



CANDID CONFESSION

Actor Kristen Stewart admits she was obsessed over her character Princess Diana in *Spencer* while preparing for the role

LEISURE P2



'MY GURUGRAM' APP

Gurugram residents will get pollution, weather information on 'My Gurugram' app soon

TWO STATES P8



MEDVEDEV TRIUMPHS

Daniil Medvedev claims his maiden Major winning US Open by ending Djokovic's Calendar Slam quest

SPORTS P12

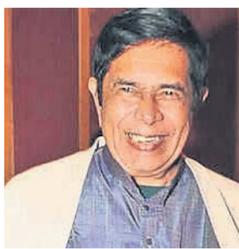
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Retail inflation eases to 5.3 per cent

NEW DELHI: Retail inflation based on consumer price index for the month of August eased to 5.3 per cent as against 5.59 per cent in July, data released by government showed Monday. The inflation numbers stayed within the RBI's comfort zone for the second straight month. In July, the inflation figure had eased after holding above 6 per cent for two months in a row, helped by improving supplies following the lifting of pandemic restrictions. In the minutes of the latest monetary policy committee meeting, the RBI had noted that India needs to continue monetary policy support for the economy while remaining watchful.



Oscar Fernandes passes away

NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Oscar Fernandes passed away in Mangalore Monday. He was 80. A sitting Member of the Rajya Sabha, he was critically injured after he fell accidentally while doing his regular exercise July 20 this year. He was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in a super speciality hospital at Mangalore. A veteran Congress leader, Fernandes was the Union minister for transport, road highways, labour and employment in the UPA government headed by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. He was regarded to have a solid working relationship with Congress leaders at all levels.

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I do swear in the name of central leadership...

First cut-off list for Plus II admissions out

BHUBANESWAR: The first cut-off list for Plus II admissions was released Monday. The School and Mass Education Department released the same on the website www.samsodisha.gov.in. As many as 4,35,092 students had applied for admissions, out of which 3,86,464 have been selected in the first phase including 2,47,906 students in Arts stream, 24,560 in Commerce & 1,07,037 students in Science. Ravenshaw Junior College topped the first cut-off merit list. The cut-off for Arts stream in Ravenshaw stood at 79.3 per cent while in Science it is 91.33 and Commerce 82 per cent. Admission of applicants selected in first list will commence September 14 and conclude September 21. The second merit list will be published September 27.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	58177.76 ↓ 127.31
NIFTY	17355.30 ↓ 14.00
DOLLAR	74.04 ↑ ₹0.17
EURO	86.91 ↓ ₹0.26
GOLD	₹47,023 ↑ ₹217
SILVER	₹63,347 ↓ ₹245

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	25.6°C	25.2°C
TEMP MIN	23.2°C	23.0°C
Humidity	100%	100%
Rainfall	32.1mm	94mm

Forecast: Rain very likely



IN ROYAL GARB: Eight Dussehra elephants led by Abhimanyu begin their journey from Veeranahosahalli on the outskirts of Nagarhole in Mysuru district, Monday. They will be given a traditional welcome on their arrival at Mysuru Palace September 16. As the Dasara procession is restricted to the palace premises, the jumbos will be trained inside the palace premises.

PLUS III ADMISSIONS

Downloaded marksheets to be accepted

Given disruptions caused by Covid-19 pandemic, students have been spared of having to produce original docu for verification at the time of admissions

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: The higher education department Monday directed colleges to receive downloaded marksheets accompanied by undertakings from students for Plus III admissions. Deputy director Rajesh Kumar Sahoo said due to Covid-19, there is disruption in issuance of original certificates, marksheets and migration certificates to students passing out from the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) in 2021-22 academic session. So, students may not be able

Centre declines to open up on Pegasus again

New Delhi, Sept 13: The Centre Monday told the Supreme Court that it does not wish to file a detailed affidavit in the "larger national interest" on a batch of pleas seeking independent probe into the alleged Pegasus snooping row as such issues cannot be a subject matter of public discourse. The government told a bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana that the disclosure whether the country is using a particular software or not may cause "harm" and alert all potential targets, including terror groups. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the bench that government has "nothing to hide" and that is why the Centre has on its own said that it will form a committee of domain experts who will look into these allegations. He said the issue whether a particular software is used or not used by the government cannot be a subject matter of public discourse as it has its "own pitfalls" and it would be better if target groups, like terror outfits, do not know what is being used to combat them.

RAIN KILLS 4, SCHOOLS SHUT

Rain continued to pound many parts of the state while the IMD has said Odisha should brace for another low pressure system, which is likely to form by September 17

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Heavy rain continued to pound many parts of the state forcing the government to shut schools in 12 districts for two days. At least four deaths were reported from different parts of the state till Monday. While two deaths were reported from Kendrapada due to wall collapse, one in Khurda district died due to drowning. An elderly man drowned in pond at Nischintakoi in Cuttack district. Detailed investigations are going on by the district administrations. The deep depression over north coastal Odisha moved further west-northwestwards during past six hours with a speed of 13 km/ph and lay centred about 50 km east-south-



Vehicles wading through a waterlogged street following heavy rains in Cuttack

east of Keonjhar and 100 km north-west of Chandbali, the India Meteorological Department said. Meanwhile, Director General of India Meteorological Department Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said the state should brace for another low pressure system, which is likely to form by September 17. Heavy rainfall occurred in coastal, northern and interior pockets of the state since Sunday morning. The highest 530 mm rainfall was recorded at Astaranga (530mm), followed by Kakatpur (525mm),

19 lakh people in 11 districts affected
265 houses damaged; 3819 evacuated
195 mm rain in Bhub --63-year record

and Bargarh districts. Orange warning (be prepared) has been issued for Bolangir, Sundargarh, Boudh, Keonjhar, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Kendrapada, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur and Cuttack districts. Schools in Puri, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Dhenkanal, Nayagarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul, Sonepur and Bargarh districts will remain closed September 13 and 14. Over 19.53 lakh people in 2,789 villages in 53 blocks & 14 Urban Local Bodies of 11 districts have been affected by rain. They included Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Cuttack, Jajpur, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Dhenkanal, Khordha and Angul. The government claimed it has evacuated 3819 persons from low-lying areas in five affected districts. The government has reported damage of 265 houses and deaths of at least four persons.



to produce original certificates for verification at the time of admission. Thus, higher education institutions (HEIs) have been directed to accept downloaded marksheets with self-attestations along with undertakings submitted by the students. Students from ICSE, CBSE and other boards have been instructed to submit downloaded marksheets and certificates duly attested by their heads of institutions, if original documents have not been issued. They shall not be barred from taking admissions. If any student from ICSE/CBSE/other board has been selected for admission on the basis of marks secured (in terms of best of four or five subjects), it is requested to verify the marksheets of these students on the basis of total marks secured (taking all subjects into consideration). Moreover, students would have to submit undertakings regarding submission of original certificates and marksheets within 15 days from the date of admission for first selection and seven days for second selection.

Game changer: Armed robots to patrol borders

In what has raised the hackles of critics from human rights angle, a state-owned Israeli firm has come out with remote-controlled armed robots to guard borders

Lod (Israel), Sept 13: An Israeli defense contractor Monday unveiled a remote-controlled armed robot it says can patrol battle zones, track infiltrators and open fire. The unmanned vehicle is the latest addition to the world of drone technology, which is rapidly reshaping the modern battlefield. Proponents say such semi-autonomous machines allow armies to protect their soldiers, while critics fear this marks another dan-

gerous step toward robots making life-or-death decisions. The four-wheel-drive robot presented Monday was developed by the state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries' "REX MKII." It is operated by an electronic tablet and can be equipped with two machine guns, cameras and sensors, said Rani Avni, deputy head of the company's autonomous systems division. The robot can gather intelligence for ground troops, carry injured soldiers and supplies in and out of battle, and strike nearby targets. It is the most advanced of more than half a dozen unmanned vehicles developed by Aerospace Industries' subsidiary, ELTA Systems, over the past 15 years. The Israeli military is currently using a smaller but similar vehicle called the Jaguar to patrol the border with the Gaza Strip and help enforce a blockade Israel imposed in 2007, after the tiny territory was



seized by the Islamic militant group Hamas. Gaza is home to 2 million Palestinians who have largely been locked in by the blockade, which is also supported to some extent by Egypt. The border area is the site of frequent protests and occasional attempts by Palestinian militants or desperate laborers to infiltrate into Israel. The Israeli army did not respond when asked for details on how they use the Jaguar, one of many tools, including drones armed with guided missiles, that have given it vast technological superiority over Hamas. Unmanned ground vehicles are being increasingly used by other armies, including those of the United States, Britain and Russia. Their tasks include logistical support, the removal of mines and firing weapons. The tablet can control the vehi-

cle manually. But many of its functions, including its movement and surveillance system, can also run autonomously. "With every mission, the device collects more data which it then learns from for future missions," said Yonni Gedj, an operational expert in the company's robotics division. Critics have raised concerns that robotic weapons could decide on their own, perhaps erroneously, to shoot targets. The company says such capabilities exist but are not being offered to customers. "It is possible to make the weapon itself also autonomous, however, it is a decision of the user today," Avni said. "The maturity of the system or the user is not there yet." Bonnie Docherty, a senior researcher from the arms division of Human Rights Watch, said such weapons are worrisome because they can't be trusted to distinguish between combatants and civilians.

TN SCRAPS NEET

Chennai, Sept 13: The Tamil Nadu Assembly Monday passed a bill seeking exemption from the National Entrance-cum-Eligibility Test (NEET) and making admissions to medical colleges based on the marks scored by students in Class 12 examinations (intermediate). Chief Minister MK Stalin had introduced the Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Act-2021 which was passed by voice vote. Principal opposition AIADMK, which had walked out of the house earlier, later came back to support the bill. Former Chief Minister and the Leader of Opposition, K. Palaniswami said his party will extend support to the bill. However, members of the BJP walked out when the bill was put to vote. Stalin said his DMK has been opposing NEET from the beginning and after

coming to power, the party has started the legal fight against it. He sought the support of opposition parties for the bill. Stalin said the government is trying to bring the admission process for medical seats based on Class 12 standard marks. He said the bill provides for 7.5 per cent reservation in medical colleges for students who had studied in government schools. Stalin said the government will try to get the assent of the President for the bill. This is the second time the bill was passed in the Assembly. A similar bill had been passed by the Assembly during AIADMK regime but it had not got the President's assent. There has been opposition to NEET in Tamil Nadu by students and parties. Further impetus for the bill came after 19-year old Dhanush, a medical seat aspirant, was found dead in his home at Kooliyur village in Salem district Saturday.

leisure



BEAU BEN AFFLECK PROTECTS JLO FROM UNMASKED FAN

Hollywood star Ben Affleck pushed away a man who got too close to singer-actress Jennifer Lopez while trying to take a selfie. The 49-year-old actor stepped up to block an unmasked man who was trying to take selfies with the *Hustlers* star at Marco Polo International Airport in Venice, Italy.

BRITNEY, ASGHARI ARE OFFICIALLY ENGAGED

Britney Spears and Sam Asghari are officially engaged. Spears made the official announcement Sunday on her social media. Showing the rock on her finger with Sam, she wrote, "I can't f---ing believe it." She shared the news on Instagram with several ring emojis in her caption.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will bring out your mops and magnifying glass today as you want to explore and investigate. Also, you remain touchy. Anyone who gets in your way will face your ire. Ganesha suggests that you be sensitive to your loved ones.

TAURUS
There is an indication that you will be perturbed due to some unpleasant developments that may take place today, predicts Ganesha. You will need to labour hard to complete your pending assignments at the workplace. Nostalgia will engulf you and your beloved as you spend time with each other tonight.

GEMINI
You will be faced with difficult situations and circumstances today. You will become sentimental as a result. You will be able to extricate yourself only when the time is right for these adverse circumstances. You will receive co-operation from your colleagues.

CANCER
A day of challenges, but you will not cross limits. Your evocation to God will repel all hurdles and grant you energy. Health will be good. A fabulous time, says Ganesha.

LEO
Two things define you: your earnestness and authenticity. And today, Ganesha has a feeling that both shall hit their highest point. You may face tiny troubles while at work, which may take mammoth proportions due to your staunch outlook. If you are an entrepreneur, you may end up rotating money gathered from different sources.

VIRGO
Your thinking will be very sharp today, and at the same time you will feel passionate about work. In the afternoon, you can afford to unwind a bit. Those in the public sector will feel inspired and have an agreeable day. Your no-nonsense attitude will be very apparent, says Ganesha.

LIBRA
Ganesha says you will wish to spend the maximum time with your beloved only. After some intimate discussions with the person you will find yourself growing closer to them. Today you will be the center of attention for a lot of people today. People will be happy and impressed by your wit and ability.

SCORPIO
Your career graph is gradually shooting up because of your incredible work. Your will power will help you achieve difficult targets. The confidence through which you handle all the unforeseen situations is worth appreciating, feels Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
The day has to offer a mixture of activities. Today, work comes after home & family. Your attention is diverted towards your kith and kins today. You are an important member of the family and your opinion matters to them. For some of you, evening is full of romantic conversations with your beloved.

CAPRICORN
Increase in workload will not make you tense, in fact, you will rise to the challenge and try to complete your targets as fast as you can. Your colleagues will play a major role in enabling you to dispose off the pile of files lying on your desk, predicts Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
You will bring excellence to the table. But, the results may not reflect the same. The day progresses on slow pace and no major events are in store for you, says Ganesha. On the personal front, you may have some problems with your spouse, but you will learn to ignore them, sit back and unwind.

PISCES
You are likely to embark on a picnic or travel today, or will be busy planning for the same. You will not be able to concentrate on your work till noon, but later on you will find yourself making excellent progress. You will be able to meet all your deadlines and hence will be able to implement your plans for travel, says Ganesha.



Kristen was obsessed over Princess Diana

Los Angeles: Kristen Stewart, who stars as the late Princess Diana in psychological drama film *Spencer* has admitted to obsessing over her character while preparing for the role. She said, "She means a lot to me, but it's all relatively new because I'm from LA and didn't grow up in England. Before this, she was not something that was at the forefront of my mind, because I lived so far away from it all. Now I can't stop thinking about her."

The actress also observed that in spite of their obvious differences, they also shared some similar personality traits, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*. Stewart, who was once the highest-paid actress in the world, thinks those similarities helped her in the role. Stewart said that her own fame pales in comparison to that of the late Princess. She said, "She was the most famous woman in the world. I have tasted a high level of that, but really kind of nowhere near that monumental, symbolic representation of an entire group of people, like an entire country - and then the world." *Spencer* focuses on Diana's split from Prince Charles.

Farah ribs Anil on his culinary skills

Mumbai: As veteran actor Anil Kapoor tries his hand at cooking for an upcoming episode of the food show *Star vs Food Season 2*, Kapoor's old friend and filmmaker Farah Khan quipped that she has zero expectations on his cooking skills as he never cooked 'in the last 30 years'.

As the show also involves the friends and family members of the star guest, for Anil Kapoor, Farah and Kapoor's sister-in-law Maheep Kapoor shared their anecdotes on the actor's cooking skills. Farah said, "Zero expectations from him because I've never seen him cook in all these 30 years that I know him. It's good because I am



starting from zero so unless it is really burnt and uneat-able everything will be higher than what I expect."

Kapoor tried to cook Slow-roast Lamb Slider and Gnocchi Pasta, under the guidance of Chef Ganesh, Executive Chef at Silly, in Mumbai.

Maheep shared, "I've been married for 21 years, dated Sanjay for 5 years so 26 years in this family. Anil has never entered the kitchen...ever, so after 26 years I'm eating Anil Kapoor's food." **IANS**

Deepika shares picture of her 'morning view'

Mumbai: Actress Deepika Padukone clicked a picture of her husband and actor Ranveer Singh, whom she lovingly called her 'morning view'.

Deepika posted the picture on Instagram, where Ranveer appears to be sleeping with his hoodie covering half of his face.

"My Morning View! @ranveersingh (click emoji) - Yours Truly," Deepika captioned the picture, which currently has 536K likes on the photo-sharing website.

This is not the first time Deepika and Ranveer have engaged on PDA on social media. The power-couple keep sharing pictures and loved-up comments on their social media for each other.

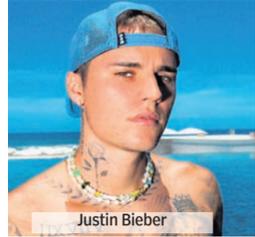
Ranveer and Deepika will soon be seen sharing screen space in filmmaker Kabir Khan's sports biography '83, based on India's win at the World Cup in 1983 under the captaincy of Kapil Dev. **IANS**



MTV VIDEO MUSIC AWARDS

Bieber, Lil Nas, Rodrigo, BTS emerge big winners

Beyonce's *'Brown Skin Girl'* won the best cinematography award, her 29th VMA, which extends her record as the artist with the most awards. Madonna is a distant second with 20 awards.



Lil Nas X's *Montero* took home video of the year award at the MTV Video Music Awards 2021, held at Barclays Center in Brooklyn of New York City Sunday for the first time in eight years. Justin Bieber, Olivia Rodrigo, BTS, and Billie Eilish, among others, also won multiple Moon Person awards. Here's a look at this year's record-setters:



Olivia Rodrigo, 18, took the song of the year award for *Drivers License*. She also became the fifth-youngest best new artist winner to date at the VMAs. The Kid LAROI, who MTV revealed was this year's runner-up, is also 18. Rodrigo also won push performance of the year; again edging out The Kid LAROI.

Bieber won artist of the year. He's the first male winner in the category since Ed Sheeran, who was the inaugural winner four years ago. Bieber also won the best pop award for *Peaches*.

Korean boy band *BTS Butter* won the best K-pop award. *BTS* has won that award in all three years it has been

presented. *BTS* also won group of the year for the third year in a row. *Butter* also won song of summer. This is the second year in a row that a K-pop act has won in that category. Doja Cat's silky *Kiss Me More*, featuring SZA, took the best collaboration award. It's the fourth all-female collab to win the best collaboration, following Beyonce and Shakira's *Beautiful Liar* (2007). Silk Sonic's *Leave the Door Open* won the best R&B award. Travis Scott's *Franchise* won the best hip-hop award. It's the first male-fronted hit to win in that category since Kendrick Lamar's *Humble* four years ago. Eilish's *Your Power* was a surprise winner for video for good,



beating, among others, H.E.R.'s Oscar-winning *Fight for You*. Eilish also won best Latin for Lo Vas A Olvidar, a collab with Latin superstar Rosalia. It's Rosalia's second win in the category. She took the award two years ago for *Con Altura*, a collab with J Balvin.

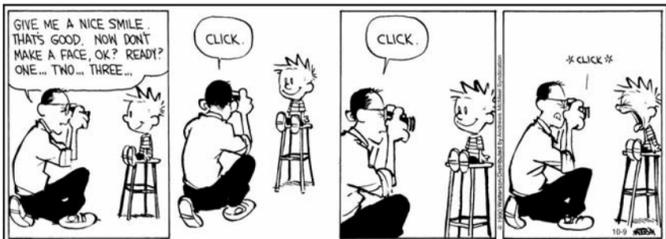
Beyonce's *Brown Skin Girl* won the best cinematography award. This is her 29th VMA, which extends her record as the artist with the most awards. Madonna is a distant second, with 20 awards. **AGENCIES**



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

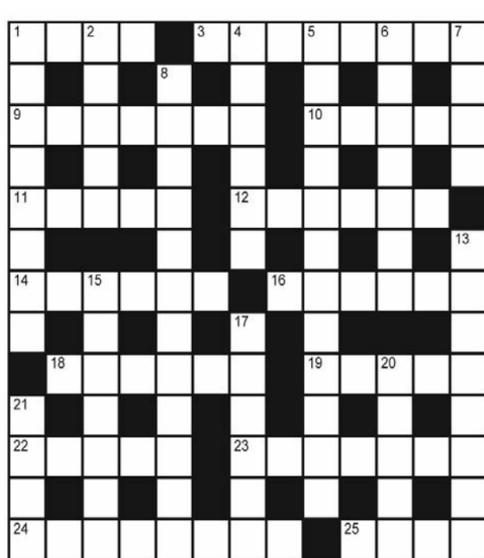


BREVITY



FUN post

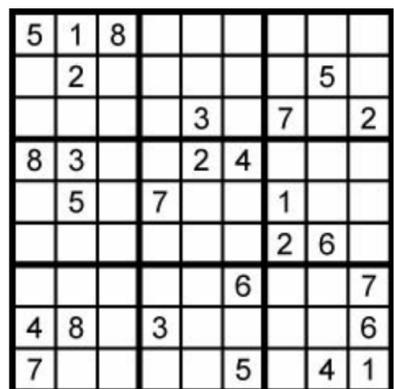
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Very dark
 - 3 Indistinct
 - 9 Forsakes
 - 10 Rocket type
 - 11 Original
 - 12 Free of charge
 - 14 Mother
 - 16 Woodland
 - 18 Eurasian finch
 - 19 Crosswise, on deck
 - 22 Young hooter
 - 23 Crude producer (3,4)
 - 24 Statue holder
 - 25 Regarded
- Down
- 1 Close at hand
 - 2 Mariinsky Ballet, once
 - 4 Banner
 - 5 Not justified
 - 6 Writer's first draft
 - 7 In a minute
 - 8 They can be inline or quad (6,6)
 - 13 Faltered
 - 15 Revolved
 - 17 Neighbor of Zambia
 - 20 Hostile force
 - 21 Hen housing

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



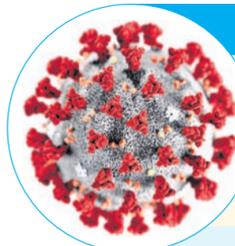
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



PLATINUM JUBILEE

Health Minister Naba Kisore Das (L) inaugurates the platinum jubilee celebrations of SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	22,56,15,668	20,22,35,689	46,46,774
India	3,32,64,175	3,24,47,032	4,42,874
Odisha	10,16,833	10,02,810	8,104

DHENKANAL ILLEGAL MINING

NGT seeks details of penalty on miners

The tribunal had earlier constituted a Joint Committee comprising State Pollution Control Board, Dhenkanal Collector, SEIAA Odisha, Central PCB, and MoEF&CC to look into the allegations made by the applicant

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 13: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) Monday asked the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) to file an affidavit mentioning the amount determined as environmental compensation towards the cost of restoration of the environment, and penalty for excessive mining in Dhenkanal district. A bench, comprising Judicial Member B Amit Sthalekar and Expert Member Saibal Dasgupta, also directed the Collector & District Magistrate of Dhenkanal to appear before the tribunal on the next date of hearing, October 8. The tribunal noted that as per the Joint Committee's report on excessive mining in Dhenkanal, there are several lapses which point prima facie to the connivance of tehsildar of Kankadahada in the irregularities. The tribunal also noted that the Dhenkanal Collector, who was appointed as a member of the committee, has abdicated his role and nominated the tehsildar as his representative.



"We also find that the Joint Committee's report does not state as to what amount has been determined as environmental compensation towards cost of restoration of the environment, penalty for excessive mining as well as the loss of revenue to the state exchequer caused due to excess mining. We also find that the compensation for the sal trees which have been illegally felled has also not been determined," the bench said.

The order of the tribunal came after an application filed by Sukanta Pradhan and others who alleged that in the process of mining, there is felling of trees, illegal blasting and damage to the houses by Kunal Structure Private Limited at Jhilli mouza in Dhenkanal. "Stone crushers do not have any statutory consent and do not meet the criteria. No green belt has been developed. There is no demarcation of the leased area and mining is taking place beyond the leased area. Overloaded vehicles are plying on rural roads, without the approval from the Rural Development department. Vehicles are not using any covering on the mined material, resulting in air pollution," the applicant had alleged. The tribunal had earlier constituted a joint committee comprising CPCB, SPCB, District Collector, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to look into the allegations made by the applicants.

Amar seeks promotion of sabai craft exports

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Rajya Sabha MP Amar Patnaik Monday urged Union Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal to initiate measures for promotion of sabai grass handicrafts exports. Patnaik took to Twitter to say that although India's handicrafts sector is largely unorganised, it plays a key role in the country's economy. The sector employs as many as 70 lakh persons in rural and urban India and has a high potential for export earnings. In order to harness the true potential of the sector, the production and export of handicrafts must be institutionally aided and promoted as part of the creative economy of the country, he said. According to the Rajya Sabha



MP, the production boost that sabai grass crafts have received over the past few years has uplifted many tribal communities and women self-help groups from poverty. "For instance, permission for sale of sabai grass crafts in the international market was a major boost to Mayurbhanj Sabai Farmers Producer Company Limited (MSFPCL). This helped them overcome the absence of

The sector employs as many as 70 lakh persons in rural and urban India and has a high potential for export earnings

market linkages and in turn benefited women, tribals, farmers and artisans," the MP said. He pointed out that the market uncertainties due to Covid-19 pandemic have dealt a blow to many artisans, women and tribals as they suffered huge losses. Patnaik urged the Centre to introduce dynamic measures so as to incentivise the market for handicrafts and also provide for the extension of tax concession to handicrafts and GST exemptions for all

goods made out of sabai grass. The MP further requested the Union government to consider providing grants and capital inputs to handicrafts production units to overcome shortcomings experienced by low capital investment. According to Patnaik, the Odisha government has granted ₹10 lakh each to five production groups to promote sabai exports. "Any such additional support from the Centre and the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts will further give a boost to this industry," Patnaik wrote. The sabai grass is long fibrous leaves of high strength that can be dyed and have been used in the production of handicrafts for years now. Found in abundance in Odisha and West Bengal, many local communities depend on it for their livelihood, said a source.

Below 500 fresh cases for 1st time in 5 months

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: For the first time in the last five months, Odisha's daily Covid-19 cases dropped below 500 with the coastal state reporting 471 fresh cases in the past 24 hours, an official said Monday. The fresh cases, including 57 in the age group of 0-18, pushed the tally to 10,16,833. The state's daily TPR stands at 0.93 per cent. Khurda reported the highest 196 new cases, followed by Cuttack (81) and Balasore (26). The Covid-19 toll rose to 8,104 as six new fatalities were reported in the last 24 hours.

BJP, BJD slugfest over waterlogging

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: When the rain-battered citizens of Capital city were having a harrowing time due to waterlogging issues, Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) indulged in a blame game. While BJP leader and Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha MP Aparajita Sarangi took a dig at the state government for the waterlogging problems in several areas, the BJD recalled Sarangi's tenure

as Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner. After visiting the waterlogged areas in the state capital, Sarangi said that during a meeting with the state government in January, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on urban development had advised the state to prepare a comprehensive master plan to address the perennial drainage problems in the city. However, it has not been prepared so far, she said. Sarangi also said the state government has not made any arrange-

ments to address the waterlogging problems and the fund sanctioned for the purpose was not utilised properly. The saffron party leader said she had written a letter to the Chief Minister in this regard, last year. Countering the allegations, BJD leader Shreemayee Mishra blamed Sarangi for the current state of affairs. "City denizens are paying the price of the work done during her tenure as the BMC Commissioner from 2006 to 2009. She (Sarangi) should be held responsible for her wrongdoings," Mishra said.

35 pumps deployed to dewater low-lying areas in Capital city



INCIDENTS OF WALL COLLAPSE HAVE COME TO THE FORE IN SEVERAL SLUM AREAS OF JAYDEV VIHAR AND CHANDRASEKHARPUR. FIRE SERVICES PERSONNEL WERE ENGAGED IN REMOVAL OF EXCESSIVE RAINWATER AT SEVERAL PLACES IN THE CITY. AS MANY AS 11 DEWATERING PUMPS WERE DEPLOYED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT SEVERAL LOW-LYING PLACES INCLUDING NAHARKANTA, JATNI, BOMIKHAL, NUAPATNA AND BHIMATANGI

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Monday deployed about 35 pumps in the Capital city as incessant rains inundated several residential and low-lying areas throwing normal life out of gear. As per the regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the state capital received 74 mm of rain in 10 hours. The recorded rainfall for the city was fourth highest in state after Talcher, Cuttack and Boudh. The continuous downpour saw heavy waterlogging and flash floods in different parts of city. "We have engaged more than 35 pumps for dewatering the waterlogged areas. Large and medium capacity pumps have been deployed in locations like Bhimatangi, Nayapalli, Bomikhal, Gajapati Nagar and others. Other places that had reported waterlogging were immediately addressed on receiving calls from the residents," said a BMC official. However, residents of the smart city complained that the civic au-

thority failed to do enough to prevent waterlogging. Several slum areas of Jaydev Vihar and Chandrasekharpur, which have been under the grip of dengue, saw water gushing into houses. It was alleged that the civic body has turned a blind eye to the woes of the locals. "Water has accumulated in the houses of the poor. Walls have collapsed at slums in Jaydev Vihar and Chandrasekharpur areas and people are struggling to find a place for shelter. However, no pumps have been deployed in the slum areas even though these areas have remained waterlogged for two days," said Anjan Nath, a local activist here. It can be mentioned here that the Capital city recorded about 200mm rain in last 24 hours which is a record in 63 years for the month of September. Earlier, the city had recorded 163 mm rain in 1958. The IMD has predicted further rains for the state with another low pressure area forming over Bay of Bengal by September 17. The system is likely to reach north Odisha by September 18.

DELUGE OF WOES

Heavy rain since Sunday clobbered Cuttack, Puri and Bhubaneswar with many residential areas facing severe waterlogging issues. Bhubaneswar received 195mm rainfall over the past 24 hours till 8:30am Monday, breaking a 63-year-old record



ROW OVER IDOL HEIGHT

Cuttack bandh spontaneous

AS MOST PARTS OF THE STATE'S COMMERCIAL HUB WERE WATERLOGGED, PEOPLE PREFERRED TO STAY INDOORS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Sept 13: BJP leaders and supporters staged picketing in different areas of Cuttack Monday wearing raincoats and holding placards to press for their demand of relaxing the restriction on the height of Durga idols during the 12-hour Cuttack bandh called by the party.

The saffron party had called for bandh to protest the state government's August 9 guidelines on festivals where the restrictions have been imposed to keep the height of Durga idols within four feet and conduct indoor like puja in pandals across the state. The restrictions were clamped keeping in view the prevailing Covid-19 situation in the state.

Most of the shops, commercial establishments and educational institutions remained closed due to the deep depression-induced heavy rainfall. As most parts of the state's commercial hub were waterlogged, people preferred to stay indoors.

Supporters of the saffron party picketed at Badambadi bus terminal and other places wearing raincoats and courted arrest.

"The bandh was successful. People supported the call on their own as it was organised as a mark of pride for the Cuttack city," said BJP leader Lalatendu Badu.

Badu said that the BJP activists have been picketing in about 100 places across the city. "People of Cuttack are annoyed by the state government's rejection of the committees' requests to withdraw the restrictions on Durga idol size," Badu said, adding that the BJP was supporting the puja committees and peace committees.



BJP workers stage a dharna near Cuttack Collector's office

OP PHOTO

The state government's recent denial to the relaxation request has also sparked a political slugfest in the state. While the ruling BJD is divided over the issue, the Opposition BJP and Congress have thrown their weight behind people who are demanding withdrawal of the restrictions.

The row over the Durga idol size has its impact on the ruling BJD too. Cuttack's six-time BJD MP Bhartruhari Mahtab, while attending a puja committee meeting in Cuttack, wondered how the government can avoid spread of the infection if the height is limited within 4 feet.

"I do not see any reason be-

hind the argument that raising the idol size by another 2 or 2.5 feet would help the infection spread. It's laughable," the parliamentarian said.

However, BJD leader and former Cuttack-Barabati MLA Debashis Samantaray ridiculed Mahtab and said, "Where was the MP all along when the issue is

The bandh was successful. People supported the call on their own as it was organised as a mark of pride for the Cuttack city

LALATENDU BADU | BJP LEADER

being debated for a long time? He was not seen anywhere. But suddenly he attended a meeting and kept his views. The decision is taken for the entire state and not for Cuttack alone."

Incidentally, when the Chief Secretary and Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) had held discussions with the puja committees of Cuttack September 7, all the local BJD MLAs and ex-MLAs were invited, barring Mahtab, a sitting MP, sources revealed.

Barabati-Cuttack Congress MLA Mohammed Moquim had also demanded withdrawal of the restriction on the height of the idols. "This is unfortunate that the Chief Secretary and the SRC did not take any decision at the September 7 meeting and sought two day's time. Later, the government upheld the earlier guidelines without reconsidering the plea of the puja committees," he said.

Balu Bazaar Puja Committee, one of the oldest committees organising the Puja, has planned to move the Orissa High Court challenging the restrictions of the state government.

"We have been worshipping the 8 feet height Durga idol since 1914 and it is not possible to change the tradition," said its president Suryakant Sanganeria.

AID SOUGHT FOR SEXUALLY ABUSED CUTTACK MINOR



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: An activist filed a petition before the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Monday, seeking compensation for one minor girl who was sexually abused by miscreants in Cuttack few months back.

The girl hails from Mahanga area of Cuttack district and is a Plus II student of a private college. Mahanga police have already arrested one accused identified as Rakesh Behera after registering a case (200/21) in this regard.

The petitioner urged the commission to direct the state Chief Secretary to sanction ₹10 lakh as compensation to the victim. He also demanded stringent action against the accused.

According to the petition, two local youths of Mahanga forcibly took the victim to a house and tried to rape her; in the month of May this year. The accused persons also recorded the heinous act through their mobile phone cameras.

The petitioner urged the commission to direct the state Chief Secretary to sanction ₹10 lakh as compensation to the victim, and also demanded stringent action against the accused

However, they failed in their attempt due to the presence of some passers-by.

Rakesh, along with his friends, blackmailed the girl into keeping sexual relationship with them by threatening to post obscene photos and videos of the victim on various social media platforms. The victim mustered courage and informed the members of Cuttack child line about the incident May 11. Subsequently, the child line authorities sought the help of police. Behera was arrested the very same day.

ECoR freight load 29.3% up

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: During the period from 1st April to 10th September, 2021, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) loaded 100.30MT of freight as against 77.58MT carried in the corresponding period of the last fiscal. With this, it has loaded 22.72MT incremental cargo during the current financial year by registering an increase of 29.3 per cent.



It has also surpassed the loading target of 95.09MT fixed by Railway Board during the period while becoming the first Railway zone to achieve 100MT loading in 2021-22. This could be possible due to the outstanding performance of all the three divisions of ECoR which are Khurda Road, Waltair and Sambalpur.

During the period, ECoR loaded 55.28MT of coal, 3.66MT of raw material for steel plants, 9.62MT of iron and steel, 14.26MT of iron ore, 0.57MT of cement, 1.41MT of food grains, 2.43MT of fertilizer, 1.07MT of petroleum, oil and lubricant (POL), 1.87MT of freight loaded in con-

TWO SPL TRAINS TO RUN WITH REVISED SCHEDULE

BHUBANESWAR: The Railways has decided to revise the timings of Bhubaneswar-Secunderabad Visakha Special and Rayagada-Guntur Special at some of the stations under East Coast Railway (ECoR) jurisdiction with effect from September 17, 2021.

According to ECoR sources, 07015 Bhubaneswar-Secunderabad Visakha Special from Bhubaneswar with effect from September 17 will arrive at Tilaru at 13:17hrs and leave at 13:19hrs, Srikakulam Road at 13:35hrs/13:37hrs, Ponduru at 13:50hrs/13:52hrs, Chipurupalli at 14:10hrs/14:12hrs, Vizianagaram at 14:40hrs/14:45hrs and Kottavalasa at 15:13hrs/15:15hrs. The train will arrive at

Simhachalam North at 15:28hrs and leave at 15:30hrs towards Secunderabad instead of earlier scheduled timing. Similarly, 07244 Rayagada-Guntur Special from Rayagada will run with revised timings between Rayagada and Vizianagaram stations with effect from September 17.

This train will leave Rayagada at 15:30hrs instead of 14:50hrs and arrive at Vizianagaram at 17:55hrs. It will leave for Secunderabad at 18:00hrs instead of earlier scheduled timing. The train will run with revised timings at Parvatipuram Town, Parvatipuram, Sitanagaram, Bobbili, Donkinavalasa, Komatipalli and Gajapatnagar stations between Rayagada and Vizianagaram stations.

tainers and 10.14MT of other cargo.

Major contributors of freight include Talcher, Paradeep, Dhamara, Visakhapatnam, Gangavaram, Keonjhar, KK Line, Steel Plants, Aluminium plants and several other places under ECoR jurisdiction. During the period, 67.19MT of freight were car-

ried from Khurda Road Division, 28.24MT from Waltair Division and 4.83MT from Sambalpur Division.

During the first 10 days of September, 2021, ECoR carried 6.01MT of freight as against 5.30MT carried in same time of 2020 by registering an increase of 13.3% more freight.

FOR A LIQUOR-FREE SOCIETY



People under the banner of Pujya Puja Sansad pose for a photo op after submitting a memorandum to Puri Collector demanding closure of liquor shops in the Pilgrim City, Monday

OP PHOTO

2 die under ECMO support at SCB Govt wraps up Ashirbad scheme

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 13: The SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack registered two deaths on two consecutive days. Both the patients were Covid-19 affected and were under Extra-corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) treatment at the hospital.

A critical patient of Covid-19, who was the second in receiving the ECMO treatment at SCBMCH, died Sunday night while undergoing treatment for lungs complications.

According to a SCBMCH official, the deceased woman hailed from Bolangir district. She was admitted to the government-run



major facility here in critical condition August 29. She had severe lungs infection and was kept under ECMO support. However, she did not respond to the treatment and succumbed late Sunday night.

Before the fatality of Sunday, another patient from Pattamundai

area in Kendrapara district had also died during ECMO treatment at SCBMCH Saturday night.

He too was admitted for treatment August 29. The patient was then shifted from Covid-19 ward of SCBMCH to its Cardiothoracic Department.

The patient was the first in receiving ECMO treatment at SCBMCH as he had reached critical condition due to post-Covid complications in his lungs.

SCBMCH currently has two patients kept under ECMO support. A senior official of state Health department is also undergoing ECMO treatment in the Cardiothoracic Department. He was Covid infected and was earlier shifted from a private hospital in Bhubaneswar.

It is pertinent to mention that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had launched a dedicated ECMO facility at the SCBMCH August 27 to provide free ECMO treatment. Nine such machines were installed then.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: The state government Monday decided to discontinue the Ashirbad scheme under which assistance was being provided to children who had lost their parents due to Covid-19.

The Women and Child Development (W&CD) department issued a notification in this regard Monday.

The reason behind the discontinuation of this scheme is stated to be the declining trend of Covid-19 cases and deaths. It said that the viral disease has a declining trend in the state for quite some time.

As per the scheme's guidelines, it covers children who lost their par-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

The reason behind the discontinuation of this scheme is stated to be the declining trend of Covid-19 cases and deaths

ent(s) on or after April 1, 2020.

The scheme included monthly financial support and other convergent support for eligible children and their care givers.

It is now decided that if any such children whose parents/primary bread earner or any other person dies after September 15, 2021 shall only be covered under Child

Protection Scheme of the state government which is meant for children in need of care and protection and not under Ashirbad scheme. Earlier cases covered under Ashirbad scheme shall continue to get the benefits as mentioned in the scheme guidelines if they attain 18 years of age or till adoption as specified in the guidelines.

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IAY irregularities: Vigilance raids head clerk in Bhadrak



POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore/Bhadrak, Sept 13: Officials of Odisha Vigilance raided the premises of a head clerk at the Basudevpur block office in Bhadrak following allegations of embezzlement of large amounts of government funds, a report said. Vigilance sources said that simultaneous raids were undertaken at the property of Pravaakar Pradhan, a former senior clerk-cum-cashier of Tihidi block and presently the head clerk of Basudevpur block in Bhadrak,

and others. Four teams comprising two DSPs, five inspectors and other staff carried out the raids at five places in Bhadrak and Balasore districts.

According to Vigilance sources, Pradhan embezzled government funds to the tune of ₹20,25,000 sanctioned for 34 Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) beneficiaries in Tihidi block. He allegedly transferred the amount to the bank accounts of his spouse, mother and two other relatives during the financial years 2016-17 and 2017-18. A complaint was lodged against

Pradhan at Balasore Vigilance office following which a case was registered under relevant Sections of PC Act and IPC.

"Pradhan, his wife Nitu Pradhan and Ranjan Kumar Sahani (friend of Pradhan's relative) have been detained. Further investigation is on," sources in the Vigilance said.

Giving further details about the case, Santosh Kumar Mishra, SP of Balasore Vigilance unit said, "Earlier, the accused was arrested in connection with a disproportionate assets case in February 2018. This time, he directly embezzled ₹20.25 lakh from IAY funds during his stint as senior clerk."

"Pradhan had transferred funds from IAY funds to the bank accounts of his wife, mother, brother-in-law and his friend. Pradhan, his wife and the friend of his brother-in-law have been detained," he added.



Farmers staging a road blockade on NH-55 at Jujumara in Sambalpur protesting unavailability of their insurance claims for 2020 kharif season

FARM INSURANCE

Trenches fail to bar jumbos from entering villages

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gondia/Champua, Sept 13: Herds of elephants recently went on a rampage in Gondia block of Dhenkanal district and Champua range in Keonjhar district. Locals alleged that trenches dug around the forests have failed to prevent the entry of elephants into human settlements in Gondia, reports said. For last two days, a herd of elephants have trampled paddy in five acres at Khankira panchayat. Upset over the continued elephant menace, local farmers have blamed the Forest department for the problem.

"The Forest department has failed to drive out the animals as trenches dug in forested areas are unable to prevent animals from straying into villages," locals alleged.

Elephant menace has become common in Gondia area, but instead of addressing the issue, the Forest department has confined its responsibilities to just paying compensation to the affected people, locals lamented.

They also pointed out that the Forest department has spent around ₹70 lakh towards digging trenches

in the area, but a passage near Brahmantaila has been allowed over the trenches for communication. This has made it easy for elephants to come out of the forest from the Jajpur side and unleash a reign of terror and damage crops in the nearby villages, they said.

Sarpanch Sribatsa Sethi said that Forest officials have failed to contain the elephant menace. He demanded a special squad to keep track of elephants.

Similarly, Champua range has been routinely witnessing elephant menace. A herd of 25 elephants strayed from Mayurbhanj and crossed Baitarani river.

These pachyderms have damaged crops in several acres of land at Bardhana, Jajpasi, Parudipasi, Nuagaon and Kankada.

A 40-member team comprising Forest officials from Keonjhar, Barbil and Champua ranges has been engaged to drive out the animals. Meanwhile, a herd of elephants was holed up in Malipasi, while another herd stayed in Bardhana forest. Villagers alleged that the animals frequent the villages and damage crops and properties at night.



State to construct extension buildings of KGBVs in Ganjam



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Sept 13: The Odisha government has decided to construct the extension buildings of the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) with an investment of around ₹15-crore in Ganjam district in order to accommodate more girl students in the hostels, official sources said.

Presently 17 KGBVs are functioning in different blocks of the district and each hostel is accommodating 100 girl students of Classes VI to VII.

The government has sanctioned the construction of the extension buildings of each hostel to accommodate 100 more girl students of Class IX and X, said district project coordinator, Samagra Siksha

Abhiyan (SSA) Binita Senapati. The cost of each extension building was around ₹1 crore, she said. "We have already floated a tender for construction of extension buildings of 15 out of 17 KGBVs in the district," she said. The new hostel buildings are expected to be completed in a year. The construction of the new buildings in the KGBVs in Rangelunda and Khallikote blocks faced land problems at present, she said. "While the new building design in the Khallikote block would be changed to construct the new hostel building, we are searching for the land in the nearby hostel of the KGBVs in Rangelunda block," she said.

The KGBV scheme was launched by the Central government with an

aim to boost education among the girls, where they are being provided free residential education. The scheme is to benefit the school girls who are deprived of education and those who are in financial distress in rural areas and to arrest the school dropout among the girls.

However, with facilities being offered only till class VIII in KGBVs, it was observed many girl students of poor families were dropping out for lack of adequate facilities after Class VIII.

As a result, it has been decided to introduce the same residential facilities in the hostels of KGBVs to even girls enrolled in Classes IX and X in the nearby schools from next year, sources said. In some other states, including Uttar Pradesh, the hostel facilities in the KGBVs were extended to the girl students from Class VIII to XII, sources added.

Man swept away while catching fish; body recovered

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nischintakoili, Sept 13: The body of a man who went missing after being washed away at Patnai under Nischintakoili police limits in Cuttack district was fished out from the water body Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Sanjay Rout (41), a resident of Akurikha village in Natkai panchayat.

According to the villagers, Sanjay had gone to the Patnai near the Trinath temple to catch fish Monday morning. While throwing the net into

the water, he lost his balance and was swept away by the current.

Eye witnesses immediately informed the Fire department. Fire personnel reached the spot and carried out a search operation. After an hour-long operation, they fished out the body.

One being informed, police reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem. As the news of the tragedy spread, a pall of gloom descended over the village.

Manikapatna caught in territorial dispute

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Sept 13: The dispute over territorial jurisdiction on Manikapatna village of Gangabada panchayat under Rayagada block in Gajapati district is intensifying with each passing day. On the other hand, the state government has allegedly been maintaining a stoic silence on the issue and is yet to show any promptitude, a report said.

Sources said that S Apala Raju, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Minister of Andhra Pradesh, visited Manikapatna village in Gajapati district recently, and reportedly misbehaved with some senior administrative officials. He forcibly unlocked an Anganwadi centre established by the administration of Andhra Pradesh and later sealed by the Gajapati district administration.

Raju distributed eggs among the children and even engaged in a heated argument with Gajapati officials after unlocking the centre. He directed the Andhra police to patrol the area and keep a watch on the movements of Gajapati officials. Such blatant display of high-handedness by the Andhra minister triggered tension in the area. It prompted the Gajapati district administration to deploy a section of

BORDER ROW WITH ANDHRA



LINGARAJ PANDA | DISTRICT COLLECTOR

police force in the area to thwart any law and order situation due to the intrusion of by Andhra minister.

According to reports, Andhra Pradesh has been conspiring for the last 15 years to usurp Manikapatna village. Inhabitants of Manikapatna village, Gangabada and Kerandi panchayats alleged that the Odisha government has not been taking any steps to thwart the designs of the neighbouring state in the area. State Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra visited Gajapati district and reviewed various developmental projects. However, Mohapatra remained

Garabandh police is patrolling the area to thwart any law and order situation, while Odisha government will take the right steps against the alleged misbehaviour of Andhra Minister

LINGARAJ PANDA | DISTRICT COLLECTOR

tightlipped over the Manikapatna border dispute, which has sparked tension in the area. Lack of road connectivity is the main problem in the bordering villages in Odisha. As many as 44 families belonging to tribal communities inhabit Manikapatna village. They eke out a living from cultivation, livestock farming and by collecting minor forest produce.

These villagers are forced to travel through Manjusha in Andhra Pradesh and then through Garabandh village in Gajapati to avail healthcare services and to attend other works in the block headquarters of Rayagada. They

often face serious difficulties while travelling through dense forests and lonesome hilly roads to reach Rayagada block headquarters. The villagers have been repeatedly demanding for construction of a road from Gangabada panchayat to the block headquarters during last 15 years but the state government is yet to pay heed to their pleas.

As a result, the villagers are being forced to travel through Manjusha of Andhra Pradesh. During elections, ministers of Andhra government, politicians and officials visited the gangabada panchayat and lured the residents to vote for their candidates. The villagers, however, claimed they have refused all such inducements.

They have been collecting minor forest produce from forests in Odisha but the traders from Andhra Pradesh are fleeing them. Deeply hurt, they have stopped selling the forest produce to Andhra traders. Instead, now they are selling these to local traders. This has left the Andhra traders frustrated and are unleashing tension in the area.

When contacted, District Collector Lingaraj Panda said that Garabandh police is patrolling the area to thwart any law and order situation, while Odisha government will take the right steps against the alleged misbehaviour of Andhra minister.

Ganjam jail to get skill development centre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Sept 13: The Ganjam district administration in Odisha has decided to set up a centre for skill development on the premises of a jail to provide training to the inmates, an official said Monday.

The skill-development programmes will help the inmates earn their livelihood once they are released, the official said.

Around 50 out of 197 inmates of the Chhatrapur sub-jail have already completed a three-day training on the production of brooms and dry food items.

They have produced around 500 brooms in a week, sources said.

The skill-based training was imparted to the prisoners in collaboration with the Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) and Mission Shakti.

"In the coming days, we will provide training in some other areas, basically keeping in mind the interest of the inmates," District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) project director Dattatraya Bhausaheb said.

The district administration will sanction ₹10 lakh from the District Mineral Fund (DMF) for the construction of the skill development training building on the jail premises, Bhausaheb said.

The main objective of the training is to make the prisoners self-reliant and to enhance their skills, said Subhasmita Biswal, the superintendent-cum jailor.

"With these skills, they can lead a decent life and make themselves self-reliant after being released from the jail," she said. Ganjam Gruhini Producers' Company Ltd, a company formed by women's self-help groups, has been entrusted to market the products.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRMI/Engg/KUR/21-22/E-Tender/57
Dt. 09.09.2021

(1) Tender No. e-tender-Estate-KUR-153-2021, Dtd. 07.09.2021

DESCRIPTION: SETTING UP OF ECoR RAIL MUSEUM (PHASE-I & PHASE-II) OF EAST COAST RAILWAY AT BHUBANESWAR.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹96.79 Lakhs

(2) Tender No. e-tender-Estate-KUR-152-2021, Dtd. 07.09.2021

DESCRIPTION: HIRING OF ONE LIGHT MOTOR VEHICLE FOR OFFICIAL USE OF SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ BHUBANESWAR OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF 03 YEARS AND HIRING OF ONE NO. OF LIGHT MOTOR VEHICLE (TATA SUMO / MAHINDRA BOLERO OR SIMILAR NON AC) FOR ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (SETTLEMENT) / HEADQUARTERS/RAJASIKHARPUR OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF 03 YEARS.

Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹26.49 Lakhs

Completion Period : 03 (Three) Months (For Sl. No. 1) & 33 (Thirty Three) Months (For Sl. No. 2).

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 28.09.2021 (for both Tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website: <https://www.irps.gov.in>

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/compendia issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / PR-369/M/21-22 Khurda Road

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E-Tender Call Notice No. 'TCN No. 13/21-22' Dated: 09.09.2021

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

No. CAD-1163: Sealed tenders are invited in two parts i.e. (i) Techno Commercial Bid & (ii) Price Bid in separate sealed envelopes from the reputed Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers for the following works.

Description of Work	Cost of Tender Paper (Non-refundable) in Rs.	EMD/Bid Security in Rs.	Period of Sale/Download of Tender Document	Last date & time of receipt of Tender	Date & Time of Opening of Techno Commercial Bids
Supply & Installation of 2 Nos. 125KVA (6 Cylinder), 3 Phase silent type DG Sets & 1 No. Mobile DG set of 62.5 KVA, 3 Phase silent type DG set of Mahindra & Mahindra make along with accessories.	7,080/- (+6,000/- + 18% GST)	Declaration Form is to be submitted as per Annexure - 6	14.09.2021 at 10.00 A.M.	28.09.2021 at 4.00 P.M.	01.10.2021

For details terms and conditions of the Tender, please visit our website www.ohpcitd.com.
OIPR-32211/11/0004/2122 Sd/- Executive Engineer, S&M Division, UIHEP, Khatiguda

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

REGIONAL OFFICE: BALASORE
3rd Floor, Asis Plaza, OT Road,
Bhaskarganj, Balasore-756001

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property)

[RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES - 2002]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Jajpur Road Branch-2 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act. No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Co-obligants/Guarantors in loan A/c mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-obligants/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Co-obligants/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India, Jajpur Road Branch-2 for an amount mentioned below with interest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the Borrower to redeem the secured assets.

JAJPUR ROAD BRANCH-2 / Name and Address of Borrower / Co-Obligants / Guarantors	Liabilities due as per Notice (in ₹)	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of Immovable Property
Borrower: M/s. Maa Gayatri Resources, Prop.: Mr. Akshya Kumar Samal, At: Mangarajpur, P.O.: Naguan, P.S.: Korei, Dist.: Jajpur, Odisha-755019	₹ 1,41,75,698.82 as on 31.03.2021 + interest thereon	13.05.2021 / 08.09.2021	All that part of the property consisting of Immovable Property of
Co-Obligants / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Babaji Charan Samal, S/o.: Late Mahani Samal, 2) Mrs. Padmavati Samal, W/o.: Mr. Ramesh Chandra Chakra, Both are At: Mangarajpur, P.O.: Naguan, P.S.: Korei, Dist.: Jajpur, Odisha-755019			Equitable Mortgage of Residential Land in the name of Mr. Babaji Charan Samal, Khata No.: 88, Plot No.: 72, 73 and 74, Area: Ac.2.99 dec at Mouza: Mangarajpur, P.S.: Korei, Dist.: Jajpur, Bounded By North: Own land Plot No.: 58, South: Govt land (Nala), East: Plot of Narayan Samal and Ramakanta Samal, West: Enclosure Road over govt road which connect to village road

Place: Balasore, Date: 13.09.2021 Sd/- Authorised Officer

FOCUS INDIA

REOPEN SCHOOLS



Reopening schools will need planning and imagination. Maybe initially it can be partial attendance with the rotation of students. But offline contact with teachers is essential for a child's cognitive development

A nationwide survey covering 15 states has found that online education is simply not working. For the past 17 months, most primary and upper-primary schools have been closed and are working in online mode. How effective is the teaching and the learning? We have had plenty of anecdotal evidence. Even when there is a solo smartphone in the family it is given as priority to the student for online learning. Even with working phones or tablets, there have been connectivity or bandwidth problems. There is lack of close engagement with teachers. Excluding some urban elite schools, the informal impression is that the experience is highly unsatisfactory for students, teachers and parents. This informal impression has been validated by a rigorous study and a recently published report.

The report titled 'Emergency Report on School Education' (ERSE) has been prepared by noted economist Jean Dreze and Reetika Khara along with researchers Nirali Bakhla and Vipul Paikra. It is based on the work of more than 100 volunteers who did an exhaustive survey of nearly 1400 students studying in classes I to VIII in schools located in Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The findings are shocking. Only 8 per cent students in rural areas, and 24 per cent in urban areas are studying online regularly. In recent months, 19 per cent in urban and 37 per cent in rural areas are not studying at all. These students have completely dropped out. More than half - 52 per cent in urban areas and 71 per cent in rural areas have not met their teacher(s) in the past 30 days prior to the survey.

against the benefits of reopening schools. Due to stricter adherence to protocols, better understanding of treatment of the infection, and increasing immunity from vaccinations and herd immunity, the risks are worth taking. Not surprisingly 97 per cent of parents from rural areas strongly support reopening of schools. In fact, in response to the question of reopening, one respondent replied by asking, "Do you even need to ask us this question?"

We should not let COVID be the alibi for all kinds of decisions to continue lockdowns. Even though this pandemic is without a precedent, we now have enough documented experience from around the world, and from within India to help us in planning a complete reopening. Last year with a sudden, harsh and complete lockdown, it was posed as a tradeoff between lives and livelihoods. But after nearly 18 months it need not be. Many jobs last year, especially for daily workers, the informal sector, retail and hospitality have been lost forever. Those livelihoods need help and support. Equally important, if not more, is to stop the slide in India's human capital. The children of today are the workers of tomorrow.

The ERSE report is a wake up call, if one was needed. Beyond the statistics on deprivation of on-line schooling and decline in reading skills, it also mentions the slide in behavioural aspects. Parents have complained that due to idleness, lack of exercise, and phone addiction children have become undisciplined, aggressive or even violent. Families have had to cope with many such stressful situations. Clearly, the benefits of school reopening go far beyond merely developing reading and writing skills.

The writer is an economist and Senior Fellow, Takshashila Institution.

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The drastic reduction in schooling inputs is dramatically evident in poor reading skills, which

means that literacy levels will go down further during the pandemic. The closure of primary schools for nearly 500 days has had a negative impact in several ways. First, is a regression in literacy. Secondly, mid-day meals have been discontinued, affecting the nutrition levels of students, although the report says that 80 per cent of kids from government schools did receive a substitute for the mid-day meal at school. But there were 20 per cent students in urban, and 14 per cent in rural areas who did not get any substitute at all - neither food nor cash. Thirdly, now that kids would be promoted without exams, they would be enrolled in the next class, say class V, when their reading skills had degraded to class III at best. Making up this gap would need a herculean effort as this effect could last for several years. Fourthly, the impact broken down by socio-economic classes is even more alarming. For instance, among Dalits and Adivasis, only 5 per cent of students are attending online classes, and not just watching pre-recorded videos. In this group the literacy rate has dropped to 61 per cent. The decline in reading abilities and literacy is going to be felt across

THE RISKS OF A THIRD WAVE OR DELTA VARIANT AFFECTING STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ARE TO BE BALANCED AGAINST THE BENEFITS OF REOPENING SCHOOLS



Ajit Ranade

SPECTRUM AFGHANISTAN

Is Biden ending Islamophobia?



Saeed Naqvi

Our media has been pegging away, at a nagging length, on the 'terrorists' in the Taliban cabinet and who are controlled by Pakistan. The information available to us would have been so much more reliable had our embassy not shut entirely. Our ambassador had to leave early because in the Taliban versus US-Ghani conflict we clearly sided with the losing side.

Is the media campaign against an alleged Talib-Pak compact part of our rearguard action? Considering that the first demonstration by women was against Pakistan interference in Kabul proves two things: that a demonstration can take place under Talib rule and that Pakistan being the target is occasion for reflection: Indians are not unpopular at the street level, Pakistan is.

Consistency continued to define coordination with the defeated occupiers at the UN where, as rotational President of the Security Council, we navigated a resolution on Afghanistan on terms which caused Russia and China to abstain. This does not mean we are not on talking terms with Moscow. In fact, Nikolai Patrushev, Russian National Security chief was in the capital on the same day as CIA Director William Burns.

How long will the media froth in the mouth about Talib-Pak perfidy? Supposing the Talibs consolidate themselves independent of Islamabad, will the media

trounced, not Talibs coming to power. That the Talibs beat the mighty power entities them to admiration, not their Islamism and the accompanying optics.

When former PM Manmohan Singh invited then President George W Bush, during his March 2006 visit to New Delhi, to address a joint session of Parliament, Muslims protested in such large numbers that Ramlila ground overflowed onto the roads. It was acute Muslim anger at Bush for having spread Islamophobia worldwide in the guise of the global war on terror.

Bush's address to the two Houses was called off. The President picnicked at the Old Fort instead. In other words, anti-Americanism is all pervasive among Muslims for an obvious reason: US-led war on terror indiscriminately cast them in unacceptable stereotypes.

PM Modi may know a thing or two about political profit from the war on terror. By an amazing configuration of stars, Modi was sworn in as CM of Gujarat October 7, 2001, exactly the day when the US began air strikes on Afghanistan. When the world's most spectacular fireworks dominated TV screens 24x7, terrorism became the flavour of the season for our leaders. When I turned up at Godhra after the train carnage, Collector Jayanti Ravi was unable to give details because, she said, the case had been instantly handed over to Vijay Vipul, DIG anti-terror squad,

even before preliminary inquiries had been made. The carnage was an act of terror: period.

With the suddenness of revelation, Joe Biden has announced an end to 'never ending' wars on terror; a stance most disorienting for rulers who cannot conceive life sans Islamophobia.

The Taliban are not the only problem. All countries ringing Afghanistan are Muslim. The only non-Muslim neighbour is China, which is worse. EAM S Jaishankar has been meeting Iranian leaders in Tehran. He may be able to corroborate well known Palestinian journalist Abdel Bari Atwan who is convinced that the ferocity of the Taliban advance was not the only reason for victory. Covert help from Russia and Iran were too.

One reason for eliminating the iconic Quds Force Commander Qasem Soleimani was the fact that he planned military strategy for the Taliban, persuaded them to shed their anti-Shiaism and convinced his regime that the Taliban were the only force with wide support among the country's 18 million Pushtun - they alone could forge a wider coalition to defeat America. All of this should provide comfort. Pakistan may not be the only puppeteer pulling the strings.

The writer is a senior commentator on political and diplomatic issues.

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Tackling terror

Sir, The 9/11 terror attacks on America are permanently etched in public memory. That was the first time the US had been attacked by an outside force since 1941 when Japan attacked Pearl Harbour. The boldness and the careful planning by al-Qaeda showed the vulnerability of the security system of all countries. There is no denying the fact that no country is invulnerable to terrorism. Vigilance is the key to stop any crime including terrorism. It is ironic that the hijackers of the plane that crashed into the Pentagon were routinely screened and given clearance to board the plane in the US. Although the CIA had given warnings about terrorist attacks in the US, the state agencies ignored them. The 9/11 terror attacks exemplify that political instability in a country breeds terror. Extraordinary political instability existed in the US before the terror attacks. The political infighting at that time in the US was unheard of. Further, coordination among the government machinery failed. As a consequence, about 3,000 people lost their lives. Another important lesson to be learned from these attacks is that the fight against terrorism is far from over. It must be understood that over 100 countries in the world are victims of terrorism. The most important lesson to be learned is that national and global security agencies must not lower their guard at any point of time. Given that terrorists need only a loophole to kill humanity, these agencies must always be on alert. The US has completed the withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan. On the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, al-Qaeda may be defeated, but it is clear that Islamic extremism remains a threat.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

Gujarat surprise

Sir, The BJP threw an enormous surprise by electing first-time legislator Bhupendra Patel as the new Chief Minister of Gujarat. The move would mollify the influential Patidar community that has eyed the post for long and nip any anti-incumbency in the bud before the 2022 Assembly polls. Patel is a protégé of former Chief Minister and incumbent Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, and his selection checkmates several contenders for the top post, including outgoing Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel and Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. However, it will be a baptism by fire for the political greenhorn, and it will be interesting to see how he acquires himself.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Shuffling CMs

Springing surprises has become a stock-in-trade for the BJP under the stewardship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Starting from the dramatic and disastrous demoralization, the style of functioning of the two tallest leaders of the saffron brigade has now left its imprint once again on the surprise selection of the Gujarat Chief Minister, Bhupendra Patel who earns the rare distinction of being catapulted to the top slot after becoming an MLA for the first time in his rather obscure political career. If taking the Opposition off guard had propelled Modi-Shah combine to resort to making surprise decisions on major issues, injecting the element of surprise into the shuffling of Chief Ministers in BJP-ruled states has more compelling reasons and is turning out to be a dire political necessity. It is no coincidence that the new Gujarat Chief Minister becomes the fifth new face in the past six months to head the party's state governments. Before the ousted Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani, the BJP had shown the door to four other Chief Ministers - BS Yediyurappa in Karnataka, Sarbananda Sonowal in Assam and the double exit in Uttarakhand of Tirath Singh Rawat and Trivendra Rawat.

Tirath Singh Rawat resigned as Uttarakhand's Chief Minister July 3, less than six months after taking oath March 10. He had replaced Trivendra Singh Rawat. But, he was replaced by Pushkar Singh Dhami July 4. Then it was the turn of Yediyurappa who resigned July 26 after weeks of uncertainty. The choice of Patel is the most surprising of the lot since Rupani, the BJP had shown the door to four other Chief Ministers - BS Yediyurappa in Karnataka, Sarbananda Sonowal in Assam and the double exit in Uttarakhand of Tirath Singh Rawat and Trivendra Rawat.

Normally, political parties punish their non-performing or corrupt MPs and MLAs by denying them tickets in the next polls. But, removing incumbent CMs in such quick succession to save the government from being dislodged through people's mandate is a new trend. The BJP top leadership is seemingly trying to send out a message. It will rather accept Opposition's ridicule than risk the government in the next term. The trend started since the party's defeat in the Jharkhand election six months after the BJP won a massive victory in the Lok Sabha in 2019. It lost the election in Jharkhand to the alliance led by Hemant Soren. This was on the cards considering the extreme unpopularity of the then BJP Chief Minister Raghubar Das. Local leaders lobbied for the removal of Das, but the warning was not heeded and the party lost. The defeat in Jharkhand and the survival of the Haryana BJP government by a wafer thin majority achieved through a coalition must have taught the top party brass the lesson of changing unpopular CMs in time.

A variation of the strategy has brought success in Assam where the BJP did not deliberately project the sitting Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal as its Chief Ministerial candidate for a second term. Instead, a general perception was created that Himanta Biswa Sarma, a more popular figure, could be elevated to the top slot. The tactic worked and Sonowal was eventually replaced with Sarma after the BJP won the elections.

Rupani has been replaced to deflect public criticism of his inept handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, growing unemployment and agricultural crisis. The party also seeks to assuage the anger of the influential Patid community nursing a grouse against Rupani's poor performance and over-dependence on the bureaucracy by appointing a member of the community as the Chief Minister. There are a number of experienced and senior BJP leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel, who are suited for the job. But, they could have been sidelined for a possible different strategy. The Modi-Shah leadership has chosen as Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Uttarakhand and now Gujarat party loyalists without virtually any standing. The national leadership might have understood that the average voter, though supportive of Modi, wants an able and honest Chief Minister in the state. These non-entities having been propped up may not be able to show signs of capability before the polls but will equally deflect all corruption charges and public anger that the previous incumbents had gathered. Choosing such pygmies could also ensure they do not stand shoulder to shoulder with the Prime Minister during the campaign trail. Thus, it might be easier to woo winning legislators from other parties if they visualize a weak leader with no base or group since they may foresee their own elevation if they join the BJP.

The series of Chief Ministerial replacements has obviously been greeted with barbs and jibes by the Opposition, especially the Aam Admi Party which is positioning itself as a viable alternative in Uttarakhand and Gujarat taking advantage of the weakness of the Congress. In the case of Gujarat, it has reasons enough to stake such a claim as in the recent municipal elections in Surat, it inflicted a crushing defeat on the BJP, bagging 27 seats cashing in on the growing disenchantment of the people with the saffron party. This is no mean achievement by any standard. The AAP and the Congress have started making much noise after Rupani's resignation going to the extent of predicting that the change of guard in Gujarat signals the end of the BJP there. It remains to be seen whether this strategy of the BJP works in the coming polls in Gujarat and that too how successful it will be.

WISDOM CORNER

- You were born to win, but to be a winner, you must plan to win, prepare to win, and expect to win. **ZIG ZIGLAR**
- Life is 10 per cent what happens to you and 90 per cent how you react to it. **CHARLES R. SWINDOLL**
- I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination. **JIMMY DEAN**

WORDSWORTH

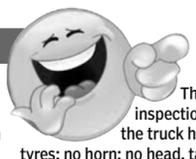
■ Peanut gallery

This has a theatrical origin, and goes back to America at the end of the nineteenth century. The peanut gallery was the topmost tier of seats, the cheapest in the house, a long way from the stage. The same seats in British theatres were (and still are) often called the gods because you were so high you seemed to be halfway to heaven, up there with the allegorical figures that were often painted on the ceiling. On both sides of the Atlantic, these seats attracted an impecunious class of patron, with a strong sense of community, often highly irreverent and with a well-developed ability to heckle, hence the modern figurative meaning. A significant difference between the American and British theatres is that American patrons ate peanuts; these made wonderful missiles for showing their opinion of artistes they didn't like. Most Americans of a certain age will know the phrase because it was used in a slightly different sense in the fifties children's television programme, the Howdy Doody Show. There it was the name for the ground-level seating for the kids, the "peanuts," though the phrase was almost certainly derived from the older sense. They were just as noisy and irreverent as their theatrical forebears, or indeed the groundlings of Shakespeare's time, with a liking for low humour and a total lack of sense or discrimination.

LOL

Inspecting the truck

A young man was walking into town one day when a wood hauler gave him a ride. After travelling about a mile or two, the truck was stopped by the highway patrol for a weight check and inspection.



The truck inspection revealed the truck had slick tyres; no horn; no head, tail or signal lights; no windshield wipers. Also, it was overloaded and had bad brakes. "Mister," the patrolman said to the driver, "I think the best way to charge you is 'hauling wood without a truck.'"

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

IGC rescues 11 fishermen stranded near Sagar island

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradeep, Sept 13: The Indian Coast Guard rescued 11 crew members of a fishing boat named FB MAASHITALA (Reg No IND-WB-CM-MM-354) that was stranded at sea around 35 Nm south of Sagar Island.

While the Indian Coast Guard ships at sea were engaged in relaying weather warning to fishermen, information was received from the Assistant Director Fisheries, Contai, at 0845 hrs September 12, intimating about the stranded fishing boat. The boat reportedly suffered engine failure and was adrift in area. Realising the emergency, the crew dropped anchor and called for help.

Indian Coast Guard immediately launched a multifarious swift rescue operation. The Coast Guard Dornier undertaking surveillance in area was immediately diverted



The crew was supplied with basic necessities, brought to Haldia by Indian Coast Guard ship and handed over to local police

to locate the boat.

Meanwhile, Indian Coast Guard ship Anmol on routine deployment was diverted for assistance. The Coast Guard aircraft located the fishing boat and vectored the Indian Coast Guard ship to the location. In a sea-air coordinated operation, braving the rough seas and prevailing cyclonic conditions, Indian Coast Guard ship Anmol rescued all 11 crew members safely from stranded fishing boat.

The crew was supplied with basic necessities and their condition was observed to be stable. The crew

members were brought to Haldia by Indian Coast Guard ship at 1730 hrs September 12 and were handed over to local police. All precautions regarding Covid-19 pandemic were observed during the operation.

The Coast Guard vessels on deployment and aircraft on surveillance are sensitising fishermen at sea and guiding them to return harbour. All Coast Guard establishments and ships based in West Bengal and Odisha have been alerted and directed to maintain the highest state of preparedness to meet any contingency.



Women artistes performing a street play at Bidei Bazar under Basudevapur block in Bhadrak district to create awareness about various government schemes for farmers

Rusikulya river swells, triggers panic

POST NEWS NETWORK

Purusottampur, Sept 13: Owing to heavy rains, the water level in Rusikulya river has started rising in Ganjam, a report said.

Currently, the water is flowing at an elevation of 13.32 meters in the river even as there is no let-up in the low-pressure induced rain.

Officials have been asked to keep a watch on the possible flood situation. This has pressed the panic button for locals living in the riparian pockets.

Officials, meanwhile, have visited the riparian villages and advised them to shift to safer places.

Large tracts of farmlands are waterlogged, while normal life has been disrupted, reports said.



100-yr-old house caves in

Berhampur: As low-pressure-induced rain has been pounding the state for the last three days, a 100-year-old house named Puruna Telugu Samajam Kotha in Berhampur caved in late Sunday night. However, no casualties were reported. BeMC commissioner Siddheswar Baliram visited the spot Monday.

Notably, this building was constructed in 1912 near Giri Market. Many members of this Samaj had taken part in the freedom struggle. Telugu community has been celebrating its festivals and organising various programmes at this venue.

Incessant rain hits normal life in Paradip

Paradip: Normal life in this district has been severely disrupted owing to incessant rains that have been lashing out Jagatsinghpur since the last three days. The port town Paradip is the worst affected.

Rains accompanied by wind have forced people to confine themselves within the four walls of their homes. Along with the heavy downpour, the sea has also become turbulent. While the Madhuban area is completely waterlogged, many low-lying areas in the district are marooned. At some places, road communication has been snapped as huge uprooted trees are lying

across the roads. At places, electric utility poles were also uprooted.

In the low-lying areas, rain water has entered many houses, leaving the occupants to fend for them. Even Kujang police station experienced the same plight. Since rain water entered the police station, a fire engine was roped in to pump out water. Similarly, many villages in Balikuda, Ersama, Naugaon and Tirtol are submerged, cutting them off from the rest of the world.

Many areas in Angul cut-off from remaining world

Boinda: Communication was thrown out of gear in many parts of Kishorenagar and

Athamallik blocks in Angul district due to heavy downpours in the last 24 hours. Many villages were waterlogged while the three main roads in the area are under water.

Farmlands have been waterlogged, while rivers and creeks in the area are swelling with rainwater. Reports said that communication on the Sanahula-Kurtibasa road, Kusumpata-Balipata road and Barpali-Kurtibasa road has been disrupted as rainwater is flowing over them.

Road communication to scores of villages in Paikasahi, Sapaghara, Tapadhol and Kantapada panchayats has remained cut-off.

Water lab goes kaput, sample testing affected

POST NEWS NETWORK



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chandikhole, Sept 13: The water testing laboratory at Chandikhole under Barchana block in Jajpur district to test water samples collected from Barchana, Dharmashala, Bari and Rasulpur blocks has not been functioning properly for a considerable period of time.

Though thousands of tube-wells in the region are lying defunct, the laboratory, which is managed by Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division and functioning from Chandikhole executive engineer's office premises, maintains that they are working effectively.

The laboratory has four staff – two lab chemists, two lab assistants and one sample collector.

The job of sample collector is to collect water samples from different areas in the four blocks of Barchana, Dharmashala, Bari and Rasulpur. The quality of water in different areas is known from the tests done at the laboratory. Before the Rural Drinking Water Supply department digs any tube-well, the

sample of water from the area is collected and tested at the laboratory to ascertain if the water is fit for consumption.

While the concerned department claims that water samples are being collected from over 250 places every month, sources claimed that the samples are actually being collected from only 20 to 30 places. Moreover, even though the laboratory is under lock and key for most of the time, the documents maintained by it says testing is being done at a vigorous pace.

What makes people doubt the laboratory's performance is that it has only one staff to collect samples from over 250 places in four blocks every month. Is it possible for a person to collect water samples from 250 places every month, they asked.

When contacted, executive engineer of Chandikhole Drinking Water Supply department Sushant Kumar Ghadei said, "Every month, water samples collected from over 250 places are being tested here. We are yet to come across water samples containing iron."

Jaleswar flyover projects to be completed by 2022

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jaleswar, Sept 13: Despite commencing work way back in 2018, construction work of two flyovers in Jaleswar area of Balasore is yet to be completed. It is said that the work will be completed by September 2022.

According to reports, the coastal town of Jaleswar has been facing commuting problems for years. Locals and various outfits have staged protests in the past to streamline the traffic, which often goes for



The deadline of two flyover projects expired in 2019. A high-power tower line was said to be obstructing the construction work

toss for various reasons.

An assistant engineer of the Public Works department visited the project sites recently and re-

vealed that the work will be completed by September, 2022.

The foundation stone of a flyover was laid at Chalanti on OT Road con-

necting Jaleswar with NH-60. The contractor who was awarded the work for the flyover had agreed to complete the work by 2019.

However, the deadline has expired, but the project remained incomplete. It was said that a high power tower line was obstructing the construction work. The Works department had also delayed paying Rs 2.15 crore towards the shifting of tower.

Due to Covid pandemic, the construction work was delayed again. Now, concrete work of 27 spans has just started.

'Go Shradddha' to check bovine menace goes astray

EFFORTS OF THE DIST ADMIN TO KEEP THE STREETS FREE OF STRAY CATTLE HAS FAILED TO YIELD DESIRED RESULTS OWING TO LACK OF COOPERATION FROM CATTLE OWNERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, Sept 13: With a view to keep stray cattle away from streets, to make the Subarnapur cleaner and minimise the number of accidents, District Collector Aboli Sunil Naravane, who assumed the post recently, has launched 'Go Shradddha' programme here, August 15.

Initially the initiative was welcomed by the city dwellers, but as the days passed by, the cattle rearers stopped cooperating with the authorities, resulting in the initiative dying a premature death.

As of now, on any day at any given time, hundreds of stray cattle can be seen loitering or sleeping on main roads, lanes and by lanes. This has again started causing inconvenience to commuters. Accidents caused by these stray animals are also on the rise.

At the time of launching the 'Go Shradddha', the district administration and the municipal authorities had asked the cattle rearers not to let their cattle free on the roads. They were asked to take care of their domestic animals and keep them confined to their sheds. Moreover, they were requested to



At the time of launching the 'Go Shradddha', the district administration and the municipal authorities had asked the cattle rearers not to let their cattle free on the roads. They were asked to take care of their domestic animals and keep them confined to their sheds. Moreover, they were requested to cooperate with the administration to keep the city clean and free from cattle on the roads.

The district administration's plan to hand the cattle over to farmers or anyone interested in adopting them after seven days of their capture has not yet been implemented. Since there is no other kine house in the city and the existing one is already packed to its capacity, the remaining wandering cattle, numbering to around 500, are allowed to roam free. In such a situation, the future of 'Go Shradddha' initiative can easily be guessed

cooperate with the administration to keep the city clean and free from cattle on the roads.

Subsequently, cattle roaming on roads or in markets were caught and taken to the kine house at Kolhapada. At present, there are as many as 50 cows in this kine house. Surprisingly enough, no one has come forward to claim the ownership of these animals.

At the same time, the district administration's plan to hand the cattle over to farmers or anyone interested in adopting them after seven days of their capture has not yet been imple-

mented. Since there is no other kine house in the city and the existing one is already packed to its capacity, the remaining wandering cattle, numbering to around 500, are allowed to roam free. In such a situation, the future of 'Go Shradddha' initiative can easily be guessed.

When contacted, executive officer of Sonepur municipality Suryanshu Root said, "No one is turning up to claim the cattle kept at the kine house. We have intimated the police about it in writing. They are going to take appropriate step in this regard."



TRAINING PROGRAMME

Dairy farmers being imparted training on fodder preparations at Dabugaon area in Nabarangpur district

OP PHOTO

K'TAKA ASSEMBLY SESSION

Cong leaders ride bullock carts

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Sept 13: The Monsoon Session got off to a stormy start in Karnataka Monday with the opposition Congress leaders arriving on bullock carts to the Vidhana Soudha to highlight the issue of rising prices.

Former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa attended the session, but sat in the last row.

Opposition leader Siddaramaiah and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President DK Shivakumar reached the Vidhana Soudha on bullock carts with their supporters to register their protest against the rising prices of fuel and daily commodities.

Traffic was thrown out of gear as hundreds of supporters and many legislators took part in the bullock cart procession.

"The BJP government is indulging in pickpocketing the common man. This is a pickpocket government. We can't sit quiet. We will invent new ways of protests until the prices of essential commodities are brought down," Shivakumar said.

"No government in history has allowed inflation like the ruling BJP. The fuel rate here is higher than Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan. India has become the nation levying maximum tax on fuel. Former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee had equated the price hike to 'criminal loot'. The ruling BJP is in-



Leader of Opposition in Karnataka Assembly Siddaramaiah and KPCC president DK Shivakumar with party workers arrive in a bullock cart to attend the Assembly session at Vidhana Soudha

Yediyurappa attended the session and sat in the last row

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai reacted to the bullock cart protest by saying: "Let the Congress leaders come to the session and I am ready to give a befitting answer to their questions. Why didn't they protest during the UPA

government's tenure, even then there was inflation," he asked.

Prior to attending the session, Basavaraj Bommai met his predecessor Yediyurappa in the lounge and sought his blessings. All the Ministers, who were accompanying Bommai, touched Yediyurappa's feet.

Yediyurappa attended the session and sat in the last row. He was quiet all through. Later, while talking to the media, he

vowed that he will ensure that Siddaramaiah sits in the opposition in the upcoming elections. "His win in Badami constituency last time was accidental," he said.

"I am all set to go for a statewide tour along with party President Nalin Kumar Kateel. The Bommai government is doing a good job. I have requested for the seat next to the Whip in the Assembly. They have consented," he said.

Haryana govt committee suggests redefining Aravallis

The announcement has prompted environmentalists to ask whether the provisions of the National Conservation Zone will not be applicable to Aravalli areas in Faridabad

AGENCIES

Gurgaon, Sept 13: A Haryana government committee has advised officials to identify the areas under the Aravallis on the basis of Centre's 1992 notification, which only covers old Gurgaon district areas.

The announcement has prompted environmentalists to ask whether the provisions of the National Conservation Zone (NCZ) will not be applicable to Aravalli areas in Faridabad.

The revenue records only identify "gair mumkin pahar" (hilly areas which are uncultivable) while making no mention of 'Aravalli', said the committee.

The committee, in a recent meeting, has advised the officials concerned that on the basis of a 1992 notification of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), the areas under the Aravallis should be identified.

A meeting of the state-level com-



Representational image

mittee (SLC) was held under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Town and Country Planning, A K Singh, August 9 for "ground-truthing" of the NCZ in Haryana sub region of the National Capital Region.

In the meeting, the district-level sub-committees, which also comprise deputy commissioners, were asked to identify the Aravallis going by the Centre's 1992 notification, which environmentalists claim, will effectively keep "gair mumkin pahar" outside the NCZ and thus restrictions on construction activity in Aravalli areas in Faridabad will not be applicable.

"It has been noted that in the revenue record there is no term namely 'Aravalli' rather there is only mention of 'gair mumkin pahar'. Accordingly, some of the districts have identified the areas recorded as 'gair mumkin pahar',

in revenue record, under the NCZ by considering the same as Aravalli", according to the observations during the SLC meeting.

A reference was also made to the minutes of the meeting held under the chairmanship of the chief secretary, Haryana, March 3, 2017 wherein on the issue regarding identification of the Aravallis, it had been recorded that the "...government of Haryana may consider this notification in old district Gurugram (currently Gurgaon and Nuh) only and areas specified in the notification dated May 7, 1992 may be considered as Aravalli".

All the concerned district-level sub-committees were advised to identify the Aravalli as per the Aravalli notification of MoEF&CC dated May 7, 1992, which covers the areas of old Gurgaon district (as in 1992 only).

Haryana to open 2,000 grocery stores for youth

THE HAR-HITH STORES WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT SYSTEM TO ENSURE SMOOTH FUNCTIONING

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Sept 13: To encourage youth towards self-employment, 1,500 grocery stores will be opened in rural and 500 in urban areas in the first phase in Haryana on October 2, officials said.

The retail stores named "Har-Hith" are part of the scheme launched by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar last month as part of which a chain of grocery shops will be opened to sell the best quality daily-needs products at reasonable prices.

Scheme executing agency, Haryana Agro Industries Corp Ltd Managing Director Rohit Yadav said 80 per cent of the site survey has been made and the sites are ready for setting up shops.

He said keeping in view the enthusiasm of young entrepreneurs towards the scheme, the corpora-

tion will ensure to open Har-Hith retail stores in every village to provide high quality food items at reasonable prices.

He said 2,000 Har-Hith stores would be opened in the first phase and 3,000 more later. The consumers will get top fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) products, including bakery, food, homeware and personal care, from 50 companies at discount of 5 to 50 per cent from time to time.

Under this scheme, the state government is providing a platform for start-ups, micro, small and medium enterprises, farmer producer organisations, government cooperative institutions, and self-help groups to promote their business.

Yadav said a network of warehouse and district centres has been created to feed the stores systematically. All sales will be done through point of sale system.

SEEKING SHELTER



School children use umbrellas to protect themselves from rain in Belagavi, Karnataka

UNI PHOTO

Operation launched to trap man-eating tiger

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mysore, Sept 13: The Karnataka forest department has launched an all-out operation to trap man-eater tiger in Veeranahosalli, the village which comes near the Nagarhole National Park following the death of a youth September 7.

The man-eater tiger had emerged from huge lantana bushes and attacked Ganesh (19), who had gone to attend nature's call into the forest area. The tiger had dragged his body to 150 metres before going away after mauling his head.

The forest officials are keeping



Representational image

vigil in the area since then and have advised the villagers not to ven-

ture into the forest area. The forest department officials

have installed around 70 cameras at various points. As many as 100 officers attached to the forest department in six teams are working day and night to track the man-eater before it strikes again. The villagers have been warned not to enter forest areas of 6 to 7 kilometres.

Forest Conservator Chetan said the first two days they did not get any clues about the man-eater. Afterwards, its movement was seen in two CCTV cameras. An injury was found on the back of the man-eater. Along with it, three other tigers were also found in the same place.

Woman stripped, sexually abused in viral video

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Yadgir (Karnataka), Sept 13: The victim of sexual assault in Yadgir district of Karnataka Monday came forward to lodge a complaint with the police. In her complaint, she has said that she was kidnapped in a car by the accused while she waited for the bus.

The victim has stated that she was gang-raped by the accused persons. Yadgir police have arrested four persons, after a shocking video

K'TAKA SHOCKER

of the victim being stripped, assaulted and sexually abused by the miscreants surfaced Monday.

The incident apparently happened a year ago, but was reported to the police on Monday after the alleged video went viral on the social media.

The police have lodged a case under the Nirbhaya Act and pressed kidnap charges on them. The police have also invoked various IPC sections.

The victim was reportedly waiting near Rastapura road when she was allegedly kidnapped and taken to a farm near Kanyakollur road and gang-raped there.

The video showed the victim attacked by four to five men with sugarcane sticks after being stripped naked. The men beat her up in the pitch darkness even as she begs them to let her off. The miscreants tell the victim, no one is coming to her rescue and also speak about Rs 14,000 money they lost. The miscreants used the mobile torchlight and vehicle's headlight to shoot the video.

12 held for burying 150 stray dogs alive

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shivamogga (Karnataka), Sept 13: The Karnataka police have arrested 12 persons, including a gram panchayat secretary, in connection with the burying of 150 stray dogs alive at a village of Shivamogga district, sources said Monday.

The police arrested persons who allegedly injected poison into the stray dogs, two members of gram panchayat, a JCB operator, and secretary and bill collector of the Kambadalu-Hosur gram panchayat.

The gram panchayat gave the task of catching and sterilising stray dogs within panchayat limits to private contractors. It was proposed in the meeting and the emolument rate was fixed for the exercise.



The horrifying incident came to light September 7

The contractor was supposed to catch stray dogs and release them after the neutering exercise.

The members of panchayat, including the secretary and others conspired, planned and executed the plan of injecting the dogs allegedly with poison and burying them alive, police said. The villagers and animal activists lodged a complaint.

Pollution, weather & parking lot info on 'My Gurugram' app

The residents can also get information regarding the management of solid waste in the district. According to officials, about ten thousand people have already downloaded this app so far

AGENCIES

Gurugram, Sept 13: Residents of Gurugram will soon be able to get the latest information about pollution, weather and parking lot

directly on the 'My Gurugram' app developed by the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA).

The authority has linked the websites of the Meteorological Department (MD) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) with this app.

Apart from this, the residents will also get information on availability of parking lots in the city. GMDA officials said that for this, information has been sought from the concerned authority about their parking spaces located in different areas. The survey of parking places is also being done by the authority itself.

After this, information about parking lots will also be made available on the app through geo-mapping. The residents of the city will



Representational image

now be able to see the availability of the parking space close to them and will also know how many vehicles are already parked there.

The residents can also get information regarding the management of solid waste in the district. The 'My Gurugram' app was

launched by GMDA August 10, 2019 but only provided information related to traffic management. According to officials, about ten thousand people have already downloaded this app so far.

Officials said people will also avail facilities of online payments

of water and electricity bills, property tax through this app. Information related to the city's historical places, administration, in-

Weather and pollution levels can also be accessed on the My Gurugram app. Soon the information about parking lots will also be made available to the people on this app

PK AGGARWAL | ADVISER, SMART CITY DIVISION, GMDA

cluding CCTV cameras, water flow meters, street lights can also be obtained on this app. Also, e-challans of vehicles can be viewed and their payment can also be made.

national

of the day quote

Politics is an instrument to bring about a social and economic change. The real purpose of democracy is to make the people standing at the last rung of the society prosperous and improve their lives through this

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

Our space FDI policy is getting revised and this will open up huge avenues of opportunities for foreign space companies to invest in India

K SIVAN | ISRO CHAIRMAN

My heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Shri Oscar Fernandes Ji. It is a personal loss for me. He was a guide and mentor to many of us in the Congress party

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Bhupendra Patel takes oath as CM

Gandhinagar: First-term MLA Bhupendra Patel was Monday sworn in Gujarat chief minister, two days after Vijay Rupani's surprise exit from the post, a year ahead of the Assembly polls. Patel (59), unanimously elected BJP legislature party leader on Sunday, was sworn in as the state's 17th chief minister by Governor Acharya Devvrat at a simple ceremony at Raj Bhavan here. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar, Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Goa CM Pramod Sawant and Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai were present. Devvrat and Shah congratulated Patel after the ceremony.

Two kids die as building collapses

New Delhi: A four-storey building in north Delhi's congested Sabzi Mandi area collapsed Monday, killing two children who were passing by with their mother and were trapped under the debris, officials said. The two children were aged seven and 12, the police said, adding that a case has been registered against a man named Mohak Arora who had undertaken the renovation work on the ground floor of the building.

Priyanka Tibrewal files nomination

Kolkata: BJP candidate Priyanka Tibrewal Monday filed her nomination for the assembly bypoll to West Bengal's Bhabanipur constituency, where she is up against TMC candidate and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Left Front candidate Srijib Biswas also submitted his papers Monday - the late date for filing nominations. Bhabanipur will go to the polls September 30 and results will be declared October 3.

Dreaded Naxal held

Bijapur: A Naxal involved in the 2010 Tadmetta incident in which 76 security personnel were killed as well as several other deadly attacks was arrested from Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh, a police official said Monday. Moti Ram Awalam (30) was an active member of "PLGA Battalion No 1", considered the strongest military formation of the outlawed movement, headed by wanted Maoist "commander" Hidma, and was carrying a reward of Rs 8 lakh on his head, he said in a statement.

'2nd vax dose complacency worries govt'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 13: India is concerned that increased complacency associated with lower Covid-19 infection and mortality could leave people skipping a second vaccination and make the community vulnerable to the coronavirus. Two health professionals explained the issue.

During the second wave of Covid-19 in India, the government had prescribed that the second dose be taken after 12 weeks or 84 days due to a shortage in vaccines, and with a view to get a majority of the population immunised quickly at least once. In other countries, the second dose is given after 4-6 weeks.

This has resulted in hesitancy in many in taking the second dose. According to a report, many elderly people were reluctant or afraid to take the second shot.

This is also delaying the government's objective to achieve full immunisation quickly. Moreover, top authorities fear this could lead to higher vulnerability to deadlier variants.

However, the government had earlier said that April-August data showed that the first dose had 96.6%



WHO's approval for Covaxin likely this month

The World Health Organization's approval for the indigenous COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin, developed by the Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech, is likely to come this month, official sources said Monday. The WHO has so far approved Covid vaccines developed by Pfizer-BioNTech, US pharma majors Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, China's Sinopharm and Oxford-AstraZeneca for emergency use.

efficiency against death while the second shot gave 97.5% protection.

Interestingly, the Kerala high court has asked the government to allow people to take the second dose after two weeks if they want, as against the 84-day gap prescribed by the government.

This came in the wake of the

government relaxing the 84-day gap for certain groups of people, such as students planning studies abroad, athletes, sports persons and their associates going for the Olympics, and even some government officials going abroad.

The government is also struggling to maintain the good faith

ICMR gets nod for using drones for vax delivery

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 13: The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have granted conditional exemption from Drone Rules, 2021 to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B).

The ICMR has got the permission for conducting experimental Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) vaccine delivery in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Manipur, and Nagaland upto a height of 3000 meters using drones. The IIT-B has received permission for research, development and testing of drones in its own premises.

This exemption to the ICMR shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the said airspace clearance and shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of approval of the said airspace clearance or until further orders,



whichever is earlier.

Earlier, Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia had launched the first of its kind 'Medicines from the Sky' project at Vikarabad in Telangana under which drugs and vaccines were to be delivered using drones September 11.

"The ministry's new drone rules have unlocked the drone industry and the innovation therein on the principles of trust, self-certification, and non-intrusive monitoring," said Scindia while launching the 'Medicines from the Sky' project.

GODLY TOUCH



A female idol maker preparing clay heads of Goddess Durga ahead of the forthcoming Durga Puja festival in Agartala

'India committed to combating climate change'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 13: Climate change is the biggest global challenge and India is committed to combat it, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said Monday.

Speaking at the launch of Climate Action and Finance Mobilisation Dialogue (CAFMD) under India-US Climate Clean Energy Agenda 2030, Yadav said India is proactively working towards tackling climate change and reducing carbon emissions.

The dialogue was formally launched by Yadav and US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate (SPEC), John Kerry, at an event held in the capital.

The minister said that the dialogue will not only strengthen India-US bilateral cooperation on climate and environment but will

also help to demonstrate how the world can align swift climate action with inclusive and resilient economic development, taking into account national circumstances and sustainable development priorities.

Kerry, who arrived in New Delhi Sunday for the launch, said, "India's leadership is essential for our clean energy future. Looking forward to advancing climate discussions this week in New Delhi."

Addressing the gathering, Yadav said that the partnership between India and the US will help strengthen climate action both the countries have shared values.

"India and the US are natural partners with shared values and our agenda encompasses all major pillars of our strategic priorities - including defence, security, energy, technology, education and healthcare," said the environment minister.



He said that the dialogue will provide both the countries an opportunity to renew collaborations on climate change while addressing the financing aspects.

The minister said that India is already an attractive destination for

global clean energy investments and hoped that "this dialogue will work to mobilise and deliver climate finance primarily as grants and concessional finance, as envisaged under the Paris Agreement to strengthen climate action".

Calling for an urgent action to address climate change, Kerry said to avoid more catastrophic consequences, action needs to be taken now. Kerry also said that it was a good time to invest in energy transition.

Terming the clean energy partnership as a major opportunity for both the countries, Kerry said it is far less expensive to deal with climate crisis now than it will be in the future.

The CAFMD is one of the two tracks of the India-US Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 partnership launched at the Leaders' Summit on Climate in April 2021, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden.

During the event, Kerry applauded Modi for setting an ambitious target of achieving 450 GW renewable energy by 2030 and congratulated India for already achieving 100 GW.

Tamil is the language of Gods: Madras High Court

A BENCH OF JUSTICE N KIRUBAKARAN, SINCE RETIRED, AND JUSTICE B PUGALENDHI, IN A RECENT ORDER ALSO SAID THAT IN OUR COUNTRY "IT IS MADE TO BELIEVE THAT SANSKRIT ALONE IS GODS' LANGUAGE"



Madras High Court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Sept 13: Hailing Tamil as the "Language of Gods," the Madras High Court has said temple consecrations across the coun-

try should be done reciting Tamil hymns composed by saints like Azhwars and Nayanmars, besides others like Arunagirinathar.

A bench of Justice N Kirubakaran, since retired, and

Justice B Pugalendhi, in a recent order also said that in our country "it is made to believe that Sanskrit alone is Gods' language."

In various countries and religions, different types of beliefs were in existence and the places of worship also change according to the culture and religion.

"In those places, only the local language was stated to be used for doing heavenly service. However, in our country, it is made to believe that Sanskrit alone is Gods language and not any other language is equivalent. No doubt, Sanskrit is an ancient language with enormous ancient literature. The belief is spread in such a way that only if the Sanskrit Vedas are recited, the Gods will listen to the prayers of the devotees," the bench said.

The court was hearing a petition seeking consecration of a temple in Karur district in the state seeking direction to government authorities, including the Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment to conduct consecration/ Kudamuzhukku/ Nanneerattu function of Arulmigu Pasupatheshwara Swamy Tirukovil by chanting Thirumuraikal, Tamil Saiva Manthiram (hymns) and also songs of Saint Amaravathi Aattrangarai Karurar.

"Tamil is not only one of the earliest ancient languages of the world but also a 'Language of Gods'. It is believed that Tamil language is born out of pellet drum which fell from Lord Shiva while he was dancing. Another School of thought is that Lord Muruga created Tamil language."

"As per mythology, Lord Shiva presided over the first academy (First Tamil Sangam). It is believed that Lord Shiva played 'Thiruvilayadal' to test the knowledge of Tamil poets. The above would only mean that Tamil language is connected with Gods. When it is connected with Gods, it is a Godly language. Such a Godly language has to be used while performing Kudamuzhukku," the court said. The judges noted every language spoken by the people is God's language.

"Man cannot create language. The languages are in existence for centuries together and passed on from one generation to the other generation. There can only be improvement in the existing language and there cannot be any creation of language," they added.

DENGUE ALERT

The Centre has written to states and UTs emphasising on acceleration of prevention and control activities for vector borne diseases such as dengue, without cutting any corners for safety from Covid-19



India will stand by Afghans as it did in past: Jaishankar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: With a grave humanitarian crisis unfolding in Afghanistan, India Monday said it is willing to stand by Afghans and called for unimpeded access to aid providers to the country as also a "non-discriminatory" distribution of relief supplies across all sections of the society.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that as an immediate neighbour, India is monitoring developments in Afghanistan with "understandable concern", and noted that the issue of travel and safe passage that can emerge as an obstacle to humanitarian assistance should be immediately sorted out.

In a brief virtual address at the UN high-level meeting on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the minister also heightened the threat of rising poverty levels and said the same could have a catastrophic effect on regional stability.

He said India's approach to Afghanistan has always been guided by its historical friendship with its people and it will continue to be the case. "Today, I wish to underline that in the face of a grave emerging situation, India is willing to stand by the Afghan people, just as in the past. To ensure that this happened speedily and effectively, we believe that the international community must come together to create the best possible enabling environment," he said. "Among the challenges that the

current situation poses is that of efficient logistics. It is therefore essential that humanitarian assistance providers are accorded unimpeded, unrestricted and direct access to Afghanistan," Jaishankar said.

The external affairs minister said once relief materials reach that country, the world will naturally expect a "non-discriminatory" distribution of humanitarian assistance across all sections of the Afghan society. "Only the United Nations has the capacity to monitor such endeavours and reassure donors. As the picture becomes clear in respect of the legitimate concerns I am confident that the world will step forward and assist the Afghan people in their hour of need," he said.

His comments came in the backdrop of apprehensions of whether the relief materials, once delivered, will reach the intended beneficiaries under the Taliban regime.

"Afghanistan is passing through a critical and challenging phase. There has been a sea change in its political, economic, social and security situation, and consequently, in its humanitarian needs," he said. "As an immediate neighbour, India's monitoring developments with understandable concern," he added. Jaishankar said India has consistently supported a central role of the global body on the future of the country as a multilateral platform is always more effective than small groups in building global consensus and encouraging united action.

international



The interlinked crises of pollution, climate change and biodiversity act as threat multipliers, amplifying conflicts, tensions and structural inequalities, and forcing people into increasingly vulnerable situations

TALIBAN SEIZE CASH, GOLD BAR FROM EX-VP'S HOUSE Taliban fighters have claimed in a viral video that they have seized up to \$6 million in cash and about 15 gold bricks from the residence of former Afghanistan Vice-President Amrullah Saleh in Panjshir province



of the day quote

Deeply concerned with allegations of torture in detention of aid worker Abdulrahman al-Sadhan. His sentencing continues Saudi Arabia's assault on freedom of expression

In these lands (Slovakia), until just a few decades ago, a single thought system (communism) stifled freedom. Today another single thought system is emptying freedom of meaning, reducing progress to profit and rights only to individual needs

I see the UK and India in a sweet spot of the trade dynamics that are building up. We are looking at a comprehensive trade agreement that covers everything, from financial services to legal services to digital and data, as well as goods and agriculture

SHORT TAKES

Xi praises PLA's Tibet battalion

Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping has praised a border-guard battalion in Tibet, which shares boundary with the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, saying its troops have done a great job in the past five years, official media here reported. Xi visited Nyingchi, the Tibetan border town close to Arunachal Pradesh in July, becoming the first Chinese President to visit the remote border areas in Tibet. The model battalion is under the Xizang (Chinese name for Tibet) Military Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), it said.

Malay PM signs landmark pact

Kuala Lumpur: Barely a month in office, Malaysia's new leader has won opposition support to shore up his fragile government in exchange for a slew of reforms as Parliament reopened Monday. Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob signed an unprecedented cooperation pact in Parliament with the main opposition bloc led by Anwar Ibrahim, in a move to prevent any bid to undermine his rule ahead of general elections due in two years.

Nearly 70 students freed in N Nigeria

Lagos: Nearly 70 students who were abducted from their school in northern Nigeria have regained their freedom after two weeks in captivity, Zamfara state Governor Bello Matawalle said Monday. The students from the Government Day Secondary School were rescued with the help of some of the gunmen who had repented, he said. They were reunited with their families late Sunday.

Texas braces for storm Nicholas

Houston: Tropical Storm Nicholas strengthened just off the Gulf Coast and could blow ashore in Texas as a hurricane Monday as it brings heavy rain and flooding to coastal areas from Mexico to storm-battered Louisiana. Forecasters at the National Hurricane Center in Miami said top sustained winds reached 95 kmph. It was traveling north at 19 kmph on a forecast track to pass near the South Texas coast later Monday, then move onshore along the coast of south or central Texas by late Monday afternoon or evening. Several schools in the Houston and Galveston area were closed.

US mulls Green Card for a fee; Indians to benefit



The move, if included in the reconciliation package and passed into law, is expected to help thousands of Indian IT professionals who are currently stuck in an agonising Green Card backlog

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Sept 13: Millions of people stuck for years in the employment-based Green Card backlog in the US, including a sizable number of Indians, can hope for a lawful permanent residency in America by paying a supplemental fee if a new House bill is passed into law.

The move, if included in the reconciliation package and passed into law, is expected to help thousands of Indian IT professionals who are currently stuck in an agonising Green Card backlog. A Green Card, known officially as a Permanent Resident Card, is a document issued to immigrants as evidence that the bearer has been granted the privilege of residing permanently in the US. According to the committee print released by the US House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over immigration, an employment-based immigrant applicant with a "priority date that is more than 2 years before" can adjust to permanent residence without numerical limits by paying a "supplemental fee of USD 5,000." The fee is USD 50,000 for the EB-5 category (immigrant investors). The provisions expire in 2031, the Forbes magazine reported.

If passed, it would be the largest legislative overhaul of the US immigration system in decades

For a family-based immigrant who is sponsored by a US citizen and with a "priority date that is more than 2 years before", the fee for getting a Green Card would be USD 2,500.

The supplement fee would be USD 1,500 if an applicant's priority date is not within two years but they are required to be present in the country, according to the committee print. This fee would be in addition to any administrative processing fee paid by the applicant.

However, the bill does not contain permanent structural changes to the legal immigration system, including eliminating country caps for green cards or increasing the annual quotas of H-1B visas.

Before becoming law, the provisions would have to pass the Judiciary Committee, the House of Representatives and the Senate and be signed by the president, the report said.

According to a report in CBSNews, if successful, the legislation plan would allow undocumented immigrants who came to the US as children, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) beneficiaries, farmworkers and other pandemic-era essential workers to apply for permanent US residency, or green cards.

The temporary nature of the H-1B visa forces beneficiaries to live in a constant state of uncertainty, preventing them from becoming entrepreneurs, buying homes, employing more Americans, or otherwise fully establishing themselves as permanent fixtures within the American economy.

S'pore to debate foreign talent policy

Singapore Parliament will debate Tuesday two separate motions on jobs and the foreign talent policy, which especially refers to the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and the city-state in 2005. Leader of the House Indraneel Rajah Monday said that while the debate on the two motions will be conducted together for more efficiency, the motions remain separate and Members of Parliament (MPs) will vote on them individually. "A concurrent or simultaneous debate will allow members to address both motions in a single speech and enable the issues raised in the two motions to be considered holistically. It will also allow for the more efficient conduct of parliamentary business," she said.

Japan warns of attack in SE Asia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tokyo, Sept 13: Japan's Foreign Ministry urged its citizens Monday to stay away from religious facilities and crowds in six Southeast Asian nations, warning of a possible attack.

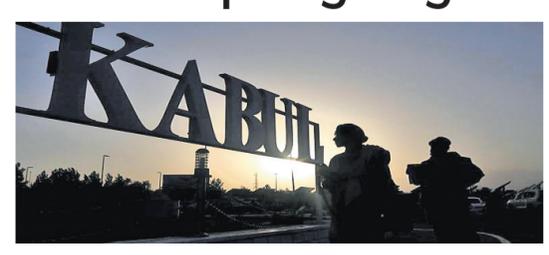
The ministry said it had obtained information that "there are increased risks such as suicide bombings". The warning applies to Japanese citizens in Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Myanmar.

The advisory was met with puzzlement in several of those nations, which said they had no knowledge of such a threat, or details from Japan as to the source of its information.

Tanee Sangrat, spokesman for Thailand's Foreign Ministry, said Japan had not revealed the origin of the warning and that the Japanese Embassy had no further details other than to say it was "not specific to Thailand."

In the short advisory, Japan urged its citizens to pay close attention to local news and information and use caution for the time being," but did not give a specific timeframe or other details.

Donors pledge \$1.1 bn for 'collapsing' Afghan



REUTERS

Geneva, Sept 13: Donors have pledged more than \$1.1 billion to help Afghanistan, where poverty and hunger have spiralled since the Islamist Taliban took power, and foreign aid has dried up, raising the spectre of a mass exodus.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, speaking halfway through a UN conference seeking \$606 million to meet Afghanistan's most pressing needs, said it was too early to say how much had been promised in response to the appeal.

After decades of war and suffering, Afghans are facing "perhaps their most perilous hour", he said. "The people of Afghanistan are facing the collapse of an entire country — all at once," he added.

An unwell Suu Kyi skips trial hearing

REUTERS

Naypyitaw, Sept 13: Deposed Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi was unable to appear at a court hearing Monday for health reasons, a member of her legal team said, describing her condition as dizziness caused by motion sickness.

Suu Kyi, 76, who has been detained on various charges since her overthrow in a Feb 1 military coup, did not have the coronavirus but felt ill having not traveled in a vehicle for a long time, lawyer Min Min Soe said. The popular Nobel Peace Prize winner has spent about half of the past three decades in various forms of detention over her non-violent struggle against dictatorship and her health is closely watched.

It is not serious sickness... She suffered car sickness. She cannot stand that feeling and told us she wanted to take a rest, Min Min Soe told Reuters.

Neighbours China and Pakistan had already offered help.

CONFRONTING CURBS



A protester confronts riot police officers during a demonstration against France's restrictions, including compulsory health passes, to fight the coronavirus pandemic, in Paris

N Korea tests first 'strategic' cruise missile with N-ability

REUTERS

Seoul, Sept 13: North Korea carried out successful tests of a new long-range cruise missile over the weekend, state media said Monday, seen by analysts as possibly the country's first such weapon with a nuclear capability.

The missiles are a strategic weapon of great significance and flew 1,500 km (930 miles) before hitting their targets and falling into the country's territorial waters during the tests Saturday and Sunday, KCNA said.

The latest test highlighted steady progress in Pyongyang's weapons programme amid a gridlock over talks aimed at dismantling the North's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes in return for U.S. sanctions relief. The talks have stalled since 2019.

North Korea's cruise missiles usually generate less interest than ballistic missiles because they are not explicitly banned under UN Nations Security Council Resolutions.

This would be the first cruise missile in North Korea to be explicitly designated a 'strategic' role, said Ankit Panda, a senior fellow

SERIOUS CAPABILITY



at the US-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. This is a common euphemism for nuclear-capable system. It is unclear whether North Korea has mastered the technology needed to build warheads small enough to be carried on a cruise missile, but leader Kim Jong Un said earlier this year that developing smaller bombs is a top goal.

The two Koreas have been locked in an accelerating arms race that analysts fear will leave the region littered with powerful new missiles. South Korea's military did not disclose whether it had detected the North's latest tests, but said Monday it was conducting a detailed analysis in cooperation with

the United States. The US military's Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) said it was aware of the reports and was coordinating with its allies and partners. This activity highlights North Korea's continuing focus on developing its military program and the threats that poses to its neighbours and the international community, INDOPACOM said in a statement.

Indian-origin neurosurgeon saves Israeli conjoined twins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jerusalem, Sept 13: A world-renowned Indian-origin pediatric neurosurgeon in the UK has helped a group of Israeli doctors to successfully operate on a pair of twins conjoined at the head, with the babies now likely to lead normal lives, a media report here said.

This is for the first time that Dr Noor Ul Owase Jeelani, who was born in Kashmir and works at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital, agreed to carry out such a surgery outside the UK when contacted by doctors at Israel's Soroka hospital, according to a report in The Times of Israel (TOI).

He and his colleague, Professor David Dunway, are globally seen as experts on such cases.

Jeelani said, "from a doctor's point of view, we're all one" and that medicine transcends all divisions.

The fact that a Kashmir-born Muslim doctor scrubbed up alongside an Israeli team to help a Jewish family was a reminder of the universal nature of medicine, the report quoted him as saying.

"It was a fantastic family that we helped," Jeelani said, adding, as I've said all my life, all children are the same, whatever colour or religion."

"The distinctions are man-made. A child is a child. From a doctor's point of view, we're all one," he emphasised.

The doctor found the family's delight at the success of the operation deeply moving. "There was this very special mo-



ment when the parents were just over the moon. I have never in my life seen a person smile, cry, be happy, and be relieved at the same time. The mother simply couldn't believe it, we had to pull up a chair



to help her to calm down," Jeelani told the news portal. Jeelani is said to have also worked for months on the surgery of the Israeli twins. "We've been involved right from

The fact that a Kashmir-born Muslim doctor scrubbed up alongside an Israeli team to help a Jewish family was a reminder of the universal nature of medicine

DR NOOR UL OWASE JEELANI | RENOWNED NEUROSURGEON

the start, talking to the team in Israel and planning it with them over a period of six months," he said.

"This latest surgery fulfills a key objective of our charity, namely to empower local teams abroad to undertake this complex work, suc-

cessfully utilising our experience, knowledge, and skills gained over the past 15 years with our previous four sets of twins," the neurosurgeon stressed.

It is also a major achievement for the medical team at Israel's Soroka hospital that managed this complex operation despite having never performed such a surgery.

It involved complicated on-the-spot decisions regarding which blood vessel to give to which twin, and assessing in real-time the impact that immediate decisions were having on the functioning of the brains, the report said.

Jeelani has performed four other such surgeries on twins who were conjoined at the head with fused skulls, intertwined brains, and shared blood vessels.

of the day quote

Investors are keen to better understand how their investments are being made climate-resilient in the face of a myriad of climate challenges and the gold industry is eager to show how it is adapting to these challenges

TERRY HEYMANN
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AT THE WGC

I believe we're going to all sit down and work together and come up with a \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill which deals with the enormously unmet needs of working families

BERNIE SANDERS | SENATOR

Aatmanirbhar Bharat requires Aatmanirbhar women! Proud to share that the Ola Futurefactory will be run ENTIRELY by women, 10,000+ at full scale! It'll be the largest all-women factory in the world!! Slightly smiling face

BHAVISH AGGARWAL | OLA CO-FOUNDER



I see the UK and India in a sweet spot of the trade dynamics that are building up

LIZ TRUSS | UK INDUSTRIES MINISTER

TATA MOTORS' NEW DEALERSHIP

Tata Motors has opened a new passenger car dealership which includes electric cars, and awarded the dealership to Gugnani Auto Cars Pvt Ltd, in Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar. Regional Manager of Tata Motors Shishir Shrivastava and Directors of Gugnani Auto Cars Pvt Ltd Satpal Gugnani and Rajan Gugnani along with Devendra Kumar Sabharwal graced the occasion.



Jet Airways to resume domestic services in Q1'22: Jalan Kalrock

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: Jet Airways will restart domestic operations by the first quarter of 2022 and short haul international flights by the last quarter of the next year, Jalan Kalrock Consortium, the winning bidder for the grounded airline, stated Monday.

The first flight of Jet Airways would be on Delhi-Mumbai route, it mentioned, adding that the airline would now be headquartered in Delhi instead of Mumbai.

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in June this year had approved the Jalan Kalrock Consortium's resolution plan for Jet Airways, two years after the once-storied full-service carrier went into insolvency proceedings.

In a statement, Murari Lal Jalan, Lead Member of the Jalan Kalrock Consortium, said, "Jet Airways 2.0 aims at restarting domestic operations by Q1-2022, and short haul



international operations by Q3/Q4 2022." Our plan is to have 50-plus aircraft in three years and 100 plus planes in five years, which also fits perfectly well with the short-term and long-term business plan of the Consortium, he noted.

"The aircraft are being selected based on competitive long term leasing solutions. It is the first time in the history of aviation that an airline grounded for more than two years is being revived and we

are looking forward to being a part of this historic journey," he said.

The Consortium's statement read that the revival plan for Jet Airways is being implemented as approved by NCLT and all the creditors will be settled according to the plan in the coming months.

The process of reviving the grounded carrier is on track with the existing Air Operator Certificate (AOC) already under process for revalidation, it mentioned.

India Inc spent over ₹1,600cr on mitigating second wave: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 13: India Inc. has spent over ₹1,600 crore combating the second wave of Covid-19 in the financial year 2020-21, a study said Monday.

The study comprising over 350 public listed companies conducted by CSR knowledge and impact intelligence platform - 'CSRBOX' stated that Indian companies launched over 750 corporate social responsibility initiatives in response to the second wave. Around 57 per cent of the CSR initiatives to combat the second wave of Covid-19 were targeted at direct beneficiaries - Covid-infected people, the report titled 'CSR Response to COVID 2.0' said.

More than 400 of the corporate CSR initiatives to combat the second wave of infections were aimed at procuring medical supplies, ventilators and safety gear like PPE kits.

The recent notification of the ministry of corporate affairs to

include COVID-19 response and relief work under schedule VII of CSR catalysed CSR action to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. "Corporates have responded to COVID with great urgency and remarkable flexibility, fast-tracking CSR project approvals for the timely procurement of essential medical supplies, working in tandem with central, state governments and local agencies," CSRBOX Founder & CEO Bhomik Shah said.

The report found 35 per cent of the interventions were implemented in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh. The support included over 200 oxygen plants, setting up more than 75 makeshift hospitals and Covid wards with over 10,000 beds, 3,500 ventilators and 140,000 oxygen concentrators. Importantly, 33 companies contributed more than ₹150 crore to conduct community awareness activities across 17 states, the report said.

Trust between govt, industry critical: FM



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Sept 13: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Monday said that the trust between government and industry is critical for leveraging the opportunities thrown up by the COVID-19 pandemic while assuring that the proposed DFI, the National Bank for Infrastructure Financing and Development (NaBFID), will become functional soon.

This trust is also reflected in the government's actions, she said while addressing members of industry chamber CII here.

Elaborating on the government's strategy for handling the pandemic, the minister said that on one hand the focus is on ramping up vaccination as that was the biggest protection against the pandemic while on the other hand the government is working on ramping up health infrastructure, including in the tier 2 and tier 3 cities, by supporting the private sector.

The Finance Minister expressed confidence that the announced disinvestment plan is on track.

Sitharaman in her 2021-22 Budget speech, had announced a big-ticket privatisation agenda, including

privatisation of two public sector banks and one general insurance company.

The Centre budgeted ₹1.75 lakh crore from stake sale in public sector companies including strategic sale of IDBI Bank, BPCL, Shipping Corp, Container Corporation, Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd, among others.

She also assured that the Development Finance Institution (DFI) announced in the budget would be operational soon.

Liquidity is no longer a major concern, and that the Bank-NBFC-MFI channel has been de-clogged and from October 15 there would be a special drive to reach out credit to those who need it, she said.

Parliament earlier this year passed a Bill to set up a ₹20,000 crore DFI with a view to mobilise ₹111 lakh crore required for funding of the ambitious national infrastructure pipeline (NIP), which has over 7,000 greenfield and brown-field projects.

There were at least three or four attempts in the past to have alternative investment funds (AIFs), but gradually either they changed their nature of business or became reluctant to take long-term risk.

Renault launches car models on 10th anniv

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: As a part of the 10th anniversary of its operations in India, Renault India launched Monday the all-new RXT (O) variant of Renault KIGER and the KWID MY21 here.

Vice President (Sales and Marketing) of Renault India Sudhir Malhotra launched two new models at Renault Bhubaneswar showroom in the presence of MD Satish Garg and Director Sidharth Garg.

Renault KIGER RXT (O) variant is priced at ₹7.37 lakh (ex-showroom, Bhubaneswar) while the new KWID MY 21 range starts at ₹4.06 lakh (ex-showroom, Bhubaneswar).

The Kiger RXT (O) will be available in 1.0L energy engine in both manual transmission (MT) and



the automated manual transmission gearbox (AMT). This variant will get some of the customer favourite, premium features from the RXZ variant such as the tri-octa LED

pure vision headlamps and 40.64 cm diamond cut alloy wheels at a more affordable price point. To ensure good air quality inside the cabin, RXT(O) will also feature PM2.5 ad-

vanced atmospheric filter.

The Renault KWID MY21 range will be offered in 0.8L and 1.0L SCE power trains in both manual and AMT options. Renault KWID range complies with all the safety regulations applicable in India, and will now be equipped with dual front Airbags as a standard feature across all the variants. Accentuating the attractiveness of the car, the new KWID MY21 Climber Edition will also be available in dual tone exterior in white colour with black roof along with the new features like Electric ORVM and day and night IRVM.

As part of the celebrations, Renault has also announced special offers for customers in September 2021 offering maximum benefits of upto ₹80,000 on select variants across its product range.

SHORT TAKES

NCLAT gets third Acting Chairperson

New Delhi: Justice M Venugopal has been appointed as the Acting Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), as the key appellate tribunal continues to be without a permanent head now for more than one-and-a-half years. This is the third time in a row that an Acting Chairperson is at the helm of the NCLAT, which is handling several crucial appeals related to matters under the insolvency and competition laws, after the retirement of Chairperson Justice SJ Mukhopadhyaya March 14, 2020. Last week, the Supreme Court raised concerns, saying the Centre was 'emasculating' tribunals by not appointing officials to quasi-judicial bodies that are facing staff crunch. According to the latest update on the website of the NCLAT, Justice Venugopal has been appointed as the Acting Chairperson of the appellate tribunal from September 11, 2021.

Sony's 5.1 channel HT-S40R soundbar

Bhubaneswar: Sony India launched its 5.1 channel home cinema system, HT-S40R, a new powerful sound system. The HT-S40R is priced at ₹28,990. The slim and elegantly designed soundbar comes with Dolby digital technology and wireless sub and rear speakers that produce immersive cinematic surround sound effortlessly. It offers the powerful sound of 600W with Dolby digital technology. The HT-S40R is designed to stream music seamlessly. There is also facility of easy Bluetooth connectivity to wirelessly stream your favourite tracks from a smartphone. HDMI and optical input are also available for ease of connectivity.

Dr Batra's new allergy treatments

Bhubaneswar: Dr Batra's Healthcare claimed that it has launched scientific homeopathy treatments for food, skin and respiratory allergies. Founder of Dr Batra's Healthcare Dr Mukesh Batra said, "We have over 35 years of experience in treating allergies the natural way. And over 65,000 happy patients are proof that homeopathy works. To deliver better patient outcomes, our team of allergy specialists has curated a series of comprehensive treatment solutions that provides patients with quick and painless international diagnostics coupled with natural and side-effect free homeopathy to offer our patients relief from allergies. Allergone is the latest in scientifically proven, comprehensive allergy treatments."

Paytm's FASTag-based parking service to come up across country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: Digital payment and financial services firm Paytm plans to deploy FASTag-based parking services across the country after having launched first such project with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.

Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) Monday said it has enabled the country's first FASTag-based metro parking facility in partnership with the DMRC. As an acquiring bank for the parking facility at the Kashmere Gate metro station, PPBL will facilitate the processing of all FASTag-based transactions for cars having a valid FASTag sticker which eliminates the need for stopping to pay cash at the counter. Additionally, Paytm Payments Bank has enabled a UPI-based payment solution for two-wheelers entering the parking site.



Zipper to glass: Crunch of basic goods hobbles US economy

REUTERS

Fletcher, NC, Sept 13: For Lauren Rash, it's the little things that have snarled production at her tent factory here, like the many shades of black Velcro.

Her company, Diamond Brand, just launched a new line of high-end wall tents called the Liminal, thick with vents and fasteners demanded by discerning campers. But that means using lots of Velcro. And that's a problem, because black Velcro comes in many shades, depending on the type of raw plastic resin used to make it.

"If I have older stock and put it with new the colors won't match," said Rash. "Black is not black is not black."

Before supply chain breakdowns and shortages swept the world in

the wake the COVID pandemic, buying the bits and pieces for an assembly line was often as easy as clicking a button and waiting a few days or, at most, a few weeks for delivery.

Not anymore. Shortages of metals, plastics, wood and even liquor bottles are now the norm.

The upshot is a world where buyers must wait for delivery of items that were once plentiful, if they can get them at all. Rash has piles of tents she can't ship because she can't get the right aluminum tubing for their frames, for instance, while others lack the right zippers.

Along with the shortages come hefty price increases, which has fueled fears of a wave of sustained inflation.

There's growing tension among



Federal Reserve policymakers over how to gauge the long-term impact on prices. Some Fed policymakers are more convinced than others that price pressures will recede after some of the supply chain disruptions are resolved.

How this debate evolves could influence how quickly the Fed moves to reduce the pace of asset purchases launched at the start of the pandemic, and how soon it lifts the policy interest rate from its current level near zero.

Rash and other local producers were part of a wide-ranging forum recently with Richmond Fed president Tom Barkin that focused on the challenges to the U.S. recovery posed by supply chain issues that are not getting resolved as fast as policymakers had hoped.

Shortages are hitting everything from bulldozers to bourbon. Heavy-equipment maker Caterpillar Inc warned in July that its profits would suffer in the current quarter in part because of rising prices on hard-to-get components. The company said, among other things, it is looking for ways to get supplies from non-traditional sources to deal with shortages of plastic resin and semiconductors.

Lawson Whiting, chief executive of spirits producer Brown-Forman Corp, told investors ear-

lier this month that shortages of "key packaging materials, most notably glass" continue to create problems for the maker of brands such as Jack Daniel's and Woodford Reserve.

New challenges continue to arise, including hurricane disruptions to U.S. oil refineries which is again threatening supplies of plastics and other basic materials.

Some industries are rushing to build new factories, including semiconductor producers under pressure to feed a growing appetite for chips needed in cars and electronics. But not all producers are eager to build new plants. The bike industry, for instance, is heavily concentrated in Asia and producers there worry that the current surge in demand is only temporary.

SO NEAR YET SO FAR

Medvedev claims career-first Major winning the US Open as he dashes Djokovic's hopes for a Calendar Slam as well as record 21st Grand Slam at Flushing Meadows



FEELING LOST: Novak Djokovic wears a disappointed look during his US Open final match against Daniil Medvedev, Sunday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 13: A game from the end of his bid for what would have been the first calendar-year Grand Slam in men's tennis since 1969, Novak Djokovic covered his face with a towel, hiding his tears during a changeover.

For 27 Grand Slam matches in 2021, on hard courts, clay courts and grass, Djokovic could not be deterred, could not be beaten. Needing one more victory, in the US Open final on Sunday against Daniil Medvedev, to complete a season sweep of major titles and to claim the record 21st of his career, Djokovic could not come through.

Outplayed by someone using a similar style to his own, Djokovic came up just short of those two historic milestones, losing 4-6, 4-6, 4-6 to first-time major champion Medvedev at Arthur Ashe Stadium. What was in Djokovic's thoughts

as he sat there on the sideline, knowing full well that his quest was moments from its conclusion?

Until Sunday, the No.1-ranked Djokovic had been sublime at the sport's four most important tournaments, enduring the burdens of expectations and pressure over the past seven months and, in New York, the past fortnight.

He won the Australian Open in February, beating Medvedev in the final in straight sets, the French Open in June and Wimbledon in July, pulling even with Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer at 20 Grand Slam titles, the most for a man in the history of a sport that dates to the 1800s.

The last man to complete a true Grand Slam by going 4 for 4 at the majors in a single season remains Rod Laver, who did it twice — in 1962 and 1969 — and in the stands Sunday. The last woman to accomplish the

feat was Steffi Graf in 1988.

Instead, Djokovic joins Jack Crawford in 1933 and Lew Hoad in 1956 as men who won a year's first trio of Grand Slam tournaments and made it all the way to the US Open final before losing.

Djokovic, a 34-year-old from Serbia, simply was far from his best on this particular day. He could not create the kind of comeback he had in each of his previous four matches — and six others in Grand Slam action this year — when he dropped the opening set.

Djokovic made plenty of mistakes, 38 unforced errors in all. He wasn't able to convert a break chance until it was too little, too late, going just 1 for 6. He showed frustration, too, destroying his racket by pounding it three times against the court after one point, drawing boos from the crowd of 25,703 and a code violation from chair umpire Damien Dumousois.

DANIIL MEDVEDEV

I do feel sorry for Novak, because I cannot imagine what he feels. Knowing that I managed to stop him, it definitely makes it sweeter, and brings me confidence for what is to come.

He's (Djokovic) so good that every match is different. He changes his tactics, he changes his approach. I had a clear plan, which did seem to work. Was he at his best? Maybe not today. He had a lot of pressure. I had a lot of pressure, too.

(Medvedev to Djoko during trophy presentation) What you accomplished this year and throughout your career, I never said this to anybody, but I'll say it right now: For me, you are the greatest tennis player in history.

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

Relief. I was glad it was over, because the buildup for this tournament, and everything that mentally, emotionally, I had to deal with throughout the tournament in the last couple of weeks, was just a lot. It was a lot to handle.

I was just glad that, finally, the run is over. At the same time, I felt sadness, disappointment — and also gratitude for the crowd and for that special moment that they've created for me on the court

Just energy-wise, I felt slow. I know I could have, and should have, done better.

He (Medvedev) was amazing. Just congratulate him, full credit from his mentality, his approach, his game, everything. He absolutely was the better player and deserved to win, no doubt about it.

A lot of Djokovic's issues also had to do with the No. 2-ranked Medvedev, who used his 6-foot-6 (1.98-meter) frame to chase down everything and respond with seemingly effortless groundstrokes — much the way Djokovic wears down foes — and delivered pinpoint serving.

Medvedev won 20 of his first 23



Stosur-Zhang pair wins women's doubles crown



NEW YORK: The Australia-China combination of Sam Stosur and Zhang Shuai won their second Grand Slam women's doubles title together in New York.

The veteran pair, aged 37 and 32 respectively, denied home favourites Coco Gauff and Caty McNally their first with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 victory after a two-hour tussle at Arthur Ashe Arena Sunday.

The No.14 seeds added the US Open title to the Australian Open crown they won in 2019.

Gauff and McNally, seeded 11th, were hoping to join 18-year-old singles champion Emma Raducanu as teenage winners at the US Open after winning the girl's title just three years ago.

However, Stosur and Zhang proved too good, with Stosur adding this doubles title to the one she won at Flushing Meadows in 2005, and the singles title she earned by beating Serena Williams in the 2011 final.

Benzema on fire for Real

Frenchman's hat-trick lights up Los Blancos' return to Santiago Bernabeu



Special outing: Karim Benzema reacts after one of his goals against Celta Vigo at the Santiago Bernabeu, Sunday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Sept 13: Vinicius Junior sent his low shot into the net and rushed to the sideline, jumping over the barrier and going into the stands to be quickly engulfed by Real Madrid fans. It was a scene that wouldn't have been possible during the last 18 months.

With goals by Vinicius and debutant Eduardo Camavinga and a hat-trick by Karim Benzema, Madrid twice came from behind before comfortably beating Celta Vigo 5-2 in the Spanish league Sunday.

The game marked Madrid's return to the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium more than 18 months after it was closed because of the coronavirus pandemic and a massive renovation project.

The remodeling of the Bernabeu is not expected to finish until 2022 but the stadium reopened to a limited crowd of 19,874 in the first match at the venue since March 1, 2020, when Madrid defeated Barcelona 2-0 with Zinedine Zidane still as its coach.

Defending champion Atletico Madrid earlier also needed to rally

to avoid a disappointing result in a milestone match, scoring two late goals — including one in the ninth minute of stoppage time — to beat Espanyol 2-1 in Antoine Griezmann's first game back since a stint with Barcelona.

Madrid took advantage of the prohibition on spectators in stadiums because of the pandemic to accelerate the construction work at the Bernabeu while it played its home matches at the small Alfredo Di Stefano Stadium in the club's training complex. It played three straight away matches in the first three rounds this season to get the venue ready for crowds again.

The seating areas that are still not available to the public, mostly in the lower sections of the stadium, were blocked off and covered up, and there was a lot of construction work still visible inside and outside the venue. The huge structures that will hold the stadium's new retractable roof are already in position. On the field, it was Celta that opened the scoring with Santi Mina finding the net from inside the area after a defensive mistake by Madrid only four

minutes into the match.

Benzema equalised with a shot from inside the area after a pass by Federico Valverde, but Celta retook the lead in a breakaway in the 31st with Franco Cervi finding the net from close range.

Benzema had a goal disallowed for offside in the 39th but equalized again with a header at the start of the second half. Vinicius scored the go-ahead goal in a breakaway in the 54th and was shown a yellow card for his celebration with the fans. Camavinga, making his debut off the bench after being signed at the transfer deadline, added to the lead from close range in the 72nd.

Benzema, already the league's leading scorer with five goals, closed the scoring by converting a late penalty kick prompted by a nice move by Vinicius Junior inside the area. The victory left Madrid at the top of the standings with 10 points from four matches, tied with Valencia and Atletico.

The match was postponed from Saturday to give more time to rest for players from national teams that participated in South American World Cup qualifiers.

OFC to begin campaign vs Bengaluru Nov 24

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Odisha FC will kick off their campaign at the upcoming Indian Super League (ISL) campaign against Bengaluru FC (BFC) November 24 as the organisers announced the fixture for opening 11 rounds, Monday.

ATK Mohun Bagan will clash with Kerala Blasters in the season-opening clash of the competition November 19 and then take on SC East Bengal in the first derby, a week later. Considering the match-up, Odisha FC, who have roped in some quality players this season,



would look at least for a draw against one of the Indian football powerhouses Bengaluru FC.

The Bhubaneswar-based side will take on SC East Bengal in their second match and face the defending champions ATK Mohun Bagan in their final match of the first half of the round robin league, January 8.

Odisha FC will play eight of their first 10 matches at the Tilak Maidan Stadium in Goa, while Bambolim's Athletic Stadium and Fatorda's P.J.N Stadium will host OFC's matches against Hyderabad FC and ATKMB respectively.

ODISHA FC MATCHES

DATE	OPPONENTS
Nov 24	Bengaluru FC
Nov 30	SC East Bengal
Dec 5	Kerala Blasters
Dec 10	NorthEast United FC
Dec 14	Jamshedpur FC
Dec 18	Chennaiyin FC
Dec 24	FC Goa
Dec 28	Hyderabad FC
Jan 3	Mumbai City FC
Jan 8	ATK Mohun Bagan

MATCHES TIME: 7.30 PM

Unfortunate we ended up in IPL early, says Virat Kohli



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 13: India captain Virat Kohli said it is unfortunate to "end up here early" for the IPL after a COVID-19 outbreak led to the cancellation of the fifth Test against England and hoped for a "secure" bio-bubble in the league to tackle the "uncertain" times.

Kohli, who will again lead Royal Challengers Bangalore in the tournament, along with other Indian players refused to take the field in the fifth Test against England at Old Trafford, after junior physio Yogesh Parmar became the fourth close-contact support staff to test positive for COVID-19.

"Unfortunately that we had to end up here early, but with COVID in place, things are very uncertain," Kohli told the RCB's digital media platforms.

"Anything can happen at any

time. Hopefully, we're able to maintain a good, strong, and secure environment, and have a quality IPL. It's going to be an exciting phase and a very important one for us at RCB and then for the Indian team at the T20 World Cup," the Indian captain said.

The IPL begins Sunday and RCB will play their first match Monday. The RCB will have some exciting new additions to their squad including leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga and Singapore batter Tim David. The skipper is looking forward to meet the new recruits.

"I've been in touch with everyone. We've had discussions over the last month or so, a little longer than that with the replacements, who's coming and who's not. Eventually, we ended up replacing our key players with some top-quality cricketers," the RCB skipper said.

Dwarshuis replaces Woakes for Capitals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 13: Uncapped Australian pacer Ben Dwarshuis was Monday named as Chris Woakes' replacement in the Delhi Capitals squad for the second half of the IPL starting September 19. The 27-year-old Dwarshuis, a left-arm pacer, has picked up 12 and 100 wickets from seven and 82 List A and T20 matches so far.

He represents New South Wales in List A while plays for Sydney Sixers in the Big Bash League and is the sixth-highest wicket-taker in the history of the tournament with 85 wickets in 69 matches.

Dwarshuis, who was also part of the erstwhile Kings XI Punjab side in the IPL earlier, will be joining the Capitals team bio-bubble in the UAE soon, the franchise said Monday.

Woakes alongside his England teammates Jonny Bairstow (Sunrisers Hyderabad) and David Malan (Punjab Kings), all of whom were part of the just-concluded Test series against India, had pulled out from the second leg of the IPL citing personal reasons.