. Then came the turn of Union Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan, batting for the Pala bishop, attacked both the traditional political rivals in Kerala. It's only natural for people who tell the plain truth to be attacked. Both the Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition are speaking like the spokesperson of Jihadis. Just look into the large-scale gold smuggling that's taking place in Kerala and that in itself is proof that narcotic jihad is taking place here, said Muraleedharan. Leader of opposition VD Satheesan expressed concern that a section is out in the social media to fan trouble between the Christians and Muslims based on the statement of the bishop.

Nutrition fair for female inmates in Delhi prisons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: The Delhi Prisons department is celebrating Poshan Mela for over 500 female inmates lodged in jails of Tihar and Mandoli in order to create awareness among them about the importance of nutritious diet, officials said Saturday. Posters, awareness campaigns, painting competitions, slogan writing and activities like nukkad natak will be organised till the end of September in both jails for its women inmates, they said.



According to jail officials, 399 women presently lodged in Jail number 6 of Tihar and 163 women in Jail number 16 of Mandoli would participate in the Poshan Mela. The fair started Thursday at female Jail number 6 of Tihar in association with National Commission for Women (NCW) where inmates were made aware about the value of nutrition through presentations followed by speeches from members of the Commission, including Meeta Rajivlochan, IAS, Member Secretary NCW, a senior jail official said. Special diet and fruits were also provided to the inmates, he said. At the "Poshan Mela", different stalls were arranged for children, lactating mothers, pregnant women and adults. They were explained about the importance of taking a nutritious diet at various stages during their pregnancy, menopause or in case they were anaemic, said Sandeep Goel, Director General (Delhi Prisons). Children below the age of six are permitted to stay with their mother in the jail and according to data shared by Delhi Prisons, there are 17 such children staying with their mothers inside the two jails presently. Out of the 17, eight children are in Central Jail number 6 of Tihar while the remaining nine are presently in Central Jail number 16 in Mandoli, the data stated. Besides them, there are four pregnant women currently lodged in the two jails - three in Tihar and one in Mandoli.

'Marriages can be registered in virtual presence of parties'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: Marriages can be registered in the virtual presence of parties, the Delhi High Court has ruled, saying that in the present times, citizens cannot be prevented from exercising their rights because of a rigid interpretation of law which calls for personal presence. Hearing a plea by a US-based Indian couple seeking to register their marriage here through video conferencing, Justice Rekha Palli opined that not treating physical presence as a mandatory requirement would also encourages parties to easily get their marriages registered.

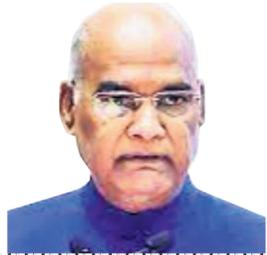


I have no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that the term 'personal appearance' in Clause 4 of the Registration Order has to be read to include presence secured through Video Conferencing. Any other interpretation, would not only frustrate the very purpose of this beneficial legislation, but, it would also undermine the use of this important and easily accessible tool of Video Conferencing, the judge said in her order dated September 9. She said the Delhi (Compulsory Registration of Marriage) Order, 2014 is welfare legislation, prom-

ulgated at the instance the Supreme Court to encourage the registration of marriages. The insistence of physical appearance, even when their personal appearance can be easily secured through video conferencing, will definitely make it more cumbersome for parties to come forward for the registration of marriages. This will negate the very purpose of enactment of the Registration Order and cannot be permitted, the order further reads. The court allowed the couple to mark their personal appearance before the Registering Authority through video conferencing after submitting their application for the registration of marriage through their counsel or Power of Attorney Holder in physical form

along with copies of all supporting documents duly notarized, either by the notary public in the United States of America or by a notary public here. It directed that the two witnesses would appear physically before the Registering Authority with their original ID proofs on the date notified by the Registering Authority. The Authority will then expeditiously register the marriage and issue the Marriage Registration Certificate within a period of two weeks' from the date of receipt of the application, the court added. In the present case, the couple claimed that their marriage was solemnised in 2001 as per Hindu rituals, but they did not get the same registered as they moved abroad

prior to the introduction of the Delhi (Compulsory Registration of Marriage) Order, 2014. Considering that their application for a green card was now not being processed in the United States for want of a marriage certificate, the couple approached the local authority here for issuance of a marriage certificate, who maintained that physical presence of the parties was a mandatory requirement. The couple, represented through senior counsel Vibha Datta Makhija, moved the high court after their representation to the authority concerned for virtual appearance remained unanswered. The court observed that while the universe has undergone a sea change since the time when the Registration Order was notified, the Registering Authority was refusing to recognize the reality that with the technology as is available today, web portals and Video Conferencing have become almost the norm. Acknowledging the acceptance of video conferencing even in the judicial system in this country, the court said that these aspects appear to have been simply overlooked by the Registering Authority, who is continuing to insist on that the parties must remain present physically before him.



If we have to achieve the inclusive ideals of our Constitution, then the role of women in the judiciary also has to be increased
RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT OF INDIA

MEDICINE FROM SKY

The Telangana government's initiative 'Medicine from the Sky' was launched Saturday to deliver medicines to remote areas using drones making it the first state to use drones to deliver medicines. The maiden drone delivered a five kg box of vaccine doses to a community health centre located three kilometres away in 10 minutes



of the day quote

Today, the world is realising that the lasting solution to tragedies like the two-decades-old 9/11 will be through these values of humanity. Also, if we need to remember lessons learnt from these terror attacks, then we need to keep making efforts for human values with full faith



NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

In 1975, it was Justice Jagmohanlal Sinha from the Allahabad High Court who passed the judgment that shook the nation, when he disqualified Smt. Indira Gandhi. It was a judgment of great courage, which could be said to have directly resulted in the declaration of Emergency



NV RAMANA | CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

We are trying to vaccinate students aged above 18 years on priority along with the professors and teachers in the academic institutions because the aim is to restart the institutions



MANOJ SINHA | LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, J&K

2+2 DIALOGUE

India, Australia call for global action in Afghan

With the dialogue coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks that led to the US invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, both sides strongly called for combating terrorism without any compromise



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 11: India and Australia Saturday asserted that Afghanistan must not allow its soil to be used in any manner for terrorism and it should never again become a safe haven for breeding and training of terrorists, as the two countries held a detailed discussion on the situation in the war-torn country after its takeover by the Taliban.

At the inaugural India-Australia two-plus-two dialogue, the foreign and defence ministers of the two countries also vowed to work to-

wards a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, a region that has been witnessing increasing Chinese assertiveness. Australia's Foreign Minister Marise Payne said the future of Afghanistan was a central concern for both India and Pakistan. She said the gains of the past 20 years — such as women's empowerment and steps toward an inclusive society — should not be allowed to be reversed.

Australia also wants to strike a free trade deal with India to reduce its economic reliance on an increasingly hostile China.

India's External Affairs Minister Subramanyam Jaishankar praised the "renewed vigor with which both sides are now engaging on trade issues," without providing further details. Bilateral trade between

India and Australia is around \$20 billion annually, his ministry says.

Australian Defense Minister Peter Dutton said the two countries want "a stable, resilient and secure strategic neighborhood." He said Australia is enhancing its posture in the Indo-Pacific region by ramping up air force cooperation, maritime engagement and exercises with India.

Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh said there are opportunities for joint development and production of emerging defense technologies and mutual logistical support.

The Australian ministers' trip — to Indonesia, India, South Korea and the US — will prepare for Prime Minister Scott Morrison's visit to Washington DC for a Quad meeting later this month.

Farmers call off Karnal sit-in

HARYANA GOVT ORDERS JUDICIAL PROBE INTO AUG 28 INCIDENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 11: The Haryana government Saturday ordered a judicial probe into last month's clash between farmers and police and sent the IAS officer who is at the centre of a row over his remarks on leave. Following this, farmers called off their sit-in outside the Karnal district headquarters.

Haryana Additional Chief Secretary Devender Singh said the probe will be conducted by a retired judge and will be completed within a month. Former SDM Ayush Sinha will remain on leave during the time, he said.

A joint press conference by Haryana government officials and farmer leader Gurnam Singh Chaduni was held in Karnal after both sides reached an agreement, leading to the ending of the stand-off.

There was an indication of a possible ending of the impasse between the farmers and the Karnal administration Friday evening itself as after a marathon meeting both sides had said that it was held in a cordial atmosphere.

At the joint press conference, farmer leader Chaduni said they will call off their sit-in outside the Karnal district headquarters.

About 10 protesters were hurt in the clash with police in Karnal



August 28 when they tried to march towards the venue of a BJP meeting. Sinha, a 2018-batch IAS officer was caught on tape allegedly telling policemen to break the heads of farmers if they cross the line.

Following the incident, farmers had been demanding the suspension of Sinha. On September 2, he was transferred out of Karnal and posted as additional secretary of Citizen Resources Information Department.

Haryana Additional Chief Secretary Devender Singh Saturday said the meeting between farmer leaders and the government officials was held in a positive atmosphere.

He said the Haryana govern-

ment will get a judicial probe conducted into the August 28 incident by a retired judge of the high court. The probe will be completed within a month and Sinha will remain on leave during the time, Singh added.

The additional chief secretary also announced that jobs would be given to two family members of a farmer, who, the protesters claimed, died after being injured during the lathi charge. The administration had earlier rejected this allegation.

The Haryana government will give jobs to two family members of deceased farmer Satish Kajal under sanctioned posts at DC rate in Karnal, Singh announced.

SHORT TAKES

Indian, Sudanese navies hold drill

New Delhi: India and Sudan navies carried out a bilateral maritime exercise in the Red Sea off the Sudanese coast, the Indian Navy said on Saturday. Indian Naval Ship Tabar undertook a maritime partnership exercise with ships of the Sudanese Navy on September 10. Two Sudanese Navy ships, Almazz and Nimer, participated in this maiden exercise with the Indian Navy. The exercise involved multiple activities covering a wide range of naval operations. These included co-ordinated maneuvering, replenishment at sea drills, helo operations, operations for interdicting suspect vessels at sea and communication procedures.

Lekhi begins visit to Portugal, Spain

New Delhi: Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi will pay a six-day visit to Portugal and Spain beginning Sunday to inject a fresh momentum into the ties with the two European nations. Lekhi will visit Portugal from September 12 to 14 during which she will hold talks with her counterpart Secretary of State for International Affairs Francisco Andre, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). It said a bilateral agreement on the recruitment of Indian citizens to work in Portugal will be signed during the visit. Lekhi is also scheduled to meet Foreign Minister Augusto Santos Silva, Culture Minister Graça Maria da Fonseca and Executive Secretary of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries Zacarias da Costa, the MEA said. "India was admitted as an Associate Observer of CPLP in July and is committed to deepen its historic relations with the Lusophone countries," it said in a statement.

Kozhikode plane crash Pilot's non-adherence to SOP probable cause

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) Saturday released its probe report into the plane crash at Kozhikode airport in August last year that killed at least 20 people and injured several others.

The probable cause of the accident was non-adherence to the standard operating procedure by the pilot flying the aircraft but the role of systemic failures as a contributory factor cannot be overlooked, the 257-page report said.

The crash of Air India Express's B737-800 aircraft happened on August 7 at the Kozhikode airport in Kerala. The plane coming from Dubai had overshot the runway at Kozhikode airport and later broke into pieces. There were 190 people onboard the ill-fated aircraft and at least 20 people, including the two pilots, were killed and several others were injured.



The report, released little over a year after the deadly crash of the Air India Express plane, said the probable cause of the accident was the non-adherence to SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) by the PF (Pilot Flying). The PF continued an unestablished approach and landed beyond the touchdown zone, half way down the runway, in spite of 'Go Around' call by PM which warranted a mandatory 'Go Around' and the failure of the PM to take over controls and execute a 'Go Around', it noted.

LORD'S DEPARTURE



An idol of Lord Ganesha being immersed during Ganesh Utsav celebrations at Achole Talav Nalasopara in Palghar district, Saturday

Bill on arbitration in winter session: Rijiju

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Allahabad, Sept 11: Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju Saturday said the central government will introduce a bill on arbitration in the winter session of Parliament.

The government wants to make India a global hub for arbitration, Rijiju said at a programme where President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stones for the National Law University, a multi-level parking and an advocates' chamber at the Allahabad High Court.

After the university is established, 180 students in LLB and 80 in LLM will be admitted every year, the law minister said here.

He said apart from this, arrangements will be made for legal research at the university and hostel facilities will be available for all within the campus.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Centre wants to work closely with all law universities and academies, the minister said, adding that the government is committed to strengthening the legal system of

the country. Rijiju said the central government wants to work in coordination with the judiciary.

It also wants to coordinate with state governments so that issues faced by lower courts can be analysed, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the university will be dedicated to the country's first President Dr Rajendra Prasad, who had a deep connection with Allahabad. The CM said the Chief Justice of India will be a "visitor" to the university.

Onus of Rupani's failure on PM Modi: Congress

Soon after Rupani resigned, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala alleged that there is deep-seated infighting in all BJP-ruled states including the Prime Minister's home state Gujarat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: The Congress Saturday said the onus of Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani's failure is on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his leadership.

Soon after Rupani resigned, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala alleged that there is deep-seated infighting in all BJP-ruled states including the prime minister's home state Gujarat.

Two things stand out today - Deep seated infighting in all BJP ruled states, be it Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam or Haryana. Bhakt media remains oblivious to fratricidal wars in the BJP, for their only mandate is to focus on opposition ruled states, he said on Twitter.

This shows failure of Prime Minister's and Home Minister's leadership. If their anointed Chief minister Vijay Rupani has failed

Gujarat and its people after five years, onus must lie at the doorstep of Modiji, Surjewala also said using the hashtag VijayRupaniResigns.

The Congress leader said it is time to rid Gandhi-Patel's 'Karambhoom' of the machiavellian BJP and its leadership.

Surjewala also dubbed the BJP as Bhayanak jhagda party and cited examples of infighting within the party in several states.

In Uttar Pradesh, he claimed it is Yogi versus Modi while in Rajasthan it is Vasundhara Raje versus Modi and in Karnataka, BS Yediyurappa versus Modi.

He also alleged that in Gujarat, it is Rupani versus Modi and Amit Shah. Earlier in the day, Rupani resigned from the post, over a year before the state goes to polls.

It is not clear what prompted the development in Modi's home state where elections to the 182-member assembly are due in December 2022.



CLIMATE CHANGE

John Kerry to visit India ahead of COP26

THIS WILL BE HIS SECOND VISIT TO INDIA AS BIDEN'S POINT-PERSON ON CLIMATE CHANGE, A PRIORITY AREA FOR THE US PRESIDENT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York/ New Delhi, Sept 11: US President Joe Biden's Special Envoy for Climate, John Kerry is slated to visit India next week to launch an initiative for mobilising funds for battling climate change ahead of the UN climate change conference in October, according to the State Department.

This will be his second visit to India as Biden's point-person on climate change, a priority area for the President.

Announcing the visit Friday the State Department said 'The Special Envoy's travel will bolster the US' bilateral and multilateral climate efforts ahead of the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate

Change (UNFCCC), which will be held October 31 to November 12 in Glasgow. The Climate Action and Finance Mobilisation Dialogue (CAFMD), that will be inaugurated during the trip, is one of the two main tracks of the US-India Agenda 2030 Partnership that Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced at the Leaders Summit on Climate in April, the Department said.

Kerry is coming to India after failing to get any deals on climate change from China.

He met China's climate envoy Xie Zhenhua in Tianjin, away from the capital Beijing, but Foreign Minister Wang Yi spoke to him only by a video link.

Wang told him that cooperation on climate change cannot happen

Kerry is coming to India after failing to get any deals on climate change from China

unless bilateral relations improved overall, according to China's Foreign Ministry. The US should cease containing and suppressing China all over the world, Wang reportedly told him as a pre-condition to cooperation on climate change.

While in Delhi, Kerry will meet Indian government officials and private sector leaders to discuss efforts to raise global climate ambition and speed India's clean energy transition, according to the State Department.

Last month, India's Environment



Minister Bhupender Yadav spoke to Kerry on the phone and tweeted afterwards that they discussed at length how the largest and oldest democracies can set examples for other countries on Climate Action. India stands committed to working

with the US on Clean Energy.

Kerry visited India in April before the Climate Leaders Summit that Biden convened virtually to increase commitments to cutting greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing the use of clean energy.

The US pressuring India to set a net-zero emissions target that would require it to bring down its greenhouse gas emissions and to neutralise them with carbon and greenhouse gases being absorbed through more forests that absorb them or use new technologies to capture them. The US paints India as the world's third-biggest emitter of carbon dioxide, accounting for 7.17 per cent of the world output.

It ranks below the US, which puts out 27.92 per cent of the global emissions, and China, which emits 14.5 per cent. But this hides the fact that an Indian's greenhouse gas emission is only 1.91 tonnes per year, compared to 15.52 by an American even as Biden and Kerry press other countries to cut their emission.

international

of the day quote

We have been engaging constructively with our UK partners on what can be done to limit the impact of the protocol on everyday life in Northern Ireland, while maintaining its access to the EU's single market

MAROS SEFCOVIC | VP, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

We are calling for action at all levels of society on fixing fractured societies; on safeguarding planetary health; on innovation and investment in health systems; and on better European and global governance

HANS HENRI P. KLUGE | REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE, WHO

Russia possesses irrefutable evidence of the violation of Russian legislation by American digital giants in the context of the preparation and conduct of elections to the State Duma

SERGEI RYABKOV | DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

SHORT TAKES

Gas explosion in China claims eight

Beijing: Eight people were killed and five others injured in an explosion and fire caused by a liquefied gas cylinder leakage Saturday at a residential building in the Chinese city of Dalian, local officials said. The accident took place around midnight in the city's Pulandian District. Firefighters and local police immediately rushed to the scene and the fire was put out at around 2:30 am. The residents of the building have been evacuated. An investigation into the accident's cause is underway, the report said.

Lebanon's PM forms Cabinet

Beirut: Lebanese Prime Minister-designate Najib Mikati announced Friday the formation of a new cabinet of 24 ministers, breaking over one year of political deadlock in the crisis-torn country, according to Lebanon's Presidency. Mikati spoke to reporters at Baabda Palace, swearing that he will stop the country's collapse and spare no efforts to get in contact with international organizations to secure the country's basic needs.

US pulls missile defences in Saudi

Dubai: The US has removed its most advanced missile defence system and Patriot batteries from Saudi Arabia in recent weeks, even as the kingdom faced continued air attacks from Yemen's Houthi rebels, satellite photos analyzed by The Associated Press show. The redeployment of the defenses from Prince Sultan Air Base outside of Riyadh came as America's Gulf Arab allies nervously watched the chaotic withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, including their last-minute evacuations from Kabul's besieged international airport.

Prison escapees caught by Israel

Jerusalem: Israeli forces Saturday captured two more of the six Palestinian militants who made a dramatic escape from a maximum security Israeli jail this week, a police spokesperson said. The two men were found hiding in a truck parking lot in an Arab village in northern Israel, near the city of Nazareth, where two other escapees were captured hours earlier. Their Hollywood-style prison break Monday, through a hole in their prison cell floor, delighted Palestinians and embarrassed Israel.



My thoughts and prayers – and those of my family and the entire nation – remain with the victims, survivors and families affected, as well as the first responders and rescue workers called to duty

ELIZABETH II | QUEEN, UK

GORILLAS TEST COVID +VE IN US

Several members of a troop of western lowland gorillas at Zoo Atlanta have tested positive for the coronavirus after handlers noticed many of the great apes were showing signs of mild coughing, runny noses and a small loss of appetite, the zoo said Friday



'India's role as regional ally can have positive impact in Afghan'

With reference to the other player in the region, Pakistan, the US official noted that the country has a role to play in promoting a stable, secure Afghanistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 11: India as a key regional player and ally of the US and its history of investments in Afghanistan could have a positive impact on the future of the country now under Taliban control, a US State Department spokesperson has said here.

In an interview with PTI, Zed Tarar reiterated US President Joe Biden's message that the war in Afghanistan had achieved its central mission to eliminate the Al Qaeda terror network – behind the attacks September 11, 2001.

Now, the focus is on working with like-minded partners and democracies, such as India, to look towards the next chapter of supporting the people of



Afghanistan. "India being a regional ally has a role to play; and the humanitarian role and previous investment role is one that could have a

India as an elected member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has a role to play. We are in close consultations in New York, New Delhi and Washington with India on this issue

ZED TARAR | US STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON

Afghans blame US forces for their woes

War-weary residents of Kabul expressed anger and feelings of betrayal by the United States Saturday, as the world marked the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks that prompted a US invasion of Afghanistan and the toppling of its Taliban rulers.

"The misfortunes we are currently experiencing are because of America," said Abdul Waris, a Kabul resident, as the white flags of the Taliban emblazoned with lines from the Koran hung from nearby lampposts.

"After the September 11 events took place, the Americans were in our country for 20 years for their own benefit," said Jalil Ahmad. "They took the benefits they had in mind for 20 years while we did not get any benefit from them. They have left the country in a state of confusion."



There were relatively few women on the streets of Kabul Saturday, and all those who were out had their heads covered - a fact welcomed by residents such as Shah Raouf. "In the presence of America, there was a lot of commotion in our country. Women were unveiled," he said.

"The majority of our youth fled, a number were martyred and a number of others were afflicted by America through war and misery."

positive impact on the future of Afghanistan," said Mr Tarar, the London-based Hindu/Urdu spokesperson for the US State Department.

On the question of having to work with the Taliban in the future, the official said it was still early days as the US wants the Taliban to live up to its promises, also flagging the group's designation as a terror outfit under US law.

"At this time, it is very early days to say one way or the other whether we can or cannot work with the Taliban. We will have to see over time. Our interests align on the ISIS-K [terror group] issue, whether we can work together or not, is hard to say. I have to also point out that the Taliban are a designated terrorist group under US laws and the State Department executive branch will follow all federal regulations in dealing with the Taliban," he said.

SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE

Britain's Prince Andrew served with legal papers

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS

New York, Sept 11: Britain's Prince Andrew has been served legal papers in a US lawsuit brought by a woman who says he sexually abused her when she was a teenager, a court filing showed Friday.

The complaint was delivered to the royal's home in Windsor, England, August 27, according to an affidavit filed in the Southern District of New York.

Virginia Giuffre says she was "lent out" for underage sex by late US financier Jeffrey Epstein who killed himself in a New York prison in 2019 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking minors.

Giuffre sued Andrew last month,

alleging he sexually abused her at the London home of socialite Ghislaine Maxwell more than 20 years ago, when she was under 18.

However, Blackfords, a law firm that said they represent Andrew "in certain UK matters," have questioned whether the papers were properly served and raised the possibility of challenging the court's jurisdiction in the case, according to a Sept 6 letter referred in court documents filed by Giuffre's attorneys.

"We reiterate that our client reserves all his rights, including to contest the jurisdiction of the US courts (including on the basis of potentially defective service)," they wrote.

Canadian leaders vie for votes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ottawa, Sept 11: The leaders of Canada's main political parties took part in their final English-language televised debate, battling over who has the best vision for the country's future.

Though none of the leaders emerged unscathed from the raucous back-and-forth of the evening, the voters were still undecided after watching the Thursday night debate for two hours, reports Xinhua news agency.

It is likely that the voters would set their sights on the two frontrunners in the race.

In the latest poll, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party is slightly behind Erin O'Toole's Conservative Party in a tight race that could result in either party forming a minority government on election day September 20.



Early polls indicate that Trudeau's Liberal party is slightly behind O'Toole's Conservative Party

However, the Liberals may have the edge to win more seats of the House of Commons in Canada's two most populous provinces of Ontario and Quebec, positioning Trudeau to secure a third term as Prime Minister.

In order to ensure he holds that advantage and make gains in western Canada where the Conservatives are in the lead, Trudeau attacked against O'Toole in a far more ag-

gressive manner than what he displayed in the previous debates, both of which were conducted in French, Canada's other official language.

On climate action, Trudeau's record came under fire by O'Toole, who highlighted that Canada, under a Liberal government for the past six years, has the worst record among Group of Seven countries for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

US commemorates 20th anniv of 9/11 tragedy

AT THE 9/11 MEMORIAL IN NY, A MOMENT'S SILENCE WAS HELD AT 8:46 AM, THE TIME THE FIRST HIJACKED PLANE CRASHED INTO THE WORLD TRADE CENTER

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Sept 11: The 9/11 anniversary commemoration at ground zero began Saturday with a tolling bell and a moment of silence, exactly 20 years after the start of the deadliest terror attack on US soil.

President Joe Biden, former presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton joined a crowd of victims' relatives and first responders at the Sept 11 memorial plaza in New York. The memorial stands where the World Trade Center's twin towers were rammed and felled by hijacked planes.

Observances are also planned at the two other sites where the 9/11 conspirators crashed the jets: the Pentagon and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Biden



is scheduled to pay respects at all three places.

The anniversary comes under the pall of a pandemic and in the shadow of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, now ruled by the same militants who gave safe haven

to the 9/11 plotters. The attacks killed nearly 3,000 people and marked the start of a new era of fear, war, politics, patriotism and tragedy.

"It's hard because you hoped that this would just be a different

time and a different world. But sometimes history starts to repeat itself and not in the best of ways," said Thea Trinidad, who lost her father in the attacks and has signed up to read victims' names at the ceremony at ground zero

in New York. In a video released Friday, Biden mourned the ongoing losses of 9/11. "Children have grown up without parents, and parents have suffered without children," said Biden, a childhood friend of the father of a Sept 11 victim, Davis Grier Sezna Jr. But the president also spotlighted what he called the "central lesson" of Sept 11: "that at our most vulnerable ... unity is our greatest strength."

Former President George W. Bush, the nation's leader on 9/11, is due at the Pennsylvania memorial and his successor, Barack Obama, at ground zero. The only other post-9/11 US president, Donald Trump, plans to be in New York, in addition to providing commentary at a boxing match in Florida in the evening.

UAE to lift travel ban on vaccinated Indians from Sept 12

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 11: The United Arab Emirates will allow vaccinated residents with valid visas, who were on the travel ban list, from countries like India to return starting from September 12, the National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA) announced Friday.

The decision includes passengers coming from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Namibia, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Liberia, South Africa, Nigeria, and Afghanistan, Al Arabiya reported.

It also includes residents who stayed abroad for over six months, according to the NCEMA.

Those who are fully vaccinated with any WHO-approved vaccines and who have been staying in one of the countries in the suspended list for more than six months since the suspension decision was issued for each country, can come to the country under a new entry permit and rectify their status after entry, the NCEMA said in a statement.

The passengers will be required to follow certain procedures to enter the UAE again which are as follows:

Apply via the website of the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship (ICA) and complete the vaccination application in order to get the necessary approval. They must present the approved vaccination certificate before their departure to the UAE.

Provide a negative PCR test result, taken within 48 hours before their departure at an approved lab that has a QR code.

Take a Rapid PCR test before boarding and another PCR test on the fourth and eighth day of arrival while complying with all precautionary measures in place.

The NCEMA said that children under 16 years old are exempt from these procedures.



COVID-19 affected the economies of the entire world, including that of India. But our economy has recovered more strongly than it was halted by the pandemic
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

PADDY, WHEAT STILL PREFERRED CROP

Paddy in kharif season and wheat in rabi season are still the preferred produce in highest percentage of agricultural households across rural India, the National Statistical Office reported in its 77th round of survey



of the day quote

Tesla has a golden opportunity to set up its manufacturing facility in India given the country's thrust on e-vehicles



NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER FOR ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

The nation is shocked to find that in the last month (August, 2021), the unemployment rate has again shot up to 8.32 per cent (as per GoI data) which implies that 3.6 crore people are jobless today



AMIT MITRA | WEST BENGAL FINANCE MINISTER

Our supplier base in India continues to grow and today we have more than 275 suppliers from India who are part of the global supply chain



SALIL GUPTA | BOEING INDIA PRESIDENT

PSUs can now carry forward losses accrued prior to divestment: CBDT

The decision has been taken to make disinvestment deals of ailing state-owned firms more attractive for strategic investors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: In order to make disinvestment deals of ailing state-owned firms more attractive for strategic investors, the government has allowed erstwhile public sector companies to carry forward losses to be set off against future profits.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in a clarification said that Section 79 of the Income Tax Act shall not apply to an erstwhile public sector company which has become so as a result of strategic divestment.

"Accordingly, loss incurred in any previous year prior to, and including, the previous year of strategic divestment shall be carried forward and set off by the erstwhile public sector company," the CBDT under the Finance Ministry said in a statement. The relaxation, it added, will cease to apply from the previous year in which the company, that was the ultimate holding company of such erstwhile public sector company immediately after completion of the strategic divestment, ceases to hold 51 per cent of the voting power of the erstwhile company.

Section 79 of the Income Tax Act deals with carry forward and set off of losses in case of companies. "In order to facilitate strategic divestment, it has been decided that Section 79 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, shall not apply to an erstwhile public sector company which has become so as a result of strategic divestment,"

it said. Necessary legislative amendments for the above decision shall be proposed in due course of time, the statement said.

Suraj Nangia, Head, Nangia Andersen, a government and public sector advisory, said "Under normal tax provisions without this relaxation, past losses of a company are not allowed to be set off if there is change in majority shareholding of a company (i.e. 51 per cent)."

"It may be noted that such relaxation will be available only till the strategic investor retains at least 51 per cent in the PSU after takeover. In case the strategic investor's shareholding falls below 51 per cent, such relaxation will be withdrawn," he added.

The ambitious divestment pipeline also includes Air India, a loss-making national carrier, for which the deadline for submission of financial bids is September 15.

The government will be selling budget airline Air India Express and

Air India's 50 per cent stake in Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited (AISATS) besides offloading its entire stake in loss-making Air India. The deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest (EOI) or preliminary bids was extended five times earlier before closing it in December last year.

Finance Act, 2021 has amended section 72A of the Income-tax Act, 1961 that deals with amalgamation of a public sector company (PSU) which ceases to be a PSU (erstwhile public sector company) as part of strategic divestment, with one or more company or companies and carry forward of losses in case of change in shareholding following sale by the government.

The Centre budgeted ₹1.75 lakh crore from stake sale in public sector companies and financial institutions, including two PSU banks and one insurance company, in the current fiscal year.

MCL surpasses monthly coal production target in July



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) surpassed its monthly target production in the month of July, 2021.

MCL registered 12.39 million tonnes (MT) of coal production in July during current financial year. The company had set a target to produce 10.43 million tonnes of coal during the same period.

MCL, a subsidiary of Coal India Limited, achieved the maximum production from its opencast mines. Company's monthly report claims that MCL produced 12.35 million tonnes of coal from its opencast mines, whereas the company produced 0.453 lakh tonnes from the underground mines.

MCL has set a target of 163 million tonnes for the financial year 2021-22.

Amid the coal crisis faced by the thermal power plants, MCL dispatched over half-a-million tonnes of coal to the consumers from its mines in Odisha. MCL exceeded 5 lakh tonne off-take target by dispatching 5.18 lakh tonnes of dry fuel to the coal consumers.

MCL dispatched an overall 85 rakes of coal to the power plants, as against the target of 84 rakes. The supply of coal through road-mode was at 1.32 lakh tonnes, up against the target of 99,000 tonnes. The company dispatched 102 rakes from Ib Valley and Talcher Coalfields to various consumers. The company is aggressively implementing FMC (First Mile Connectivity) projects with a capital outlay of ₹3,600 crore by 2024 for rapid movement of coal to the consumers.

Half of rural agricultural households indebted: NSS data

THE PERCENTAGE OF INDEBTED AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLDS STOOD AT 50.2 PER CENT WHILE THE AVERAGE AMOUNT (₹) OF OUTSTANDING LOAN PER AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLD STOOD AT ₹74,121

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 11: Almost half of the rural agricultural households are indebted across India with an average outstanding loan



amount per agricultural household being way more than the below poverty line income for rural India, as per the latest dataset of the National Statistical Survey (NSS) released this week.

The percentage of indebted agricultural households stood at 50.2 per cent while the average amount (Rs) of outstanding loan per agricultural household stood at ₹74,121, the

77th round of the survey conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019 showed.

The survey theme was "Land and Livestock Holdings of Households and Situation Assessment of Agricultural Households" in the rural areas of India with an integrated schedule of enquiry. Prior to the 77th round,

Flipkart to add kirana partners from Junagarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: Keeping in view the upcoming festive season and the 'Big Billion Days', Flipkart has announced strengthening of its 'Kirana Delivery Programme', which helps onboard local general trade stores as delivery partners.

The e-commerce platform targets to include kiranas from Junagarh of Kalahandi district in Odisha this festive season.

Flipkart has strengthened its Kirana Delivery Programme with more than 100,000 kirana partners from across the country that will deliver millions of shipments during the festive season.

Apart from Odisha, the programme will include kirana partners from regions like Khammam (Telangana) and Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh). Last year, over 10 million deliveries were made by these especially trained kirana partners across the country during the festive season. In the past year itself, kirana partners registered nearly 30 per cent increase in the delivery income.

Hemant Badri, Senior Vice-President, Supply Chain at Flipkart, said, "Flipkart is committed to creating value for all our stakeholders including sellers, MSMEs, artisans, customers and kiranas. Kiranas form the premise of modern retail in India and Flipkart endeavours to bring seamless assimilation of both forms of retail to bring customer delight and create a shared value. Through a combination of their hyperlocal presence and innovations by Flipkart, the kirana delivery programme has become a great enabler in strengthening the kirana ecosystem in the country."

Govt cuts import taxes on vegetable oils to calm prices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: The base import tax on crude palm oil has been reduced to 2.5 per cent from 10 per cent, while the tax on crude soyoil and crude sunflower oil has been reduced to 2.5 per cent from 7.5 per cent, the Finance Ministry said in a notification issued late Friday.

The notification came into effect from Saturday.

The government has slashed base custom duties on palm oil, soyoil and sunflower oil to ease elevated level of edible oil prices, according to the Finance Ministry.

The notification came into effect from Saturday.

With the reduction, the effective duty on crude palm oil, crude soyoil and crude sunflower oil will come down to 24.75 per cent whereas effective duty on refined palm oil, soyoil and sunflower oil will be 35.75 per cent, Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) executive director B V Mehta told PTI.

The fresh round of cut could bring down the retail prices by ₹4-5 per litre, he said, adding, it is also generally seen that prices harden in international market after India reduces its import duty so the real impact could be ₹2-3 per litre only. The government should have reduced import duty on mustard oil as well to cool prices, he added. In the last few months, the Centre has cut import duty on various edible oils and asked states to take details of stock of edible oils and oilseeds from wholesalers, millers, refiners and stockists. It has also announced a ₹11,040 crore-palm



The government has slashed base custom duties on palm oil, soyoil and sunflower oil to ease elevated level of edible oil prices, according to the Finance Ministry

The effective duty on crude palm oil, crude soyoil and crude sunflower oil will come down to 24.75 per cent whereas effective duty on refined palm oil, soyoil and sunflower oil will be 35.75 per cent	The Central Board of Indirect Taxes (CBIC) last month had halved the basic customs duty on crude soyoil and sunflower oil to 7.5 per cent to boost supply
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oil mission. According to industry body Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), total import of vegetable oils (edible and non-edible oil) during November 2020 to July 2021 fell by 2 per cent to 96,54,636 tonne, compared to 98,25,433 tonne in the corresponding period of the previous oil year (November-October).

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes (CBIC) last month had halved the basic customs duty on crude soyoil and sunflower oil to 7.5 per cent to boost supply.

Edible oil is India's third-largest imported commodity after crude oil and gold.

OMCs continue to hold fuel price revision for 6th day

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 11: Oil marketing companies (OMC) on Saturday continued to press the pause button on the revision of retail petrol and diesel prices for the sixth straight day.

In the national capital, petrol was sold for ₹101.19 per litre Saturday.

Similarly, price of the fuel in the other key metros of Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata stood unchanged at ₹107.26, ₹98.96, and ₹101.62 per litre, respectively.

In tandem with petrol price, diesel rates also remained unchanged. In Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, the fuel was sold for ₹88.62, ₹96.19, ₹93.26 and ₹91.71 per litre, respectively.

Retail prices remained unchanged as global oil prices continued to rise. The benchmark Brent futures are currently near the \$73-per-barrel-mark backed by the continued supply concerns in the US post Hurricane Ida.

Across the country as well, petrol and diesel prices remained static on Saturday, but their retail rates varied depending on the level of local taxes in a particular state.

Under the pricing formula adopted by oil companies, rates of petrol and diesel are to be reviewed and revised by them on a daily basis.

Govt wants Tesla to commence production before tax concession

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: The heavy industries ministry has asked US-based electric car major Tesla to first start manufacturing its iconic electric vehicles in India before any tax concessions can be considered, government sources said.

They said that the government is not giving such concessions to any auto firm and giving duty benefits to Tesla will not send a good signal to other companies that have invested billions of dollars in India.

Tesla has demanded reduction in import duties on electric vehicles (EVs) in India.

At present, cars imported as completely built units (CBUs) attract customs duty ranging from 60 per cent to 100 per cent, depending on engine size and cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value less or above \$40,000.

In a letter to the road ministry, the US firm had stated that the effective import tariff of 110 per cent on vehicles with customs value above \$40,000 is "prohibitive" to zero-emission vehicles.

It has requested the government to standardise the tariff on electric cars to 40 per cent irrespective of the customs value, and withdraw the social welfare surcharge of 10 per cent on electric cars.



At present, cars imported as completely built units (CBUs) attract customs duty ranging from 60 per cent to 100 per cent, depending on engine size and cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value less or above \$40,000

It has stated that these changes would boost the development of

the Indian EV ecosystem and the company will make significant direct investments in sales, service, and charging infrastructure; and significantly increase procurement from India for its global operations.

The company has argued that these proposals would not have any negative impact on the Indian automotive market as no Indian OEM currently produces a car (EV or ICE) with ex-factory price above \$40,000 and only 1-2 per cent of cars sold in India (EV or ICE) have ex-factory/customs value above \$40,000.

316 DMF Trusts exempted from I-T

New Delhi: Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi Saturday said the increase in number of District Mineral Foundation Trusts exempted from income tax payment will result in more fund availability with them, thus ensuring better implementation and outcome-oriented activities for welfare of mining affected people. District Mineral Foundation (DMF) is a non-profit statutory 'Trust' for every district affected by mining-related operations.

Djokovic one victory away from winning all four Grand Slam in a calendar year as well as becoming the men's player with most number of GS crowns as he battles past Zverev in semifinal to set up title date with Medvedev

CALENDAR SLAM IN SIGHT

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 11: If Novak Djokovic does complete the first calendar-year Grand Slam for a man since 1969 — and he is headed to the US Open final, just one victory away — he, and everyone else, will remember one particularly pivotal, and epic, game along the way.

It came at the conclusion of the third set of what eventually became a 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 victory over Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Alexander Zverev in the semifinals at Flushing Meadows Friday night, making Djokovic 27-0 in major championships this season.

Beating No.2 Daniil Medvedev Sunday for the title will allow Djokovic to secure two significant milestones. He would add the 2021 US Open trophy to those he won at the Australian Open in February, French Open in June and Wimbledon in July.

And the 34-year-old from Serbia would collect his 21st Slam title in all, breaking the men's career mark he currently shares with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

That key game against Zverev featured one extended exchange after another, including a 53-shot, minute-plus point that was the longest of the tournament and actually was lost by Djokovic. Zverev delivered a forehand winner, then hunched over with his hands on his knees. Djokovic went to grab a towel.



Daniil Medvedev, who will play Novak Djokovic in the US Open final, in action during his semifinal match against Felix Auger-Aliassime

But that one, tiny outcome didn't matter. Never seems to with Djokovic, especially in best-of-five-set matches on his sport's most prestigious stages. As usual, he used his superb returning and never-take-a-rest defense to wear down Zverev.

So, yes, Djokovic lost that point — which was preceded by others lasting 13, 19, 22 and 31 shots, and followed by one that went 16 — but he won that game, and that set with it.

Just as he had lost the first set about 1 1/2 hours earlier but turned things around, with the help of a dip in level from the fourth-seeded Zverev. And just as, later, Djokovic lost the fourth set but immediately rebounded and was nearly untouchable while going ahead 5-0 in

set and won. He equaled Federer by getting to a 31st career Slam final; Djokovic's total now includes a record nine in New York, where he has won three championships.

It will be Slam final No.3 for Medvedev, a 25-year-old from Russia, who eliminated 12th-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 in the afternoon. Medvedev was defeated by Djokovic in this year's Australian Open final and by Nadal in the 2019 US Open final.

Djokovic is trying to go 4 for 4 at the majors over the course of one season, something last done in men's tennis by Rod Laver 52 years ago. It was also done by Laver in 1962 and Don Budge in 1938. Three women have completed what's known as a true Grand Slam, most recently Steffi Graf in 1988. Serena Williams' attempt in 2015 ended at the US Open with a semifinal loss to Roberta Vinci.

As Friday night's semifinal began, the 81-year-old Laver was seated front and center behind a baseline in the President's Box at Ashe.

A year ago in New York, when fans were banned because of the coronavirus pandemic, Zverev came oh-so-close to collecting his first major, taking a two-set lead and getting within two points of a championship before frittering it all away and losing to Dominic Thiem in a fifth-set tiebreaker.

Zverev came into Friday on a 16-match winning streak, a run that includes beating Djokovic in the Summer Games semifinals on July 30. That was in a best-of-three-sets format, though, which changes everything when it comes to Djokovic. He is now 36-10 in matches that go five sets.

Bairstow, Malan, Woakes pull out of upcoming IPL



Jonny Bairstow



Chris Woakes

RESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: Sunrisers Hyderabad opener Jonny Bairstow, Punjab Kings batsman Dawid Malan and Delhi Capitals all-rounder Chris Woakes have pulled out of the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) due to personal reasons.

The England and India players were supposed to fly into UAE from Manchester together in a bubble to bubble transfer but COVID-19 cases in the visitors' camp forced IPL teams to make their own arrangements.

The fifth Test between India and England was also postponed indefinitely after a junior physio Yogesh Parmar tested positive for the virus ahead of the game.

Other members of India's support staff, including head Ravi Shastri, were already in quarantine after they tested positive for the virus during the fourth Test at the Oval.

All players arriving in Dubai now have to do a six-day quarantine and that could be the reason behind Bairstow and Malan pulling out. A BCCI official told PTI that Bairstow and Malan the players won't be part of the IPL resuming September 19. The Guardian reported on Woakes' unavailability.

"They won't be boarding the flight to UAE. One of the reasons for their pull out is the six-day quarantine which they didn't need to do earlier," said the official.

While Bairstow is a regular in the Sunrisers line-up, world number one T20 batsman Malan made his IPL debut with Kings earlier this year. Aiden Markram has been named his replacement.

"Malan will be taking some



Dawid Malan

They won't be boarding the flight to UAE. One of the reasons for their pull out is the six-day quarantine which they didn't need to do earlier

A BCCI OFFICIAL

time off to be with his family ahead of the #T20WorldCup and Ashes," tweeted Punjab Kings.

Bairstow had made 248 runs at strike rate of 141 plus in seven games earlier this season. Bairstow, Woakes and Malan were part of England's Test squad in Manchester.

Bubble life has taken a toll on players and with the T20 World Cup to follow in UAE, not playing the IPL would allow more family time to Bairstow, Woakes and Malan.

All three are also part of England's Ashes plans but the tour Down Under is also currently in doubt with Australia imposing some of the harshest restrictions in the world on incoming travellers in the COVID times.

Ronaldo's day out

Portuguese scores a brace on his second debut for Manchester United, Bruno and Lingard also strike apiece in the team's 4-1 win over Newcastle

AGENCIES

Manchester, Sept 11: The leap, swivel and landing with outstretched arms as the Old Trafford crowd roared. If anyone missed it the first time Saturday — and it's hard to imagine when so many eyes were transfixed on Cristiano Ronaldo — they got another chance in the second half.

This was always going to be Ronaldo's day. Two goals, two chances to stage his trademark celebration in a 4-1 victory over Newcastle, ensured the performance matched the club hype that fans young and old embraced with their "Viva Ronaldo" chants and willingness to hand over cash for new jerseys.

Bruno Fernandes (80th minute) and Jesse Lingard (90+2) scored late goals to send Manchester United to the top of the table with 10 points from four matches. Manchester City were second with nine points.

Ronaldo had recently moved to Manchester United — the club at which he had made a name for himself, from Italian champions Juventus. From United, the Portuguese superstar had gone to Spanish giants Real Madrid.

Back in his favourite role for United after a gap of 12 years, CR7 needed the first half to get going as he opened the scoring for United in



first-half injury time.

After missing a couple of half-chances, Ronaldo got his first goal when he capitalised on a chance after Newcastle keeper Freddie Woodman spilled the ball inside the six-yard box off an effort by Mason Greenwood.

Ronaldo was the quickest to react and tapped the ball into the goal to make it 1-0 for United. Ronaldo had scored his 84th and last goal for Manchester United 12 years and 124 days ago.

Though Newcastle restored parity early in the second half via Javier Manquillo, Ronaldo put United ahead again in the 62nd minute, capitalising on an inch-perfect pass by Luke Shaw to slip in a left-footer between goalkeeper Woodman's legs. At 36-year 281 days, Ronaldo became the oldest player to score a brace in a Premier League match.

Alex Ferguson, who played a huge role in the Portuguese's return to Old Trafford and was sitting in the directors' box, certainly looked impressed with the return of the forward he signed as a teenager in 2003 and is back to restore luster to a club that's seen City usurp United for silverware if not status.

In other matches Saturday, Arsenal beat Norwich 1-0 courtesy Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Manchester City defeated Leicester City by a solitary goal struck by Bernardo Silva, Brentford lost 0-1 to Brighton, Wolverhampton beat Watford 2-0 while Crystal Palace thrashed Tottenham Hotspur 3-0.



FELICITATION OF A LEGEND: Paralympics gold medalist Pramod Bhagat was felicitated at a hotel in Bhubaneswar Saturday for his historic performance at the Tokyo 2020. On this occasion, the Odisha superstar was joined by some para athletes from the state, besides the dignitaries. Among the guests, Bhubaneswar (Central) MLA Ananta Narayan Jena, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Sulochana Das, president of Para Sports Association of Odisha Kamala Kanta Rath, former sports minister Debasis Nayak along with Pramod's coach Siba Prasad Das graced the ceremony. PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

Sunny reminds BCCI of England's gesture post 26/11

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Manchester, Sept 11: The legendary Sunil Gavaskar has lauded the BCCI's offer of rescheduling the cancelled Old Trafford Test, saying India should never forget England's gesture of returning back to complete a tour, which was halted midway due to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks in 2008.

"Yes, I think that (rescheduling the cancelled Test) would be the correct thing to do. Look, we, in India, should never forget what the England team did in 2008 after the horrific attack, the 26/11. They

came back," Gavaskar told official broadcaster of the series Sony Sports. "They would have been perfectly entitled to say 'we don't feel safe. We are not coming back'."

The visiting England team was playing an ODI against India in Cuttack November 26 when terrorists attacked Mumbai, leading to the cancellation of the last two ODIs of the seven-match series.

England headed home immediately, but later returned for the two Test series which India won 1-0. Gavaskar said that the then skipper Kevin Pietersen was instrumental in England's decision to



return back for the Test matches. "Never forget that Kevin Pietersen led the team, and he was the main man. If KP had said, no I don't want to go, that would have been the end of the matter. It was because KP was willing to go and he convinced the others, the team came and we had that fantastic Test match in Chennai where India chased 380 to win on the last day," the batting great said. Gavaskar termed BCCI's rescheduling offer as a "fantastic news" and said the cancelled Test can be held next year after the IPL. "Don't forget, the gesture of the ECB has to be remembered," he said.